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PRONI Regional Project on Youth **Youth in Croatia 2002**

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***Youth in Croatia 2002** is a national report that makes part of a regional research project on young people's life initiated and coordinated by PRONI (Institute of Social Education) and the School of Education of the University of Jönköping working in close co-operation with relevant national governments and universities. The realization of the project was supported by SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency). It was carried on in 2002 in four countries of Southeastern European (Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Yugoslavia) with a view to provide empirical data on life, needs, attitudes and expectations of young people from the region. It was presumed that these would serve as an integral part of the Council of Europe's youth policy reviews that aims at improving youth participation in the processes of democratic changes of the countries in the region.*

The main objective of the project was to make the results widely known so as to stimulate the debate about youth in the media, and among politicians and decision-makers, as well as to assist youth organisations in adjusting national strategies to their needs and aspirations.

The research on Croatian youth was based on the agreement between the Ministry of Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia and the PRONI Institute on terms of co-operation in the implementation of the project. Upon Croatia's acceptance of the invitation from the Council of Europe, the project was understood as part of the European process of national youth policy review.

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Part one:

**YOUTH IN CROATIA
IN THE YEARS OF TRANSITION**

1. INTRODUCTION

It is widely accepted that youth present a particular period of life during which three types of maturation occur interdependently: physical, cognitive and social. The end of the youth maturation process is seen as the acquisition of an appropriate degree of social autonomy and independence, as well as of self-responsibility, responsibility for others and the community as a whole. Although this definition provides a common ground for a reliable approach to youth, there are still many issues that need to be addressed before the generalisations are made. Thus, do we really know who the young are; what are the differences among them; are they the beneficiaries or the victims of today's policies, in general, and of youth policies, in particular; how much power do they have to influence the policies of today for their world of tomorrow; is it the group that is still merely represented or the one that represents itself; who are the presenters in both cases; how efficient are social, economic, political and cultural contexts that support youth development; what are the similarities and differences between young people living in the West and the East of Europe; what impact these similarities/differences have on the positioning of young people in decision-making processes in their societies and in Europe as a whole; how much of paternalistic tradition and rhetoric is still practiced for the purpose of their pacification instead of their empowerment, etc.

1.1. Limits of understanding

Almost none of these questions may be answered fully for the reasons described below:

Firstly, despite the fact that there are a number of comparative large-scale studies on youth, most of them treat young people as a cultural group in the context of socialisation into the life of adults. In such framework, social, economic and political dimensions are merely "added" to the "youth culture". This "methodological romanticism" has equipped us with the abundance of data on youth sub-culture and counter-culture, as well as about the failure of young people to respond properly to the requirements of school, workplace, citizenship etc. On the other hand, it has left us largely unaware of complex social, economic, political and cultural constraints, overt and covert alike, that young people face while trying to (re/dis)locate itself in the power structure from the local to the international community levels. In the context of Europe, this is particularly true for young people in transitional countries since no comprehensive, systemic and comparative research of this kind has been conducted in the region. Recent exceptions are the European Youth Trend Reports of 1998 and 2000 (on socio-economic situation) by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, written on the initiative of the National Youth Research Correspondents nominated by the ministries in charge of youth affairs and the UNICEF's survey "Young People in Changing Societies" that covers 27 transitional countries, including the former Soviet Union.

Secondly, apart from a broad sociological understanding of youth as a stage of socialisation and transition from childhood to adulthood, an international consensus on the meaning of the term has been reached on pure statistical and legal grounds. The definition adopted by the UN General Assembly in the context of the International Youth Year in 1995 refers to youth as "the age cohorts between 15-24 years of age, without prejudices to other definitions of member states". In addition, it is pointed out that the meaning of the term varied in different societies and that it had changed "continuously in response to political, economic, social and cultural changes".

If international consensus on the meaning of the term is reached on the basis of constructing explicit, legal norms while in reality it appears so varied and context-bounded due to the importance of implicit, i.e. cultural norms, it is difficult to draw any general conclusion and initiate any wider action targeting the "affairs" of approximately 1 billion (525 million young men and 500 million young women) of the "statistically defined" youths in today's world. How relevant for the generalisation on the youth affairs is the fact that 85% of the total number of the "statistically defined" young people live in developing countries (with 60% in Asia alone and 23% in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean), where resources for their development are scarce and where life expectancy is far shorter; or that 6,5 % of the world's "youth" live in transitional countries that are faced with the deterioration of life due to increase in poverty? In addition, how important for the generalisation on youth is the estimation that some 19% (57 million young men and 96 million young women) of a total number of "youth" from developing countries are illiterate and much more functionally illiterate to benefit from scientific and technological development; that more than half of the world's refugees are children and adolescents and that around 70 million young workers around the world are unemployed and with no real possibility to earn for decent living in the future?

Thirdly, partly because of the fact that youth has been treated as a transitional stage between two "solid" life-span periods and partly because of large varieties of the youth's implicit and explicit features, as well as of its contextual determinants, young people were until very recently left out from any youth-specific system of protection despite the fact that they have been faced with risks more than any other age group. Indeed, it can be said, that young people are one of the most vulnerable segments of the population in modern society because of their specific transitional status: they are no longer protected as children and they still do not enjoy all the possibilities and advantages available to adults. They are divided in two age sub-groups with different legal status – those up to 18 years of age, which still enjoy all the protection and the benefits society bestows upon children, and those that have come of age after which they are faced with all the responsibilities and rights of adults. Thus, the young, to put it shortly, "from one angle, they still look like children; from another, they are already adults. In fact, they are both – and neither" (UNICEF, 2000).

When these legal and administrative boundaries are removed we are met with a threatening situation well described in the 1995 UN Secretary-General Report in which it is pointed out that hundreds of millions of young people in the world directly suffer from:

- the decline in official development assistance, which undermines the capacity of many countries to meet development needs;

- the external debts and the trade imbalances which have a crippling effect on low income and developing countries;
- structural adjustment programmes which are insufficiently attentive to social problems;
- conflicts, violence and wars that disproportionately affect young people;
- the incidence of poverty and unemployment that imperil the opportunities for sustainable livelihoods of young people;
- the effects of drugs and crime on youth, in general, and on youth at risk, in particular.

The above is echoed in the European Youth Trend Report of the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe that describes the situation in the following way:

"Young people have been successful in adapting to a number of unpleasant circumstances. However, this fact does not distract our concern about overt actions that lead to the exclusion of a large number of young people from equal opportunities, from equity in educational provision and from obstacles to decent and fair employment. This is further confounded by elimination strategies that put youth in risk situations, such as those that foster prolonged and enforced dependency and that obstruct the development of relevant competencies and skills. It is unfortunate to note that young people's aspirations and expectations are often defined and managed by adults who have become experts in proposing strategies through which they can exclude young people from decision-making processes and social and educational benefits while, at the same time, appearing to offer participation and acquisition at all levels on a silver plate."

Indeed, the transition into the so-called world of adults is becoming more complex, because the institutionalised educational process lasts longer, modern technological changes demand an ever more flexible and qualified work force, and economic trends cause a cyclic increase of unemployment which, before all, affects the young. The result of this is a slower entering into the so-called world of labour and a generally slower gaining of socio-economic independence, which is why the young are forcibly kept in a dependent position. Congruent with the difficult inclusion into professional life, there is procrastination in starting a family, as well as a minimal inclusion of youth in other public spheres, especially the political one. Hence, it is common that even after the young come of age and, in principle, receive all the rights of citizens, and even though some of them already occupy certain permanent social roles, they are kept away from the decision-making process. The problems that trouble the young are, thus, still mediated into the public sphere by the older population who, in the same time, makes decisions. The reaction of the young to this situation is different - from a relatively unproblematic adaptation to the given society, through retreat into separate sub-cultural patterns of life, to open rebellion and/or manifestation of different forms of deviant behaviour. But, regardless of the type of reaction, it is without doubt, that most young people isolate themselves, more or less, from the adult world, what additionally affects the speed and quality of their full social integration.

Fourthly, the recognition of youth (understood integrally) as a beneficiary of specific policies is of the latest origin. These policies have appeared recently at international, European and same state levels, with a view to counter disadvantageous position of young people as a means of promoting economic growth and well-being of the society as a whole. Nevertheless, the formulation of international, regional and/or national youth priorities, policies and action plans of a comprehensive nature need to be

viewed in two ways. In the one hand, they introduce common standards of achievement which are particularly important for those countries that do not recognise youth as a coherent social group with specific needs and, thus, disintegrate youth interests treating them as part of education, health, employment, culture etc. policies. On the other hand, since economic, political, social and cultural contexts of youth development varies intra-nationally and inter-nationally, these standards may actually appear inappropriate for many developing countries in the world, as well as in Europe. Namely, the governments may, under international pressure, develop ambitious youth priorities and policies that match global and regional standards but are 'thin' at the level of implementation strategies and resources, as well as in analytic and empirical basis for promoting and evaluating the changes. If the implementation measures do not accompany national youth policies and if international/regional assistance is not provided to support the implementation of international/regional standards especially in those counties that lack necessary organisational and financial resources, the whole process may turn to be nothing but political rhetoric. This "threat of rhetoric" is also possible if youth priorities and policies remain solely inspired by economic needs and if the request for youth participation and empowerment is seen as an instrument for gaining economic benefits, apart from a complex set of vital youth needs.

1.2. Burden of transition

These threats especially concern young people living in transitional societies who are in a more disadvantaged position than their peers in Western Europe or the previous generations of youth (*Young People in Transition* 2000). Their development is marked by a double passage: the one that reflects the universal stages of growing up and the other that has to do with fundamental transformations of their societies. In the same time, while social institutions, processes and norms that are important for their growth have weakened, become disabled or are thoroughly transformed, new perspectives, as well as hopes have also emerged. Consequently, young people experiencing transitional changes are much more exposed to risks unknown to the generation of their parents or to their peers living in stable European democracies.

An analysis of youth problems in 27 transitional countries made by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (*Young People in Changing Societies* 2000) detects basic discrepancy between the attitudes and capabilities of the young, on the one hand, and their actual achievements, on the other. The survey has shown that the young in transitional countries are more supportive of market and democratic reforms than the older population, but participate less in the political processes; they are interested in social and political life of their countries, but are critical and sceptical towards the functioning of new democratic institutions; they are exposed to higher health risks than before, and their access to relevant information and services is insufficient; they show considerable tolerance toward different forms of illegal behaviour and are in conflict with the law more often than the previous generations of youth; they ascribe greater importance to education than earlier, but are less likely to complete higher education levels; they accept family values, but are more likely to postpone or avoid establishing their own family than the previous generations; they show a high degree of flexibility and acceptance of new economic strategies but the unemployment rate is

still at least twice as high among the young as among the older population. If we compare these trends with the ones from the pre-transition period, it may be said that the condition of today's youth has worsened.

This analysis also points to the similarities and differences between the young in transitional and developed European societies. For example, smaller number of young people from transitional societies tend to finish higher levels of education along with the trend of lower educational achievements of those having lower social background; the rate of underage pregnancies is higher; they use psycho-active substances as much as their Western peers, but will rarely describe themselves as healthy and happy; they have less conflicts with the law but are more likely to be more severely punished; they are more affected by unemployment; the discrepancy between the earnings of the young and the old is somewhat smaller than in the developed countries, but the salaries are generally much lower; they are more exposed to exploitation by the employers on the so-called black market and within the increasing grey economy; they are less likely to participate in the political and social life of their countries than the young from the developed countries, etc.

Having in mind that participation, empowerment, solid knowledge and employability are proclaimed as the top priorities in promoting and strengthening youth capital in the world, in general, and in Europe, in particular, one should ask, aware of the differences between the position of youth in the transitional and developed European democracies, how the goals may be attained efficiently under such circumstances. The enthusiasm that now accompanies the idea of youth participation and empowerment as a means to democratic development and economic growth may turn to be a short-lived experimentation with the hopes of millions of young people if the conditions for the realisation of that idea are not taken into account seriously and if no suggestion is made on how to deal efficiently with the obstacles.

It has often been stressed in recent years that Western and Eastern Europe now share same goals (prosperity and well-being of all) and utilise same tools (democracy, the rule of law, pluralism, free market, etc.). Notwithstanding, it is well known that the developed and transitional democracies have different positions in the process of change, including the quest for mainstreaming the youth into such process. In Western Europe the changes are promoted through advancing of existing structures, while in the East they require building up of an entirely new social order by neutralising the one from the past, as well as by removing the obstacles that have emerged in the course of transition (*Education for All* 1998; *Women in Transition* 2000). More than a decade long decline in the average real income per capita; increase in poverty; weakening of welfare support systems; the rise of gender segregation; sharp decrease in the development of human potential; the rise of lawlessness, nepotism, corruption, violence and crime; the hostilities on national/ethnic/religious grounds; brain-drain of the highly educated, in short - a degradation of the quality of life of all – more or less mark the background against which young people in transitional democracies are expected to fight their position in the society. Although the outcome of this battle largely depends on knowledge, skills and commitment of young people, a great deal of responsibility still lies within the governments for opening far more space for an active participation of their youth in the process of change.

1. 3. Croatian youth at the crossroads

Croatian youth share many characteristics with their peers living in transitional, as well as in the developed European democracies. In the same time, they have some specific features due to their experience of war and war-triggered processes. Some authors (Županov, 1995; Ilišin, 1999) even argue that contemporary Croatian society is marked by anomie, i.e., by the lack of shared social visions and norms that guide young people in their personal and social development. The transition from socialism to democracy did not only mean national sovereignty and independence but four years of aggression and war, as well as a decade of nationalism and economic instability that has particularly targeted young people. Instead of democratisation and economic recovery, Croatian citizens were faced with an autocratic regime and an ill-defined privatisation process that deprived the majority of their right to have a share in the distribution of society's resources which they themselves or their parents had augmented during socialism (Spajić-Vrkaš, 2003). Such political and social climate in which the words did not match the deeds, i.e. in which the idea of liberal democracy was washed out by arbitrariness and the lack of responsibility on the side of political leadership, created political and moral confusion that had detrimental impact especially on younger people.

It is understandable, therefore, that the so-called 'institutional optimism' (Kasapović, 1993), according to which it was expected that institutional and political transformation will automatically produce other desirable social changes, was soon replaced by disappointment of a great many people not only with the country's political leadership but with the politics of the developed countries, as well as with the rhetorically protected values of liberal democracies. Consequently, the enthusiasm that accompanied the gaining of the state independence, national affirmation and the abolition of political totalitarianism gradually turned into resignation and dissatisfaction, while the democratisation of society occurred to a very limited extent.

This is the background against which young people have been, especially after the election of 2000, expected to play an important, if not the major, role in the country's transition processes. However, as it has been documented in *The National Programme of Action for Youth* (2002), there are many obstacles to an active and responsible participation of Croatian youth in the process of democratic development, including the following:

- *Croatian population on the average is becoming older* - According to the data of the State Institute for Statistics based on the 2001 population census, there are 898,734 young people between 15 and 29 years of age in Croatia (20.25% of the total population). When this number is compared to earlier data, it becomes obvious that the percentage of young persons in the total population has been on constant decline since the beginning of 1950s. In 1953 the young made 27.73% of the population. In only eight years (until 1961) their number fell to 23.75% and continued to fall slowly until 1981 when they made 23.34%. Another important decline was registered in 1991 when young people comprised only 20.67% of the total population. If this trend continues in the future and no affirmative measures are implemented, today's youth will have to deal with the

problem of supporting an ever-increasing number of non-active and retired population of Croatia.

- *The number of young persons among the unemployed is increasing* - According to the data of the State Institute for Statistics, a total of 96,757 persons had been registered as unemployed by the Croatian Institute for Employment in 1984, while in 1991 this number rose to 160,397. In 1999 the unemployment rate among the young was 34% during the first part and 39% during the second part of the year. By the end of December 2001, 395,141 unemployed persons were registered, of which 164,365 or 42% were between 15 and 29. In this age group, 78.5% had secondary, high school or bachelor's degrees; 7% had completed elementary school or were semiskilled, and 14% were unskilled.

A particular problem for the unemployed youth is the requirement of work experience for employment. At the end of October 2001, there were 82,472 young persons or 51% of all looking for job without suitable work experience. On average, 57% of young persons wait up to one year for job; 31% from one to three years, and 12% wait longer than three years. According to educational level, in 2001 skilled and highly skilled workers had the highest rate of employment (33,152 and 46%, respectively), whereas those with college degrees had the lowest rate (3,462 or 5%).

- *Education and training of young people does not meet their professional needs satisfactorily* – Elementary school in Croatia, which is compulsory, lasts for eight years, while secondary school, which is not compulsory, lasts for 2-4 years. According to the data of the Ministry of Education and Sports, about 95–97% of the elementary school graduates enrol in secondary schools and approximately 85–90% of the secondary school students graduate within a regularly allotted time period. In addition, during 2000/2001 academic year there were approximately 120,000 new students at tertiary education level. Some 33% of the enrolled complete university study, 8% of which finish it within the allotted time period.

In reference to young school leavers, Croatia has no systemic data on those who continue their training in adult education institutions. The report of the Ministry of Education and Sports show that during 2000/2001 there were some 370 Croatian institutions (secondary schools, open universities, etc.) that offered accredited programmes in which approximately 25,000 persons were trained, of which 11,000 acquired new profession either through retraining or additional training programmes. However, no information on young people in these programmes is available.

Moreover, pupils and students' loans and grants are either non-existent or insufficient, as are all other aspects of students' life, including the capacities of dormitories for secondary school and college/university students, enrolment policy, the regime of study, etc.

- *Young persons enter marriage at an increasingly later age* - The number of young persons who enter marriage prior to 29 years of age is declining (from 38% in 1981 to 32% in 1991), while the number of divorces among those who

are younger than 29 is increasing (from 2.5% in 1981 to 3% in 1991), and the percentage of unmarried persons between 25-29 years of age has lately been 35%. When analysed together with the data on employment and training, these figures indicate that young people in Croatia are forced to remain dependent on their parents' support and assistance far beyond the age of their legal independence.

- *The number of young persons using psychoactive substances is increasing* - The results of investigations conducted in 1999 (ESPA99) among first-year secondary school students in Croatia demonstrated that 30% of the boys and 25% of the girls smoked more than one cigarette daily; 37% of the boys and 19% of the girls had become drunk three or more times in their lives; 18% of the boys and 13% of the girls had used marijuana at least once in their lives, and 4% of the boys and 5% of the girls had used heroin. Besides, some studies on secondary school students have shown that 30% of them are emotionally, 16% physically and 8% sexually abused, as well as that 13% are neglected and 34% have witnessed violence.
- *The influence of young people in social and political matters is extremely reduced* - Despite the fact that young persons aged 18-29 make 22% of the Croatian electoral body and that they constitute 15-30% of the total membership of political parties, they are extremely poorly represented in the structures of both local and central government. While under socialism young people comprised 5-9% of all the seats in the Parliament, from 1990 the percentage of young representatives has not exceeded the level of 2%. In addition, during the last decade the interest in politics and political events among the young has decreased significantly. By the end of the 1990s, only 5% of them declared to have particularly great interest in politics.
- *The participation of young persons in civil initiatives is increasing but remains largely unrecognised by the authorities* - Among 360 associations in Croatia focused in their work on children and youth, there are 130 associations run by young persons, as well as 30 active informal youth groups. Since there are no appropriate institutional mechanisms responsible for youth in Croatia, their activities are based on self-initiative and independent voluntary organizational forms, such as NGOs, associations of citizens, informal youth groups, etc. The major part of their activities has not been recognised by law (e.g. volunteer work). Besides, due to a non-existent system of care and support for their free time, a vast majority of young people are still dependent on NGOs, religious communities and, partly, on local and regional self-management.

Being aware of the impact these obstacles may have on the participation of young people in democratic development of Croatia, two more issues remain to be discussed here. The first issue relates to the way how young persons perceive themselves in the context of a changing society; how they assess their needs and define their personal and professional aspirations, while the second issue relates to the government policies and programmes that, beyond mere rhetoric, aim at supporting young people to assume their social roles in building up their future. Since both of these topics are important for the interpretation of results of our present research that will be discussed

in detail later, we shall briefly describe the findings of previous research, as well as the initiatives undertaken by Croatian government in this field.

2. EARLIER RESEARCH ON YOUTH IN CROATIA

Croatia has relatively long and well-established tradition of research on youth dating back to the 1970s (Mihovilović 1978; Ilišin, Radin and Županov 1986; Radin 1988; *Omladina i politika* 1988; Štimac 1989; Ilišin at al. 1990a, 1990b; Magdalenić 1991; Lalić and Nazor 1997; Ilišin 1999; Grubišić and Zrinščak 1999; Sakoman, Kuzman and Raboteg-Šarić 1999; *Mladi i zapošljavanje* 2000; Goja 2000; Marinović Jerolimov 2000; Labus 2000; *Mladi Hrvatske* 2002)

One of the most comprehensive recent studies is the *Value System of Youth and Social Changes in Croatia* that was conducted in 1999 on a representative sample of 1700 young people aged 15 to 29 by the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb. Since its report (Ilišin and Radin 2002) includes comparison with earlier studies, especially the one on the *Position, Perceptions and Behaviour of the Croatian Young Generation* conducted by the same research team in 1986, we shall, in our present discussion, mostly rely on its findings.

In the middle of 1980s, when the first comprehensive research on youth was conducted, Croatia was part of the Socialist Federate Republic of Yugoslavia. Its political system was known as self-management socialism that was based on a set of ideological values, such as the supreme authority of the Communist Party and its leader J.B. Tito, brotherhood and unity of the constitutional nations and ethnic groups, social ownership, workers' self-management, class conflict-free society, etc. Contrary to political and civil rights, which were rather limited, citizens were guaranteed a relatively high minimum of social rights (employment, solid health care and retirement insurance, equal chances in education, the right to public housing, etc.). Following Tito's death, the system faced economic and political crisis that reached its peak by the end of 1980s. This was accompanied by, in the one hand, an increase in liberal-democratic ideas and, in the other hand, an escalation of inter-national conflicts that soon ended up in war bringing about the fall of both political regime and Yugoslavia.

Due to decrease in political pressure and in the importance of moral-political 'adaptability' of the individual, as well as due to an increase in the quality of education and to greater opportunities for travelling abroad, young people, by the end of 1980's, became most pronounced critics of the proclaimed socialist value system and the most outstanding promoters of fundamental social and political changes pertinent to, in the one hand, liberal-democratic ideas and, in the other hand, national and religious renewal. Although largely ignored in the beginning, this division soon became an important factor of Croatian youth identification and development processes.

More than a decade later, when the second research was completed, the context in which young people grew up was quite different. The pace of recovery from the effects of the four-year aggression was rather slow. The new political system of 1991 that nominally stressed the importance of liberal-democratic values, such as market economy, private property, political pluralism, the rule of law, the protection of human rights and the rights of minorities, in reality promoted the idea of national homogenisation and integration, the renewal of traditionalist values, non-transparent and arbitrary privatisation processes and the monopoly of one political party and its leader. The ill-guided process of privatisation of social property significantly reduced economic and social rights of the majority of Croatian citizens in terms of the deterioration of living standards, mass unemployment and sharp inequalities. By the end of 1990s, the advantages that Croatia had enjoyed in the beginning of the transition processes had disappeared, and the country was faced with the fact that it was lagging far behind in the processes of transition and European integration. This was the strongest impetus for the majority of Croatian citizens, including the young, to require new social changes in the end of 1990s.

The research on the *Value System of Youth and Social Changes in Croatia* was set up with a view to find out how a decade long social and political changes were reflected on Croatian youth. Here are some of the most interesting findings:

- Young people in Croatia believe that the pre-adult period lasts up to 29 years of age. In reference to this, they are divided into a youth-centric and an adult-centric group. The youth-centric group has slightly increased in number when compared to the 1980 research. It is mainly composed of those who have better social origin, who are younger and still enrolled in education at secondary or tertiary level. The group is characterized by the desire to stay different from the adults for as long as possible, including the avoidance of socio-economic independence and the tendency to move the upper limit of youth period into the thirties. The adult-centric group does not think of itself as different from the adult population and is more prone to accepting paternalistic attitudes of the adults towards the young. The group consists mainly of young people who are close to their thirties, who belong to lower-class families, hold blue-collar jobs and are either employed or unemployed. In regards to their perception of future, optimism prevails although it slightly decreases with age and working condition. Interestingly, there is no significant difference in the expressions of optimism or pessimism between the young from the 1990's and those from the 1980's, despite the fact that social and political contexts of their coming of age had changed essentially.
- The value hierarchies and structures of the young follow basic social changes. In sum, the young see their future more as a goal that can be achieved exclusively by depending on one's own strengths, including the support of their friends and the family, and not on the institutions of society, least on the political ones. The greatest differences between the 1986 and the 1999 samples are found in relation to material status, independence and professional achievement, as well as to political power and tradition (especially nationality and religion), all of which are more appreciated by the 1999 sample. However, the later opted less for political affirmation, which is a general trend among young Europeans. In

- reference to the value of religious belief, it seems that the young from 1999 sample are much more religious than their peers fifteen years earlier. The increase has been registered on all dimensions observed. Interestingly, the youth does not perceive as inconsistent to have secular attitudes, e.g. towards sexual behaviour or morality, that oppose the official standings of their religion.
- The structure of youth's national awareness in all dimensions (attitudes toward one's own nation, the European integration processes and other European nations) is heterogeneous. When compared to earlier research, the findings of the 1999 sample demonstrate an increase in the value of the nation and nationality while preserving openness towards the value of cosmopolitanism, pluralism and interculturalism. In relation to the issue of European integration processes, the young differ as to whether they are more pro-European or anti-European oriented. Regardless of these divisions, Europe is perceived, by the majority of youth, as an attractive social space that offers better opportunities for personal development. However, the data on social distance that is greater towards the neighbouring Eastern European and non-catholic nations than towards geographically more distant Western European and catholic nations is most probably the outcome of political ideology of ethnic nationalism (including a hierarchical division between the developed West and underdeveloped East) that dominated during the 1990's.
 - The young from the 1999 sample show an increase in distancing from the public life but, at the same time, think they should be more present in the political life of the country. In addition, they demonstrate a relatively solid understanding of social reality. As the greatest problems of Croatian society, they emphasize unemployment and economic stagnation. Thus, political priorities they mention focus on the fight against unemployment, social justice and security. They also stress the importance of basic democratic values while showing distrust towards main government institutions. In addition, they are more inclined to social than to political activism, and they believe they are politically marginalized more because of distrust the society has towards them than because of their own incompetence. The data about their political party preferences demonstrate that the young are divided into two groups. The first group that supports more leftist political parties is composed of those young persons who are better educated and are non-religious, who have higher social and urban background, who understand democratic principles better and who refuse paternalistic attitudes toward the young in the society. The other group that is more inclined to rightist political options is made of those young persons who are less educated and are religious, of lower social and rural origin, the youngest, who understand democratic principles less, who see their own generation as incompetent, and, to a larger extent, accept the tutorial function of society towards the young.
 - The young from the 1999 sample have relatively pragmatic expectations from education; they see it as a means for personal development (solving existential problems, getting a desired job and becoming socio-economically independent). The importance of education as a means for social promotion (gaining a better material standard and a prestigious social status) is not so pronounced. School is least mentioned as an instrument for developing youth interests for participation and responsibility taking in the course of political and social changes. The

results indicate that higher expectations from education appear in an economically and culturally deprived segment of youth, to whom education, in the absence of other mechanisms, still presents the main, if not the only means of economic and social promotion. Contrary to them, the young with higher education, living in developed urban areas and having highly educated parents, are much more critical while assessing the importance of school for their own professional and social promotion.

- The assessment of work values in the 1986 and 1999 research show that the expressive meaning of work became equated with its instrumental function. There is also an indicative increase in the value of social interaction. The two most important values mentioned are self-realization through work and material orientation. Another difference appears in relation to work as an opportunity for self-actualisation through the development of one's own potentials. The research data confirm that the acceptance of such a typical intrinsic value is the outcome of the influence of education.
- Since the growth of unemployment within the youngest work-active population the young see as their most pronounced problem, it is understandable that they feel frustration (for not being able to step into the world of adults), apathy (which is manifested in their avoiding of social and political engagement) and distrust in important institutions of the system, and that, because of this, they are more and more ready to leave the country in search for a job and better life. When compared to the 1986 research, one notices a decrease in the share of young people who have to provide for a family, as well as an increase in the number of those forced to earn for living. Almost two fifths of the young, mostly of urban background, with completed high school education and from older age cohort, have participated in some form of unregistered or grey economy employment.
- In reference to the young leisure activities, the comparison of data from the 1986 and 1999 research indicate that there has been an increase in the young people's interest in most investigated phenomenon, but that their hierarchical structure stayed unchanged. The most preferred activities of both samples belong to private sphere of life (friends and acquaintances, fun and entertainment, sex and love, travel), while the interest in the public sphere (politics, army) is smaller than before. These interests are structured into four orientations: cognitive, sociable, traditionalist and competitive. In addition, the participation in most leisure activities has weakened and the most common pattern of spending leisure time is urban one (socializing, going to cafés, discos, parties and concerts). The analysis also indicates that youth people with higher education, of urban background and higher social origin tend to accept cognitive and sociable interest orientations more than their rural and less educated peers.
- The abuse of psychoactive substances (tobacco, alcohol, psycho-pharmatics and the so-called, soft and hard drugs) increased during the 1990s. The young between the age of 20 and 24, especially students of urban background were detected as the risk group.

Due to an increase in unemployment, decrease in the quality of everyday life and increase in socially inappropriate forms of behaviour among the young, the 1999 research report comes to the conclusion that transitional societies are not only the societies of greater opportunities but of greater risks and insecurity. The reaction of young people to such challenges is manifested in their retreat into privacy, their higher level of self-dependence, as well as in their greater distancing from social and political affairs. Having in mind the shift in political power after the elections of 2000, it is important to detect the changes, if any, among the youth studied in 1986, 1999 and 2002. This is the issue that we intend to discuss later while reporting on the findings of our present research.

3. NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH

3.1. Goals

The National Programme of Action for Youth the Republic of Croatia was launched in 2002 as a means of implementing the Article 62 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia that establishes the duty of the state 'to protect maternity, children and youth, as well as to create social, cultural, educational and material and other preconditions for promoting the right to live in dignity'. The Programme defines a set of fundamental principles of the government policy on youth between 15 and 29 years of age, and defines the working plan that guides different segments of central and local government and self-government, as well as public institutions and non-governmental and civil organisations in the implementation of these principles.

The strategic goals of the Programme are as follows:

- promotion of legislation addressing the needs and problems of youth;
- defining the tasks of individual spheres of competence, the authorized bodies of the government administration and the public institutions in fulfilling the international, constitutional and legal obligations of the Republic of Croatia related to youth;
- improvement of the quality of life of all the citizens, especially youth, taking their interests into consideration and pursuant to the European standards and models of good practice;
- inclusion of the greatest possible number of young persons in decision-making processes, especially in regard to their needs and problems;
- reducing the average age of the administrative structure;
- mobilization of all factors in the society, especially youth, for creating new values pertinent to promoting self-sustaining development, European integration processes, democratic society and the rule of law;

- promoting the prerequisites for the affirmation of youth, the reduction of their emigration rate and the return and integration of emigrants into the Croatian society;
- building a constructive partnership with NGOs and local and regional self-government for the benefit of youth.

The realization of these goals is based on the principle of multilevel and cross-level co-ordination and co-operation. Relying on the principles of decentralization, the task of the governmental bodies that are the primary implementers of the Programme is not only to co-ordinate but, whenever possible, to leave the realization of goals to local self-government units, youth NGOs and NGOs for youth, universities and other autonomous segments of civil society pursuant to assigned tasks in the Working Plan, with a view to enable them to accept gradually the role of the organizers and independent implementers of the Programme.

Some of the basic goals of the national policy toward youth refer to the following:

- protection of human rights and the fundamental freedoms;
- promotion of mutual respect and understanding among young persons of different sexes, races, nationalities, social origins, religious affiliations, cultural orientation, political convictions and other characteristics;
- prevention of all forms of violence, intolerance and discrimination;
- promotion of active participation of youth in decision making at all levels;
- the promotion of peaceful resolution of social conflicts, cooperation, and mutual respect among the nations;
- promotion of volunteer work and socially beneficial activities;
- the introduction of an open system of formal and informal education, as well as the promotion of a continuous and life-long skill-oriented learning;
- reduction of social marginalisation, exclusion and inequality;
- promotion of all forms of employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship for young people;
- encouragement of young scientists, researchers, innovators and technologists;
- solving of the youth housing problems;
- promotion of youth mobility, infrastructure and funds;
- provision of adequate healthcare and family planning services;
- support of youth NGOs and NGOs for youth;
- advancement of youth information and counseling systems;
- promotion of scientific research on youth, etc.

3.2. Working Plan

It is expected that the implementation of the Programme is performed according to operative plans containing specified activities together with deadlines, financial indicators and resources, and the bodies within the public administration system responsible for implementation. Thus, the Working Plan defines the measures and identifies the primary implementers of the Programme within a five-year period (2003–2008). Public administration body in charge of youth issues (at present the

State Institute for the Protection of Family, Maternity and Youth) is responsible for co-ordination of implementation of the National Programme, as well as for annual reports to the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the progress made in its implementation.

The Working Plan turns the above-mentioned goals into the implementation measures and defines the governmental bodies, public institutions and other relevant bodies that are either individually or collectively responsible for their implementation. It also contains recommendations to local and regional self-government units and NGOs pursuant for the realization of the Plan. The measures and their implementers are divided into eight areas previously defined by the National Programme, as follows:

- 1) *education and informatization*
- 2) *employment and entrepreneurship*
- 3) *social policies*
- 4) *health care and reproductive health*
- 5) *active participation by youth in the society*
- 6) *building civil society and volunteer work*
- 7) *youth culture and free time, and*
- 8) *mobility, dissemination of information and counseling.*

In principle, each measure is related to more than one implementer. Respective of their area of responsibility, among the main implementers at the level of government are the Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Trades, and Small and Medium-Sized Entrepreneurship; Ministry for European Integration; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Public Works, Renewal and Construction; Ministry of Interior Affairs; Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Communications; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Spatial Planning; Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Finance; and the Ministry of Tourism.

In many instances the ministries share their responsibility for the implementation of particular measures with their special institutions, such as the State Institute for the Protection of Family, Maternity and Youth and the Institute for the Advancement of Education, as well as with number of governmental offices, committees and other bodies, including the Office for Co-operation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia; Office of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for Human Rights; Office of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Prevention of Addiction; Office of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for National Minorities; the Committee of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for Persons with Disabilities; the Committee of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Prevention of Disorders in Behaviour of Children and Young Persons; and the Institute of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Prevention of Addiction.

There are, as well, number of public institutions with the mandate to co-operate with the above mentioned implementers in the realization of the Plan, including the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Croatia; Office for Employment of the Republic of Croatia; Croatian Institute for Employment; Croatian Institute for Public Health; Croatian Institute for Statistics; Croatian Council for Traffic Safety on the

Roads; the Office for the Prevention of Addiction Abuses and CARNet (Croatian Academic and Research Network), as well as local organisations and local self-government units, NGOs and civil associations, in particular Croatian Red Cross and Croatian Student Organization.

Part two:

PRESENT RESEARCH ON CROATIAN YOUTH

1. THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The main aim of the project was to provide empirical data on life, needs, attitudes and expectations of young people from Southeastern Europe in the context of the Council of Europe's process on youth policy reviews focused on improving youth participation in democratic changes of the countries in the region. Thus, one of the most important practical objectives of the project was to present the results to the public with a view to initiate the discussions about young people in the media and among politicians and decision-makers, as well as to assist youth organisations in developing national youth strategies that better respond to the needs and aspirations of young people.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Questionnaire

The research instrument was jointly developed in form of a questionnaire by regional and Swedish experts. The original version consists of 36 questions encompassing a wide range of topics, such as:

- *Basic socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents;*
- *Family conditions;*
- *The use of computer;*
- *Respondents' and their parents' educational background and occupation;*
- *Attitudes towards present and future life of their own, their closest friends and their peers in Western Europe;*
- *Plans for the future: education, occupation and a residence place;*
- *Feelings about school or university;*
- *The abuse of psycho-active substances;*
- *Main sources of information about the country and the world;*
- *Free time;*
- *Self-(dis)content;*
- *Perception of relations with parents, friends and teachers;*
- *Imagining himself/herself in a 10-year time;*
- *Respondents' comments on the content of the questionnaire.*

Croatian version of the questionnaire consists of five more questions that were included in the original form with the purpose to obtain the country specific data on the following issues:

- *Perception of major youth problems in Croatia today;*
- *Perception of those social actors who bear greatest responsibility for solving youth problems;*
- *Perception of measures that should be taken to start solving youth problems more efficiently;*

- *Personal importance of certain values;*
- *Perception of importance of certain values for individual promotion in Croatian society.*

2.2. Sample

The research subjects were randomly chosen among the members of the households aged 15-25 and living on the territory of the Republic of Croatia. The settlements were selected by the following criteria:

- ✓ *number of households*
- ✓ *type of settlement (rural-urban)*
- ✓ *number of inhabitants that satisfy basic demographic criteria (15-25 years of age)*
- ✓ *other demographic variables*
- ✓ *spacial arrangement.*

The number of subjects in the sample was determined on the basis of a total Croatian population aged 15-25. The representativeness of the sample ($\pm 4\%$) was controlled in reference to age, gender, place of living and other demographic variables (level of education, marital status etc.) of the subjects.

During the data collection process a total of **9993** phone calls were made. All phone calls were divided into the following categories:

○ no answer call	(1317 calls – 13.18%)
○ phone numbers belonging to enterprises	(149 calls – 1.49%)
○ inadequate person by one or more criteria (age, sickness, foreigner)	(5784 calls – 57.88%)
○ fax/modem number	(47 calls – 0.47%)
○ non-existing number	(403 calls – 4.03%)
○ disconnected questioning	(80 calls – 0.80%)
○ phone orders	(194 calls – 1.94%)
○ persons who accepted to be questioned	(1003 calls – 10.04%)
○ refused to answer	(571 calls – 5.71%)
○ busy line	(396 calls – 3.96%)
○ automatic machine	(49 calls – 0.49%)

In all, 1003 or 10.03% of the total number of persons called by phone answered the questionnaire. Other persons were labeled either as *inadequate* (5784 or 57.88%), i.e. as those who failed to satisfy one or more criteria of selection (age, health, etc.) or as *non-reachable persons*.

In the end, the answers of a total of **946** respondents were processed. The remaining 57 respondents, i.e. those having 25 years of age, were removed from the list in order to make our findings comparable to earlier Croatian research on youth, all of which had the samples divided into three age-groups: 15-19; 20-24 and 25-29.

The number of respondents per county is presented in the following table:

	County	Frequency	Percent of a total sample
	1) Zagreb County	68	7,2
	2) Dubrovnik-Neretva County	28	3,0
	3) Split-Dalmatia County	100	10,6
	4) Sibenik-Knin County	20	2,1
	5) Zadar County	37	3,9
	6) Osijek-Baranja County	69	7,3
	7) Vukovar-Srijem County	47	5,0
	8) Virovitica-Podravina County	21	2,2
	9) Pozege-Slavonia County	20	2,1
	10) Brod-Posavina County	38	4,0
	11) Medjimurje County	27	2,9
	12) Varazdin County	41	4,3
Valid	13) Bjelovar-Bilogora County	29	3,1
	14) Sisak-Moslavina County	38	4,0
	15) Karlovac County	28	3,0
	16) Koprivnica-Krizevci County	25	2,6
	17) Krapina-Zagorje County	29	3,1
	18) Primorje-Gorski County	66	7,0
	19) Istria County	42	4,4
	20) Lika-Senj County	8	0,8
	21) The City of Zagreb	165	17,4
	Total	946	100,0

2.3. Methods

A. DATA COLLECTION

The collection of data was based on the CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) method, which is well known for its speed, efficacy and precision. It allows the administrator to sit by the computer while a specialized programme selects previously defined units of the representative sample that the administrator contacts by phone. The content of the questionnaire is displayed on the screen in front of the administrator who marks the answers of the respondent on the keyboard. The result of such a process is the creation of a dataset developing together with the collection of data.

A high level of control throughout the process is one of the most important advantages of the CATI method. It is assured by the following:

- ✓ an administrator is controlled by the main researcher throughout the process of data collection;
- ✓ registration of answers is controlled by the AC programme on a daily basis which neutralizes the registration of inadequate (non-existent) values in case of structured questions;
- ✓ phone calls, quality of answers and duration of questionnaire are controlled by the use of SPSS programme analysis.

With a view to meet the requirements of this research, a qualitative pilot-study was carried on prior to the application of the CATI method. The study encompassed 8 focus-groups and its aim was to test the adequacy of the method for the purpose of this research. Since phone contacts and the use of AUTOCATI programme proved to be adequate as a means of data collection on a sample of young people, field visits were conducted only in some rural areas where phone coverage was inadequate.

B. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SPSS programme (version 10.00) was used for statistical processing of data in both the frequency and correlation analysis. The results of the former were presented in frequency tables, while the results of the latter were demonstrated in cross-tabs.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Frequency analysis and discussion: Regional Questionnaire

A. BASIC SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

According to the data of the State Institute for Statistics based upon the 2001 population census, a total of 4,437.460 people live in the Republic of Croatia. There are 898.734 young people between 15 and 29 years of age that comprise 20.25% of the total population. The total of the youngest youth sub-group (between 15 and 19 years of age) is 298.606; middle youth sub-group (20-24 years of age) comprises 305.634 people, while the total of the oldest youth sub-group (25-29 years of age) is 294.493.

In the age-group that corresponds to our sample (15-24) there are 604.237 of young people or 13.62% of the total population with 308.415 (or 51%) of males and 295.822 (or 49%) of females.

Table 1: Gender

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) male	485	51.3
	2) female	461	48.7
	Total	946	100.0

Table 2: Age

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) 15-19	498	52.6
	2) 20-24	448	47.4
	Total	946	100.0

As Tables 1 and 2 demonstrate the distribution of the two features of our sample, i.e. of gender and age, corresponds to the distribution of these characteristics in Croatian youth population. Although those belonging to the lower age sub-group (15-19) are slightly over-represented, the aberrations are minimal and have no significant impact on the representativeness of the sample.

Table 3: Nationality

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) Croat	902	96.2
	2) Bosniak	10	1.1
	3) Serb	12	1.3
	6) Italian	3	.3
	7) Albanian	2	.2
	8) Roma	1	.1
	9) Jew	1	.1
	10) Montenegrin	5	.5
	11) Other	2	.2
	Total	938	100.0

According to national background (Table 3), young Croats are significantly over-represented in this research. This has been a constant feature of all studies carried on in Croatia from the middle of 1990s. In the 1991 population census, Croats made 78.1% of the total population while, according to the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, the remaining 21.9% was shared by 22 minority groups: Albanians, Austrians, Bosniaks, Bulgarians, Czechs, Germans, Greeks, Hungarians, Italians, Jews, Macedonians, Montenegrins, Poles, Roma/Gypsies, Romanians, Russians, Russianians, Serbs, Slovenes, Turks, Ukrainians and Vlachs. Five out of 22 were the so-called 'new minorities', i.e. the groups that were recognised as constitutive peoples/nations in former Yugoslavia (Bosniaks - formerly Muslims, Macedonians, Montenegrins, Serbs and Slovenes).

The census of 2001 has documented that Croatian society is becoming more nationally homogenised than it was a decade ago. Its ethnic structure went through deep changes during the 1990s mainly as the consequence of war-triggered (e)migration.

Table 4: Marital status

		Frequency	Percent
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Valid	1) single	885	93.6
	2) married	59	6.2
	3) divorced	2	.2
	Total	946	100.0

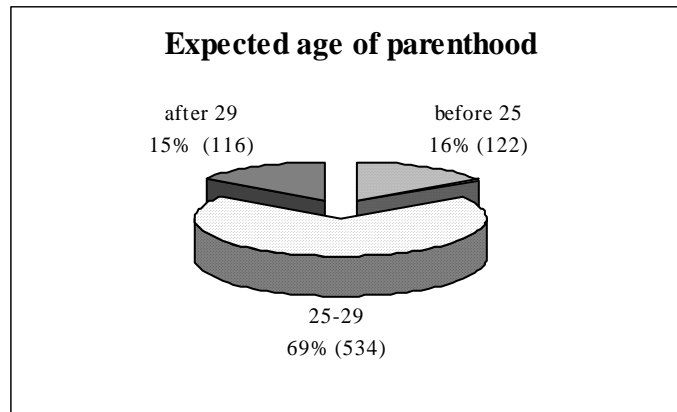
Table 5a: Having children

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) yes	50	5.3
	2) no	896	94.7
	Total	946	100.0

Table 5b: Number of children

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1	39	78.0
	2	11	22.0
	Total	50	100.0

Graph 1:



As we have expected, only 6.4% of the surveyed are married, including the divorced (Table 4), and only 5.3% of them have children (Table 5a). A great majority of those that are already parents have one child (78%) while the remaining one fifth (22%) has two children (Table 5b).

Similarly, as Graph 1 demonstrates, more than two thirds (69.2%) of those that are single and have no children plan to become parents between the age of 25 and 29. Almost the same small number of our respondents belonging to this group plans to have children either before the age of 25 or after 29. It is interesting to note that over 18% of the total number of respondents either did not answer this question or said that they had no idea when they would have their own children.

B. FAMILY CONDITIONS

We have seen above that only 59 or 6.2% of the total number of our respondents (N=946) are married. Data in Table 6a further show that almost half of the married live separately - in their own households, while the rest live in co-habitation with their parents.

Table 6a: Family pattern

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) living in his/her own household (spouse, children...)	34	3.6
	2) living in his/her own household with parents	22	2.3
	3) living with parents	225	23.8
	4) living with parents, brother(s) & sister(s)	472	49.9
	5) living with parents, brother(s) & sister(s) and grandma/grandpa	111	11.7
	6) other	57	6.0
	7) single	25	2.6
	Total	946	100.0

Table 6b: Number of brothers & sisters in the household

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) single	300	34.7
	2) 1 brother/sister	441	51.0
	3) 2 brothers/sisters	96	11.1
	4) 3 brothers/sisters	28	3.2
	Total	865	100.0

Half of all non-married respondents live in families that comprise parents and one brother or sister (Table 6b). About one fourth of all (23.8% of the total) live with parents only; more than one tenth (11.7% of the total) belongs to three-generation households and only 2.6% live single. In addition, half of the non-married live with one brother or sister; one tenth of them (11.1%) have two brothers or sisters and 3.2% have three brothers and sisters. The remaining one third (34.7%) of the total number have no brother or sister.

Our sample's typical two-child nuclear family pattern corresponds to national statistics. Most Croatian families today live in two-generation households. This trend emerged after WW2 as part of socialist transformation and modernisation through which large number of village inhabitants were moved to towns and large cities. This shift from a predominantly rural to an urban style of living led to a decrease in number of persons per household reaching the level of 3.1 in the beginning of 1990s. Decrease in the average number of children per family has been observed especially in the last two decades due to many interrelated factors, including limited capacity of pre-school child-care institutions (even today, only 35% of all Croatian children aged

1-5 are enrolled in pre-school institution which is far less favourable than in most developed European countries) and economic crisis.

Table 7: Number of rooms in the house

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) kitchen only	2	.2
	2) kitchen with 1 room	32	3.4
	3) kitchen with 2 rooms	184	19.6
	4) kitchen with 3 rooms	265	28.2
	5) kitchen with 4 rooms	287	30.5
	6) kitchen with 5 rooms	170	18.1
	Total	940	100.0

Table 8: Having a separate room

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) yes	763	80.7
	2) no	182	19.3
	Total	945	100.0

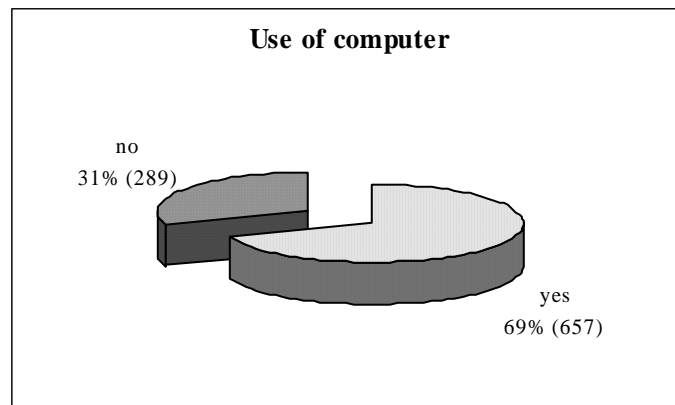
Tables 7 and 8 provide more accurate picture on the family life of young people in Croatia. As the data from other sources confirm, majority of Croatian citizens live in their own houses. Therefore, it should not come as surprise that one half of our respondents (48.6%) live in houses consisting of one kitchen with 4 or 5 rooms and that other half (47.8%) have houses with one kitchen and 2 or 3 rooms. Only 3.6% of the total number of respondents live in unfavourable (kitchen with one room) or extremely restrained conditions (kitchen only). Notwithstanding, such interpretation should be taken with precaution due to the fact that the term 'room' may have different meaning in Croatian language. In its broader usage it means 'space' and thus may refer to bedroom or a dining room, as well as to bathroom or a larder.

If our data are reliable, and having in mind that a typical family pattern of our sample is a two-child-two-parent unit, as well as that majority of our respondents belong to families that live in houses with three and more rooms, it is understandable that almost four fifth of them (80.7%) have no need to share his or her room with anybody else.

C. THE USE OF COMPUTER

In 1997, according to the UNESCO statistics, Croatia had 184 Internet hosts per 100,000 (less than 0.2%) as compared to, e.g., 3,936 in Sweden. By the end of 2001 there were 480,000 users registered which makes 10.8% of the total Croatian population (at the same time, e.g., the number of computer users in Sweden rose to 6.02 mil.).

Graph 2:



Graph 2 confirms that the situation with the use of computers among Croatian youth in the end of 2002, when the research was conducted, was far more favourable than a few years ago. Almost two thirds (69.5%) of our young respondents confirm their familiarity with new information-communication technologies. Moreover, as Table 9a and Graph 3 show, almost two thirds (77.8%) of all computer users in the sample have computers at home; 12% have such access in education institutions (school and universities); about 4% use it either at their friends' home or at work and less than 1% visit Internet cafés for the same purpose.

Table 9a: Place where computer is used?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) at home	511	77.8
	2) in friend's house	27	4.1
	3) in school	40	6.1
	4) at the faculty	39	5.9
	5) at work	25	3.8
	6) Internet café	4	.6
	7) other	11	1.7
	Total	657	100.0

Graph 3:

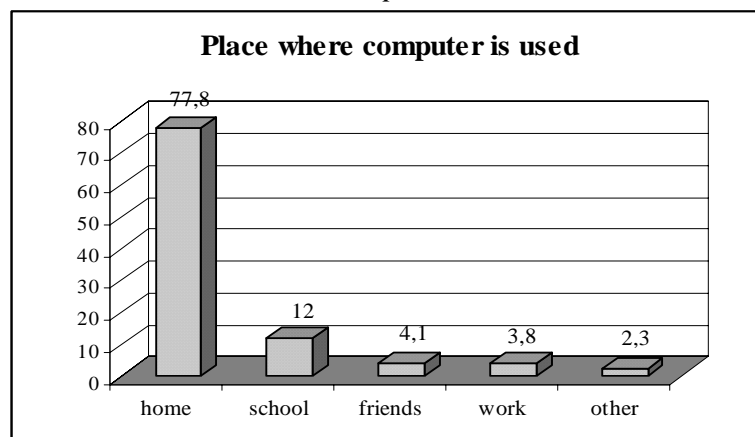


Table 9b: Reasons for not using the computer

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) has no computer	171	59.2
	2) has no interest	94	32.5
	3) he/she has no time	13	4.5
	4) does not know how to use	11	3.8
	Total	289	100.0

As presented in Table 9b above, among those young people that do not use computers (30.5 % of the sample), three fifths state that they have no computer while one third (or 10% of the total) declare that they have no interest in using it. In addition, a small number of the computer non-users (less than 10% of the total) state that they either have no time to work with the computer or that they do not know how to use it.

D. RESPONDENTS' AND THEIR PARENTS' EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND OCCUPATION

An additional feature of a demographic structure of our respondents refers to their parents' educational and occupational background. The data of the State Institute for Statistics based upon the 2001 population census show that the rate of illiteracy among the population aged 15 and over is 2.9% and that it almost solely refers to the oldest age-cohort. Illiterate men make 0.6% and women 2.3% of the total population.

The data from Table 10a and 11a below confirm other studies conducted in Croatia, namely, that education between fathers and mothers, at the average level, is almost similar. Our findings demonstrate that 61% of our respondents' fathers and 59.8% of mothers have secondary school completed. However, despite the fact that numbers are not high, the difference between these two groups exists at pre-secondary and post-secondary education level. There are 9.4% of our respondents' fathers and 17.9% of their mothers with no education at all or with basic education only. Similarly, one fourth of fathers (25.2%) and one fifth of mothers (20.9%) have tertiary education completed, including post-graduate degrees, while in the total Croatian population aged 15 and over the share of those with higher education and university diploma is 11.3%.

Table 10a: Father's educational background

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) no school	4	.4
	2) primary school not completed	8	.9
	3) primary school completed	76	8.1
	4) secondary school completed	570	61.0
	5) higher education completed	67	7.2

6) faculty degree	157	16.8
7) M.A. / Ph.D.	11	1.2
8) has no father	41	4.4
Total	934	100.0

Table 10b: Father's occupation

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) unemployed	32	3.6
	2) retired	73	8.3
	3) industrial, service and shop worker	393	44.7
	4) clerk	185	21.0
	5) professional with a high school or faculty diploma	114	13.0
	6) director/manager	26	3.0
	7) craftsman	13	1.5
	8) employer/entrepreneur	16	1.8
	9) individual farmer	28	3.2
	Total	880	100.0

The fact that educational status of our respondents' parents is higher than it is reported for the total Croatian population, especially for the tertiary education attainment, has been largely expected. The parents of our respondents belong to generations born in 1950s and 1960s and they received more education averagely than their own parents who had attended schools a generation earlier.

Table 11a: Mother's educational background

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) no school	7	.7
	2) primary school not completed	24	2.6
	3) primary school completed	137	14.6
	4) secondary school completed	561	59.8
	5) higher education completed	66	7.0
	6) faculty degree	126	13.4
	7) M.A./Ph.D.	5	.5
	8) has no mother	12	1.3
	Total	938	100.0

Table 11b: Mother's occupation

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) unemployed	196	21.3
	2) retired	45	4.9

3) industrial, service and shop worker	263	28.6
4) clerk	299	32.5
5) professional with a high school or faculty diploma	89	9.7
6) director/manager	13	1.4
7) craftswomen	3	.3
8) employer/entrepreneur	6	.7
9) individual farmer	5	.5
Total	919	100.0

In reference to occupation (Table 10b and 11b), the majority of our respondents' fathers and mothers are employed as industrial, service and shop workers and clerks (65.7% of fathers and 61.1% of mothers) while 13% of fathers and 9.7% of mothers are professionals. This means that young people in our sample mostly come from middle social strata, far less of them have high-rank background in socio-economic terms and in terms of education and even lesser number belongs to the lower social groups.

Notwithstanding, it should be noted that there are important disbalances in the distribution of occupation between our respondents' fathers and mothers, especially in reference to unemployment (3.6% of all fathers and 21.3% of all mothers), as well as to workers' and clerks' jobs. Fathers dominate in workers' jobs (44.7% as compared to 28.6% of mothers) while mothers are over-represented in clerks' jobs (32.5% as compared to 21% of fathers). It is obvious, therefore, that women suffer more from unemployment than men, which may only be partially explained by a lower level of educational attainment of the former. Also, the over-representation of men in workers' jobs and of women in clerks' jobs corresponds to a long tradition of labour force divisions by gender that may be found all over the world.

Table 12a: Level of school achieved by the respondent

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	2) primary school not completed	6	.6
	3) primary school completed	375	39.6
	4) secondary school completed	532	56.2
	5) higher education completed	17	1.8
	6) faculty degree	16	1.7
	Total	946	100.0

Table 12b: Respondent's occupation

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) secondary school student	372	39.3
	2) high school/faculty student	263	27.8
	3) unemployed	117	12.4
	4) employed	194	20.5

Total	946	100.0
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Table 12a and 12b give an overview of the distribution of the sample by the highest level of school achievement and occupation. According to table 12a, majority of our respondents (56.2%) have secondary school completed; two fifths or 39.6% have eight years of primary school completed and only 3.5% are with university and non-university diploma. When the data from Tables 10a, 11a and 12a are compared it triggers our attention that an average educational background of our respondents is lower than of their parents.

The reason for such aberration lies in the nature of the sample. Our respondents are young people aged 15-24. Those that are still in education at the post-secondary level (Table 12b) actually have only secondary school completed and are, therefore, included in Table 12a in the same category. Most Croatian university and some non-university higher education institutions (e.g. teacher academies preparing lower elementary school teachers) last for four years and the average duration for the completion of the four-year study is between 7 and 8 years. This means that majority of university and higher education students in Croatia finish their education after they are 24 years of age. In addition, since there are 52.6% of young people aged 15-19 in our sample, a great many of them (39.3% according to Table 12b) is still enrolled in secondary schools and, thus, have no professional qualification.

Apart from the two fifth or 39.3% of our respondents who are still enrolled in secondary education, the data on their socio-professional status in Table 12b show that more than one fourth (27.8%) of the sample is made of tertiary education level students; that one fifth (20.5%) of them are already employed and that 12.4% consider themselves as unemployed. These figures point out at important socio-professional differences among young people, especially when we add those from 24-29 years of age to the sample. Among relatively younger population there are more students and less employed or unemployed. The later two socio-professional groups get more represented later which means that more accurate social profile of Croatian youth may be obtained by extending the age limits of the present sample to young people in the age of 24-29.

E. ATTITUDES TOWARDS PRESENT AND FUTURE LIFE

Tables 13, 14 and 15 below present data on our respondents' attitudes towards their present life, as well as towards the life of their closest friends and of young people in Western Europe. As the results illustrate, three quarters (76%) of young people assess their present condition as good or excellent; slightly less (69%) have the same opinion about the quality of life of their closest friends and about their peers in Western Europe (71%). The average scores (Mean) are 3.9 (for their own present life); 3.7 (for the life of their friends); and 3.9 for the life of young Westerners. Having in mind that Croatia has not yet managed to pull its economy out of recession and that an unemployment rate, especially among the youth, is one of the highest in Europe, it is interesting that a majority of young people in our sample has no significant objection to their own way of living and, moreover, think of it, averagely, as having almost the

same quality as the way of living of young people in Western Europe (see Graph 4 below for the comparison of data).

Table 13: Attitude towards own present life

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) extremely bad	8	.8
	2) bad	24	2.5
	3) neither bad nor good	194	20.5
	4) good	539	57.0
	5) excellent	180	19.0
	Total	945	100.0
Mean			3.91

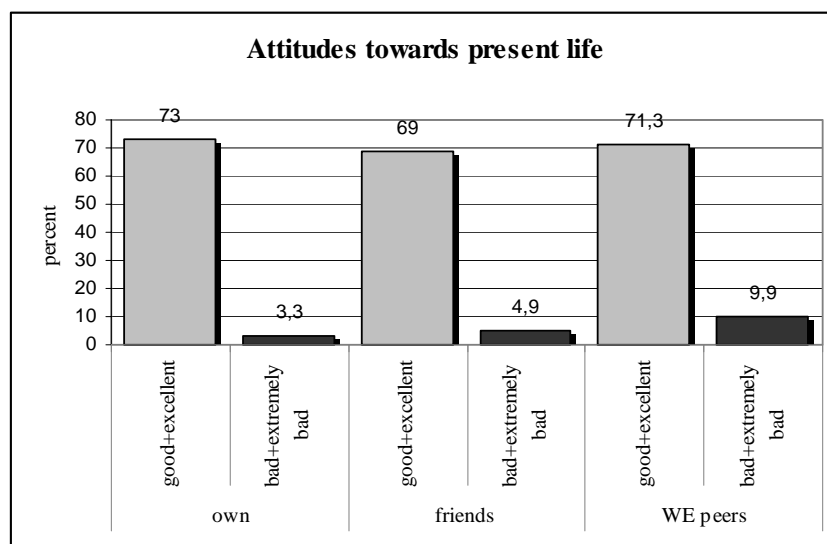
Table 14: Attitude towards present life of the closest friends

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) extremely bad	7	.7
	2) bad	39	4.2
	3) neither bad nor good	245	26.1
	4) good	560	59.7
	5) excellent	87	9.3
	Total	938	100.0
Mean			3.73

Table 15: Attitude towards present life of young people in Western Europe

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) extremely bad	12	1.4
	2) bad	73	8.5
	3) neither bad nor good	162	18.8
	4) good	376	43.7
	5) excellent	237	27.6
	Total	860	100.0
Mean			3.88

Graph 4: Comparison



To what extent such finding should be contributed to genuine satisfaction with personal living conditions, and to what extent to the fact that youth, at least in part, project their own social concerns to somebody or something else, rather than to themselves, remains unanswered in this study. It is also possible that their responses reflect two other features of Croatian youth. Firstly, the lack of understanding of their actual social and economic position may be the result of socialisation into a predominantly child-centred and paternalistic culture in which the period of childhood, in terms of self-responsibility, is significantly prolonged, also due to the fact that the principle of seniority still prevails in the word of work and is still important for upward mobility in one's career. Secondly, this may be the outcome of a globalising virtual world of new information and communication technologies in which young people live an illusion of global equality through the fact that, despite their actual economic and social constraints, they can easily enter a rapidly globalising world of 'infotainment'.

In any case, the conclusions need to be drawn with precaution due to differences among our respondents in attaching the terms 'very good' and 'excellent' to their present situation, to the situation of their friends and of their Western peers. About one fifth (19%) see their own life as excellent, 9.3% are ready to define the life of their closest friends in the same way, while more than one fourth (27.6%) define present way of living of Western youth as excellent.

Whatever the reason and despite considerable differences in the use of the term 'excellent', there is little doubt that Croatian youth look at their present life and future possibilities in optimistic terms. Their optimism and self-content remain constant throughout this study. Tables 16, 17 and 18 below reflect their opinion about their future, the future of their closest friends and of their peers in Western Europe. Here we find similar tendencies that have been found in a set of questions about their present life. A high percentage (84.9) of our respondents expect their future to be either good or excellent; 83.1% believe the same for their closest friends and 83.7% of the surveyed think that good or excellent future awaits their peers in Western Europe (see Graph 5 below for the comparison of data).

Table 16: Attitude towards own future

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) extremely bad	7	.8
	2) bad	28	3.1
	3) neither bad nor good	103	11.3
	4) good	584	64.0
	5) excellent	191	20.9
	Total	913	100.0
Mean			4.01

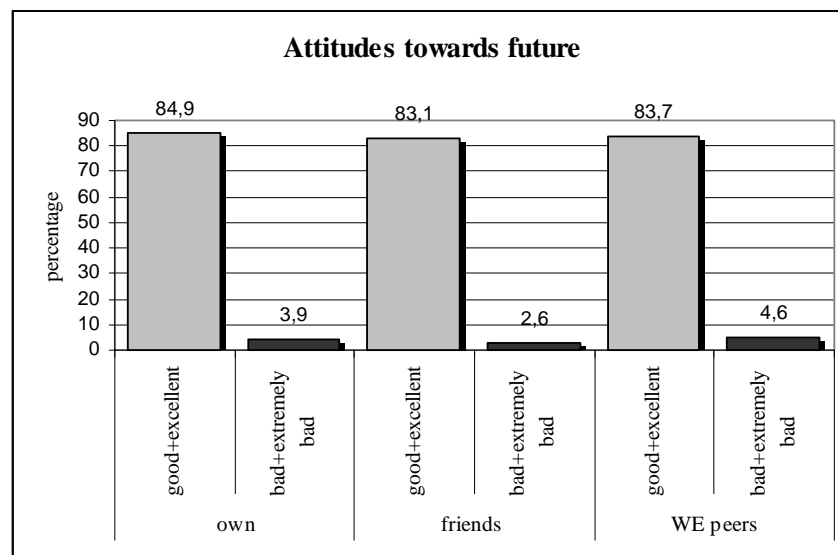
Table 17: Attitude towards future of the closest friends

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) extremely bad	4	.5
	2) bad	19	2.1
	3) neither bad nor good	127	14.3
	4) good	587	66.2
	5) excellent	150	16.9
	Total	887	100.0
Mean			3.97

Table 18: Attitude towards future of young people in Western Europe

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) extremely bad	4	.5
	2) bad	34	4.1
	3) neither bad nor good	98	11.7
	4) good	429	51.4
	5) excellent	270	32.3
	Total	835	100.0
Mean			4.11

Graph 5: Comparison



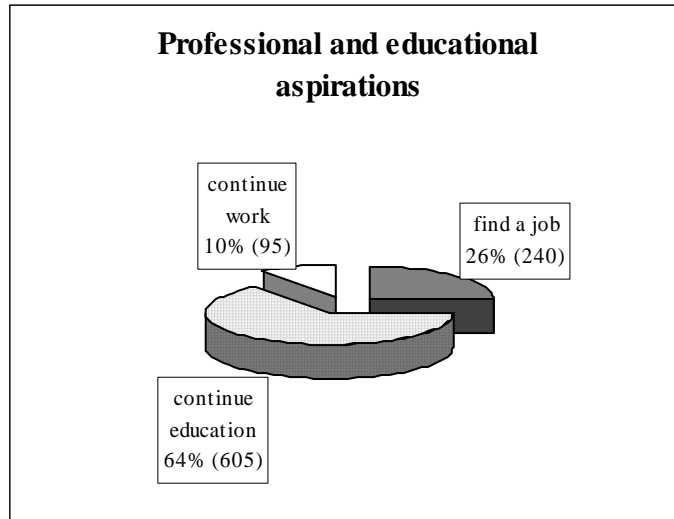
This means that, despite the concern of many over youth perspectives in Croatia due to number of unresolved development issues, young people nevertheless believe that they be better off in the future (both in individual and collective terms). Their optimism is somewhat even higher than it was in the end of the 1990s when a nationwide research was conducted (Ilišin and Radin 2002). The reason behind this could be either that there is a view that an overall situation in Croatia has improved as compared to the one 4-5 years ago, or simply it is the consequence of age of the surveyed, since some studies have shown that, even among the youth, pessimism increases with age.

And again, since there are differences in attaching the term 'excellent' to their own future, the future of their closest friends and of their peers in Western Europe (20.9%; 16.9% and 32%, respectively), it is possible that the attitudes of our respondents are far more the expressions of modest optimism based on hope that is not only the characteristic of their age but of post-communist transitional processes, as well.

E. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: EDUCATION, OCCUPATION AND RESIDENCE PLACE

Professional and educational aspirations of youth, as seen from Graph 6 below, correspond to their current social status: 64.3% want to continue education, which correlates with 67% of them being presently within education system (secondary school, higher education and university students). Almost 26% want to get employment as soon as possible (among them there are certainly all of the 12% of the unemployed, while the rest are currently secondary and tertiary students who shall probably soon obtain high school or university diploma, and hence want to get employed right afterwards). It is interesting that only 10% of our respondents want to pursue their current job, which is only half of the total number of the employed young people in the sample.

Graph 6:



This implies that every second young person in the sample who is employed is dissatisfied with the job she/he holds, which is certainly an alarming figure as it relates to persons whose professional career has just started and who are subject to high expectations as concerns their working engagement. Further, it could be presumed that some of them belong to the category of those willing to find an employment. In their case, they do not merely target any job, but either employment in their profession or a better position.

Graph 7:

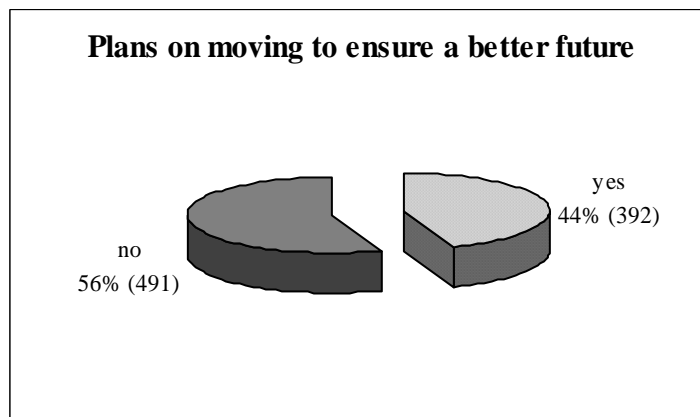


Table 19: Destination

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) city	116	35.9
	2) town	21	6.5
	3) abroad	169	52.3
	4) other	17	5.3
	Total	323	100.0

While thinking of meeting their expectations in the future, young people are almost polarised between those who plan to move from their present place of residence (44.4%) and those who have no such intention (55.6%), as presented by Graph 7. The choice of destination of the former (Table 19) has been largely expected. Majority of those who plan to move (52.3% or 19.1% of the total sample) think of leaving the country. The rest chooses to move inside the country: one third (35.9% or 13.2% of the total sample) prefer major cities while only 6.5% (or 2.4% of the total sample) think of smaller towns as their destination. Equally small number (2% of the total), express their wish to move to another region, climate or geographic area either in Croatia or abroad.

Our findings correspond to other studies that have been conducted in Croatia recently. In the study on youth and transition (Ilišin and Radin 2002) the readiness for residential and professional mobility was investigated in relation to a high rate of youth unemployment. Its data show that less than 10% of the surveyed would not accept job outside their permanent place of residence under no circumstances while 60.8% of the sample state that they would accept to move on two conditions: if the job is well paid and if the working conditions are good. The comparison of the results of this study with the results of the study carried on more than a decade earlier (Ilišin, Radin and Županov 1986) demonstrate that the number of young people willing to leave the country for good rose from 11.1% in 1986 to 18.1% in 1999. The number of those who would like to go abroad for a long time but not forever remained the same (38.8% in 1986 and 39.7% in 1999). The biggest difference emerges among those who would neither go for a longer period nor forever (33.2% in 1986 as compared to 18.1% in 1999).

Table 20: Opinion on large cities as places that offer better opportunities

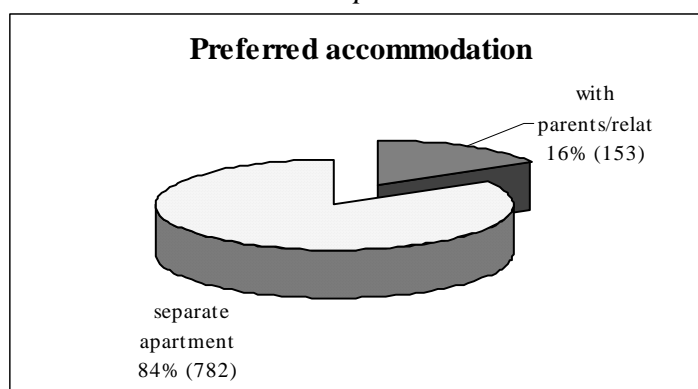
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) yes	579	65.0
	2) no	312	35.0
	Total	891	100.0

Our data on the willingness of Croatian youth to leave their place of living in order to better meet their personal and professional aspirations lead us to conclude that both Croatian rural and urban youth are in preparation for moving to bigger towns or major cities. City is perceived as the place that offers better opportunities for career and social positioning by 65% of the total number of respondents (Table 20). The remaining 35% have doubts about such opportunities and think of migrating abroad or moving to smaller urban settlements. However, more accurate picture on this issue is obtained through comparison with the data presented by Graph 9 and 10 and Table 21 below.

Whether their plans would be met in the future depends on many interrelated factors defined by international, national and local contexts of personal change. Residential and professional mobility, which has been well known to Westerners for decades, is a new phenomenon in transitional countries. In Croatia, it is highly dependent on deep structural changes in the society, the liberalisation of national economy and the

prospects of integration into the new European labour market in which personal wishes may play only a minor role.

Graph 8:



Over four fifths of young people (83.6%), as presented by Graph 8 above, have expressed their desire to live on their own in a separate apartment, if this would be possible. If we compare their wishes with their actual housing situation presented in Table 6a on family patterns in which it has appeared that only 6.2% of the surveyed live in their own apartments (either alone or with the family they have established), it is easy to see how difficult it is, for the majority of Croatian youth, to reach their full independence, as well as to develop and maintain important feeling of self-reliance and self-responsibility. Since the chances of securing their own apartment are minimal not only due to difficulties in finding appropriate job but due to extremely high market prices in the sector of housing, as well, it can be presumed that such unwanted and prolonged co-habitation with parents and/or other relatives at the beginning of the age of independence is a source of constant frustration for a great number of Croatian citizens.

Graph 9:

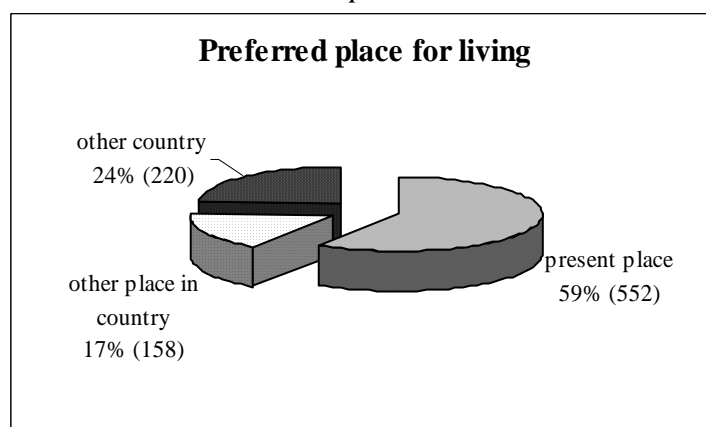


Table 21: Preferred place for living other than present

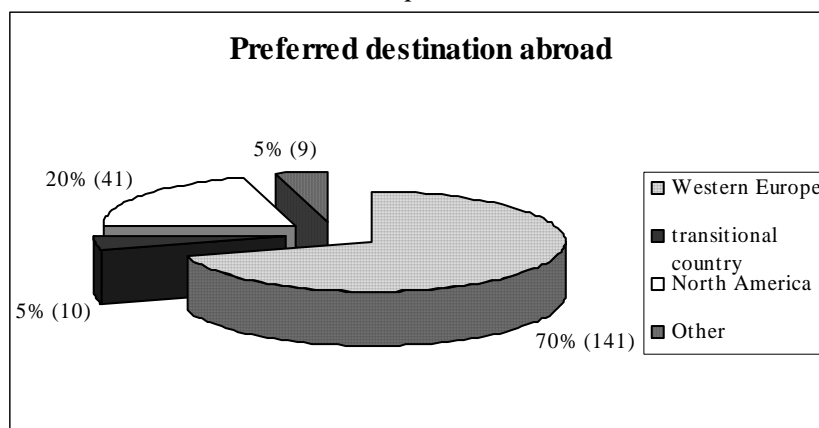
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) city	97	71.9

2) town	31	23.0
3) other	7	5.2
Total	135	100.0

Questions regarding preferred place for living (Graph 9 and 10; Table 21) bring results that are quite similar to those on residential migration plans (Graph 7; Table 19). However, there are certain differences that need further explanation. The number of youth preferring to remain in their present place of residence and the number of those having no migratory plans are almost identical (59.4% and 55.6%, respectively). If they could choose, 17% of all our respondents would like to go to some other place inside the country. Two thirds of them (or 71.9% of that group) prefer large cities while one third (or 23%) are more inclined to remain in smaller urban settlements.

If we compare our data with those from the study carried on in 1999 in relation to a preferred place to work (Ilišin and Radin 2002) we see that, in the last several years, the number of young people preferring large cities has increased while the number of those who opt for smaller towns has decreased (54.5% and 38.2%, respectively). The conclusion should not be taken for granted due to differences in wording. The figures from the 1999 study relate to the preferred place for working while the figures in Table 21 above demonstrate young peoples' choice for living. It is, therefore, possible that we deal here with two different dimensions of youths' aspirations, which should be taken into account in further research.

Graph 10:



Of all the surveyed, 23.7% express their preference for living abroad. Out of these, two thirds (or 70.1% of the group which makes 15.1% of the total sample) opt for a Western European country, while one fifth (or 20.4% of the group or 4.4% of the total sample) speak in favour of North America. The difference in number between those who have plans to migrate abroad (19.1% of the sample; Table 19) and those who prefer living abroad (23.7%; Graph 9) indicates that there are actually two dimensions of youth migration issue (the same as with their preference of location for living and work) what needs to be taken into account in the interpretation of planning to, and of preferring living abroad. While preference for other counties may mean only an

inclination towards them, having plans on migrating abroad most certainly includes active search for such possibilities. Having in mind the level of dissatisfaction of Croatian youth with their present living conditions, it is possible to argue that at least one fifth of them not only dream of leaving the country but actually make plans on how to make it in order to escape the constraints at home.

The distribution of answers to the question about preferred occupation presented in Table 22 provides more information on professional aspirations of young people in Croatia, thus, helping us to gain more understanding of the results presented above in this report. It is important to note that 9.8% of the surveyed did not give answers to this question either because they were not sure of what they would like to be in the future or simply because they refused to answer with no further explanation.

Table 22: Preferred occupation (3 responses possible)

	Frequency	Percent of all answers	Percent of respondents
1) industrial worker	39	4.1	4.5
2) shop assistant, service worker	148	15.6	17.3
3) policemen, soldier, firemen, traffic	27	2.9	3.2
4) businessman/-woman, manager/director	92	9.9	10.8
5) public employee	40	4.2	4.7
6) politician	4	.4	.5
7) journalist/reporter	19	2.0	2.2
8) farmer	6	.6	.7
9) medical, dentist	20	2.1	2.3
10) nurse, physiotherapist, etc.	53	5.6	6.2
11) teacher	56	5.9	6.6
12) entrepreneur	58	6.1	6.8
13) sportsman/-woman	25	2.6	2.9
14) banker	20	2.1	2.3
15) tourist agent	48	5.0	5.6
16) university professor/scientist	71	7.5	8.3
17) social worker	14	1.5	1.6
18) engineer	74	7.8	8.7
19) computer expert	60	6.3	7.0
20) lawyer	23	2.4	2.7
21) art, fashion	52	5.4	6.1
22) does not know/no answer	93	-	-
Total number of answers	951	100.0	-
Total number of respondents	853		100

In all, our respondents mention 21 professional categories while listing their preferences. Over one fifth of them or 22% express their preference for jobs in the service sector (shop assistant, public employee, etc.); almost identical number (19.9% of the total sample) appears in relation to occupations in the business sector (entrepreneur, businessman/woman, banker etc.); 16.8% opt for more creative and/or dynamic fields of profession, such as journalism, sport, tourism, art and fashion; the same number (16.7%) would like to work in education, health and social services sector (teacher, physician, dentist, nurse or social worker); 15.7% would like to earn for living as engineers or computer experts; and 8.3% would like to see himself/herself among university professors or scientists in the future.

Only a few of our respondents opt for a prestigious lawyer position (2.7%) and even less would like to see themselves in the role of a politician (0.5%). Equally unattractive (3.2%) to our sample are occupations in the public security sector (policeman/woman, fireman/woman, traffic police), including the army, and low skilled jobs in industry (4.5%). Apart from politicians, the least preferred is the life of a farmer (0.7%).

When compared to the structure of the employed force in Croatia and having in mind a rapidly changing labour market in all transitional countries, professional preferences of our respondents are far from being unrealistic and unrealisable. According to the data of the State Institute for Statistics based upon the 2001 population census two major categories of the employed in Croatia are, on the one hand, clerks, service workers and shop and market sales workers (26.4% of the employed) and, on the other hand, craft and relative workers, and plant and machine operators (24.3% of the employed); additional 7.8% are skilled agricultural and fishery workers. Over one fourth of the employed are university-trained professionals, including 14% of technicians and associate professionals, 8.3% of other professionals while 3.7% are legislators, senior officials and managers.

Our sample's responses should be interpreted in the light of two earlier studies of 1986 and 1999 which, inter alia, investigated the hierarchy and structure of values among young people. The comparison of value ranks in 1986 and 1999 demonstrates that, apart from religion and nationality, the greatest increase is reached in relation to the power (from 10.6% in 1986 to 28.6% in 1999), material position (from 36.0% in 1986 to 59.1% in 1999), independence (from 35% in 1986 to 52.2% in 1999) and professional success (from 37.5 in 1986 to 50.1% in 1999). On the other hand, the preference for political affirmation has significantly decreased among Croatian youth (from 13% in 1986 to 4.6 in 1999).

The shift in value desirability shows that young people are today more the advocates of an individualistic value orientation and less of a collectivistic one. The comparison of the hierarchy of work values between 1986 and 1999 is also interesting. First five ranks in 1986 were given to self-realisation, material security, habit, obligation and pleasure. First two values (self-realisation and material position) kept the same positions in 1999 as well as the fifth one (pleasure). The shift emerged in relation to valuing work as habit and obligation (3rd and 4th ranks in the 1986 study). In the 1999 study these work values disappeared and were replaced by social interreaction and status.

The shift to more individualistic value system, including preference for independence and power, and the predominance of self-realisation and material security among the values of work, contribute to our better understanding of the figures presented in Table 22. Probably due to their awareness of a comprehensive crisis in Croatia where the productive sector has not been recovered yet, as well as of the possibilities created by a common European market, young people are becoming more and more self-oriented and pragmatic in thinking of their professional career and, thus, more open to those occupations that they perceive as more needed in the labour market.

Table 23: Perception of chances for getting a preferred job

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) 0-1%	70	7.6
	2) 25%	132	14.3
	3) 50%	283	30.7
	4) 75%	277	30.1
	5) 99%	159	17.3
	Total	921	100.0

Graph 11:

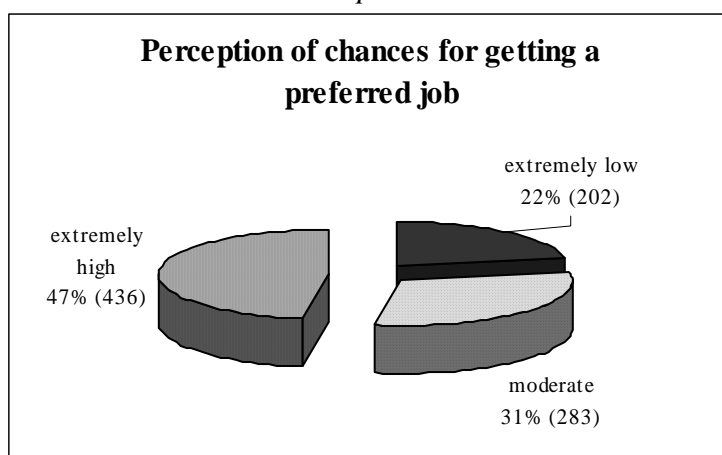


Table 23 and Graph 11 present the distribution of estimates for getting a preferred job among our respondents. Here we find again a rather high level of positive expectation as almost half of the surveyed think that their chances to get a job they wish are high (30.1%) or very high (17.3%). Slightly less than one third (30.7%) believe that the chances are pending while the rest is more pessimistic - one fifth (21.9%) expresses mild pessimism (14.3%) while the smallest number reaches the level of despair (7.6%).

In light of the above analysis and having in mind the results presented in Tables 31a-31k below, it seems that the optimism of our respondents is mainly the outcome of their strong motivation to succeed in life, as well as of their belief in their abilities to achieve their dreams despite unfavourable social and economic context in which they actually may fulfil their professional plans. We are even prone to believe that mental health of Croatian citizens largely depends on whether the gap between a never-give-up philosophy of young people and their actual social and economic condition would be bridged soon.

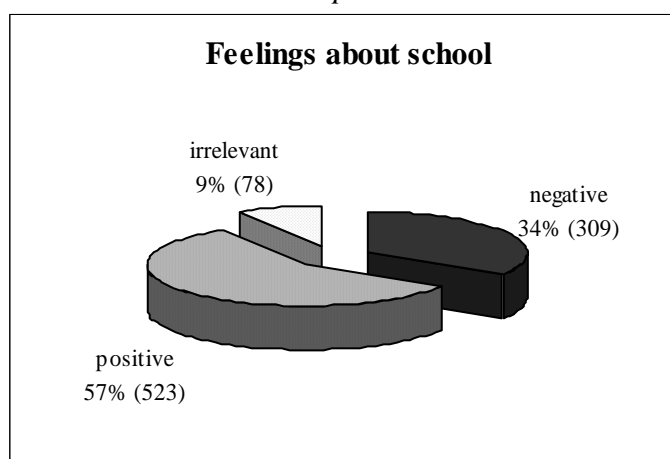
F. FEELINGS ABOUT SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY STUDY

Having in mind strong criticism the school has been exposed to by the public in the last decade on the ground that it neither prepares young people for life nor assist the society at large in its reconstruction, as well as the fact that Croatia still lacks an officially approved comprehensive strategy for education reform, one may expect that a large number of youth is extremely dissatisfied with educational institutions. However, the figures in Table 24 indicate that this might not be the truth. Over half of the respondents (51.9%) state that they feel happy and satisfied when thinking of their schools or universities and an additional 5.6% feel proud and excited. In contrast to them, one third (33.9%) of the surveyed describe their feelings in negative terms, as sadness, boredom, worrying, dissatisfaction or irritation, while 8.6% do not have any specific feeling about its formal education (see Graph 12 for comparison).

Table 24: Feelings about school

	Frequency	Percent
1) sad and bored	54	5.9
2) worried	126	13.8
3) dissatisfied	47	5.2
4) irritated	82	9.0
Valid 5) excited	21	2.3
6) happy/satisfied	472	51.9
7) proud	30	3.3
8) nothing/irrelevant	78	8.6
Total	910	100.0

Graph 12:



The above figures may be interpreted in two ways: a) that majority of Croatian youth is actually satisfied with the schooling system and b) that they are satisfied not with

the system as such, in terms of learning in the context of a subject-matter, but in terms of learning in the context of school life as a whole. Despite a decades long and worldwide growing tendency to reduce the perception on the function of formal education institutions to a subject-matter-related knowledge and skills, schools are still and for many students important socialising institutions in where they establish long-lasting friendships, develop their responsibility, strengthen their sense of belonging, challenge their self-respect and prepare for the world of adults.

The study of 1999 (Ilišin and Radin 2002) has documented that education should be observed in a broader context of interrelated institutional tasks and personal expectations. Here we see that the young have multi-dimensional relations towards education. The respondents see education primarily as a means for satisfying their intrinsic needs, such as acquiring new knowledge and skills, strengthening independence, obtaining a desired job, solving existential problems, developing personal identity, etc. Moreover, depending on their professional status, parents' level of education, rural/urban residential status and some other variables, young people approach to education with more or less criticism and attach to it more or less instrumental goals.

G. THE USE OF PSYCHO-ACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Tables 25, 26 and Table 27a-27k give us additional information on the quality of life of Croatian youth. They present the answers to the questions on smoking tobacco, alcohol consumption and the abuse of different types of drugs.

Table 25: Cigarette smoking

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	560	59.3
	2) occasionally (several times a year)	76	8.0
	3) regularly	309	32.7
	Total	945	100.0

Table 26: Alcohol consumption

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	200	21.1
	2) occasionally (several times a year)	230	24.3
	3) once a month	172	18.2
	4) once a week	268	28.3
	5) at least twice a week	70	7.4
	6) daily	6	.6
	Total	946	100.0

While three fifths (59.3%; Table 25) of young people do not smoke cigarettes, only one fifth (21.1%; Table 26) never drink alcohol. Approximately one third smoke (32.7%; Table 25) and drink (35.7%; Table 26) regularly in daily and weekly intervals. The number of irregular smokers (8%; Table 25) is far fewer than the number of those who drink alcohol infrequently (42.5%; Table 26), that is several times a year up to once a month. Smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol certainly belong to the most widespread addictions among young people (and adults) in Croatia, already for decades. However, differences between the smoking of tobacco and alcohol consumption are indicative, as the consumption of alcohol is more frequent than that of tobacco.

Our findings on the frequency of smoking and alcohol consumption among the young are more favourable than most recent research on incidence and characteristics of substance abuse among Croatian high school students shows. The latest study (Sakoman, Raboteg-Šarić and Kuzman 2002) documents that within the month preceding the research, 62.2% of students consumed alcohol and 47.1% had successively five or more drinks in a day. In addition, four fifths of the students smoked cigarettes once or twice in their lives, half of them smoked in the month prior to the research, and one third of them smoke daily.

These comparisons make it clear that the consumption of alcohol (especially if taking into account social consequences of alcohol addiction) is really and potentially a much more acute problem in the contemporary Croatian society than the consumption of tobacco. Notwithstanding, an anti-smoking campaign in Croatia has been backed up much stronger on many levels than anti-alcohol campaign, irrespective of the fact that research on youth during the last twenty years has shown that the discrepancy between tobacco and alcohol use increases: the number of smokers has been reduced while the number of alcohol users slightly but constantly grows. Earlier studies have also demonstrated that both numbers increase with age. Therefore, it may be presumed that anti-smoking campaign actually has a positive impact on smokers and potential smokers, whereas non-existence of similar anti-alcohol campaign points to the fact that there is in Croatia relatively high social tolerance for alcohol use. In other words, youth behaviour in this respect does not divert from dominant social and cultural trends, which are still unquestioned, probably due to the fact that they are deeply rooted in the tradition of alcohol-consumption in the country.

Table 27a: Abuse of drugs: marijuana

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	616	65.1
	2) tried once	132	14.0
	3) tried twice or more	198	20.9
	Total	946	100.0

Table 27b: Abuse of drugs: hashish

	Frequency	Percent

Valid	1) never	867	91.6
	2) tried once	30	3.2
	3) tried twice or more	49	5.2
	Total	946	100.0

Table 27c: Abuse of drugs: LSD

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	912	96.4
	2) tried once	18	1.9
	3) tried twice or more	16	1.7
	Total	946	100.0

Table 27d: Abuse of drugs: cocaine or crack

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	917	96.9
	2) tried once	13	1.4
	3) tried twice or more	16	1.7
	Total	946	100.0

Table 27e: Abuse of drugs: methadone

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	935	98.9
	2) tried once	4	.4
	3) tried twice or more	6	.6
	Total	945	100.0

Table 27f: Abuse of drugs: heroine

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	932	98.5
	2) tried once	9	1.0
	3) tried twice or more	5	.5
	Total	946	100.0

Table 27g: Abuse of drugs: amphetamine

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	908	96.0
	2) tried once	19	2.0
	3) tried twice or more	19	2.0
	Total	946	100.0

Table 27h: Abuse of drugs: ecstasy

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	868	91.8
	2) tried once	31	3.3
	3) tried twice or more	47	5.0
	Total	946	100.0

Table 27i: Abuse of drugs: inhalants

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	933	98.6
	2) tried once	10	1.1
	3) tried twice or more	3	.3
	Total	946	100.0

Table 27j: Abuse of drugs: anabolic steroids

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	943	99.7
	2) tried once	2	.2
	3) tried twice or more	1	.1
	Total	946	100.0

Table 27k: Abuse of drugs: speed

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) never	944	99.9
	2) tried once	1	.1
	Total	945	100.0

The set of questions on abuse of different types of drugs presented in tables above and in the Summary Table 27a-k below reveals that the youth use the so-called 'soft' drugs much more often than the 'hard' ones. As expected, most young people (34.9%) have tried or used twice or more only marijuana. Second most frequent used drugs are hashish and ecstasy (slightly over 8% each), whereas other 'hard' drugs have been tried or are used by 1-3% of the surveyed.

Table 27a-k: Abuse of drugs: Summary

Drugs	Never %	Tried twice or more %
Marijuana	65.1	20.9
Hashish	91.6	5.2
LSD	96.4	1.7

cocaine or crack	96.9	1.7
Methadone	98.9	.6
Heroin	98.5	.5
Amphetamine	96.0	2.0
Ecstasy	91.8	5.0
Inhalants	98.6	.3
anabolic steroids	99.7	.1
Speed	99.9	.1

the youth use the so-called 'soft' drugs much more often than the 'hard' ones. As expected, most young people (34.9%) have tried or used twice or more only marijuana. Second most frequent used drugs are hashish and ecstasy (slightly over 8% each), whereas other 'hard' drugs have been tried or are used by 1-3% of the surveyed (Lalić and Nazor 1997; Ilišin and Radin 2002). Besides, the most recent research on this problem (Sakoman, Raboteg-Šarić and Kuzman 2002) has shown that 21.2% of high school students had experimented with drugs and a total of one fourth of those who tried drugs did it by the age of 15. The abuse of drugs is most widespread in the southern and northern coastal area and in the capital of Zagreb. Discussing substance abuse in general, the writers point out that older and male high school students use substances more often and that younger generation start experimenting with drugs, drinking alcohol and smoking regularly at an earlier age.

More complex analysis of our data should disclose whether the youth surveyed in our research have some of the above characteristics.

H. THE MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD

Table 28a and 28b, as well as Graph 13 below display data on the distribution of the most often used channels for obtaining information about Croatia and the world. The two tables are almost identical. In each case the largest majority of our respondents mention TV and radio as the main source of information (81.6 for the news about the county and 83.5% for the news about the world). The second most frequently used source relates to newspapers and magazines (65.3% for the news about the country and 59.3% for the news about the world). In replying to both questions, school, family and friends are chosen by a small number of respondents. Only 13.2% of the surveyed include them among the three main sources of information about the country and only 7.4% consider them as important sources of information about the world.

Table 28a: Sources of information about the events in the country (3 responses possible)

		Frequency	Percent of all answers	Percent of respondents
Valid	1) TV/radio	766	44.3	81.6
	2) newspapers/magazines	613	35.3	65.3
	3) school	22	1.3	2.3
	4) family	12	.7	1.3
	5) friends	90	5.2	9.6
	6) Internet	233	13.4	24.8
	7) other	3	.2	0.3
	Total number of answers	1,739	100.0	
	Total number of respondents	939		

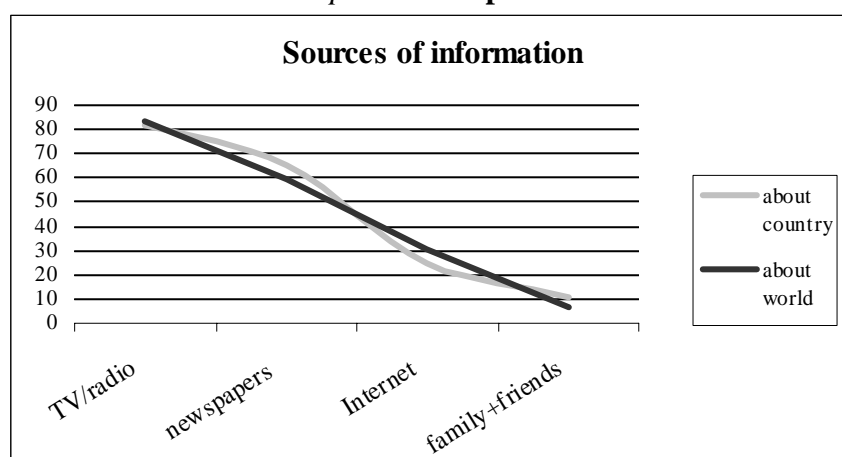
Table 28b: Sources of information about the events in the world (3 responses possible)

		Frequency	Percent of total Answers	Percent of respondents
Valid	1) TV/radio	784	46.1	83.5
	2) newspapers/magazines	557	32.7	59.3
	3) school	11	.6	1.2
	4) family	8	.5	0.8
	5) friends	51	3.0	5.4
	6) Internet	289	17.0	30.8
	7) other	1	.1	0.1
	Total number of answers	1,701	100.0	
	Total number of respondents	939		

A relatively high level of the use of Internet (24.8% for news about the country and 30.8% for the news about the world) has come as a surprise solely because it was not provided among the items in the questionnaire. If we look back to the figures in Graph 2 and Table 9a, where we find that almost two thirds (69.5%) of the respondents have

confirmed the use of computers and that almost two thirds of the computer users (77.8%) or over half (54%) of the total number of the surveyed have computers at home, than it is very much possible that at least half of the computer users are also the users of Internet. Moreover, since the Internet users make 10.8% of the total population in Croatia, this may mean that a vast majority of them actually are young people who are becoming well adjusted to the world of knowledge and globalised information in which access to, and skills for new information and communication technologies are the basis for better understanding the events in the country and the world. This may also explain why none of the surveyed has mentioned church as the source of information either about the country or the world (see Graph 13 for a comparison).

Graph 13: Comparison



I. FREE TIME

The figures on leisure activities presented in Table 29 below relatively well confirm earlier research findings regarding the activities that youth in Croatia is engaged in during their free time. The most common activity among youth is associating with friends (58.1%) although this level decreases with age, marital status and parenthood. Other relatively frequent activities among our respondents are sports (19.4%), visits to disco-clubs (19.3%), watching TV (16.5%) and outdoor activities (15.2%). Earlier research of youth and adults has demonstrated that with becoming middle-aged, sports and visits to disco-clubs become less frequent, while the frequency of watching TV increases. Moreover, the comparison of the studies conducted in 1986 and 1999 (Ilišin and Radin 2002) demonstrates a number of changes in the nature of using free time among the young. Young generation of 1999 went to parties and cafés or was idling more often than the young of 1986. On the other hand, the latter spent more time in cinema, on trips and walks and was more interested in folk music, art exhibitions, theatre, sports and public gathering, as well as in lottery and other competition games.

Table 29: Free time and its use (3 responses possible)

		Frequency	Percent of all answers	Percent of respondents
Valid	1) no free time	29	1.7	3.1
	2) sports	183	10.6	19.4
	3) listening to music, reading, visiting exhibitions	92	5.4	9.8
	4) helping parents at home	47	2.7	5.0
	5) outdoor activities (climbing, fishing etc.)	62	3.6	15.2
	6) dico-clubs	182	10.5	19.3
	7) searching through Internet	78	4.5	8.3
	8) sleeping, doing nothing	83	4.8	6.7
	9) spending time with friends	549	31.8	58.1
	10) playing video/computer games	97	5.6	10.3
	11) watching TV	156	9.0	16.5
	12) family gathering	93	5.4	9.8
	13) hobbies	55	3.2	5.8
	14) earning pocket money	10	.6	1.1
	15) other (voluntary work, dating etc.)	12	.8	1.2
	Total number of answers		1,728	100.0
Total number of respondents		945		

Somewhat unexpected among our data is the finding that less than 10% of youth listen music, read books and visit exhibitions, since these were some of the most often mentioned youth free time activities in earlier studies (e.g. rock music was often listened by 60.8% of the surveyed in 1986 and by 55.3% in 1999). Another curious figure is that every eleventh (6.7%) respondent claims that he/she spends her/his leisure time in a passive way, either as doing nothing or simply sleeping. Our figures are much lower than in earlier studies (e.g. sleeping or idling was mentioned as often practiced by 19.7% in 1986 and by 26.8 in 1999). The difference may appear as the outcome of the differences in wording the questions on free time (in earlier studies the question was 'how often').

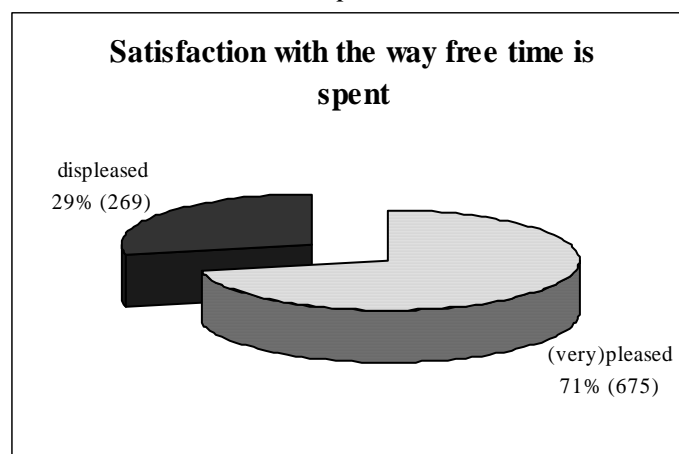
Finally, the fact that only 3.1% of the sample claim that they have no free time whatsoever; that 5% help their parents at home; that less than 1% are committed to voluntary work and that, moreover, only 1.1% work to earn pocket money, tells us that the number of those young people with daily obligations, except in relation to school, is minimal. Having in mind, in addition, that, on the whole, one sixth of youth have absolutely no other free time activities besides idling, sleeping and playing video-games, and that the majority of our respondents are engaged almost solely in the so-called receptive activities for entertainment, it is obvious that the quality of spending leisure time among the youth in Croatia is far from satisfying.

Table 30: Satisfaction with the way free time is spent

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) very much pleased	191	20.2
	2) pleased	484	51.3
	3) displeased	240	25.4
	4) very much displeased	29	3.1

Total	944	100.0
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Graph 14:



Notwithstanding, Croatian youth has different opinion. The data on their (dis)satisfaction with the way they spend leisure time presented in Table 30 and Graph 14 are relatively favourable: a bit less than three fourths (71.5%) of the surveyed are more or less satisfied, while more than one fourth (28.5%) are unsatisfied. Since the group of unsatisfied youth bears importance for us, it would be useful to know more about their reasons. Earlier research (Ilišin and Radin 2002) has indicated that the most common reasons are insufficient amount of free time and the lack of satisfactory contents and activities, as well as the lack of financial resources. It may be presumed that similar problems trouble our respondents, which trigger the issue of responsibility of local and national community for the young. Since only few of the respondents claim no free time whatsoever, we may suppose that the dissatisfaction arises mainly due to low quality of leisure activities, both in terms of poor contents and in terms of restricted financial resources. Nevertheless, the fact remains that significant majority of youth manage to find, within means available to them, activities and contents that attend to their needs and, probably, their expectations.

J. SELF-(DIS)CONTENT

Table 31a together with additional 10 below present the distribution of agreement or disagreement of our respondents with a set of statements describing feelings a person may have towards himself/herself. The data in Table 31a that refer to the level of self-content demonstrate that four fifth (79.6%) of young people are, generally speaking, satisfied with themselves.

Table 31a: I am satisfied with myself

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	746	79.6
	2) disagree	191	20.4
	Total	937	100.0

Table 31b: Sometimes I think I am not good at all

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	291	30.9
	2) disagree	652	69.1
	Total	943	100.0

Table 31c: I feel I have a good number qualities

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	938	99.5
	2) disagree	5	.5
	Total	943	100.0

The tendency of our respondents to see themselves mostly in positive and self-assuring terms permeates all the data in this section. It is confirmed in Table 31c in which almost all young people in the sample (99.5%) think of themselves as having a good number of personal qualities; in Table 31d in which one reads that 95.9% of the respondents believe that they are as capable as other people; in Table 31g in which 95.7% state that they are self-confident and feel that they are somebody; in Table 31j in which only 6.3% disagree with the statement on having positive attitudes about himself/herself; and in Table 31k in which 96.2% of the young claim that they have the impression that most people they know like them.

Table 31d: I think I am as capable as others

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	902	95.9
	2) disagree	39	4.1
	Total	941	100.0

Table 31e: I feel I have little to be proud of

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	95	10.1
	2) disagree	844	89.9
	Total	939	100.0

Positive attitudes about oneself are confirmed once again by the data in Table 31e in which only 10.1% of the surveyed agree with the statement 'I feel I do not have much to be proud of', as well as by Table 31i in which we read that only 9.5% of the young often think of themselves as being a failure.

Table 31f: I feel useless sometimes

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	432	45.8
	2) disagree	512	54.2
	Total	944	100.0

**Table 31g: I am self-confident
(I feel that I am someone)**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	898	95.7
	2) disagree	40	4.3
	Total	938	100.0

Table 31h: I wish I had more self-respect

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	518	55.1
	2) disagree	422	44.9
	Total	940	100.0

Table 31i: I often feel as being a failure

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	90	9.5
	2) disagree	853	90.5
	Total	943	100.0

Table 31j: I have positive attitude towards myself

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	873	93.7
	2) disagree	59	6.3
	Total	932	100.0

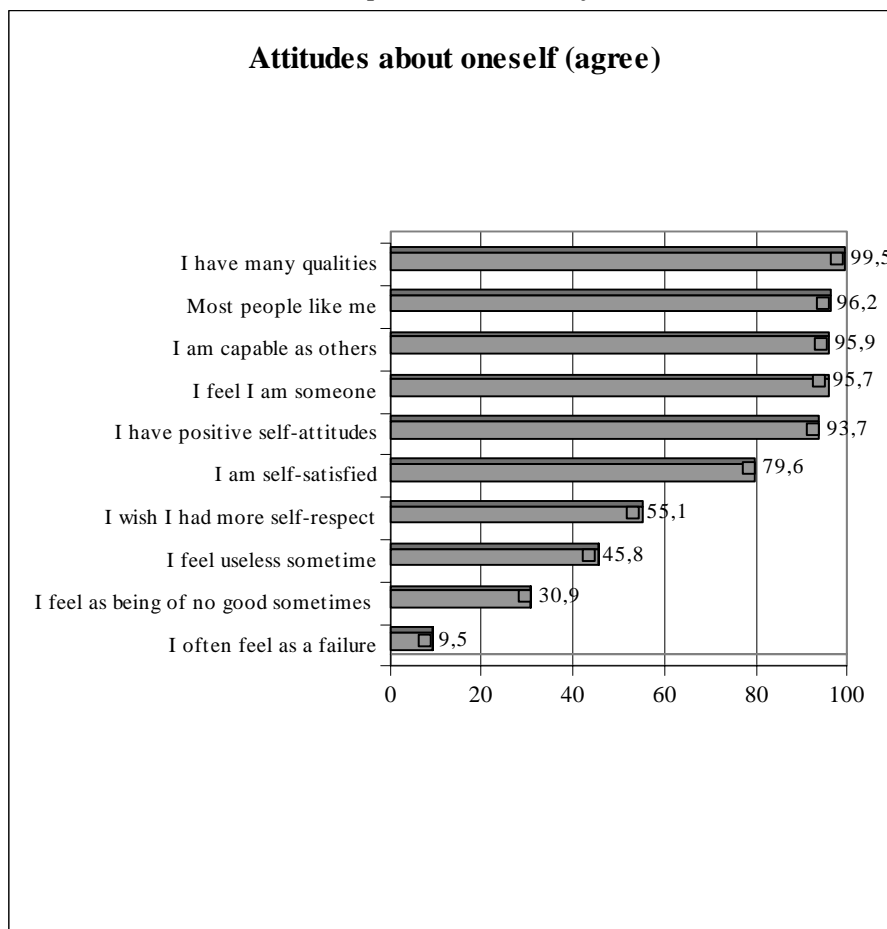
Table 31k: I think most people like me

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) agree	886	96.2
	2) disagree	35	3.8

Total	921	100.0
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Since our respondents show a high level of consistency in their positive attitudes towards themselves on a majority of questions, it might come as a surprise, while looking at the Summary Graph 15 below (presenting the ‘agree’ answers) that 30.9% of them sometimes feel they are no good at all (Table 31b) and that 45.8% have a feeling that they are useless from time to time (Table 31f), as well as that more than half of the sample (55.1%, according to the data in Table 31h) wish they had more self-respect. Although a detailed analysis would bring more light on this issue, this relative aberration may be the characteristic of, at least, the youngest in our sample who, in general, are still in a demanding process of consolidating and strengthening their personal self by ballancing the pressures of the society and their personal needs.

Graph 15: Summary



K. PERCEPTION OF RELATIONS WITH PARENTS, FRIENDS AND TEACHERS

A set of the following tables (32a-32m, including Graphs 16 and 17) present our respondents' answer to several categories of statements about their understanding of their parents and relatives, teachers, friends, as well as about their relation to school and the future. The respondents were asked to mark an appropriate answer depending on how often the content of the statements applies to them.

Table 32a: I can easily get warmth and care from my parents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	813	86.0
	2) sometimes	109	11.5
	3) hardly ever	23	2.4
	Total	945	100.0

Table 32b: I can easily get support from my parents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	821	86.9
	2) sometimes	107	11.3
	3) hardly ever	17	1.8
	Total	945	100.0

Table 32c: My parents are willing to support me financially

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	800	84.7
	2) sometimes	121	12.8
	3) hardly ever	24	2.5
	Total	945	100.0

Table 32d: I can easily get support from my friends

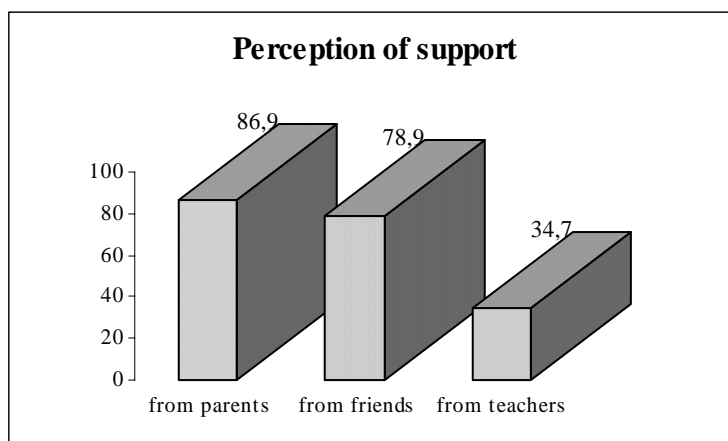
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	746	78.9
	2) sometimes	188	19.9
	3) hardly ever	12	1.3
	Total	946	100.0

Table 32e: I can easily get assistance from my teachers

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	280	44.0
	2) sometimes	257	40.4
	3) hardly ever	99	15.6
	Total	636	100.0

Tables 32a-32e contain data on personal opinion of the surveyed about the support and/or assistance they may expect from their parents, friends and teachers, i.e. the significant others, what is generally accepted as extremely important for the young peoples' emotional, social and intellectual development. Tables 32a-32c demonstrate a high level of security young people in Croatia feel in the family context. A vast majority of them is convinced they can almost always easily get warmth and care from their parents (86%; Table 32a) and easily be supported by them (86.9%; Table 32b), as well as that their parents are ready to assist them financially when in need (84.7%; Table 32c). Unexpectedly high number also think they can easily get support from their friends (78.9%; Table 32d) while less than half (44%; Table 32e) has the same opinion in relation to their teachers (see Graph 16 below for 'almost always' answers in relation to the perception of support).

Graph 16:



As no studies of this aspect of teacher-student relations have been done in Croatia recently (Vujčić 1993), we are not able to conclude whether our data confirm a decrease or an increase in support and assistance students think can get from their teachers. However, some analyses do confirm that Croatian teachers are becoming more and more over-burdened with the task of transmitting the subject-matter to their students, mainly due to predominantly fact-oriented curricula and textbooks and to the failure of policy-makers to introduce a dynamic, comprehensive and more student- and society-oriented educational reform, which may have an impact on increasing formal while decreasing personal teacher-student relations in school

Table 32f: I am worried about my future

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	202	21.4
	2) sometimes	486	51.4
	3) hardly ever	257	27.2
	Total	945	100.0

Table 32g: I am worried about my friends' future

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	178	18.8
	2) sometimes	537	56.8
	3) hardly ever	230	24.3
	Total	945	100.0

Tables 32f and 32g display the results on the existence of concern of the surveyed about their future and of their friends. Over half of them (51.4% for themselves and 56.8% for their friends) state that they sometimes feel uneasy when thinking about tomorrow; one fifth (21.4%) is almost always worried about their own future and little less of them (18.8%) is equally concerned about the future of their friends. Moreover, one fourth (27.2% for themselves and 24.3% for their friends) hardly ever feel any uneasiness about tomorrow. When compared to figures discussed above, these results seem very plausible, since 84.9 (Table 16) of our respondents expect their future to be

either good or excellent and 83.1% (Table 17) think the same way for their closest friends. On the other hand, when compared to the results from Table 32m, where we read that 41.3 respondents think their parents are almost always worried about their children future, it is clear that our respondents are far less concerned about that aspect of their life than are their parents.

In reference to the issue of parents/relatives' monitoring and control of youth's behaviour and his/her school success, the figures in Tables 32h-32k demonstrate that, according to youth's opinion, majority of Croatian families have managed to established more flexible and covert control in the course of their children growth and development (see Graph 17 and Summary Table 32a-m below). In over half of the cases (55.7%; Table 32h) parents or relatives hardly ever define rules for what their children may do and over three fifths of parents or relatives (65%; Table 32i) almost always know where and with whom their children spend evenings when going out.

Table 32h: My parents/relatives define rules for what I can do

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	128	13.5
	2) sometimes	291	30.8
	3) hardly ever	527	55.7
	Total	946	100.0

Table 32i: My parents/relatives know where and with whom I spend my evenings

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	614	65.0
	2) sometimes	212	22.4
	3) hardly ever	119	12.6
	Total	945	100.0

The parents/relatives' monitoring of school progress is even more pronounced among our respondents. As figures in Tables 32j and 32k below demonstrate, some nine tenth (89.8%; Table 32j) of parents/relatives almost always ask their children about their progress in school and regularly keep records on their children school situation (87.3%; Table 32k).

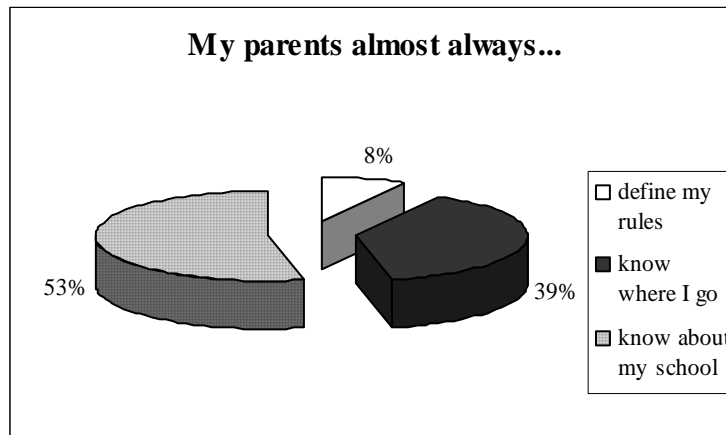
Table 32j: My parents/relatives ask about my progress in school

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	573	89.8
	2) sometimes	51	8.0
	3) hardly ever	14	2.2
	Total	638	100.0

Table 32k: My parents/relatives know about my school situation

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	557	87.3
	2) sometimes	73	11.4
	3) hardly ever	8	1.3
	Total	638	100.0

Graph 17: Monitoring and control: Summary



Approximately equal number of parents/relatives is found among those that are almost always (32.2%) and those that are hardly ever (38.3%) worried about their children’s school situation (see Table 32l below) probably relying on marks their children bring home from school. When the data from Table 32m below are analysed, it seems that there are more parents/relatives who are almost always concerned about their children future than about their school situation. The difference is small but could prove the opinion heard often in public that school success is not as much relevant for success in life of an individual as it is good connection to, acquaintance with, and linkage to political and economic elite in the country.

Table 32l: My parents/relatives are worried about my school situation

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	205	32.2
	2) sometimes	188	29.5
	3) hardly ever	244	38.3
	Total	637	100.0

Table 32m: My parents/relatives are worried about my future

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) almost always	386	41.3
	2) sometimes	316	33.8
	3) hardly ever	233	24.9
	Total	935	100.0

Table 32a-m: Opinions about parents, teachers, etc.: Summary

Opinion	Almost always %
I can easily get warmth and care from my parents.	86.0
I can easily get support from my parents.	86.9
My parents are willing to support me financially.	84.7
I can easily get support from my friends.	78.9
I can easily get assistance from my teachers.	44.0
I am worried about my future.	21.4
I am worried about my friends' future.	18.8
My parents/relatives define rules for what I can do.	13.5
My parents/relatives know where and with whom I spend my evenings.	65.0
My parents/relatives ask about my progress in school.	89.8
My parents/relatives know about my school situation.	87.3
My parents/relatives are worried about my school situation.	32.2
My parents/relatives are worried about my future.	41.3

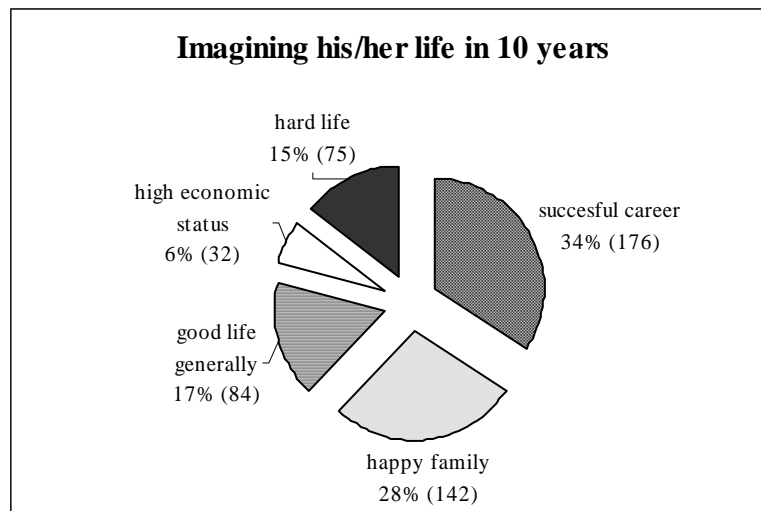
L. IMAGINING HIMSELF/HERSELF IN A 10-YEAR TIME

Although the question on imagining oneself in 10-year time presented in Table 33 and Graph 19 below was answered by 53.8% of the surveyed, the data again confirm the optimism that has been discussed above. Apart for 14.7% of those who expect only hard life, all others of the surveyed state that they believe they would have a good life, either in general terms (16.5%) or in relation to specific field of their interest. Thus, 34.6% expect a successful career, including those that link their professional success with migration to other countries (13.8%). An additional 27.9% believe they would have a good family life while 6.3% see his/her success in achieving high economic status.

Table 33: Imagining himself/herself in 10 years

	Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) successful career and happy family life	34 6.7
	2) happy family life	142 27.9
	3) successful career	106 20.8
	4) high economic status	32 6.3
	5) professional career abroad	70 13.8
	6) happy and good life in general	50 9.8
	7) hard life	75 14.7
	Total	509 100.0

Graph 18:



Whether these figures are the outcome of a period in which the survey was conducted, since the data were collected throughout October-December 2002 when youth is still refreshed by summer and in waiting for Christmas holidays, or the reflection of 'general hopes' embedded in the process of transition' and thus, a reliable picture of Croatian youth today, is hard to say. In any case, we see such a high level of optimism among young people in Croatia as an extremely valuable contribution to developing human capital in the country that, neither the government nor the society as a whole may spend in vain. On the other hand, even more social and administrative attention should be given to those young people that are trapped in their personal and professional development because they live in unfavourable social and/or psychological condition that irreparably turn them into the victims of misfortune.

M. RESPONDENTS' COMMENTS ON THE CONTENT OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Table 34: Respondents' comments on the issues omitted

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) problem of youth unemployment, passivity and emigration	10	17.5
	2) quality of education	6	10.5
	3) inefficiency of the state and the question of law and justice	11	19.3
	4) free time of young people	14	24.6
	8) problems with drugs and the legalisation of drugs	10	17.6
	5) other	6	10.5
	Total	57	100.0

Table 34 presents the comments and suggestions received from only 6% of our respondents. One fourth of them (24.6%) suggest more topics on free time; one fifth (19.3%) opt for more issues focused on the inefficiency of state, the question of law

and justice, in particular; equal number (17.5%) would like to see more questions related to youth unemployment, passivity and emigration or to abuse of drugs; one tenth (10.5%) wants to say more about the quality of education etc.

3.2. Frequency analysis and discussion: Croatian Supplement

Below is the frequency analysis of answers of our respondents to five questions that were added to the original instrument by Croatian research team. The purpose of the extension was to put more light on how the young perceive their problems and what values they deem important as members of the society in which the process of transition to democracy was and, in some way, still is intermingled with nation-building and war. As the most recent research in a thirty-year-long tradition of studying youth in Croatia, it was also expected that it would help us document the changes, if any, among young people in the context of post-2000 political changes in the country.

Thus, the following questions were integrated into the original survey:

- a) What do you think are major problems of youth in Croatia today?
- b) What or who, do you think bears responsibility for solving youth problems in our society?
- c) What do you think needs to be done in order to start solving youth problems more efficiently?
- d) How important to you is each of the following values: social power; democratic system; economic security; national sentiments; rights and freedoms of the individual; protection of minorities; respect for differences (pluralism); high economic standard; the rule of law; European integration; inviolability of property; religion; solidarity among people; gender equality; peace in the world; free market; social justice; civil society; freedom of the media; and healthy environment?
- e) How important you think are the following values for the promotion of an individual in Croatian society: personal endeavour; 'connections' to, and acquaintance with important people; knowledge and skills (competencies); national background; mere luck; bribing people holding important positions; university diploma; money and wealth; destiny; membership in the ruling party; adaptive behaviour; and submissiveness and obedience to the boss?

The results of the first three questions and the summary of the two last questions are presented in Tables 35-39 below, each followed by discussion. A detailed account of results obtained for the last two questions, is presented in the annex.

A. PERCEPTION OF MAIN YOUTH PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTIONS

Table 35 below presents the distribution of answers of our respondents to the question on what they conceive as major problems of youth in Croatia today. The figures above demonstrate that the majority of the surveyed (58.5%) consider socially unacceptable forms of youth behaviour, including the abuse of drugs, alcohol consumption, violence, etc. as the most severe problem of their generation; a bit less than half of them (48.6%) stress unemployment, while over one third (36.4%) highlights the problem of low standard of living. In addition, one fifth emphasizes the

lack of prospects in life (19.9%) and a concomitant mass migration (20.4%) of young experts abroad. The preoccupation with entertainment and consumption is seen as the main issue by 14.7% of the respondents, while two more issues, the lack of the society's responsibility for youth and low level of education quality, are stressed by 13% and 12.1% of the respondents, respectively. The remaining four problems, such as the lack of interest among the young in social and political issues, low level of youth occupying public jobs, the importance of 'good connections' instead of competencies, and the rule of the "old", are mentioned by one tenth of the sample.

Table 35: Perception of major youth problems in Croatia today
(3 responses possible)

		Frequency	Percent of respondents
Valid	1) preoccupation with entertainment and consumption	139	14,7
	2) low standard of living	343	36,4
	3) lack of interest in social and political issues	102	10,8
	4) lack of perspective in life	188	19,9
	5) socially inappropriate behaviour (drugs, alcohol, violence, etc.)	552	58,5
	6) low level of education quality	114	12,1
	7) low level of youth occupying public jobs	95	10,1
	8) importance of 'good connections' instead of competencies	99	10,5
	9) mass migration of young professionals to other countries	192	20,4
	10) unemployment	458	48,6
	11) the rule of the "old"	92	9,8
	12) lack of the society's care and responsibility for youth	123	13,0
	13) other	8	0,8
	Total number of answers	2,505	
Total number of respondents	943		

Our results are somewhat at odds with the social reality as well as with the results of earlier research on youth. Findings of earlier decades had repeatedly displayed unemployment as the major problems of young generation. The same was true during the transitional period of late 1990s, when unemployment rate in Croatia reached its uppermost level ever (Ilišin and Radin 2002). The fact that the participants in this research place socially unacceptable youth behaviour before unemployment may be accounted for either by the sample structure or general social climate.

On the one hand, majority of the respondents are still within educational process. Thus, at least to some of them job search may appear too remote from their student position to be perceived as the top problem of youth in Croatia. On the other hand, in public debates on youth the so-called moral panics predominates, wherein youth in general comes into focus of social interest mainly in terms of deviant behaviour among certain youth groups.

Hence it is possible to assert that these debates, also accompanied by aggressive media campaigns (e.g against smoking and drug abuse but not as much against

alcohol consumption, except for safe driving), are based on a socially-induced perception of youth as prone to violating social norms, in spite of the fact that, in statistical terms, less than one tenth of youth population may be described as socially deviant. Certainly, this is not to say that the problem does not exist or that it is irrelevant. Rather, we want to point out that numerous other problems affecting primarily youth or quite large portions of young population in Croatian society today, are being disregarded and neglected both by relevant social actors and by young people, as well.

Table 36: Opinion on who has the greatest responsibility for solving youth problems in Croatian society
(3 responses possible)

		Frequency	Percent of respondents
Valid	1) parents	447	47,9
	2) non-governmental organisations	60	6,4
	3) youth organisations	101	10,8
	4) government	440	47,2
	5) media	106	11,4
	6) school/university	213	22,8
	7) each young person for himself/herself	482	51,7
	8) church	33	3,5
	9) other	15	1,6
	Total number of answers	1,897	
	Total number of respondents	933	

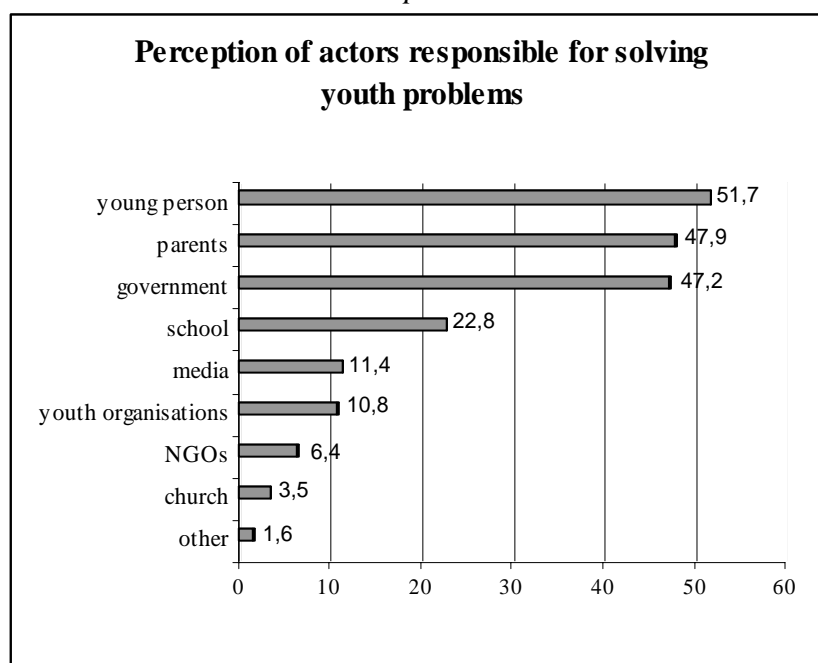
The answers of our respondents, presented in Table 36 above on the question who bears the greatest responsibility for solving the problems of youth in Croatian society, are rather interesting. Firstly, comment must be made of the fact that every second respondent (51.7%) holds each young person to be responsible for herself/himself, while little less in number also hold that responsibility should be exercised by parents (47.9%) and the government (47.2%). In other words, half of the youth distribute the responsibility for their wellbeing equally among the three actors: young person himself/herself, her/his parents, and the authorities. Indeed, this seems rather a realistic vision of the present situation, since the three actors specified are verily important for creating optimal conditions for development and social integration of youth.

At this point it is important to underline that the emphasis on individual responsibility by over half of youth actually counter a relatively widely shared opinion on youth as being lazy and passive, i.e., as those that wait inactively for someone else to settle their problems. Notwithstanding, the fact that other half of our respondents failed to mention personal responsibility of young people among those who they think are responsible for solving their problems, justifies the position of critics who claim that today's young generation evades responsibility for themselves.

It remains unanswered whether such unawareness of one's own responsibility comes from the youth conviction that they are too immature to perform permanent social roles (such as professional engagement, family responsibility or political decision-making) and, thus, have no personal responsibility for their own destiny, or that they, as individuals who lack necessary power and social positioning, are not able to settle their problems, irrespective of how hard they try and how much they trouble themselves.

Other actors (see overall ranking in Graph 19 below) that are recognized as the bearers of responsibility for youth by our respondents are mentioned less frequently: 22.8% has stressed the role of educational institutions; one tenth (11.4%) the media and youth organizations (10.8%); every fifteenth perceives the responsibility of nongovernmental organizations (6.4%); and only every thirtieth (3.5%) the responsibility of religious institutions.

Graph 19:



While comparing the actors mentioned, it comes out that most young people attribute responsibility to those actors that function at the private level (personal and parents' responsibility), followed by the public sectors (government, educational system) and, finally, the civil society (nongovernmental organizations, youth associations and religious institutions). This implies that youth rely principally on their strength and on family support, as well as that they have explicit expectations of state institutions, whereas they rely on the assistance of the civil sector only exceptionally. On the fringes of this scheme there are the media, of which the youth probably expect to report on their problems in a manner that should not be chiefly sensationalist and apocalyptic, and perhaps to become a platform for public voices of those young leaders who can best affirm their generation.

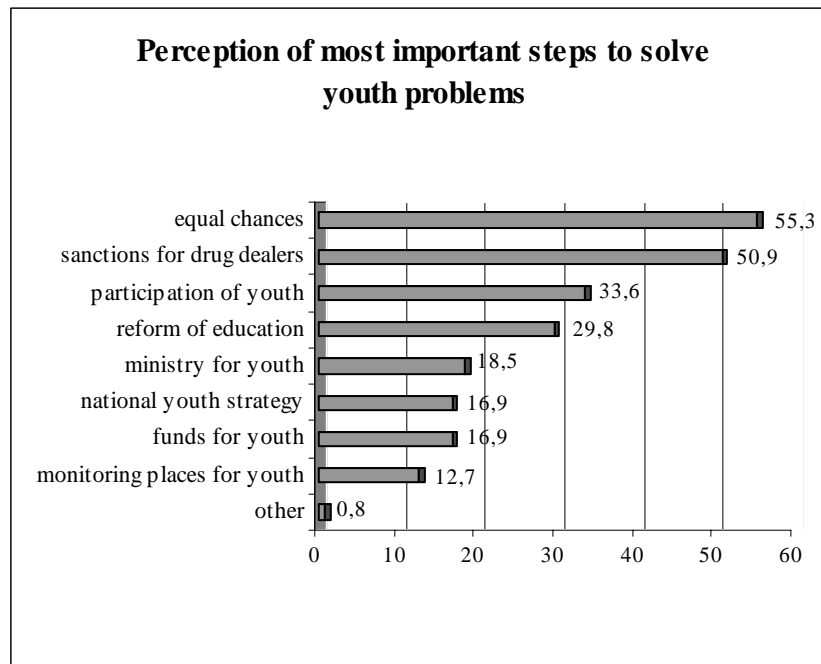
Table 37: Perception of the most important measures to solve youth problems in Croatian society
(3 responses possible)

		Frequency	Percent of respondents
Valid	1) ensure the participation of youth in decision making at all levels	310	33.6
	2) introduce legal provisions to reduce the number of. and to ensure the monitoring of places where young people meet (disco clubs, etc.)	117	12.7
	3) ensure equal chances in education and employment for all	510	55.3
	4) introduce strict sanctions for drug dealers and limit the selling of alcohol	470	50.9
	5) establish an independent ministry for youth affairs	171	18.5
	6) develop national strategy for promoting well-being of young people	156	16.9
	7) establish funds for youth initiatives in different sectors of society	156	16.9
	8) bring secondary and higher education closer to new life needs	275	29.8
	9) other	7	0.8
	Total number of answers	2,172	
	Total number of respondents	923	

Since young people find, in addition to themselves and their parents, state institutions most responsible for solving their problems, a question arises as to what activities the youth think these institutions should undertake to efficiently tackle their problems (Table 37; for an overall ranking see Graph 20). The majority of youth deem two things to be the most efficient: ensuring equal education and career opportunities (55.3%), and strict punishing of drug dealers and restrictions on alcohol selling (50.9%). The latter requirement is in accord with the finding from above that the majority of youth consider socially unacceptable behaviour, including drug-addiction, to be the gravest problem of their generation. Obviously, the youth hold that the best way to repress drug abuse is to punish drug dealers, rather than consumers, which is still a prevailing tendency in Croatian law. Putting equal education and career opportunities at the top of the youth affirmation measures, also correlates to their perception of unemployment as one of their two major problems, though it seems that this requirement is broader in meaning, as it calls for building of society of equal chances.

Interestingly, one third of young people (33.6%) are of the opinion that youth participation in decision-making at all levels should be ensured, despite the fact that only one tenth of them mentioned insufficient social engagement of youth (10.8%; Table 35) among main youth problem in Croatia. The fact that three times more respondents hold that the participation of youth in decision-making ought to be ensured, suggests that a significant number of young people see themselves not as those who are not interested in political and social issues but as those who are dissatisfied with the fact that these issues are attempted to be solved without any influence from their side.

Graph 20:



Fourth in a rank (29.8%) is the requirement for better adapting secondary and higher education school to the needs of contemporary life. This aspect is underlined by almost three times more respondents than in the case of defining major youth problems in Croatia (Table 35), when slightly over one tenth (12.1%) mentioned education quality. The figures suggest that there is more a latent dissatisfaction with educational system that is not always brought to surface by the respondents. This is surely due to the fact that the majority of young people surveyed, being still within education process, come to the conclusion that, in the light of their daily experience, teaching contents correspond insufficiently to their contemporary needs.

Further, 17-19% of young people hold it advisable to establish a ministry for youth affairs (18.5%), work out a national strategy for promoting youth wellbeing (16.9%) or set up special funds for youth initiatives (16.9%). These demands resemble each other since they all target towards the need to devise national youth policy. These activities have commenced in Croatia by the development of the *National Youth Action Strategy*, as an initial step for articulation and realization of an efficient youth policy.

Finally, a bit more than one tenth (12.7%) of the surveyed favour legal regulation in the sphere of youth leisure with an aim to reduce the number of, and better monitor the youth gathering places. A provision of the Croatian Family Law restricts freedom of movement of those below 16 years of age after 11 p.m. However, public discussions have made it clear that restrictions should be shifted from youth to the owners of disco clubs and cafés since, by their business policy, they actually stimulate late night gatherings of youth. It seems that our respondents are more inclined to the latter option, or at least prefer social intervention at very places where they meet, to legal restrictions of their rights.

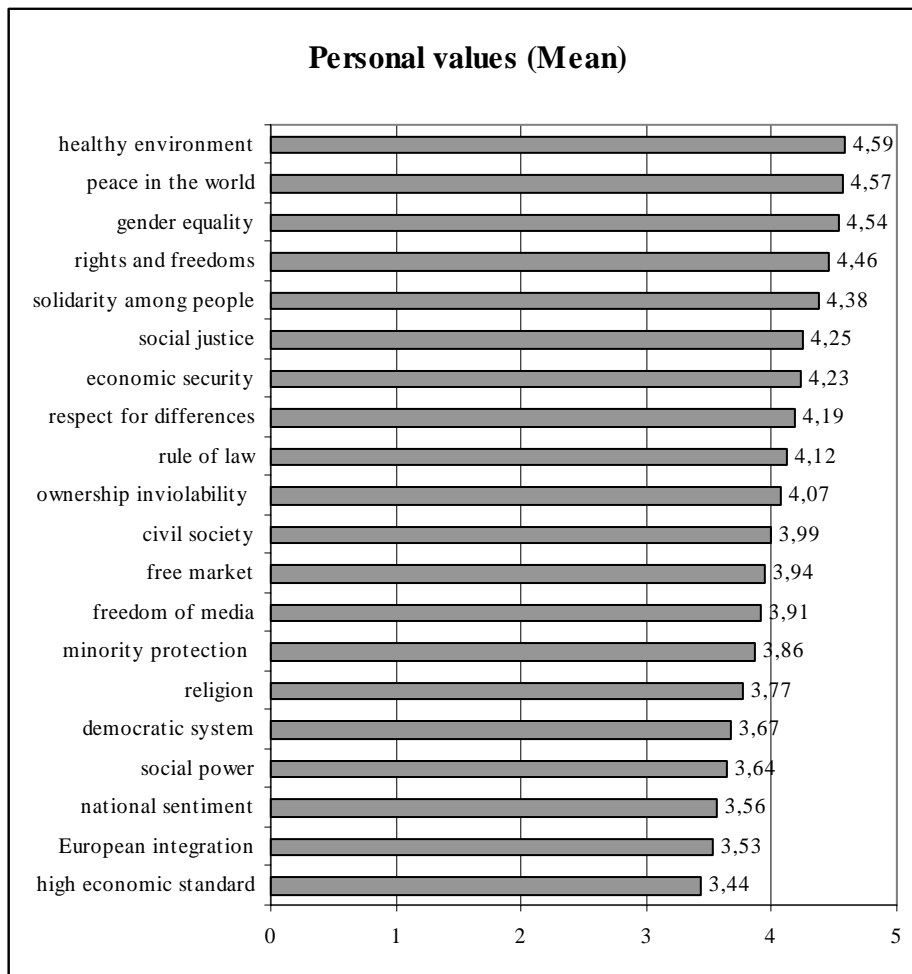
B. IMPORTANCE OF CERTAIN VALUES FOR ONESELF AND FOR SOCIAL PROMOTION

*Table 38a-u: Personal importance of certain values:
Summary*

Values	Important/Very important percent of respondents	Mean
social power	61.6	3.64
democratic system	64.5	3.67
economic security	87.5	4.23
national sentiments	59.3	3.56
rights and freedoms of the individual	93.4	4.46
protection of minorities	72.3	3.86
respect for difference (pluralism)	85.4	4.19
high economic standard	52.0	3.44
the rule of law	82.8	4.12
European integration	57.0	3.53
inviolability of property	81.3	4.07
Religion	68.4	3.77
solidarity among people	93.9	4.38
gender equality	95.3	4.53
peace in the world	95.3	4.57
free market	77,5	3.94
social justice	90.1	4.25
civil society	80.0	3.99
freedom of the media	72.5	3.91
healthy environment	96.3	4.59

Table 38a-u summarises the tables given in Annex that show distribution of personal values of our respondents. When their choices are viewed as a whole, one primarily notices that all 20 values are considered important or very important, ranging from 52% to 96%, to most examinees (this is confirmed also by average scores on the 5-grade scale, ranging from 4.59 to 3.4). Still, within generally favourable reception there is a certain hierarchy that needs to be discussed further.

Graph 21: Ranking



The values that are considered to be very important by one half to two thirds of the respondents are healthy environment (M=4.59), peace in the world (M=4.57), gender equality (M=4.53), and rights and freedoms of the individual (M=4.46). Such choice is a combination of classical, modern and postmodern values that are not unexpected. However, knowing the present Croatian context, a high placement of gender equality is rather unusual. In fact, during the 1990s the Croatian society went through a process re-traditionalisation that brought in its wake the revitalization of patriarchal patterns of thinking and acting. This research has demonstrated that, at least in the sphere of gender relations, patriarchal influence has been of a limited scope and that social affirmation of women, initiated during socialist period, is an irreversible process.

Approximately one fourth to two fifths of the respondents deem as very important the values of solidarity among people (M=4.38), social justice (M=4.25), economic security (M=4.23), respect for differences (M=4.19), rule of law (M=4.12), inalienability of property (M=4.07), civil society (M=3.99), free market (M=3.94), freedom of the media (M=3.91), protection of minorities (M=3.86%), religion (M=3.77) and democratic system (M=3.67). Most of these values belong to the horizon of key classical liberal-democratic principles. A significant number of young people accept them in their entirety, and if we add this to the number of those who

deem them to be the ‘only’ important values, it becomes evident that democratic potential of youth in Croatia stands on a relatively respectable level, as already shown by other recent studies.

The bottom of the scale is occupied by the values of social power (M=3.64), national sentiment (M=3.56), European integration (M=3.53), and high economic standard (M=3.44), all of which are accepted as very important by one tenth to one less than one fifth of the surveyed. These data are interesting primarily due to the placement of high economic standard to the very bottom of the scale, contrary to research findings of 4-5 years ago, when young people placed living standard on top of the value scale. It may be presumed that the discrepancy is due to age differences between the samples (since it has been shown that as the age increases, the value of living standard gets more appreciated). However, it is more probable that the factor of economic security ranked higher in the present research (M=4.23), is equivalent to the value of living standard from the earlier research. In other words, it seems that young people do not aspire to being rich but to live comfortably and with no crisis. A low rank of national sentiment and social power is in accord with earlier research results, while European integration holds such a weak position probably because it still presents, at least for this generation of Croatian youth, more a political objective than a value recognizable at the level of their environment.

Table 39a-1: View on the importance of certain values for social promotion in Croatia: Summary

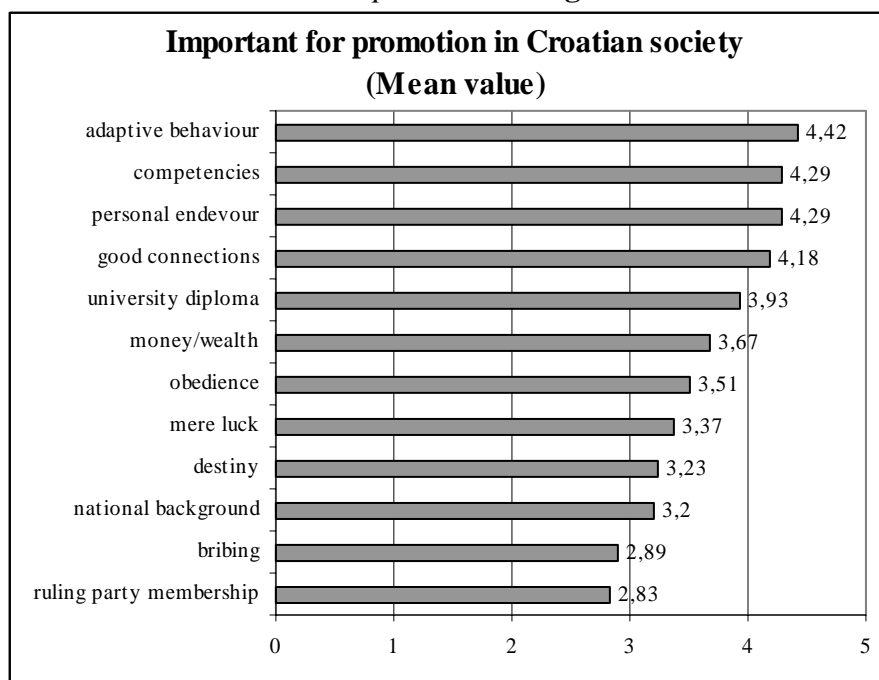
Values	Important/Very important percent of respondents	Mean
personal endeavour	89.0	4.29
‘connections’ to, and acquaintance with important people	84.3	4.18
Knowledge and skills (competencies)	85.9	4.29
national background	47.4	3.20
mere luck	50.0	3.37
Bribing people holding important positions	38.6	2.89
university diploma	73.0	3.93
money and wealth	65.8	3.67
Destiny	46.8	3.23
Membership in the ruling party	31.2	2.83
adaptive behaviour	95.1	4.42
submissiveness and obedience to the boss	58.5	3.51

Opinions of young people about factors determining social promotion in Croatian society presented in Summary Table 39a-1 are extremely interesting, since they also reflect their perception of social reality. Among the factors that 84-95% of respondents assess as 'very important' or 'important' are the following: adaptive behaviour (95.1%; M=4.42), personal endeavour (89.0%; M=4.29), knowledge and skills (85.9%; M=4.29), and connections and acquaintances (84.3%; M=4.18).

We deal here with diverse list of factors some of which follow ideal social norms, while others disregard them. That is to say, in an ideal society, or at least in a well

organized society that is focused on well-being of its citizens, knowledge, abilities and effort should be major 'functional' instruments of social promotion, and a large number of young people evidently believe this is or should be the case. Nevertheless, as an extremely large number of the surveyed believe both in power of adaptation (which may be seen in a negative sense, as lack of scruples or as 'hunting in troubled waters', or in a neutral sense, as making full use of all opportunities offered) and in connections to, and acquaintances with powerful people, these attitudes actually diminish the importance of personal abilities and knowledge.

Graph 22: Ranking



It may be said that youth learn about social reality in, at least, three ways: a) by observing their environment; b) by socialising into the so-called 'folk theories' of success; and c) by being exposed to rhetoric of social promotion heard in public. In a society in which the latter two differ, while information from the environment actually disapproves rhetoric of success, it is possible that young people accept a situationally defined dual-attitude-system with hidden and overt values. If we recall the discussion from above, we see that young people believe that their problems would be resolved more efficiently if equality of education and career opportunities would be ensured. Thus, it comes out that adaptive behaviour and a widespread dependency on connections and acquaintances are powerful factors that directly contribute to the creation of social inequality in Croatia which, at least until today, neither competencies nor personal endeavour has altered.

The second group of factors contributing to social promotion consists of those factors that enjoy middle-level acceptance by our respondents (50-73% consider them either as very important or important), such as university degree (73%; M=3.93), money and wealth (65.8%; M=3.67) and obedience and submissiveness to the 'boss' (58.5%; M=3.51). Here again we find a combination of socially appropriate and inappropriate factors. On the one hand, the respondents mention the necessity of university

credentials, while on the other hand they stress the importance of both socio-economic background and submissiveness to the 'boss'. Since these factors are important or very important to over half of the surveyed, they provide the supplement to a complex picture of ways and means of social promotion in the Croatian society seen from the eyes of young people.

The smallest number of respondent consider very important or important the following factors: luck (50.9%; M=3.37) and destiny (46.8%; M=3.23) which certainly do not succumb to individual control; this fact being indicative of the existence of fatalism among Croatian youth; national background (47.4%; M=3.20); corruption or bribing persons in power (38.6%; M=2.89) and membership in the ruling party (31.2%; 2.83). Most of these factors belong to the category of inappropriate ways of social promotion. Although it is encouraging that they are placed low, the fact remains that at least one third of the respondents perceive them as important.

From the perspective of the values of human rights, equality and justice, it is highly troublesome that one third to one half of young people think that belonging to certain nation or political party or merely bribing and corruption influence their opportunities in life. Moreover, it is also troublesome that several young people think that corruption is present in Croatian society to such an extent that it can affect numerous lives.

Upon overall examination of the above data, the thesis may be established that many young people believe in importance of individual abilities and effort, but such 'idealism' is noticeably supplemented by the perception of reality that suggests the importance of other factors deviating from desired norms. As a whole, the data obtained are an index of the youth's perception of Croatian society as a society where the principle of equal opportunities has not yet been sufficiently realised. It is interesting to note that during the last decade of socialism, the then students also perceived the Croatian society as society of unequal chances. At that time students were emphasizing the importance of wealth and moral and political conformity, more than today's youth. On the other hand, the youth of today lay more stress on diligence at workplace, luck and bigotry, while all of them equally value adaptability, connections and acquaintances, university education, knowledge and skills, and corruption.

Therefore, although there are certain differences in ranking which need further analysis, the basic youth's perception of factors pertaining to social promotion in Croatia, in both socialist and democratic system, is the same. This means that not only then young people saw socialism as a system that failed to realise the principle of equal opportunities for all, despite the fact that it was one of its basic premises for decades, but that today's youth, who live in a democracy-in-the-making, do not see today's Croatian society as the society of equal chances (which, again, is said to be one of its basic premises). A worthy addition to our data is the thesis obtained in the above-mentioned research that as the age increases, ethical idealism decreases, while at the same time acceptance of traits and behaviour bearing socially inappropriate features grows. This kind of social maturing undoubtedly contains an implicit critique of the Croatian society in the years of transition.

3.3. Correlation analysis: Differences among youth

Frequency analysis of the collected data on young people in Croatia is supplemented by the results of a bi-variant analysis of certain phenomena under examination, viz. findings indicating differences among the respondents with respect to their socio-demographic and social features. The analysis covers a total of 12 questions regarding the following: the use of computer, perception of the respondents' present and future life, professional and educational aspirations, housing arrangements, preferable place for living, estimation of opportunities for getting a preferred job, feelings about school or faculty study, use of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana, and (dis)satisfaction with the way free time is spent.

In order to determine possible differences among our respondents within these features, a total of 6 independent variables have been chosen. They are: sex, age, father's educational background, respondents' socio-professional status, residential status and regional background. In this analysis the respondents' educational background - a feature that, in general, substantially affects interpersonal and inter-group differences, as proved by earlier research on various groups - has not been used, since in the present sample only those respondents who completed secondary education have been statistically relevant for further analysis. As the number of respondents with completed tertiary education is low, and, furthermore, education levels of our respondents largely correspond to age, an analysis based on respondents' education would be redundant. In the following passages we shall bring forward and interpret only those results that are relevant at $p=.001$, and more.

A. THE USE OF COMPUTER

Table 40: Use of computer in relation to the type of settlement

			Type of settlement			Total
			town	village	Zagreb	
Use of computer	yes	Count	362	157	138	657
		%	73.0%	55.1%	83.6%	69.5%
	no	Count	134	128	27	289
		%	27.0%	44.9%	16.4%	30.5%
Total		Count	496	285	165	946
		%	52.4%	30.1%	17.4%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=46.28; df=2; p=.0001$$

Table 41: Use of computer in relation to father's educational background

		Father's educational background			Total	
		elementary school or less	Secondary school	higher education and university		
Use of computer	yes	Count	29	394	206	629
		%	33.0%	69.1%	87.7%	70.4%
	No	Count	59	176	29	264
		%	67.0%	30.9%	12.3%	29.6%
Total		Count	88	570	235	893
		%	9.9%	63.8%	26.3%	100.0%

$\chi^2=93.32$; df=2; p=.0001

Table 42: Use of computer in relation to regional background

		Region						Total	
		Zagreb	Northern Croatia	Middle Croatia	Istria and Croatian Littoral	Eastern Croatia	Dalmatia		
Use of computer	Yes	Count	138	148	46	78	122	125	657
		%	83.6%	67.6%	62.2%	72.2%	62.6%	67.6%	69.5%
	No	Count	27	71	28	30	73	60	289
		%	16.4%	32.4%	37.8%	27.8%	37.4%	32.4%	30.5%
Total		Count	165	219	74	108	195	185	946
		%	17.4%	23.2%	7.8%	11.4%	20.6%	19.6%	100.0%

$\chi^2=22.92$; df=5; p=.0001

Table 43: Use of computer in relation to age

		Age		Total	
		15-19	20-24		
Use of computer	yes	Count	384	273	657
		%	77.1%	60.9%	69.5%
	no	Count	114	175	289
		%	22.9%	39.1%	30.5%
Total		Count	498	448	946
		%	52.6%	47.4%	100.0%

$\chi^2=29.07$; df=1; p=.0001

Table 44: Use of computer in relation to socio-professional status

			Socio-professional status				Total
			pupil	student	unemployed	employed	
Use of computer	yes	Count	301	225	39	92	657
		%	80.9%	85.6%	33.3%	47.4%	69.5%
	no	Count	71	38	78	102	289
		%	19.1%	14.4%	66.7%	52.6%	30.5%
Total	Count	372	263	117	194	946	
	%	39.3%	27.8%	12.4%	20.5%	100.0%	

$$\chi^2=171.48; df=3; p=.0001$$

Although over two thirds of the surveyed use computer, a comparison of this fact and the respondents' features reveals that in respect to this, young people are still considerably differentiated. Altogether, the five tables make it obvious that computers are used most frequently by young people living in Zagreb, whose fathers have tertiary education, who are below 19 years of age and are still pupils or university students. Conversely, computers are used less frequently by rural young people, those living in Middle or Eastern Croatia (the areas most heavily destroyed in war), whose fathers have no qualifications, who are over 20 years of age and who are currently either unemployed or employed.

The afore-mentioned tendencies clearly designate that computer use is socially conditioned, since life in an urban environment and in educated families stimulates use of new information and communication technologies. These data confirm that one of the major reasons for not using computer is the family's lack of means to purchase it.

By average Croatian living standard computer remains a weighty investment and people with low salaries find it hard to buy one. In addition, it should be mentioned that younger respondents use computers more often than the older ones, this being indicative of the fact that to each new generation computers become more and more part and parcel of their everyday life. Hence it is understandable that computers are used more by pupils and university students than by the employed (some of whom undisputedly do not use computers at work) and the unemployed youth (who probably lack means for purchasing a quality computer).

B. PERCEPTION OF PRESENT LIFE

Table 45: Perception of present life in relation to age

			Age		Total
			15-19	20-24	
Perception of present life	Bad	Count	87	139	226
		%	17.5%	31.0%	23.9%
	Good	Count	291	248	539
		%	58.6%	55.4%	57.0%
	excellent	Count	119	61	180
		%	23.9%	13.6%	19.0%
Total		Count	497	448	945
		%	52.6%	47.4%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=31.63; df=2; p=.0001$$

Table 46: Perception of present life in relation to socio-professional status

			Socio-professional status				Total
			pupil	student	unemployed	employed	
Perception of present life	Bad	Count	51	56	54	65	226
		%	13.7%	21.3%	46.2%	33.5%	23.9%
	Good	Count	223	155	55	106	539
		%	60.1%	58.9%	47.0%	54.6%	57.0%
	excellent	Count	97	52	8	23	180
		%	26.1%	19.8%	6.8%	11.9%	19.0%
Total		Count	371	263	117	194	945
		%	39.3%	27.8%	12.4%	20.5%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=75.80; df=6; p=.0001$$

Most young people assess their own present life similarly, the only differences being due to age and socio-professional status. Satisfaction with their own present life is especially strong among those between 15-19 years of age, primarily pupils. On the opposite end there are respondents aged between 20-24 as well as those employed and unemployed, all of who are inclined to proclaim their present life as bad. These trends are disturbing insofar as dissatisfaction grows with age and with the ability to enter the world of work and the world of adults. Here it is of particular importance to stress that not only the unemployed young people are dissatisfied, but also the employed. This may lead to a proposition that entrance into the world of work generated little satisfaction, and even had an opposite effect.

At this point it should be noticed that young people's features under examination had no effect upon their differentiation in reference to attitudes towards their own future. In other words, optimism is 'the name of the game' among all categories of young people, including those not too satisfied with their own present life. Probably all of them consider themselves young enough to trust that a desired, prosperous future awaits them.

C. PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

Table 47: Professional and educational aspirations in relation to the type of settlement

			Type of settlement			Total
			town	village	Zagreb	
Professional and educational Aspirations	find a job as soon as possible	Count	108	101	31	240
		%	22.0%	35.7%	18.9%	25.6%
	continue education	Count	338	146	120	604
		%	68.7%	51.6%	73.2%	64.3%
	continue work	Count	46	36	13	95
		%	9.3%	12.7%	7.9%	10.1%
Total		Count	492	283	164	939
		%	52.4%	30.1%	17.5%	100.0%

$\chi^2=30.27$; df=4; p=.0001

Table 48: Professional and educational aspirations in relation to father's educational background

			Father's educational background			Total
			elementary school Or less	secondary school	higher education and university	
Professional and educational aspirations	find a job as soon as possible	Count	29	156	35	220
		%	33.7%	27.4%	15.1%	24.8%
	continue education	Count	46	348	186	580
		%	53.5%	61.2%	80.2%	65.4%
	continue work	Count	11	65	11	87
		%	12.8%	11.4%	4.7%	9.8%
Total		Count	86	569	232	887
		%	9.7%	64.1%	26.2%	100.0%

$\chi^2=32.70$; df=4; p=.0001

Table 49: Professional and educational aspirations in relation to age

		Age		Total	
		15-19	20-24		
Professional and educational Aspirations	find a job as soon as possible	Count	95	145	240
		%	19.2%	32.7%	25.6%
	continue education	Count	385	219	604
		%	77.6%	49.4%	64.3%
	continue work	Count	16	79	95
		%	3.2%	17.8%	10.1%
Total		Count	496	443	939
		%	52.8%	47.2%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=95.13; df=2; p=.0001$$

Table 50: Professional and educational aspirations in relations to socio-professional status

		Socio-professional status				Total	
		pupil	student	unemployed	employed		
Professional and educational aspirations	find a job as soon as possible	Count	63	48	80	49	240
		%	17.0%	18.3%	69.0%	25.7%	25.6%
	continue education	Count	304	211	30	59	604
		%	82.2%	80.5%	25.9%	30.9%	64.3%
	continue work	Count	3	3	6	83	95
		%	.8%	1.1%	5.2%	43.5%	10.1%
Total		Count	370	262	116	191	939
		%	39.4%	27.9%	12.4%	20.3%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=455.45; df=6; p=.0001$$

More conspicuous differentiation exists in relation to professional and educational aspirations of young people, naturally, due to their varied present social position. To continue education is a primary aspiration of pupils and university students (18% of whom nevertheless prefer to find a job) aged 15-19, notably those living in Zagreb, in families of higher social status. On the other end there are either those young people who aspire to find a job (e.g. the unemployed) or to continue their current job (e.g. the employed, half of whom however prefer to discontinue their current job). Both options are embraced most intensely by rural young people (unlike those from Zagreb) from low-status families, and older than 20. Apparently, professional and educational aspirations depend on whether young people have already finished education or are still within educational process. Young people of lower social status prefer earlier employment, whereas respondents of higher social status prefer educational attainment.

D. ACCOMMODATION PREFERENCES

Table 51: Accommodation preferences in relation to father's educational background

			Father's educational background			Total
			elementary school and less	secondary school	higher school and university	
Accommodation preferences	with parents/relatives	Count	22	97	20	139
		%	25.6%	17.1%	8.7%	15.7%
	in separate apartment	Count	64	469	211	744
		%	74.4%	82.9%	91.3%	84.3%
Total		Count	86	566	231	883
		%	9.7%	64.1%	26.2%	100.0%

$\chi^2=15.85$; $df=2$; $p=.0001$

Table 52: Accommodation preferences in relation to age

			Age		Total
			15-19	20-24	
Accommodation preferences	with parents/relatives	Count	104	49	153
		%	21.0%	11.1%	16.4%
	in separate apartment	Count	391	391	782
		%	79.0%	88.9%	83.6%
Total		Count	495	440	935
		%	52.9%	47.1%	100.0%

$\chi^2=16.59$; $df=1$; $p=.0001$

Table 53: Accommodation preferences in relation to socio-professional status

			Socio-professional status				Total
			pupil	student	unemployed	employed	
Accommodation preferences	with parents/relatives	Count	81	25	21	26	153
		%	21.9%	9.5%	18.1%	14.0%	16.4%
	in separate apartment	Count	289	238	95	160	782
		%	78.1%	90.5%	81.9%	86.0%	83.6%
Total		Count	370	263	116	186	935
		%	39.6%	28.1%	12.4%	19.9%	100.0%

$\chi^2=18.33$; $df=3$; $p=.0001$

Frequency analysis has already shown that every sixth respondent finds it desirable to live with parents and/or relatives, while over four fifths want to live separately, in an apartment of their own. Such a firm desire for housing independence is prominent among those whose fathers have tertiary education, who are university students and older than 20. Further, the same desire, at the level somewhat above the average, is the characteristic of pupils aged 15-19, whose fathers' educational background is low. These trends suggest that aspirations for housing independence are motivated by socio-economic and maturity factors: the better social background of a person and the more mature a person, a desire for own living space grows.

E. PREFERRED PLACE FOR LIVING

Table 54: Preferred place for living in relation to the type of settlement

		Type of settlement			Total	
		Town	village	Zagreb		
Preferred place for living	same place as now	Count	287	147	118	552
		%	59.2%	52.3%	72.0%	59.4%
	other place in the country	Count	78	69	11	158
		%	16.1%	24.6%	6.7%	17.0%
	some other country	Count	120	65	35	220
		%	24.7%	23.1%	21.3%	23.7%
Total		Count	485	281	164	930
		%	52.2%	30.2%	17.6%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=27.29; df=4; p=.0001$$

Table 55: Preferred place for living in relation to regional background

		Region						Total	
		Zagreb	Northern Croatia	Middle Croatia	Istria and Croatian Littoral	Eastern Croatia	Dalmatia		
Preferred place for living	same place as now	Count	118	120	38	64	92	120	552
		%	72.0%	55.3%	52.1%	61.5%	48.2%	66.3%	59.4%
	other place in the country	Count	11	39	14	17	53	24	158
		%	6.7%	18.0%	19.2%	16.3%	27.7%	13.3%	17.0%
	some other country	Count	35	58	21	23	46	37	220
		%	21.3%	26.7%	28.8%	22.1%	24.1%	20.4%	23.7%
Total		Count	164	217	73	104	191	181	930
		%	17.6%	23.3%	7.8%	11.2%	20.5%	19.5%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=39.23; df=10; p=.0001$$

A place young people think desirable for living, depends only on their residential status in its narrow and broad sense, viz. on the conditions in place and region where they actually live. Thus, young people from Zagreb are more than others unwilling to change their place of permanent residence. Rural respondents and respondents from Eastern Croatia want to migrate to another place in Croatia more than any other group, while all groups equally (do not) want to settle abroad, except for young people from Middle and Northern Croatia, who want that somewhat more than others. Certainly not unexpected, young people living in rural and less developed regions would like to migrate to some other place.

F. ESTIMATION OF CHANCES FOR GETTING A PREFERRED JOB

Table 56: Estimation of chances for getting a preferred job in relation to age

			Age		Total
			15-19	20-24	
Estimation of Chances	25%	Count	86	116	202
		%	17.6%	26.8%	21.9%
	50%	Count	168	115	283
		%	34.4%	26.6%	30.7%
	75%	Count	160	117	277
		%	32.8%	27.0%	30.1%
	100%	Count	74	85	159
		%	15.2%	19.6%	17.3%
Total		Count	488	433	921
		%	53.0%	47.0%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=18.60; df=3; p=.0001$$

Table 57: Estimation of chances for getting a preferred job in relation to socio-professional status

			Socio-professional status				Total	
			pupil	student	unemployed	employed		
Estimation of chances	25%	Count	56	47	50	49	202	
		%	15.5%	18.0%	43.5%	26.8%	21.9%	
	50%	Count	118	80	33	52	283	
		%	32.6%	30.7%	28.7%	28.4%	30.7%	
	75%	Count	134	91	19	33	277	
		%	37.0%	34.9%	16.5%	18.0%	30.1%	
	100%	Count	54	43	13	49	159	
		%	14.9%	16.5%	11.3%	26.8%	17.3%	
	Total		Count	362	261	115	183	921
			%	39.3%	28.3%	12.5%	19.9%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=72.75; df=9; p=.0001$$

Unsurprisingly, the estimation of chances for obtaining a preferred job depends on respondents' age and socio-professional status. Perceived directions of influence are also far from surprising. Namely, chances for getting a desired job are seen as minimal primarily by the unemployed who are over 20, while teenagers between 15-19 years of age rate them as medium. On the other hand, pupils and university students (unlike the unemployed and the employed), that is to say, yet another group of younger respondents, perceive their chances as very good. Full confidence as concerns obtaining a desired job is demonstrated by the employed (unlike the unemployed) more than others. Consequently, unemployment bears a decisive impact upon perception of chances for obtaining a preferred job, as it results in heavy pessimism. Similar, but less continual, is the effect of age, that is to say, pessimism of young people concerning obtaining a preferred job grows with age. This means that

approaching the world of work (and especially waiting in vain to enter it) and facing the working reality dwindle professional optimism of young people.

G. FEELING ABOUT SCHOOL OR FACULTY STUDY

Table 58: Feeling about school or faculty study in relation to gender

			Gender		Total
			male	Female	
Feeling about school or faculty study	Negative	Count	155	154	309
		%	33.0%	35.0%	34.0%
	Positive	Count	259	264	523
		%	55.1%	60.0%	57.5%
	Indifferent	Count	56	22	78
		%	11.9%	5.0%	8.6%
Total		Count	470	440	910
		%	51.6%	48.4%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=13.90; df=2; p=.0001$$

Table 59: Feeling about school or faculty study in relation to socio-professional status

			Socio-professional status				Total
			pupil	student	unemployed	employed	
Feeling about school or faculty study	Negative	Count	131	91	39	48	309
		%	35.7%	35.3%	35.8%	27.3%	34.0%
	Positive	Count	210	160	54	99	523
		%	57.2%	62.0%	49.5%	56.3%	57.5%
	indifferent	Count	26	7	16	29	78
		%	7.1%	2.7%	14.7%	16.5%	8.6%
Total		Count	367	258	109	176	910
		%	40.3%	28.4%	12.0%	19.3%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=33.90; df=6; p=.0001$$

Differences among the respondents based on sex and socio-professional status in relation to feelings they have about their educational institutions, are quite symptomatic. It has been established that attitude of the unemployed is most negative of all. Indifference is found most often among young men as well as among the employed and the unemployed (contrary to university students). These trends imply that strongest educational motivation can be found among university students and girls, and that unemployed respondents are least satisfied with their educational attainment. The latter tendency is understandable in light of the fact that futile waiting for employment belittles one's educational attainment *post festum*, as well as the institutions that offer education that is currently unnecessary to the society.

Particularly interesting are gender differences, which lead to conclusion that girls in general are less indifferent and more satisfied with educational process and institutions than boys. This result correlates with earlier findings that female pupils

attain somewhat better average school grades than their male colleagues (better grades being conducive to satisfaction with an institution and v.v.).

The census undertaken in Croatia in 2001 has shown that for the first time ever, among generations born after 1970 the hitherto stable difference between educational structure of women and men, has been changed. In a long period after the World War II men have been on the average better educated than women. It was only among generations born three decades ago and after, that trends have been reversed, with average education of women surpassing that of men. The number of young women without any professional qualifications has diminished and the number of women graduating from secondary school, college or faculty has increased.

However, research undertaken in Croatia during several last decades has shown that young people (as well as adults) hold that education is not adequately valued in society, which is confirmed also by statistical indicators of experts' income. One cannot but notice that two processes are running parallel: increase of women's educational attainments and decrease of social value of knowledge. In addition, we should take note of the fact that most probably due to the tendency of increase in general education of women, sociological research in numerous fields exhibits less and less gender-based differences.

H. THE ABUSE OF PSYCHO-ACTIVE SUBSTANCES

For the purpose of this part of analysis we have focused only on potential abuses of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana.

Table 60: Smoking in relation to age

			Age		Total
			15-19	20-24	
Smoking	Never	Count	344	216	560
		%	69.2%	48.2%	59.3%
	sometimes	Count	31	45	76
		%	6.2%	10.0%	8.0%
	regularly	Count	122	187	309
		%	24.5%	41.7%	32.7%
Total		Count	497	448	945
		%	52.6%	47.4%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=43.08; df=2; p=.0001$$

Table 61: Smoking in relation to socio-professional status

			Socio-professional status				Total
			pupil	student	unemployed	employed	
Smoking	Never	Count	275	151	61	73	560
		%	74.1%	57.4%	52.1%	37.6%	59.3%
	Sometime s	Count	22	25	13	16	76
		%	5.9%	9.5%	11.1%	8.2%	8.0%
	Regularly	Count	74	87	43	105	309
		%	19.9%	33.1%	36.8%	54.1%	32.7%
Total		Count	371	263	117	194	945
		%	39.3%	27.8%	12.4%	20.5%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=80.73; df=6; p=.0001$$

As demonstrated by earlier research on youth, use of tobacco is rather equally distributed among young people. It is related solely to age and socio-professional status of respondents. Smoking of cigarettes increases in direct proportion to age. Pupils smoke least, whereas the employed smoke most. Thus, smoking is a habit and an addiction acquired gradually, as young people grow up and resume their permanent social roles (this is linked to managing of one's own financial resources).

Table 62: Alcohol consumption in relation to gender

			Gender		Total
			male	Female	
Alcohol consumption	Never	Count	70	130	200
		%	14.4%	28.2%	21.1%
	several times a year	Count	94	136	230
		%	19.4%	29.5%	24.3%
	Once a month at the most	Count	85	87	172
		%	17.5%	18.9%	18.2%
	Once a week and more	Count	236	108	344
		%	48.7%	23.4%	36.4%
Total		Count	485	461	946
		%	51.3%	48.7%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=72.76; df=3; p=.0001$$

Alcohol drinking is related solely to gender, and, what is of particular importance, to no other feature whatsoever, including respondents' age. The Croatian society is still marked by traditionalism and patriarchal socialization patterns, which is probably the reason why young women drink less than their male peers. As a matter of fact, in traditional culture alcohol drinking still pertain a function of initiation into the world of adult men. One cannot help noticing certain social tolerance of this phenomenon (at least when compared to an enduring anti-smoking campaign). Taken together, these factors evidently do not discourage young people from trying alcohol at an early age and acquiring it as a regular habit throughout the period of youth.

Table 63: Abuse of marijuana in relation to the type of settlement

			Type of settlement			Total
			town	selo	Zagreb	
Abuse of Marijuana	Never	Count	323	209	84	616
		%	65.1%	73.3%	50.9%	65.1%
	Tried once	Count	68	37	27	132
		%	13.7%	13.0%	16.4%	14.0%
	tried twice or more	Count	105	39	54	198
		%	21.2%	13.7%	32.7%	20.9%
Total		Count	496	285	165	946
		%	52.4%	30.1%	17.4%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=27.11; df=4; p=.0001$$

Table 64: Abuse of marijuana in relation to father's educational background

			Father's educational background			Total
			elementary school or less	secondary school	higher education and university	
Abuse of marijuana	Never	Count	74	374	132	580
		%	84.1%	65.6%	56.2%	64.9%
	tried once	Count	5	81	38	124
		%	5.7%	14.2%	16.2%	13.9%
	tried twice or more	Count	9	115	65	189
		%	10.2%	20.2%	27.7%	21.2%
Total		Count	88	570	235	893
		%	9.9%	63.8%	26.3%	100.0%

$\chi^2=22.91$; $df=4$; $p=.0001$

Table 65: Abuse of marijuana in relation to regional background

			Region					Total	
			Zagreb	Northern Croatia	Middle Croatia	Istria and Croatian Littoral	Eastern Croatia		Dalmatia
Abuse of marijuana	Never	Count	84	146	60	65	142	119	616
		%	50.9%	66.7%	81.1%	60.2%	72.8%	64.3%	65.1%
	Tried once	Count	27	35	8	18	25	19	132
		%	16.4%	16.0%	10.8%	16.7%	12.8%	10.3%	14.0%
	Tried twice or more	Count	54	38	6	25	28	47	198
		%	32.7%	17.4%	8.1%	23.1%	14.4%	25.4%	20.9%
Total		Count	165	219	74	108	195	185	946
		%	17.4%	23.2%	7.8%	11.4%	20.6%	19.6%	100.0%

$\chi^2=38.87$; $df=10$; $p=.0001$

Table 66: Abuse of marijuana in relation to gender

			Gender		Total	
			male	female		
Abuse of Marijuana	Never	Count	289	327	616	
		%	59.6%	70.9%	65.1%	
	tried once	Count	69	63	132	
		%	14.2%	13.7%	14.0%	
	tried twice or more	Count	127	71	198	
		%	26.2%	15.4%	20.9%	
	Total		Count	485	461	946
			%	51.3%	48.7%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=17.86; df=2; p=.0001$$

Table 67: Abuse of marijuana in relation to age

			Age		Total	
			15-19	20-24		
Abuse of Marijuana	never	Count	368	248	616	
		%	73.9%	55.4%	65.1%	
	Tried once	Count	57	75	132	
		%	11.4%	16.7%	14.0%	
	tried twice or more	Count	73	125	198	
		%	14.7%	27.9%	20.9%	
	Total		Count	498	448	946
			%	52.6%	47.4%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=36.95; df=2; p=.0001$$

Table 68: Abuse of marijuana in relation to socio-professional status

			Socio-professional status				Total	
			pupil	student	unemployed	employed		
Abuse of marijuana	Never	Count	288	129	72	127	616	
		%	77.4%	49.0%	61.5%	65.5%	65.1%	
	tried once	Count	41	40	24	27	132	
		%	11.0%	15.2%	20.5%	13.9%	14.0%	
	tried twice Or more	Count	43	94	21	40	198	
		%	11.6%	35.7%	17.9%	20.6%	20.9%	
	Total		Count	372	263	117	194	946
			%	39.3%	27.8%	12.4%	20.5%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=69.18; df=6; p=.0001$$

The analysis displayed that use of marijuana is connected to all examined qualities of the respondents. This means that marijuana users form a socially profiled and recognizable youth group. Their characteristics correspond to those affirmed by other research of young people. A group of highest risk consists of young people between 20 and 24, students (not pupils), living in Zagreb, Istria, Croatian Littoral and

Dalmatia, of male sex, and originating from families where father obtained higher education level. Despite increase in use of the so-called soft drugs in Croatia during the 1990s, the use of marijuana - unlike the equally distributed and more widespread use of tobacco and alcohol – obviously remains a potential addiction not affecting all groups of young people equally. The factors such as urban setting, independence from family, and managing more substantial financial means, may stimulate frequent contact with drugs and gradually lead to its use exceeding sheer experimental and 'recreational' purpose.

I. (DIS)SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY FREE TIME IS SPENT

Table 69: (Dis)satisfaction with the way free time is spent in relation to age

		Age		Total	
		15-19	20-24		
The way free time is Spent	very pleased	Count	119	72	191
		%	23.9%	16.1%	20.2%
	pleased	Count	263	221	484
		%	52.8%	49.6%	51.3%
	displeased	Count	116	153	269
		%	23.3%	34.3%	28.5%
Total		Count	498	446	944
		%	52.8%	47.2%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=17.49; df=2; p=.0001$$

Table 70: (Dis)satisfaction with the way free time is spent in relation to socio-professional status

		Socioprofesionalni status				Total	
		pupil	student	unemployed	employed		
The way free time is spent	very pleased	Count	99	44	11	37	191
		%	26.6%	16.7%	9.4%	19.3%	20.2%
	Pleased	Count	204	127	61	92	484
		%	54.8%	48.3%	52.1%	47.9%	51.3%
	displeased	Count	69	92	45	63	269
		%	18.5%	35.0%	38.5%	32.8%	28.5%
Total		Count	372	263	117	192	944
		%	39.4%	27.9%	12.4%	20.3%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=39.90; df=6; p=.0001$$

Satisfaction or dissatisfaction with spending own free time depends on respondents' age and socio-professional status. Respondents aged 15-19, pupils, most frequently express particular satisfaction, while those aged 20-24, and the unemployed, exhibit particular dissatisfaction. These findings reveal that a tendency of dissatisfaction related to free time increases with age, followed by young people's increasing demands. A finding that dissatisfaction is the strongest among the unemployed is an indicator of their general dissatisfaction with their living conditions, due to which free time loses the meaning it has for other young people, who still have school or work-

place duties. Besides, most leisure activities require financial means that are the least at disposal of the unemployed.

Concluding comments

The results of the research described above were obtained on a representative sample of Croatian youth from 15-24 years of age in the second half of 2002. The research was carried on in the context of a regional research project on youth under the auspices of the PRONI institute from Sweden. The main objective of the project was to provide empirical data on life, needs, attitudes and aspirations of young people as a means of assisting the process of youth policy review. The process was initiated by the Council of Europe with a view to strengthen youth participation in democratic changes of the countries in the region.

This report is the most recent one in a long and well-established tradition of studying youth issues in Croatia. Therefore, it often includes comments and references to earlier research findings for the purpose of determining the changes in youth trends, as well as for the purpose of validity testing of our data. On the other side, the data presented in this report may, together with earlier studies, be used as a reference point in the process of reviewing the *National Programme of Action for Youth*, as well as in developing a comprehensive, efficient and youth-centred national youth policy. The core of the findings is probably that the criteria for determining the upper age-level of youth period should be reviewed and extended to include those who are 30 years of age. The fact that more and more young people remain longer in education, that they decide to marry and have children later in their life, that they consider changing their job and probably, if possible, enrol in re-training programmes for that purpose, as well as that they desire to reach full independence by relying on their own abilities and endeavour, speaks in favour of the need to redesign our traditional approaches to youth upper age-limits. Other findings that help us understand some important dimensions and trends of contemporary life of Croatian youth are summarised below:

- The most basic socio-demographic data demonstrate that very few young people from our research who are 24 and below are married and few think of having children before the age of 25. About half of them live in a two-child nuclear family in a house/apartment of their own that, averagely, comprises more than two rooms. Very few have an opportunity to live in an apartment of their own, although four fifths express desire to live separately. The aspiration towards such independence is mainly motivated by socio-economic and maturity factors: it is a prominent feature of young people who are university students, whose fathers have more education, and who are over 20. Since the chances of having their own apartment in a reasonable period of time are rather minimal, not only due to the difficulties in finding a job but due to extremely high prices in the housing sector, such prolonged co-habitation and dependency on parents and/or relatives is a frequent cause of young people's frustrations and is probably related to, together with other factors such as poverty and limited capacity of pre-school child-care institutions, a constant decrease in the average number of children per family.

- On average, young people are satisfied with their present life and expect no change in the future. Despite a high unemployment rate especially among them, approximately three quarters assess their own present and future life, the life of their closest friends and their peers in Western Europe as good or excellent. Their optimism is somewhat even higher than it was found in the end of 1990s. When asked to imagine their life in 10 years ahead majority see it as a success, either in general terms or in specific terms of their professional advancement or family happiness. Dissatisfaction with present life grows with age and with opportunities to enter the world of work and become fully independent, since the young between 20-24 years of age, both employed and unemployed are more inclined to perceive their present life as unsatisfactory. Interestingly enough, the age does not have influence on the assessment of future, which means, in the context of this research, that young people in general, irrespective of age, equally believe that future brings better opportunities.
- In reference to their professional and educational aspirations, almost two thirds of the young want to continue education, while one fourth of them think of finding a job. The differences are mainly determined by residential, social, and age factors. Thus, a primary aspiration of pupils and university students, as well as of those who live in Zagreb or in families of higher socio-economic status, is to continue their education. Contrary to them, rural young people, those who live in low-income families, as well as those who are over 20 are more inclined to seek for a job or to continuing the job they currently hold.
- Over two fifths of young people plan to leave their present place of residence so as to be able to meet their professional and educational aspirations. Almost half of this group prefer to move somewhere inside the country, most often to a bigger city which is perceived as the place that offers better opportunities for career and social positioning, while other half think of going abroad. The percentage of the young planning to leave the country for good rose from 11% in 1986 and 18% in 1999 to 19% in 2002. Their migratory plans are connected to their residential status, i.e. to the conditions in the place or region where the young actually live. Young people from Zagreb are less willing to go somewhere else; rural youth and youth from Eastern Croatia wish to migrate to another place inside Croatia more than any other group, while all groups (except youth from Middle and Northern Croatia who want that somewhat more than others) equally (do not) want to settle abroad.
- Data on a desired place for living are quite similar to those on migratory plans. The number of youth preferring to remain in their present place of residence and the number of those having no migratory plans are almost identical. When compared to earlier studies, we see an increase in the number of young people preferring to live in large cities. In addition, almost one quarter express their preference for living abroad, majority of which opt for a Western European country. The fact that almost one fifth of all has plans and almost one fourth prefer to live abroad indicate the existence of two closely related but, nevertheless, separate dimensions of youth migratory thinking. While the preference for other counties may mean only an inclination, having plans on

migrating abroad most certainly includes active search for such a possibility. In light of our findings it means that at least one fifth of Croatian youth not only dream of leaving the country but actually make plans how to make it a reality.

- Employed youth is far from being satisfied with their jobs. Every second confirms his or her disappointment. Approximately one fifth of both them and those that are still in the process of education desire jobs in the service or business sector; little less in number think of entering more creative and/or dynamic professions or professions related to education, health care and social services. This means that their professional aspirations are somehow higher than those of their parents, majority of whom have secondary school completed and are mainly employed as industrial, service and shop workers or clerks. Nevertheless, if their choices are compared to the structure of the employed force in Croatia and if we add to it a rapidly changing labour market in all transitional countries, their professional preferences seem rather realistic. This is probably why almost half of the young hold that their chances for getting a preferred job are high or very high. The data also confirm that their estimations are related to age and socio-professional status since pessimism increases with age (except for the university students) and is tightly linked to unemployment status. In any case, optimism prevails among the young and it, as well, may be linked to their strong motivation to succeed in life by relying on their own abilities despite unfavourable social and economic context in which they live.
- It is also possible, at least partly, that self-assurance of young people comes from positive educational experience. Over half of the young state they feel happy and satisfied when thinking of their schools or universities. However, it is not clear whether their satisfaction should be understood in terms of acquiring subject-matter knowledge and skills or in terms of developing certain personal qualities through participating in school life. Earlier studies on youth have proven that the young have complex relations towards education which are the outcomes of both institutional tasks and personal expectations. Moreover, our results document that feelings about school are correlated with sex and socio-professional status. Girls and university students, in general, are more satisfied with their education, while the unemployed are among the least satisfied. It is also possible that positive feelings about education also relate to school grades. Earlier studies have shown that female pupils receive somewhat better average scores than their male schoolmates, which may explain why girls have more positive feelings about school than boys.
- On the other hand, it is clear that school is by no means a source of information about the events in the country and the world for young people since a great majority of them actually receive news through ordinary media (TV, radio, newspapers and magazines). Moreover, Internet has become an important source of information about the country and the world for approximately one fifth and over one fourth of them, respectively. This shift has to do with the fact that over two thirds of the young from our study are computer users and that more than half of them already have computer at

home. It is, therefore, obvious that new information and communication technologies are becoming part and parcel of young people's daily life what needs to be taken into account when policies and programmes of action for promoting their wellbeing are designed, especially in reference to underprivileged youth. Namely, our research confirms that the use of computer correlates with residence (urban environment), family background (parents with higher education and higher socio-economic status), age, and education factors (younger population and students).

- Nevertheless, young people are not enslaved by new information-communication technologies. Most of them spend their free time associating with friends, engaging in sport activities, going to disco-clubs, watching TV or performing outdoor activities, while far less enjoy music, reading books or art exhibitions. In addition, many young people have no daily obligations, except in relation to school and spend their free time idling or sleeping. This means that the majority of youth either do nothing or engage almost solely in the so-called passive and/or receptive activities for self-entertainment. Despite that fact, almost three fourths of them claim they are more or less satisfied with how they spend their free time what brings us to the conclusion that the main problem is not the quality of their free time activities but their lack of awareness that the quality itself is being at stake. However, it should be pointed out that their opinions are related to age and socio-professional status. Young people who belong to an upper age-cohort and who are unemployed exhibit far more dissatisfaction with their free time than the youngest. Over-pronounced dissatisfaction among the unemployed seems to be an indicator of an overall discontent with one's own life. For the unemployed, free time becomes a burden not only because they cannot perceive it in terms of an off-duty activity but because they can not afford it financially.
- In reference to the use of psychoactive substances, it seems that tobacco smoking and alcohol consumption are the most widespread types of risk behaviour among the youth. Approximately one third of them smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol daily or weekly; three fifths are non-smokers and one fifth never drink alcohol. Smoking increases with age and employment. Alcohol, on the other hand, is solely related to gender in a way that young women drink less than their male peers. Such trend may be the sign of a subtle male initiation rite de passage that has outlived its traditional context. Since the data on smoking are more favourable than those from earlier research it may be presumed that an anti-smoking media campaign, which has been going on rather aggressively throughout the country, has brought positive effect, whereas non-existence of similar anti-alcohol campaign may be the sign of a relatively high level of a social tolerance for alcohol consumption. As far as drug are concerned, Croatian youth is more inclined to the so-called 'soft' drugs. Over one third of the young have tried or used twice or more only marijuana; hashish and ecstasy is mentioned by less than one tenth of them, whereas other 'hard' drugs have been only tried or are consumed by 1-3% of them. The consumption of marijuana is associated with a recognizable youth group, what confirms earlier studies. A group of highest risk is made of young people between 20 and 24, male, university students, the residents of Zagreb,

Istria, Croatian Littoral and Dalmatia, and whose fathers have higher education level.

- A great majority of young people tend to see themselves in rather positive terms: they are self-assured, think they have a good number of personal qualities; believe in their capabilities when compared to other people and have no doubts that most people they know like them. This may be related to feeling of security they experience in the context of their immediate environment since a great majority of the young claim that they can almost always get warmth, care and support from their parents and support from their friends. On the other hand, only every second of them feel the same about their teachers. It seems that most Croatian families are characterised by an exercise of indirect and flexible control over their children in the course of their growing up. In over half of the cases parents or relatives hardly ever determine rules for their children's behaviour although they do control the choice of their friends, as well as their evening outdoor activities. Moreover, young people claim that their parents are especially keen of their school progress since they almost regularly keep records on their children school situation.
- When asked about the most serious problems of their generation, the majority of young people in Croatia mention socially unacceptable behaviour, such as drug abuse, alcohol consumption and violence, unemployment, low standard of living, the lack of life chances and mass migration of young experts abroad. Since unemployment was repeatedly displayed as the major problem of young generation in earlier studies, their present preoccupation with socially unacceptable behaviour may be related either to the sample structure (majority of them are students) or to a general social climate which is, due to predominance of media campaigns mainly geared against smoking and drug abuse (but not against alcohol consumption, except for safe driving), inducing an over-sensitisation to behavioural issues causing, on the other side, the lack of awareness of existentially important issues of young people that are of an utmost importance for their independence and self-satisfaction.
- Young people are inclined to attribute responsibility for solving these problems primarily to themselves, their parents and public authorities, i.e. firstly to those actors that function at the private level (personal and parents' responsibility), than to public sector (government, education system) and, finally, to the civil society (nongovernmental organizations, youth associations and religious institutions). This means that youth principally count on their personal strength and family support, as well as that they have explicit expectations of state institutions, whereas they think of receiving the assistance from the civil sector only exceptionally. Notwithstanding, since half of the young studied have failed to mention personal responsibility, it clearly demonstrates that both strong sense of self-responsibility and its avoidance stand side by side as two features of Croatian youth.
- Among the measures that Croatian youth see as the most efficient for solving their problems two are underlined: equal education and career opportunities, on the one hand, and strict punishment of drug dealers and restrictions on

alcohol selling, on the other hand. Since the majority of youth consider socially unacceptable behaviour, including drug-addiction, to be the gravest problem of their generation, it is understandable that they see the way out in strict punishing of drug dealers, (rather than consumers), what is still inadequately determined by Croatian law. Other most frequently mentioned measure has to do with the youth quest for developing society of equal chances which is in line with their perception of unemployment as the second most frequently mentioned youth problem in Croatia. Although lesser in number, the young refer to their under-representation and require their participation in decision-making to be ensured at all levels. They also require better adapting of secondary and higher education to the needs of contemporary life, as well as better quality of education, in general; some speak in favour of establishing a ministry for youth affairs, developing national strategy for promoting youth well-being, setting up of funds for youth initiatives, better legal regulations of the places of youth entertainment, i.e., the issues majority of which have already been integrated into the recently adopted *National Programme of Action for Youth* that is seen as an initial step in developing a national youth policy.

- The values that the majority of young people hold personally important or very important are healthy environment, peace in the world, gender equality, and rights and freedoms of the individual. Second group of the most personally preferable values encompasses solidarity among people, social justice, economic security, respect for differences, rule of law, inalienability of property, civil society, free market, freedom of the media, protection of minorities, religion and democratic system. The bottom of the scale is occupied by social power, national sentiment, European integration, and high economic standard. The review of their preferences demonstrates a relatively respectable level of democratic potential of young people in Croatia. They are more oriented towards comfortable life based on key principles of democracy and civil society, which is in correspondence with earlier research that have documented the shift to a more individualistic value system, including youth's preference for independence and their focus on self-realisation and material security. However, their relative devaluation of the importance of European integration may be, on the one hand, the sign of either their dissatisfaction with, or their criticism of the way new European order has been established, partly due to the fact that Croatia has been somehow unjustly left behind. On the other hand it may be the consequence of their perceiving the integration merely in terms of a political objective of which very little they experience in everyday life. This is not to say that they devalue the importance of European integration for Croatia as such. It would be more accurate to say that Croatian young people are becoming more and more pragmatic in their social positioning of which many think not only in the context of Croatia but in the context of Europe and the world. Having in mind a long tradition of Croatian youth emigration to Europe and the fact that almost 20% of contemporary youth plan to leave the country for good (mostly for a European country), their relation toward European integration may mean that they see it only as an added value to an already established youth migratory pattern in Croatia.

- Opinions of young people about the determinants of upward social mobility in Croatia reflect their accurate perception of social anomalies that, if left unquestioned, threaten to deepen social inequalities and diminish democratic potential of the society. Namely, a great majority of the young see as important or highly important for social promotion in Croatia a combination of the following variables: adaptive behaviour, personal endeavour, knowledge and skills, and connections and acquaintances. University degree, money and wealth, and the obedience and submissiveness to the 'boss', are identified less but, nevertheless, reflect a combination of appropriate and inappropriate means of social promotion. Somehow more troublesome is the finding that one third to one half of the young consider belonging to certain nation or political party, as well as bribing and corruption as important determinants of one's success in Croatia. These data present an index of youth's perception of Croatian society as the society of unequal chances since it, by allowing non-democratic practice to play an important role in social promotion, actually discriminates against those who in this matter believe in, and rely on their own abilities and efforts. When compared to earlier studies, it is highly troublesome that almost the same factors of social promotion are estimated as important by both socialist and 'transitional' young people in Croatia.

Overall examination of the above results may be seen as an indicator of a process of relative homogenisation of young people in today's Croatia – certainly, within the issues here examined and at the present level of analysis. There is no doubt that young people here described have many characteristic in common, especially in reference to their marital status, family pattern, housing conditions, parent's educational background, attitudes towards present and future life, professional and educational aspirations, desired accommodation, sources of information, satisfaction with free time, positive feelings about themselves, feeling of security in relation to their parents and friends, as well as in reference to their abuse of psychoactive substances. They also share their desire for autonomy and independence, and for the recognition by the society at large, as well as their dreams of a more just society in which life opportunities would match individual abilities and endeavour. When they differ, it is mostly due to their varied socio-professional status and age. Residential status, father's educational background, gender, and regional background are less important. The tendencies that have been documented suggest that youth are divided primarily by their actual social status and stage of attained maturity, and only secondarily by socialization factors, such as social origin in a narrow and broad sense of the term, and a gender socialization patterns. However, further analysis of data should disclose youth dominating trends with more accuracy.

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Annexes

Individual tables for questions 38 and 39 from Croatian supplement

Tables 38a-u: PERSONAL IMPORTANCE OF CERTAIN VALUES

Table 38a: Social power

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	32	3,4
	2) not important	96	10.2
	3) irrelevant	235	24.9
	4) important	399	42.3
	5) very important	182	19.3
	Total	944	100.0
	Mean		3.64

Table 38b: Democratic system

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	30	3.2
	2) not important	131	13.9
	3) irrelevant	173	18.4
	4) important	388	41.3
	5) very important	218	23.2
	Total	940	100.0
Mean			3..67

Table 38c: Economic security

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	4	.4
	2) not important	30	3.2
	3) irrelevant	84	8.9
	4) important	456	48.3
	5) very important	370	39.2
	Total	944	100.0
Mean			4.23

Table 38d: National sentiments

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	37	3.9
	2) not important	144	15.3
	3) irrelevant	203	21.5
	4) important	374	39.6
	5) very important	186	19.7
	Total	944	100.0
Mean			3.56

Table 38e: Rights and freedoms of the individual

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	3	.3
	2) not important	21	2.2
	3) irrelevant	38	4.0
	4) important	359	38.0
	5) very important	524	55.4
	Total	945	100.0
Mean			4.46

Table 38f: Protection of minorities

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	21	2.2
	2) not important	72	7.6
	3) irrelevant	169	17.9
	4) important	440	46.6
	5) very important	243	25.7
	Total	945	100.0
Mean			3.86

Table 38g: Respect for difference (pluralism)

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	4	.4
	2) not important	44	4.7
	3) irrelevant	90	9.5
	4) important	442	46.7
	5) very important	366	38.7
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.19

Table 38h: High economic standard

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	18	1.9
	2) not important	173	18.3
	3) irrelevant	263	27.8
	4) important	362	38.3
	5) very important	130	13.7
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			3.44

Table 38i: The rule of law

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	12	1.3
	2) not important	52	5.5
	3) irrelevant	99	10.5
	4) important	430	45.5
	5) very important	353	37.3
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.12

Table 38j: European integration

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	31	3.3
	2) not important	120	12.7
	3) irrelevant	255	27.0
	4) important	395	41.9
	5) very important	142	15.1
	Total	943	100.0
Mean			3.53

Table 38k: Inviolability of property

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	6	.6
	2) not important	44	4.7
	3) irrelevant	126	13.4
	4) important	467	49.5
	5) very important	300	31.8
	Total	943	100.0
Mean			4.07

Table 38l: Religion

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	38	4.0
	2) not important	109	11.5
	3) irrelevant	152	16.1
	4) important	383	40.5
	5) very important	264	27.9
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			3.77

Table 38m: Solidarity among people

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	5	.5
	2) not important	13	1.4
	3) irrelevant	40	4.2
	4) important	447	47.3
	5) very important	441	46.6
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.38

Table 38n: Gender equality

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	3	.3
	2) not important	10	1.1
	3) irrelevant	31	3.3
	4) important	336	35.5
	5) very important	566	59.8
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.53

Table 38o: Peace in the world

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	7	.7
	2) not important	14	1.5
	3) irrelevant	23	2.4
	4) important	289	30.5
	5) very important	613	64.8
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.57

Table 38p: Free market

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	9	1.0
	2) not important	71	7.5
	3) irrelevant	133	14.1
	4) important	485	51.4
	5) very important	246	26.1
	Total	944	100.0
Mean			3.94

Table 38r: Social justice

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	1	.1
	2) not important	25	2.6
	3) irrelevant	67	7.1
	4) important	494	52.2
	5) very important	359	37.9
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.25

Table 38s: Civil society

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	4	.4
	2) not important	38	4.0
	3) irrelevant	147	15.6
	4) important	534	56.5
	5) very important	222	23.5
	Total	945	100.0
Mean			3.99

Table 38t: Freedom of the media

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	13	1.4
	2) not important	89	9.4
	3) irrelevant	158	16.7
	4) important	399	42.2
	5) very important	287	30.3
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			3.91

Table 38u: Healthy environment

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	1	.1
	2) not important	10	1.1
	3) irrelevant	24	2.5
	4) important	309	32.7
	5) very important	602	63.6
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.59

Tables 39a-l: VIEW ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CERTAIN VALUES FOR SOCIAL PROMOTION IN CROATIA

Table 39a: Personal endeavour

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	3	.3
	2) not important	27	2.9
	3) irrelevant	74	7.8
	4) important	426	45.0
	5) very important	416	44.0
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.29

Table 39b: 'Connections' to, and acquaintance with important people

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	16	1.7
	2) not important	37	3.9
	3) irrelevant	95	10.0
	4) important	411	43.4
	5) very important	387	40.9
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.18

Table 39c: Knowledge and skills (competencies)

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	1) least important	3	.3
	2) not important	43	4.5
	3) irrelevant	87	9.2
	4) important	354	37.4
	5) very important	459	48.5
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.29

Table 39d: National background

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	61	6.4
	2) not important	252	26.6
	3) irrelevant	184	19.5
	4) important	338	35.7
	5) very important	111	11.7
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			3.20

Table 39e: Mere luck

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	46	4.9
	2) not important	191	20.2
	3) irrelevant	235	24.9
	4) important	313	33.2
	5) very important	159	16.8
	Total	944	100.0
Mean			3.37

Table 39f: Bribing people holding important positions

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	154	16.3
	2) not important	289	30.6
	3) irrelevant	136	14.4
	4) important	241	25.5
	5) very important	124	13.1
	Total	944	100.0
Mean			2.89

Table 39g: University diploma

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	10	1.1
	2) not important	94	9.9
	3) irrelevant	151	16.0
	4) important	392	41.4
	5) very important	299	31.6
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			3.93

Table 39h: Money and wealth

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	29	3.1
	2) not important	123	13.0
	3) irrelevant	171	18.1
	4) important	428	45.2
	5) very important	195	20.6
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			3.67

Table 39i: Destiny

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	52	5.5
	2) not important	230	24.4
	3) irrelevant	220	23.3
	4) important	331	35.1
	5) very important	110	11.7
	Total	943	100.0
Mean			3.23

Table 39j: Membership in the ruling party

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	99	10.5
	2) not important	335	35.4
	3) irrelevant	216	22.9
	4) important	219	23.2
	5) very important	76	8.0
	Total	945	100.0
Mean			2.83

Table 39k: Adaptive behaviour

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	2	.2
	2) not important	18	1.9
	3) irrelevant	26	2.7
	4) important	436	46.1
	5) very important	464	49.0
	Total	946	100.0
Mean			4.42

Table 39l: Submissiveness and obedience to the boss

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1) least important	29	3.1
	2) not important	137	14.5
	3) irrelevant	225	23.8
	4) important	427	45.2
	5) very important	126	13.3
	Total	944	100.0
Mean			3.51

A. Questionnaire in Croatian

**Ministarstvo prosvjete i športa
Republike Hrvatske**

**Centar za istraživanje, izobrazbu i dokumentaciju u obrazovanju za
ljudska prava i demokratsko građanstvo
Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu**

PRONI - Institut za socijalno obrazovanje, Kraljevina Švedska

U P I T N I K

**Zagreb
svibanj 2002.**

Prije ispunjavanja upitnika, molimo te da pažljivo pročitaš sljedeće:

Ovaj upitnik je dio međunarodnog istraživanja o životu mladih, radu, obrazovanju, zdravlju, budućnosti, ljubavi i obitelji. Istraživanje se provodi u Hrvatskoj, Bosni i Hercegovini, Srbiji, Crnoj Gori, na Kosovu i u Makedoniji. U njemu sudjeluje oko 7.000 mladih u dobi između 15 i 25 godina. Projekt je pokrenuo PRONI – Institut za socijalno obrazovanje, uz potporu SIDA-e - Švedske agencije za međunarodni razvoj i saradnju.

U Hrvatskoj projekt provodi Centar za istraživanje, izobrazbu i dokumentaciju u obrazovanju za ljudska prava i demokratsko građanstvo Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, u suradnji s Ministarstvom prosvjete i športa. Rezultati istraživanja bit će objavljeni u nacionalnom i međunarodnom izvješću. Izvješće neće sadržavati pojedinačne rezultate.

Ti si slučajno izabran/na za sudjelovanje u istraživanju. Tako si se našao/la među 7000 mladih iz Jugoistočne Europe i 1000 mladih iz Hrvatske koji će njime biti obuhvaćeni.

Upitnik je anonimn – u njemu nije naznačeno tvoje ime niti on sadrži neki podatak koji bi te mogao identificirati. Ispunjeni upitnik stavi u omotnicu, zalijepi je i predaj našem anketaru. Na omotnici nemoj pisati svoje ime.

Da bi istraživanje uspjelo, važno je da na svako pitanje odgovoriš iskreno. I ne zaboravi - tvoji odgovori su povjerljive naravi.

Sudjelovanje u istraživanju je dragovoljno. Ako na neko pitanje iz bilo kojeg razloga imaš primjedbu, na njega ne moraš odgovoriti. Tvoje sudjelovanje nam je vrlo važno kako bismo bolje razumjeli potrebe mladih u Hrvatskoj.

Ovaj upitnik nije ni ispit ni test. Tvoji odgovori se ne ocjenjuju. Važna je iskrenost. Ako među ponuđenim odgovorima ne nađeš onaj koji ti u potpunosti odgovara, izaberi neki koji mu je najbliži ili sam/a dopiši neki drugi odgovor. (Odgovori na pitanja se upisuju ili obilježavaju zaokruživanjem, odnosno stavljanjem znaka "X" u odgovarajući kvadratić.)

Nadamo se da će ti ispunjavanje upitnika biti zanimljivo. Ako ti neko pitanje nije jasno, zatraži pomoć anketara.

Ako želiš znati konačne rezultate istraživanja, molimo te da napišeš svoje ime, prezime i adresu na poseban papir i predaš ga anketaru.

Unaprijed ti zahvaljujemo na pomoći!

A sad možemo početi.

1. Kojeg si spola?

- muškog
- ženskog

2. Koje godine si rođen/a? 19_____.

3. Što si po nacionalnosti?

- Hrvat/Hrvatica
- Bošnjak/Bošnjakinja
- Srbin/Srpkinja
- Mađar/Mađarica
- Slovenac/Slovenka
- Talijan/Talijanka
- Albanac/Alбанка
- Makedonac/Makedonka
- Rom/Romkinja
- Židov/Židovka
- Crnogorac/Crnogorka
- nešto drugo, što? _____

4. Jesi li:

- neoženjen/neudata
- oženjen/udata
- razveden/a
- udovac/udovica

5. Imaš li već djecu?

Ako da, koliko dece imaš? _____

Ako nemaš, u kojim godinama planiraš imati decu? _____

6. S kim živiš?

- sam/sama
- s ocem
- s majkom
- sa sestrom/sestrama. Koliko sestara imaš? _____
- s bratom/braćom. Koliko braće imaš? _____
- s nekim drugim (u kojemu si srodstvu s njima) _____? Koliko ih je? _____

7. Koliko kuća/stan u kojemu živiš ima prostorija?

- samo kuhinja
- kuhinja s jednom sobom
- kuhinja s dvije sobe
- kuhinja s tri sobe
- drugo _____

8. Imaš li svoju sobu?

- da
- ne

9. Koristiš li kompjuter?

Ne, zašto ne? _____

- Da, gdje?
- u kući,
 - kod prijatelja,
 - u školi,
 - na fakultetu,
 - na poslu,
 - u Internet caffeu
 - negdje drugdje, gdje? _____

10. Obrazovanje tvoga oca je:

- bez škole
- nezavršena osnovna škola
- završena osnovna škola
- završena srednja škola
- završeno više obrazovanje
- završen fakultet
- magisterij/doktorat

11. Zanimanje tvoga oca je _____

12. Obrazovanje tvoje majke je:

- bez škole
- nezavršena osnovna škola
- završena osnovna škola
- završena srednja škola
- završeno više obrazovanje
- završen fakultet
- magisterij/doktorat

13. Zanimanje tvoje majke je _____

14. Koja je najviša razina obrazovanja koju si ti do sada stekao/la?

- bez škole
- nezavršena osnovna škola
- završena osnovna škola
- završena srednja škola
- završeno više obrazovanje
- završen fakultet
- magisterij/doktorat

15. Tvoje sadašnje zanimanje je _____

16. **Kako bi – općenito – odredio/odredila svoj sadašnji život?**

- izrazito loš
- loš
- osrednji
- dobar
- izvanredan

17. **Kako bi – općenito – odredio/odredila sadašnji život svojih bliskih prijatelja?**

- izrazito loš
- loš
- osrednji
- dobar
- izvanredan

18. **Kako bi - općenito – odredio/odredila sadašnji život mladih ljudi (tvojih vršnjaka) u Zapadnoj Evropi?**

- izrazito loš
- loš
- osrednji
- dobar
- izvanredan
- ne znam

19. **Kako bi – općenito – odredio/la svoju budućnost?**

- bit će izrazito loša
- bit će loša
- bit će osrednja
- bit će dobra
- bit će izvanredna
- ne znam

20. **Kako bi – općenito – odredio/la budućnost svojih bliskih prijatelja (vršnjaka)?**

- bit će izrazito loša
- bit će loša
- bit će osrednja
- bit će dobra
- bit će izvanredna
- ne znam

21. **Kako bi – općenito – odredio/la budućnost mladih (tvojih vršnjaka) u Zapadnoj Evropi?**
- bit će izrazito loša
 - bit će loša
 - bit će osrednja
 - bit će dobra
 - bit će izvanredna
 - ne znam
22. **Da sad možeš birati, što bi najradije izabrao/la?**
- naći posao što je prije moguće
 - nastaviti školovanje
 - nastaviti posao koji imam
23. **Planiraš li se odseliti iz svoga mjesta kako bi imao/la bolju budućnost?**
- Da, gdje? _____
 - Ne
 - Ne znam
24. **Smatraš li da bi ti veći grad pružio veće šanse u životu?**
- da
 - ne
 - ne znam
25. **Kad bi mogao/la birati kako (s kim) ćeš živjeti, što bi izabrao/la?**
- živjeti s roditeljima/rođacima
 - živjeti odvojeno u vlastitom stanu
26. **Kad bi mogao/la birati gde ćeš živjeti, gdje bi to bilo?**
- u mjestu u kojemu i sada živim
 - u nekom drugom mjestu u svojoj zemlji, gdje? _____
 - u nekoj drugoj zemlji, kojoj? _____
27. **Što bi želio/la raditi? (Molimo te da obilježiš najviše tri odgovora.)**
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> industrijski radnik/radnica | <input type="checkbox"/> liječnik, zubar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> trgovac/trgovkinja | <input type="checkbox"/> medicinski radnik/ca, fizioter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> policajac, vojnik, vatrogasac, itd. | <input type="checkbox"/> učitelj/učiteljica |
| <input type="checkbox"/> poslovni čovjek/žena | <input type="checkbox"/> poduzetnik |
| <input type="checkbox"/> državni službenik | <input type="checkbox"/> sportaš/sportašica |
| <input type="checkbox"/> političar/političarka | <input type="checkbox"/> bankovni službenik/službenica |
| <input type="checkbox"/> novinar/reporter | <input type="checkbox"/> turistički djelatnik/djelatnica |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sveučilišni profesor/istraživač/ica | <input type="checkbox"/> znanstvenik/znanstvenica |
| <input type="checkbox"/> poljoprivrednik | <input type="checkbox"/> socijalni radnik/radnica |
- nešto drugo, što _____

28. Što misliš, kolike su tvoje šanse da ćeš sutra obavljati posao koji želiš?

- 0-1%
- 25%
- 50%
- 75%
- 99%

29. Kad razmišljaš o školi (fakultetskom studiju), kako se najčešće osjećaš?

- tužno
- zabrinuto
- iznervirano
- uzbuđeno
- zadovoljno
- ponosno
- nikako
- nešto drugo, što: _____

30. Pušiš li?

- ne, nikada
- povremeno zapalim cigaretu
- da, redovito

31. Piješ li alkohol?

- ne, nikada
- ponekad (nekoliko puta godišnje)
- najviše jednom mjesečno
- jednom nedjeljno
- dva ili više puta nedjeljno
- skoro svakodnevno

32. **Kako često uzimaš neku od navedenih droga?** (Molimo te da zaokružiš **samo po jedan** križić u svakom redu.)

	Nikad	Probao/la sam samo jedanput	Više puta
marihuana:	X	X	X
hašiš:	X	X	X
LSD:	X	X	X
kokain (krek):	X	X	X
metadon:	X	X	X
heroin:	X	X	X
Amfetamini:	X	X	X
ecstasy:	X	X	X
udišuća sredstva:	X	X	X
anabolički steroidi	X	X	X
nešto drugo, što? _____	X	X	X

33. Kako se i gdje najčešće informiraš o događajima?

U ZEMLJI:

(Molimo te da obilježiš **najviše tri** odgovora.)

- preko televizije/radija
- iz novina/časopisa
- u školi
- u crkvi, džamiji
- u obitelji
- preko prijatelja
- na drugi način, koji? _____

U SVIJETU:

(Molimo te da obilježiš **najviše tri** odgovora.)

- preko televizije/radija
- iz novina/časopisa
- u školi
- u crkvi, džamiji
- u obitelji
- preko prijatelja
- na drugi način, koji? _____

34. Kako najčešće provodiš svoje slobodno vrijeme? (Molimo te da obilježiš najviše tri odgovora)

- nemam slobodnog vremena
- bavim se sportom
- spavam
- ne radim baš ništa
- družim se s prijateljima
- igram video/kompjuterske igre
- izlazim noću u disko-klubove i sl.
- gledam TV
- nešto drugo, što? _____
- pretražujem po Internetu
- slušam glazbu
- pomažem roditeljima u kući
- aktivno provodim vrijeme u prirodi (veslam, planinarim, lovim ribu itd.)

35. Što misliš o načinu na koji provodiš svoje slobodno vreme?

- vrlo sam zadovoljan/na
- zadovoljan/na sam
- nisam zadovoljan/na
- vrlo sam nezadovoljan/na

36. Dolje navedene tvrdnje odnose se na stavove koje osoba može imati o sebi. Uz svaku tvrdnju označi slaže li se ona ili ne slaže s onim što ti misliš o sebi. (Molimo te da zaokružiš **samo po jedan križić u svakom redu.)**

	Slažem se	Ne slažem se
U cjelini sam zadovoljan/na sobom.	x	x
Ponekad mislim da ništa ne vrijedim.	x	x
Mislim da imam neke dobre osobine.	x	x
Mislim da sam sposoban/na koliko i drugi.	x	x
Mislim da se nemam čime ponositi.	x	x
Ponekad se osjećam beskorisnim/om.	x	x
Vjerujem u sebe.	x	x
Volio/la bih da imam više samopoštovanja.	x	x
Sve u svemu, često mislim da sam gubitnik/ca.	x	x
Imam pozitivan stav o sebi.	x	x
Mislim da me ljudi uglavnom vole.	x	x

37. **Koliko često dolje navedene tvrdnje važe za tebe?** (Molimo te da zaokružiš **samo po jedan** križić u svakom redu.)

	Skoro uvijek	Ponekad	Skoro nikada
Moji roditelji mi pružaju toplinu i pažnju.	x	x	x
Moji roditelji mi daju podršku.	x	x	x
Moji roditelji su spremni novčano mi pomagati.	x	x	x
Moji prijatelji mi pružaju podršku.	x	x	x
Zabrinut/a sam za svoju budućnost.	x	x	x
Zabrinut/a sam za budućnost svojih prijatelja.	x	x	x
Moji roditelji/rođaci mi određuju pravila ponašanja.	x	x	x
Moji roditelji/rođaci znaju gde i s kim izlazim na večer.	x	x	x
Moji roditelji/rođaci su zabrinuti za moju budućnost.	x	x	x

38. (Na ovo pitanje odgovaraju SAMO UČENICI I STUDENTI) **Koliko često dolje navedene tvrdnje važe za tebe?** (Molimo te da zaokružiš **samo po jedan** križić u svakom redu.)

	Skoro uvijek	Ponekad	Skoro nikada
Moji roditelji/rođaci se interesiraju za moj uspeh u školi (na fakultetu).	x	x	x
Moji roditelji/rođaci znaju moje stanje u školi (na fakultetu).	x	x	x
Moji roditelji/rođaci su zabrinuti za moje stanje u školi (na fakultetu).	x	x	x
Moji nastavnici u školi (na fakultetu) su mi spremni pomoći.	x	x	x
Moji nastavnici u školi (na fakultetu) mi pružaju podršku.	x	x	x

39. **Koji su po tvom mišljenju najveći problemi mladih danas u našem društvu?** (Molimo te da obilježiš **najviše tri** odgovora.)

- prevelika okupiranost zabavom i potrošnjom
- nizak životni standard
- nedostatak interesa za društvena i politička zbivanja
- nedostatak životne perspektive
- društveno neprihvatljivo ponašanje (narkomanija, alkoholizam, nasilje itd.)

- nekvalitetno obrazovanje
- nedovoljna uključenost mladih u društvene poslove
- važnost "veza", a ne sposobnosti i stručnosti
- masovni odlazak mladih stručnjaka u druge zemlje
- nezaposlenost
- vladavina "staraca"
- nedovoljna briga društva za mlade
- nešto drugo, što? _____

40. **Tko je po tvom mišljenju odgovoran za rješavanje problema mladih u našem društvu?** (Molimo te da obilježiš **najviše tri** odgovora.)

- roditelji
- nevladine udruge
- organizacije mladih
- vlada
- mediji
- škola (fakultet)
- svaka mlada osoba za sebe
- vjerske ustanove
- netko drugi, tko? _____

41. **Što bi po tvom mišljenju trebalo učiniti da se problemi mladih kod nas počnu djelotvornije rješavati ?** (Molimo te da obilježiš **najviše tri** odgovora.)

- osigurati sudjelovanje mladih u procesu odlučivanja na svim razinama
- zakonom ograničiti i nadzirati sastajališta mladih (disco klubove i sl.)
- osigurati jednake šanse u obrazovanju i zapošljavanju za sve
- uvesti stroge kazne za dilere droge i ograničiti prodaju alkohola
- osnovati posebno ministarstvo za mlade
- izraditi nacionalnu strategiju za promicanje dobrobiti mladih
- osnovati posebne fondove za inicijative mladih u različitim sektorima
- srednje i visoko obrazovanje prilagoditi novim životnim potrebama
- nešto drugo, što? _____

42. **Koliko je za tebe važna svaka od dolje navedenih vrijednosti?** (Molimo te da za svaku vrijednost uneseš po jedan križić u odgovarajuće polje.)

PAZI: 5 znači vrlo važna, a 1 potpuno nevažna.

	5	4	3	2	1
društvena moć					
demokratski sustav					
Ekonomska sigurnost					
nacionalni osjećaj					
prava i slobode pojedinca					
zaštita manjina					
poštivanje različitosti (pluralizam)					
visok materijalni standard					
vladavina prava (pravna država)					
europska integracija					
nepovredivost vlasništva					
Vjera					
solidarnost među ljudima					
ravnopravnost muškarca i žene					
mir u svijetu					
slobodno tržište					
socijalna Pravda					
civilno društvo					
Sloboda medija					
zdrav okoliš					

43. **Koliko je po tvom mišljenju svaki od dolje navedenih čimbenika važan za napredovanje pojedinca u našem društvu?** (Molimo te da za svaki čimbenik uneseš križić u odgovarajuće polje.)
PAZI: 5 znači vrlo važno, a 1 potpuno nevažno.

	5	4	3	2	1
zalaganje u radu					
veze i poznanstva					
znanje i sposobnosti					
nacionalna pripadnost					
puka sreća					
podmićivanje osoba na visokim položajima					
fakultetska diploma					
Novac, imetak					
Sudbina					
članstvo u vladajućoj stranci					
snalažljivost					
poslušnost i pokornost "šefu"					

44. **Ako sebe pokušaš zamisliti za 10 godina – kako se vidiš?**
(Molimo te da napišeš barem dvije-tri rečenice.)

45. **Ako smo propustili neko pitanje koje ti se čini važnim, molimo te da ga navedeš i na njega odgovoriš u dvije-tri rečenice.**

Hvala ti na suradnji!