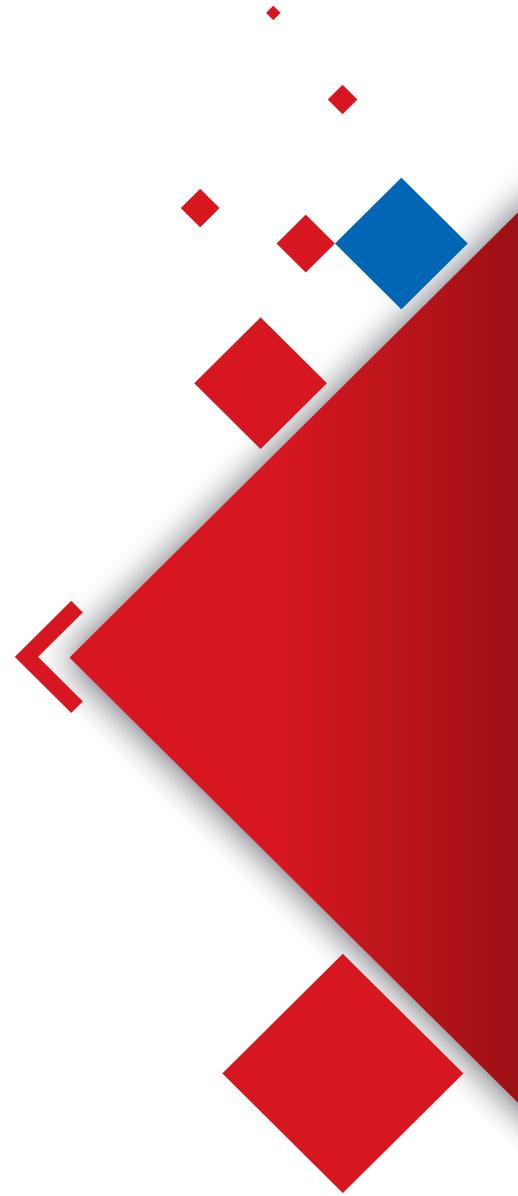




**THE REPUBLIC
OF CROATIA
NATIONAL
SECURITY
STRATEGY**



2017.

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Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović
President of the Republic
of Croatia

FOREWORD

In its brief history as an independent state, the Republic of Croatia is again at a crossroads! The European area, in particular the area of Central Europe, to which Croatia belongs geographically, historically and culturally, is faced with security threats from the east and the south. The Republic of Croatia is located in the very centre of these developments and at an intersection of these lines of force of instability, which shook the foundations of Europe's security architecture, thus creating a need for a completely new European and Euro-Atlantic strategic deliberation and setting, and reminding us of the lasting duty and task of tireless care for the state's national security.

In such circumstances, it is our duty to assume a more active role and be an assertive subject of international relations and act with the view of promoting and protecting the interests of our Croatian Homeland. The Republic of Croatia creates its own future and is a guarantee of its citizens' security. To fulfil this role, it must have the following:

- an active and self-confident foreign policy, which will contribute to the consolidation, development, connectivity, stabilisation and security of the entire European area through the development of new and strengthening of existing alliances, promoting the national interests of the Republic of Croatia;
- a strong defence system, which will enable the Republic of Croatia to actively contribute to international efforts to stabilise our strategic environment, and through deterrence guarantee the security of the Republic of Croatia from external threats to its security, integrity and sovereignty;
- an effective system of internal security, which will guarantee the citizens of the Republic of Croatia the highest possible degree of protection from threats and challenges to their security, especially from contemporary threats such as terrorism, ideological and religious extremism, abuse of the cyberspace and different forms of asymmetric and hybrid threats to our stability and security;
- a highly professional security and intelligence system, which will enable early recognition and combating of security challenges and offer information support to decision makers to decide on a timely response;
- a Homeland Security system, which will ensure a coordinated and combined action of all its components, with the view of achieving synergy for the benefit of the Republic of Croatia, its national interests and safety of its citizens.

The establishment of a Homeland Security system, as a framework for coordinated activity of all state bodies in the promotion of the national interests of the Republic of Croatia, is the key prerequisite for the Republic of Croatia's role as an active participant of international relations.

This National Security Strategy is yet another significant and indispensable step in the establishment of such a system. As the pivotal national security document, which has been adopted by a consensus that goes beyond partisan divisions, it is a true starting point for creating implemental policies, measures and procedures directed towards the realization of the national objectives and interests of the Republic of Croatia.

From the very beginning of its creation, the Strategy has been the result of a combined effort of a large number of governmental bodies of the Republic of Croatia, led by the Ministry of Defence.

As President of the Republic of Croatia, I extend sincere gratitude and congratulations to all members of the commissions and the working groups, who through their dedication and hard work gave an immense contribution to the development of a Homeland Security system for the future, thereby contributing to a more stable, prosperous and secure future of the Republic of Croatia.

Sincerely,

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović
President of the Republic of Croatia



Andrej Plenković
Prime Minister

FOREWORD

During the first 26 years of its autonomy and independence, the Republic of Croatia has ensured its territorial integrity and defended its sovereignty in a just, defensive and liberation Homeland War. We made a significant contribution to establishing military balance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was a precondition for the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement. After being internationally recognized as a country, we have reached our strategic goals of membership in the UN, NATO and the EU. Thanks to all these successes, the Republic of Croatia freely creates its strategic policies today, develops potentials using all available resources, and creates international policies together with its partners and allies.

Through its government institutions, Croatia has reached a high level of security. However, in global circumstances which, unfortunately, include increased and more complex security threats and risks, Croatia has to be up to the challenges and has to continuously develop the capability of adequate and effective responses.

One of the basic tasks of every country is the security of its citizens and its national territory. Preventing security threats favours the development of economy, which creates preconditions for welfare and prosperity of Croatian people, increases the quality of life and demographic revitalisation of the country. A democratic and stable political system cannot function without security, because security of each citizen is a prerequisite for the stability of our society and our country. Therefore, I am glad that after 15 years Croatia is introducing this new, comprehensive National Security Strategy – a strategic document of an organized security system.

An important instrument in the implementation of this Strategy is the development of the Homeland Security system. With this new system, the Republic of Croatia will establish an effective mechanism to respond to unpredicted security challenges and natural disasters. This strong mechanism gives us the possibility to prevent, plan, and especially manage all kinds of crisis situations. It will also establish integration and synergy of all capabilities available at the state, local and regional level, as well as in the civil and private sectors. Croatia must be ready, at any time and in any conditions, to engage in an adequate, rapid, and responsible way to protect the security of its citizens and its territory.

Values created in the victorious Homeland War are the fundamentals on which a modern Croatian security system is developed. In that context, it is important to underline that national identity is the tie that brings us together and contributes to our recognisability in the community of European and World nations and cultures. For that reason we preserve our origins of identity and the foundations on which the modern Croatian state was created – the Homeland War and especially the sacrifice of Croatian war veterans and the whole Croatian nation, at home and abroad. We also contribute to the preservation of the national identity and protection of Croats living outside the borders of the Republic of Croatia, especially protecting their equality and constitutionality in neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Every public policy in the area of national security will have to have its foothold in the National Security Strategy as the original document. Therefore, the implementation of the Strategy is a lasting process in which all stakeholders will develop policies and their respective areas of the Strategy making each strategic aim described in the Strategy operational. In this process of implementing and realizing the Strategy, the government of the Republic of Croatia will have a leading role and through international activities additionally enhance Croatia's position as a member of the EU and an ally in NATO.

Sincerely,

Andrej Plenković
Prime Minister

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INTRODUCTION, VISION AND SECURITY CONCEPT

The Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: Croatia) is a sovereign Central European, Danube-Basin, Adriatic and Mediterranean country independently formulating its strategies and policies. The intent of the strategies and policies is to realise national interests and goals; economic, political and social development; security of citizens; protection of national identity and fundamental values as defined by the Constitution. Since achieving its independence, defending and liberating the national territory in the Homeland War to the present day, Croatia has developed into a free, democratic and responsible country. Important foreign policy and security objectives were reached upon membership in the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (hereinafter: NATO). Furthermore, this set the conditions that provide Croatia with new economic, political and security development opportunities.

Through our own actions, and interaction with a number of international processes, a high level of security was reached, making a balanced development of Croatia possible. However, foreign and domestic security threats, risks and challenges are changing constantly and rapidly. At the same time, they are very complex, interconnected and often unpredictable, thus creating a need for the continuous development of national security policy and the ability to respond to such changes.

The national security of Croatia is ensured by a coordinated action in all areas of development, and not only by means of security instruments and activities. Therefore, in order to establish peace, resolve conflict and build trust it is necessary to develop national security policies, structure and capabilities that will ensure the execution of activities, not only within the national territory but also outside it, and doing so both independently and through joint international efforts.

Croatia's vision is to develop as a democratic and free country, capable of protecting its population, territory and sovereignty, national identity, highest constitutional values, human rights and freedoms, through comprehensive and coordinated action. Croatia will ensure economic and social prosperity, which will in turn allow for demographic renewal and revitalisation. Moreover, Croatia will continually take care of the members of the Croatian people in other countries, develop its reputation and influence in the international arena, and participate in the building of international peace and stability as a member of the United Nations, European Union, NATO and other international and regional organisations.

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: National Security Strategy) is a fundamental strategic document determining policies and instruments for the realisation of the vision and national interests. Accordingly, the National Security Strategy intends to achieve security conditions that will allow



a balanced and sustained development of the country and society. This strategy introduces a new security paradigm based on the model of human security, that is, the security of an individual – every citizen of Croatia.

In today's world, internal and external aspects of security are strongly linked, thus influencing our commitment to a comprehensive approach in order to accomplish security goals.

Croatia and its citizens have experience and are familiar with the concept of comprehensive action, which was directly applied during the Homeland War, where civil, military, diplomatic, economic and political actors worked together to achieve freedom, independence and full state sovereignty. This approach enables the development of a system that will coordinate action of all state bodies, coupled with the involvement of citizens and the entire society in the design and implementation of security policies. A comprehensive and inclusive approach is a prerequisite for sustainable socio-economic development and strengthening resistance under all conditions, together with international action based on solidarity and trust among partners.

Croatia will develop sustainable security policies and instruments and organise a system that will be properly managed, strategically focused on key challenges, proactive, coordinated, affordable, self-sustainable, efficient, responsible, and geared to manage risks.

National security strategy development is an ongoing process in which every Croatian Government, at the beginning of its mandate and in cooperation with the President of the Republic of Croatia, proposes a new or amends the existing National Security Strategy. In this way, the National Security Strategy will regularly be adapted in consideration of the changing strategic environment.

For the purpose of accomplishing and protecting its national interests and implementing its strategic objectives, Croatia will make use of all available means, proportionate to the threats and risks to which it is exposed.

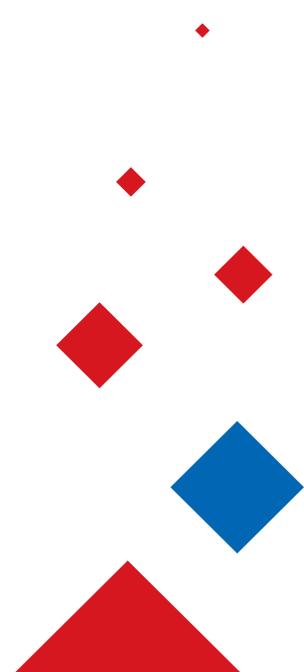
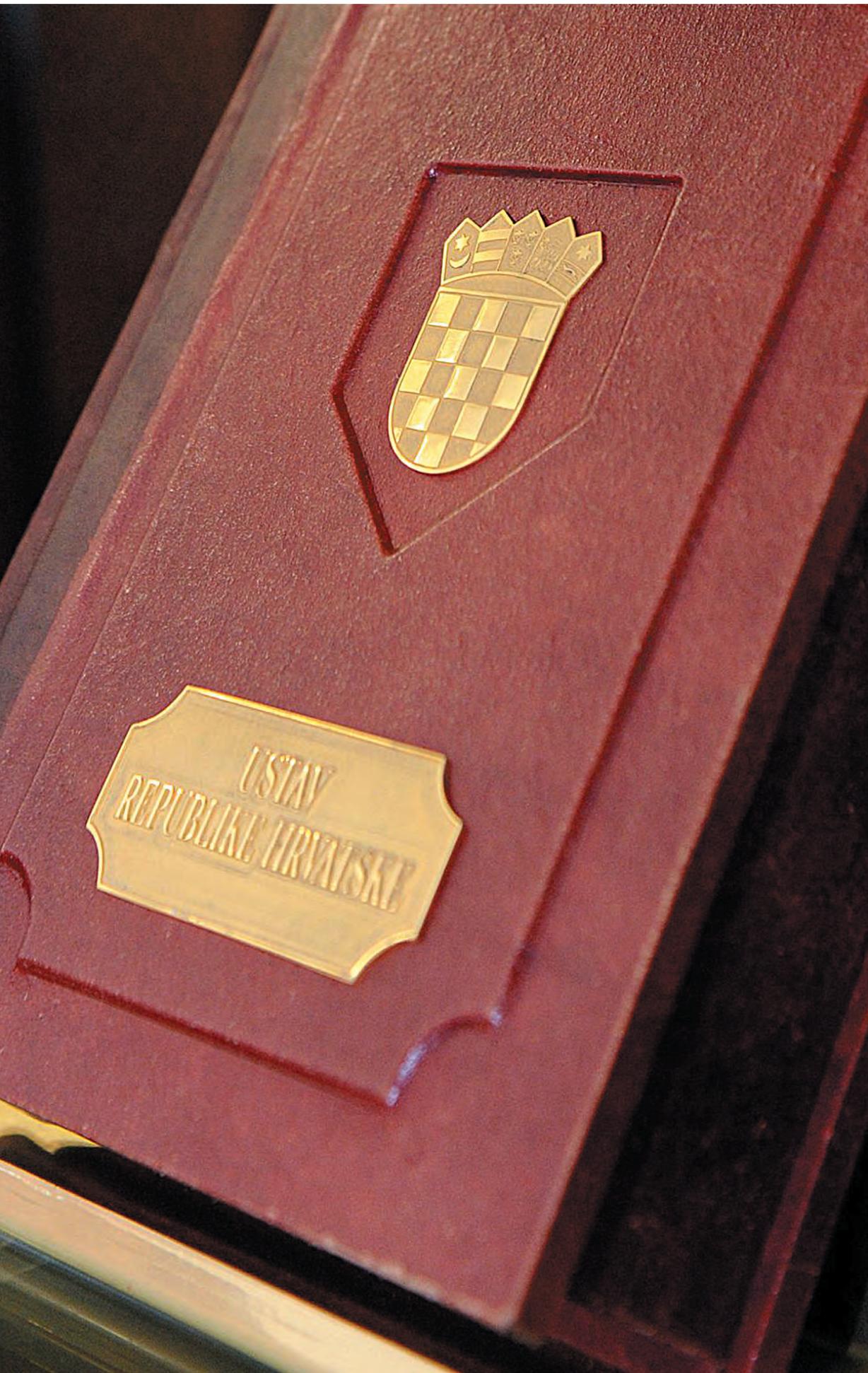
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NATIONAL INTERESTS

Croatian national interests are derived from the fundamental values defined in the Constitution and the vision, in consideration of its own geostrategic and geopolitical position in addition to the situation and trends in the international environment.

- Safety of its citizens and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Croatia are basic preconditions for the existence of the state in all its functions.
- Well-being and prosperity of citizens are the most important indicators of quality and successfulness of a state, the democratic political system and a stable society.
- National identity, international reputation and influence enable Croatia to participate in international processes and in shaping a favourable international environment.
- Equality, sovereignty and existence of the Croatian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the position of Croatian national minorities in other countries and the Croatian diaspora enjoy special care and protection provided by Croatia.





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GLOBAL LEVEL

A connected and interdependent world offers numerous opportunities for achieving well-being and security. At the same time, it is becoming more complex and unsafe, subject to rapid changes and new emerging challenges. This is contributed by trends connected to climate change, demographic trends and migration of the population, the development of new technologies and globalisation of the economy. The internet is assuming an increasingly important role in the creation of social and security processes.

Geopolitical competition among major powers leads to the weakening of multilateralism and the outbreak of interstate and intrastate conflicts. Simultaneously, the strengthening of power of non-state actors further complicates the security circumstances in the world. Shifts in global centres of power will affect a number of regional and local events and processes that can significantly influence the attainment of the goals set by this Strategy.

New technologies are changing all aspects of life. While the world population continues to grow significantly, especially in poor and underdeveloped countries, resource needs are equally growing. Inequality between developed and underdeveloped countries is one

of the causes of large migratory movements. With the emergence of new viruses and drug-resistant bacteria, threats to the health of the population escalate, boosted by climate change, environmental pollution, and the increase in all forms of international traffic and mass migration of the population.

The development of information and communication technologies has allowed for the processes that connect the world and make life easier. However, it has also facilitated the emergence of new threats and risks. Dependence of societies and individuals on the internet and information technology poses a special vulnerability. Cyberspace domain attacks, regardless of the motives, increasingly endanger individuals, organisations and countries alike. Simultaneously, organisational fluidity, geographic distribution, technological diffusion, and limitless communication





possibilities, make it difficult to identify culprits of cyber attacks, their intentions and capabilities. Cybercrime is on the rise, and cyberspace is increasingly being used for illegal activities. Apart from possible breaches of security of classified, personal and sensitive data, the abuse of cyberspace to cause casualties and damage in the material world likewise presents a threat. Radical ideas and movements, evolving into extremism and terrorism, are multiplied and spread across the internet and social networks, thus gaining the reach and influence they haven't had thus far.

The dynamics and complexity of changes make it difficult to recognise trends and anticipate events, not only in the long term but in the immediate future as well. Security interests of states will increasingly be driven by the need for access to food, water, energy and communications. Future conflicts will take place in a vague and hardly distinguishable situation between war and peace.

EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD

The European Union is surrounded by a zone of instability, stretching from northern Africa, through the Middle East, to the Caucasus and Central Asia. This zone is a long-term source of security challenges, from terrorism, illegal migrations, extremism, organised crime and hybrid operations to open regional armed conflicts.

Terrorism has been a constant threat to the international and national security, while the terrorists' readiness and capability to inflict heavy casualties and large-scale destruction have increased significantly. Terrorist groups use modern technologies for spreading their ideology, training, recruiting fighters and conducting terrorist attacks. Terrorist groups involved in conflicts in Syria and Iraq have been joined by thousands of Europeans whose return to their home countries poses a long-term security risk.

Mass migrations towards Europe pose a social, developmental, economic, political, cultural, health, integration and security challenge for European societies. Migrations are the consequence of numerous factors, such as armed conflicts, weak states, poverty, unemployment, and climate change. For this reason, the influx of migrants towards Europe is expected to continue in the long term. Further implementation of international law on migrants and refugees is yet another challenge related to migration flows.

At the same time, many European states are facing a birth rate decline and aging population. This demographic deficit can only be replaced through immigration, whereby management and control of the process present a great challenge for affected states.

The European Union is also facing the challenge of establishing and implementing common European policies in certain areas, such as finances, migration policy, relations with certain states outside the European Union, and involvement in crisis resolution.



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Other challenges include the processes of political radicalisation and populism in certain states. It is evident that the European continent is increasingly suffering the consequences of geopolitical tensions and threats to European security, especially since the outbreak of the crisis in Ukraine.

The probability of a large conventional conflict involving members of NATO and the European Union is low due to its potentially catastrophic consequences. Yet, such a conflict cannot be entirely dismissed.

Energy security and a stable supply of energy sources at acceptable prices are one of the basic preconditions for the development of modern states. Member states of the European Union depend greatly on the import of energy sources, especially oil and natural gas. The states' dependence on a single supplier can become an instrument to achieve foreign policy goals.

The areas experiencing geopolitical competition and an overlapping of interests of great powers face the danger of destabilisation through foreign activities and influences, which could include different forms of hybrid threats as well.

SOUTHEAST NEIGHBOURHOOD

The surroundings of Croatia present a source of potential challenges, but also an opportunity for promotion and protection of national interests. Political instability, insufficiently developed state institutions, corruption, high unemployment rate, and

social and interethnic tensions make the security situation in our southeast neighbourhood fragile. This also reflects on Croatian interests. An active presence of the European Union and NATO continues to be an important factor of stability.

The states of Southeast Europe that are not members of NATO or the European Union have different foreign policy goals and aspirations. However, each of them sees the European Union and/or NATO as its own goal, and each is in a different phase of the accession process to Euro-Atlantic integrations.

Although the southeast neighbourhood is still dominated by the Euro-Atlantic influence, the way is open for the influence of other global and regional actors, thus geopolitical competitions and various external destabilising influences are also reflected in this area.





The neighbourhood of Croatia shows trends of growing intolerance, radicalism and extremism, notably of Islamic radicalism. It is unlikely that the causes of radicalisation and recruitment of extreme Islamists could be eliminated, or even largely mitigated in the medium term. Since the beginning of the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, hundreds of people from Southeast Europe have joined the terrorist organisations active in the areas of said armed conflicts. Their return to their home countries increases the risk of terrorism for Croatia as well. Self-radicalised individuals present yet another threat, because even though they may not be in direct contact with terrorist organisations, terrorist propaganda can influence them to carry out individual terrorist attacks.

The strengthening of radical nationalism based on 'greater state' ideologies – including ideas about changing internationally recognised borders - as well as activities aimed at undermining the credibility of Croatia, constitute a threat to the security, interests, and the reputation of Croatia. This can jeopardise the existence and position of Croats in the southeast neighbourhood.

In some countries a defamatory campaign directed against Croatia has been underway for years, with all the characteristics of hybrid and special action, meaning planned, permanent and systematic activities supported by state bodies.

Croatia is situated on one of the routes used by organised crime groups for trafficking arms, people, drugs and other dangerous substances. Instability in different hotspots has led to an increased demand for illegal weapons and military equipment, which has in turn resulted in an increase in organised crime. In addition, Southeast Europe has become one of the busiest migratory transit routes. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and dual-use products and technologies pose a security threat for Croatia, especially in terms of the use of Croatian territory for their transport to other states.

Notwithstanding all the mentioned security challenges and risks, both the area of Southeast Europe and the entire Croatian neighbourhood also present an opportunity for increasing the political, economic, security, traffic, energy, and other cooperation, along with the building of trust and dialogue-focused policies.

SECURITY THREATS, RISKS, AND CHALLENGES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

As a member of the European Union, Croatia belongs to a group of states of developed democracy, with which it shares common European values. In addition to the benefits arising from the membership, Croatia and its partner countries share security challenges as well. Due to its position as a Central European, Danube-Basin,

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Adriatic and Mediterranean country, Croatia possesses numerous resources, such as the Adriatic Sea with its submarine area, clean water, forests, agricultural land, national parks and rich cultural heritage, providing it with numerous natural, transport, energy and economic opportunities.

Regardless of the complexity of the security and political situation, owing to the existing and foreseeable political and security circumstances, and with the guarantee of national and collective defence, the likelihood of a direct conventional military threat to the Croatian territory is very low, yet it must not be ignored or rather dismissed due to the possible major ramifications in such an event.

Unresolved border demarcation issues with particular neighbouring states could have negative impacts on the effective control of state borders and control of Croatian territory.

In view of its geopolitical location and European Union and NATO membership, Croatia has been affected by geopolitical confrontations. Consequently, Croatia has been exposed to political and intelligence activities of state and non-state actors that perceive the European Union and NATO as a security threat or a challenge. The domestic, economic, security and defence circumstances can be subject to political and intelligence activities of states and other actors whose interests, activities and stances do not coincide with those of Croatia.

Croatia is exposed to various forms of hybrid operations that include elements of non-conventional, asymmetric, and cyber actions, both independently and as a part of Euro-Atlantic integrations. The objective of such operations is to exploit Croatia's vulnerability, weaken its sovereignty and independence, undermine democratic values and freedoms, destabilise state institutions and damage the reputation and influence of Croatia.

The likelihood of a terrorist attack in Croatia is low, but the potential ramifications are severe, especially in the context of developed tourism and transport sectors. One of the security threats that Croatia is facing is the transit of members of terrorist organisations across Croatian territory, which is also used in illegal migrations.

Extremist activities of individuals and groups on Croatian territory are sporadic. There is no initiatory





potential or broader support of citizens and further lacks the potential to jeopardize public security. Extremism is also evident in some individuals belonging to sports fan groups. Violence, extremist rhetoric, and symbols used by individuals within sports fan and other groups undermine both the security situation in Croatia and its international reputation.

Corruption in the public sector is one of the important challenges for Croatia. It has a negative impact on the functioning of the free market, economic growth, independence, efficiency and effectiveness of public and state functions, while diminishing trust in public institutions. Corruption reduces investment potential in Croatia and also reflects on the international reputation and activities of Croatian companies on the international market. The most common forms of corruption are related to public procurement procedures and the issuance of various permits and approvals at the state and local levels.

Organised crime is a threat to national security because it endangers the institutional system, economic and financial stability, and public security. The threat of transnational organised crime is facilitated by Croatia's transport, economic and geographical position.

Vulnerability to cyber threats is heightened by the computerisation of the Croatian society, the digitalisation of public services, such as e-health and e-government, in addition to the expanding interconnected communications infrastructure.

The interdependence of world economy makes national economies vulnerable to external influences. Due to a significant portion of Croatia's GDP being contributed by the tourism and traffic sectors, it is particularly sensitive to global economic and security trends. The Croatian economy is facing challenges in terms of increasing competitiveness, increasing public sector efficiency, larger investments in research and development, decreasing debt, and managing predominantly state-owned companies and state property. Agriculture is a domain in which Croatia has numerous unutilised capacities such as uncultivated land, high import level, a small portion of irrigated land, and large areas unprotected from floods. Social conditions are characterised by increased poverty, social inequality, financial indebtedness of citizens, and structural unemployment.

Croatia has a negative demographic structure and trends whose continuation will impact the social and economic development of the country. The low birth rate, depopulation, negative migration balance, and the distortion of the population's age structure will significantly increase the challenges facing Croatian society. Such challenges include the lack of labour, disproportionately populated territory, and social and economic pressure on state and public functions.

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By strengthening the Croatian economy, there will be an increased need for energy sources and their import, which will in turn increase the sensitivity of Croatia to disruptions in the supply of energy products. At the same time, there are opportunities to further diversify energy sources, build alternative and renewable sources, and increase energy efficiency.

Climate change in Croatia has manifested as extreme heat, drought and precipitation. The Adriatic Sea is sensitive to climate change, with changes to the Adriatic flora and fauna having already been observed. In the long term, climate change will cause a rise in sea levels, the occurrence of prolonged droughts, and decrease of drinking water sources. Such conditions will directly affect the health of citizens, and cause the appearance of diseases atypical for the Croatian climate. Economic sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, fishery and energetics will feel the direct effects of climate change.

Environmental disruption has an impact on the loss of biodiversity, appearance of diseases, endangers the survival and the riches of habitats and forests, while also causing the appearance of diseases, pollution of waters, sea and air, and loss of arable soil.

Mines and unexploded ordnance remnants from the Homeland War remain a security concern for Croatia. Apart from endangering the lives of citizens, the existence of mine-polluted and mine suspected areas hinder social and economic development.

Natural and man-made accidents and disasters can affect not only the population, but also natural and material resources, and the critical infrastructure of Croatia and its neighbouring countries. Regarding natural disasters, Croatia is especially prone to earthquakes, floods and open space fires. Accidents in hazardous industrial plants, either in Croatia or the neighbouring countries, can have severe ecological and security consequences. It is therefore extremely important to maintain an adequate level of security and ecological standards in the industrial plants that utilise or release hazardous or harmful substances.





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STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic goals represent a blueprint for the realisation of the national security policy in each area of national interest, in accordance with the conditions of the strategic environment and viewed through the lens of the level of ambition in the medium-term. In order to achieve its strategic goals, Croatia will utilise all available instruments and mechanisms of national power.

Strategic goals are:

- Achieve the highest level of security and protection of the population and critical infrastructure
- Establish and develop a Homeland Security system
- Develop and maintain a strong and active defence
- Eco Croatia and develop a strong and sustainable economy
- Demographic renewal and revitalisation of the Croatian society
- Develop citizen-friendly public administration and strategic communication
- Protect, strengthen and promote the highest constitutional values and the Croatian national identity
- Increase the international reputation and influence of Croatia
- Ensure the existence, protect the identity and political subjectivity of the Croatian people, as one of the constitutive peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and protect and support Croats in other states and the diaspora

The National Security Strategy considers achieving the strategic goals connected to the national interest from which each goal arises.





A SAFETY OF POPULATION, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SECURITY AND PROTECTING THE POPULATION AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The achievement of national interests starts with ensuring the liberty, rights and safety of the citizens. The public security and safety of citizens are the basis for the development of individuals, social groups and the society as a whole. The primary function of public security is to establish an adequate standard of living and to create favourable conditions for work and production, along with the sustainable development of the entire society. Besides the protection and rescue of people's lives and property, the protection of critical infrastructure is also essential to ensure a safe society.

In the area of public security, Croatia will establish a balance between societal and state security needs, and the basic values guaranteed by the Constitution.

The security of society and individuals is a prerequisite for successful economic development, especially with respect to tourism which is an important branch of industry. The international tourism market recognises Croatia as a safe state. Given present conditions, this is one of the most important criteria for choosing a travel destination.

The key prerequisites to achieving public safety are preventative actions, constant information exchange, coordination and cooperation of public safety bodies and organisations, economic entities and every citizen. Public participation will be encouraged for the purpose of achieving security and developing a security culture, by way of raising the awareness of the value of individual self-care, care for family and loved ones, the society and working environment, meeting the need for physical, intellectual and emotional security, and creating safe surroundings in the material and spiritual environment.

The police, as one of the main factors of public security, are focused on the protection of citizen's safety and property besides the protection of fundamental rights and liberties. Activities linked to ensuring public order and peace, crime investigation and prevention, upholding road traffic safety, and state border control, will be intensified.

The security and intelligence system will develop capabilities necessary for the proactive functioning and early detection of threats, risks, challenges and trends, based on the collection and analysis of information important for national security, so as to ensure that decision-makers can make timely decisions which are essential for accomplishing the set strategic goals. Special attention will be given to the complexity of risk quantification

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and interdependence, improving reporting, upgrading intelligence analysis through early warning, anticipation, knowledge acquisition, the application and effects of digital innovations, as well as enhancement proposals for the security and intelligence system.

Croatia will continue to advance normative and implementing conditions for permanent parliamentary, expert and civil control of the legality of the security and intelligence system, including civil control over the use of certain police powers.

Continuous education and training of personnel in the public security system, security and intelligence system bodies and private protection sector will be provided. Furthermore contemporary organisational models and technological achievements will be introduced in all public authority bodies. A systematic knowledge management approach will be developed in all organisations.

Acquiring new knowledge and technologies, in addition to a better understanding of domestic and international human and national minority rights protection systems, will enable more effective action against increasingly complex threats and challenges, especially in the cyber domain.

Security threats and challenges, such as corruption, organised crime, economic crime, and cybercrime, illegal migrations and terrorism are gaining a more international character. Therefore, the response to such threats and challenges requires effective and constant international cooperation.





Countering terrorism will be implemented through an integrated approach and interdepartmental cooperation using measures of prevention, suppression, protection, prosecution, and by means of strengthening international cooperation.

Croatia will continue to develop its Integrated Border Management capacities, being the EU external border, thus fulfilling the requirements for joining the Schengen Area. Moreover, Croatia will actively participate and initiate legislative and operational measures at EU level in order to strengthen the overall capabilities and readiness to respond to the challenges of migration and external border control. Also, Croatia will combat illegal migrations, particularly illegal border crossings and cross-border crime. Intensive measures will be undertaken for the return of third-country nationals who are residing illegally in Croatia. As a result, the overall security of Croatia and the European Union will be increased. The process of integrating foreigners who have been granted international protection and resident status in Croatia will be enhanced.

Capabilities to identify, detect, investigate and suppress all forms of organised crime will be strengthened. Croatia will monitor trends, intensify measures and improve mechanisms to counter the effects of organised crime groups, through intensive international cooperation.

By means of a comprehensive approach, Croatia will prevent and suppress radicalism and extremism by promoting education for democracy, nonviolence, human rights, minority rights and culture of peace. A zero tolerance to violence will be fostered, particularly in terms of hate crimes, violent behaviour among the school-age population and youth, supplementary to abuse of sporting and other events that are used to manifest radicalism, extremism and hooliganism.

A comprehensive overview will be drafted concerning the current state of capabilities, threats and risks in respect to the area of civil protection system and its corresponding protection and rescue segments. Correspondingly, a coherent capacity building model will be proposed, covering the possibilities to respond to everyday needs for regular action, emergency situations, disasters and crisis situations on land and at sea. On the basis of the review, the development of Civil Protection, Croatian Firefighting Association, Croatian Red Cross, Croatian Mountain Rescue Service and other actors will be pursued at the state, regional and local levels. In line with this, a coordinated response to disasters and major accidents will be developed while ensuring the independence of regular actions.

A satisfactory level of and a more efficient access to strategic reserves will be ensured, so as to be able to mitigate the consequences of a state of emergency and accelerate the recovery of an affected area.

The key modality to increasing the resilience and sustainability of societal and national security is the inclusion of the population into the civil protection system, particularly

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through education and voluntary activities. Different incentives and public recognitions will be developed to certify the skills and knowledge acquired through such work. Citizens will be encouraged to foster mutual assistance and a culture of solidarity, as a part of emergency response following accidents and disasters.

The capabilities of the health system and the civil protection system will be improved so as to provide timely responses when the lives and health of citizens are endangered as a result of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats and risks.

Sufficient financial funds will be invested by Croatia with the objective of completely eliminating mine danger throughout its territory. Education programmes for the population living and working in mine-suspected areas and care for people suffering mine consequences will continue. The Croatian Mine Action Centre will be positioned and promoted in the international community.

International cooperation will be intensified, particularly with neighbouring countries that share common risks with Croatia. Further to this, Croatia will build disaster risk mitigation capabilities by developing an early-warning system, standards and operational forces ready to operate under the auspices of the European Union.

Critical infrastructure protection will focus on the prevention, elimination or mitigation of risks that can be the cause of critical infrastructure vulnerability, in addition to the strengthening of its resilience. The management and control system over particular critical infrastructures has to be continuously upgraded and improved, taking into account the best practices of other states in this area.

Data exchange models between state bodies and privately or publicly owned critical infrastructure agencies and operators will be developed for the timely detection of possible security threats and risks.

By developing documents defining the policy and methodologies for critical infrastructure and limited national asset management, Croatia will clearly identify which critical infrastructure elements must remain majority-owned by the state, thereby preventing to jeopardise vital functions important both for the state and the population, in cases of business instabilities.

Strengthening the resilience of national critical infrastructure against contemporary security challenges and risks requires simultaneous maintenance and protection of national critical civil capabilities that will support the overall capabilities through the coordinated and comprehensive involvement of the public and private sectors, primarily the private protection sector. These efforts will be coordinated with allies, international organisations and partners. Civil preparedness, being entirely a national responsibility, is the backbone of national resilience.





ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY SYSTEM

Croatia has a wide range of capabilities, institutions, governmental bodies, local and regional self-government as well as public and private sectors. Their jurisdiction and mission is to take care of public security, health, protection and rescue of citizens and property, as well as the protection of critical infrastructure.

Experience to date in emergency response indicates the need to establish a model that will systematically solve identified deficiencies through coordinated planning, response and management in states of emergency and crises. The goal is to achieve a synergistic preventive effect consisting of several factors, including rapid and efficient prevention, eradication of harmful consequences in the event of emergencies or crises, concurrently shortening the recovery time and return to the state of functionality prior to the occurrence of the crisis event.

The emergence of new security risks has changed and expanded the security paradigm, as well as the responsibility for security. Boundaries, defining where international, national or personal security begin and end, have disappeared.

The existing and new security threats, risks and challenges have expanded the scope of responsibility for security from the state to individuals, the society as a whole, and the private and public sectors.

As a response to complex risks, Croatia needs partnership for security from which a Homeland Security system will arise. Such system will rest on the principles of respect for human rights and freedoms, transparency, solidarity, tolerance and dialogue. Croatia will develop a modern, comprehensive, rational and effective Homeland Security system that will correspond to own tradition and needs. The previous approach, which mainly comprised the security-intelligence system, defence and police, is now being replaced by an approach that also includes corporate entities, scientific and expert institutions, private and public sectors, civil society organisations, and citizens.

The Homeland Security system will comprise of coordinated operations, utilisation of the capabilities and potentials of all national security components, including public security, defence, civil protection system, security-intelligence system, diplomacy, economy, and other bodies and institutions in Croatia. The system will be oriented towards recognizing, assessing and reducing the security risks along with planning responses to potential security threats against the values and interests of Croatia.

Organising the Homeland Security system will provide for a rational, efficient and coordinated use of the existing resources for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the risks to national security. It will provide support in emergencies and crises management including participation in crisis management processes at the NATO and EU levels. Through its activities, the Homeland Security system will provide an integral methodology, enable systematic monitoring of the risks to national security, and establish procedure to identify priorities.

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Through development of the Homeland Security system, Croatia will provide coordinated preparation and implementation of regulations determining measures and procedures for security protection vital to national security, particularly the protection of critical infrastructure.

The Homeland Security system will comprise the central governmental bodies responsible for defence, internal and foreign affairs, civil protection, finances, and administration of justice, including the bodies from their scope of activities, and security-intelligence system bodies. Likewise, public and private companies, primarily those from the private protection sector, also citizens and civil society organisations, will be engaged in the Homeland Security system.

Central governmental bodies with critical infrastructures pertaining to their scope of work, including other bodies from their scope of work, all participate in the process of managing security risks. The central body of the Homeland Security system is the National Security Council. This body gives consideration to the risks and issues in the domain of governmental bodies that are related to national security. The Council will introduce guidelines, decisions and conclusions concerning the modes of protection and realisation of national interests and strategic goals.

A Coordination of the Homeland Security system will be formed and tasked to coordinate the operations of said system. It will be responsible for the implementation of the decisions, conclusions and guidelines of the National Security Council. The coordination body will initiate and coordinate the development of the National Security Strategy or otherwise update existing strategic documents.

Furthermore, the National Security Council will also regularly review reports on the status of risks and threats to national security, review other strategic and planning documents, and give recommendations to competent governmental bodies so as to harmonise the development of capabilities and operations.

In cases of emergencies and crises, the Coordination of the Homeland Security system will propose adequate response methods to the Government and the President of the Republic of Croatia. It will also be in charge of operationally coordinating all the state bodies engaged in operational crisis responses.

To serve the needs of the Homeland Security system, specialised education and training programmes will be developed. In that regard, employees of the governmental bodies, administrative bodies, local and regional self-government, and the public and private sectors whose line of business is important in terms of Homeland Security will take part in such programmes. The Homeland Security system will be regulated by a special law.





DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINMENT OF A STRONG AND ACTIVE DEFENCE

Croatia has developed and maintained defence capabilities at appropriate readiness levels for the purpose of timely responses to changing circumstances and challenges extending from the international environment. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: Croatian Armed Forces) are building capabilities, both independently and in cooperation with allies, to conduct combat operations to defend own territory on land, at sea, in the air, and in cyberspace, until the collective defence mechanism is activated. The mission of the Croatian Armed Forces, as the primary body responsible for defence, is defence of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Croatia, in conjunction with the defence of allies, contribution to international security, and support to civilian institutions. Croatia's membership in NATO is a guarantee of collective defence, which is an important factor of deterrence and defence of the population, territory and national sovereignty.

The control and protection of Croatian airspace will be carried out by means of national capabilities integrated with the appropriate allied system. The decision to continue building the capability to control and protect Croatian airspace will be made by the end of 2017.

The control and protection of the sovereign rights and interests of Croatia at sea will be implemented through the coordinated action of all maritime defence actors responsible for control, protection and preservation of the sea. National capabilities will be upgraded by the Maritime Situational Awareness data exchange on the situation at sea, namely the Adriatic Sea, in cooperation with NATO and EU bodies.

For the purpose of implementing the measures contained in the NATO Readiness Action Plan or rather in the case of a deteriorated security situation, and in order to participate in collective defence operations, appropriate military and civilian capabilities will be developed. The objective of developing needed capabilities is to deter and defend, while simultaneously contributing to the credibility of solidarity and cohesion in the Alliance.

The shortage of critical specialties, which it is not profitable to develop within the permanent composition of the Armed Forces, will instead be filled by reservists. The reserve composition will increase the peacetime capacity of the Croatian Armed Forces for national defence purposes, thereby increasing operational effectiveness in operations abroad. To ensure force growth, through long-term development and reserve manning, an appropriate model for military training will also be selected.

Besides the existing military volunteer reserve training programme, supplementary training programmes and activities will be introduced. These will develop a security culture throughout the wider population, especially among young people, and will raise

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the awareness that security and participation in defence is not only the right but also the obligation of each citizen and the entire community.

As a reliable and responsible ally, Croatia will provide a balance between national needs and alliance obligations, in conformity with the feasible possibilities in relation to the economy and national requirements and priorities. Planning the development of defence capabilities will be harmonised with appropriate NATO processes and in cooperation with Allies.

Financial funds allocated for defence purposes are to be increased gradually towards the targeted 2% GDP, with due consideration to the economic and fiscal possibilities of Croatia. The importance of defence will likewise be taken into account, together with the manner in which defence either directly or indirectly contributes to the Croatian economy. Gradual increases will allow for the sustainment of the existing as well as development of new defence capabilities.

Croatia will contribute to the efforts of international organisations, which are oriented towards the strengthening of international security and stability, by participating in international missions, operations and crisis response operations. Civilian experts from the private sector, academic community and civil society will also take part in stabilisation and reconstruction activities in disaster-stricken areas in foreign countries.

Croatia will actively contribute to missions and operations under the auspices of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of the European Union, and will also take





part in the Sharing & Pooling Initiative and European Defence Agency (EDA) projects. This participation and NATO's defence capability development efforts will complement each other. Membership in the European Union will be taken advantage of to make better use of the structural and investment funds to build capabilities for dual civil-military use.

Particular emphasis will be placed on establishing an effective mechanism for the safe, unobstructed and reliable exchange of information, while also providing incentive for the possibilities of the economic and academic sectors in order to utilise all national potentials with the aim of developing necessary defence capabilities. This will provide access to the latest achievements in a wide range of research areas, modern technologies, and to scientific-research methods and techniques, benefiting the defence industry and the society as a whole by increasing the level of their scientific and technological capacities. An integral part of these efforts is in overcoming dependence on military equipment of Eastern origin, which will be achieved by increasing national engagement and international cooperation.

Operational engagement at home, and particularly abroad, requires the safe, complete, unhindered and efficient use of the information and communication systems, which in turn demands a robust, efficient and resilient cyber infrastructure. It is necessary to enable and also improve the existing exchange and sharing of information, experience and assessment of threats and risks among national stakeholders, other states and international organisations.

National capabilities will be developed to counter and defend against hybrid operations carried out either by states, organisations or individuals across a wide spectrum (diplomatic-political, information, military, economic, financial, intelligence and legal). Cooperation will be enhanced through existing frameworks intended for building resilience against hybrid threats in NATO and the European Union.

A comprehensive national response should, through the Homeland Security system, provide for the timely recognition of hybrid activities, detect their origins, and provide support for the quick assessment of a given situation and effective decision making process. Resilience against hybrid threats will be built along with a capability and response readiness for the society and state employing all available national instruments of defence.

The Croatian Armed Forces will provide support to civilian institutions in the protection and rescue of people in need and material assets in the event of accidents, fires and floods when the available capabilities of the task-oriented organisations will not suffice.

The established continuous democratic and civil control of the Croatian Armed Forces will be upgraded according to national requirements and the best democratic standards, on a constant basis.

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B WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY OF CITIZENS

ECO CROATIA AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Croatia abounds in areas of preserved natural environment that are an invaluable potential for development and prosperity. Croatian forests and rivers, sources of drinking water, fertile soil, swamps and lakes, the sea with numerous islands are all teeming with a variety of life, including numerous endemic species. In many areas, centuries old ways of life have been preserved, allowing for a harmonious relation between nature and the environment, coupled with the sustainable use of natural riches and resources. Such ways of life have resulted in a wide cultural variety, rich architectural heritage and numerous folk customs that have managed to be preserved as ethnical, cultural and regional heritage even given the conditions of modern day living. Nowadays, all those conditions and assets are a real source of abundance in this modern, uniform world with trends of commercialisation and inclination to subdue such diversity.

Croatia will incorporate its ecological heritage into a sustainable circular economy, including it in the production of healthy food and exploitation of drinking water sources. Tourism will continue to foster the ecological and cultural heritage, thus additionally utilising the possibilities of ecological potentials while simultaneously encouraging the revival of Croatian villages and small towns.

Joint actions of the governmental bodies, local and regional self-government bodies, and business entities will create a balance between demands for improving the quality of life, economic and social well-being, and demands for preserving the environment as a natural resource. Measures and procedures will be developed to strengthen Croatia's resilience to climate change.

Legislation will be improved and measures implemented to enable the integration of sustainable development principle both in the creation and implementation of public policies and projects, or similarly to make it possible to make strategic, developmental and investment decisions that can have an impact on the environment. All this will be done by considering the climate change with the aim of strengthening resistance to same.





Through policies and stimulating measures for industrial and food production, Croatia will create conditions for the dislocation of particular industrial activities from major industrial centres towards lesser developed areas with scarcer populations. This will have a positive effect on demographic revitalisation and a more balanced economic development, while stimulating the sustainment and improvement of agriculture.

Sustainable development of the countryside and rural areas will be ensured by stimulating investments in development projects. Agricultural competitiveness will be strengthened through the stimulation of manufacture, capital investments, and investments in modern technologies and know-how throughout the agricultural sector.

Regional development will contribute to Croatia's economic and general social development. Regional development will be founded on continuous learning and transfer of knowledge, participation in decision making, resilience and sustainability, activation of local developmental potentials, culture of systematic public management and social sensitivity.

Special measures for regional balanced development will be taken and developed, particularly in areas with a weakened demography and economy.

A strong, competitive and flexible economy is a prerequisite for the protection of Croatian national interests and the realisation of the strategic goals. A stable financial system and economic growth, in addition to intensive international trade contribute to bolster internal stability, improve cooperation with neighbouring states and others across the globe, at the same time contributing to advancing the international position of Croatia.

Economic growth simultaneously increases financial capabilities for achieving strategic goals, and prevents the emergence of adverse circumstances and trends in society. On the other hand, national security creates the preconditions for a sustainable and growing economy and, in general, for the stable functioning of the national economy.

Better resource management and exploitation of opportunities for growth and development in Croatian society are important at all levels – both in the private and state sectors. Through a continuous and systematic analysis it is necessary to identify the creators of added value in all domains of the national economy, but also recognise and eliminate actors that have a negative impact on the Croatian economy.

The development and protection of the entire electronic communications infrastructure, including the safeguarding of the national radio-frequency spectrum, as limited national assets, are crucial not only for the national economy but also for the functioning of emergency services in the protection of the safety of citizens, particularly in crisis situations.

Through selective fiscal policy measures it is necessary to provide incentive to those branches of business and trading companies with a proven impact on the creation of added value, or which have successful business models and business policy.

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The state will be an example of an efficient system that facilitates and supports the functioning and development of the economy. Activating unutilised potentials will contribute to increasing employment and stopping negative demographic and migration trends. Competent state authorities will develop programmes for a more competitive economy, stimulating the investment climate and easing the conditions of doing business for entrepreneurs and investors. The state will cultivate a partnership and advisory attitude towards entrepreneurs.

Knowledge and technology are the driving forces and cornerstones of the global economy. The Croatian educational system will be synchronised with the requirements and expectations of the economy and produce a workforce that is prepared for economic competition.

Economic competitiveness depends on permanent technological improvements. Acceptance of new knowledge, adoption and development of new technologies and innovations will be boosted by investments in excellence in education and science. Investments in research and development will be increased, innovations will be stimulated, the use of new and digital technologies in business will be facilitated, and the development of business networks and connections accelerated. The strengthening of innovation infrastructure will provide for sustainable development, employment growth, and social inclusion.

In order to achieve balanced territorial development across Croatia, it is necessary to acknowledge the prerequisites and circumstances that favour, in certain counties, the development of particular economic branches. It is thereby also necessary to define and





implement selective economic and fiscal policies regionally. Infrastructural, transport and electronic communications links, along with the availability of different energy sources, must all be provided in order to stimulate economic development in all parts of Croatia. Economic policies will define economic branches and capacities of particular importance for national security and the production of vital goods. Such production will be encouraged in less developed areas and those areas threatened by an accelerated depopulation due to a lack of jobs or stagnation of agriculture.

Dependence on energy imports has been a permanent threat to the efficient and continuous functioning of the economy. Possible delays in the delivery of energy sources or large-scale price oscillations that might occur, as a consequence of particular political events or circumstances that suppliers of energy sources then contend with, have to be substituted by alternative short-term procurements. Croatia will create new means and channels of energy supply from alternative suppliers, increase energy sources, ensure new storage capacities, and further develop the energy infrastructure; both independently and in cooperation with the private sector and international partners. It is necessary to intensify the research of national power-supply sources and to entrust their rational exploitation to the majority government-owned companies. It is also necessary to change the regulatory, tax and institutional framework in order to increase investments in renewable energy sources. A normative and institutional system will be established to analyse the safety and quality of energy supply for all energy sources. Correlating action plans and measures in case of incidents will also be developed.

The building of infrastructure will continue in order to upgrade transport and communications networks, along with energy and drinking water supply throughout Croatia. The incentive for revival of uninhabited areas in Croatia will be secured through systematic support to ecological and sustainable production and utilisation of the preserved environment, land and waters.

The sea, submarine area and seabed are all of particular importance for the economic development of Croatia. Therefore, attention should be focused on the sustainable management and protection of the riches in maritime areas over which Croatia exercises sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction. Given the geomorphological features of the Adriatic as a semi-enclosed sea basin, Croatia will, both independently and in cooperation with other countries, protect the Adriatic Sea. To this end, mechanisms will be developed for prediction and alertness regarding exploitation and protecting it against adverse ecological and safety consequences. For the purpose of using available economic potentials of the Mediterranean, traffic connections will be advanced and critical infrastructure expanded. Policies and strategies for economic development and scientific-research activities that

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are financed and stimulated by the state will be directed towards the better exploitation of the Croatian geopolitical position as an Adriatic and Mediterranean country. New knowledge and technologies in the production of maritime orientated equipment and goods, including the production of energy and food are a comparative advantage of the Croatian Mediterranean position, providing numerous development possibilities that have not been sufficiently exploited thus far. Projects within the Three Seas Initiative, endorsed according to the interests of allies, will multiply the effects on Croatian economy.

The strengthening of economic cooperation between Croatia and states in the immediate neighbourhood is conducive to the strengthening of their mutual stability. Hence, further conditions will be created for the development of commercial and other forms of cooperation. Likewise, through the development of mutual economic cooperation, the economic progress of the Croatian people living abroad will be particularly stimulated.

Through investments in defence technologies and dual-use products, and by taking advantage of the base of manufacturers in this specific industrial segment, Croatia will invest in technologies and production capacities that are important for sustaining and stimulating competitiveness.

The opportunities available in the economic segments of NATO and the EU will be used in order to involve appropriate national economic subjects in international public procurement procedures.





DEMOGRAPHIC RENEWAL AND REVITALISATION OF THE CROATIAN SOCIETY

The security, existence and prosperity of Croatia depend considerably on preserving and increasing the population size, ensuring an even population density and the development of human potentials in the future.

Negative demographic trends, unbalanced regional development, the decrease in density and ageing of the population have become an indirect limitative factor of sustainable economic, regional and overall development of Croatia.

These trends also have a negative impact on the capability to effectively respond to challenges and threats that jeopardise the existence and security of Croatia.

The population policy will be implemented respectful of the demographic, socio-economic, traditional and other specific features of the Croatian population. Given the negative demographic trends, a pronatalist policy, policy of stimulating even population density, and an immigration policy harmonised with labour market requirements will be implemented. Due to its complexity and the interdependence of multiple factors that affect demographic trends, an efficient population policy requires a comprehensive long-term approach supplemented by the control, coordination and monitoring of the results concerning the implementation of policies in various spheres and that may affect demographic trends.

The pronatalist policy will be implemented through management of measures contained in the social, health, economics, housing, education, legal, financial, tax and other policies, with the aim of creating conditions for demographic renewal. These will be based on the principles of freedom of choice, free and responsible parenting and gender equality.

The living standard of young families will increase with the establishment of a long-term stable system of social and material rights oriented towards the protection and rights of children, reinforcing families and family values, and with notable emphasis on the harmonisation of work and family life. Ensuring an adequate standard of living for families with children is one of the preconditions for demographic growth.

Cognizant that it is necessary to secure the support of the entire society, to ensure the effectiveness of the pronatalist policy, along with a range of population and other measures, an appropriate communication strategy is required as well.

A system of measures, which is directed towards establishing objective expert criteria for employment and career advancement, particularly in government and

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public services, including the administrative bodies of local and regional self-government, and which provides lifelong development of human potentials, career advancement in line with capabilities and rewarding excellence, will together be in support of creating the prospects of social equality, possibilities for youth development, while also putting a stop to emigration.

In the process of enacting economic development plans and guidelines, particular attention will be given to measures that will stop not only the depopulation of parts of the territory but also disproportional regional development.

In addition to the comprehensive pronatalist policy, a series of measures will be undertaken in the field of health and social care to overcome the negative effects of an ageing population.

Croatian emigrants will be included in the social life of Croatia in order to encourage their return. Also, the existing diaspora's potential will be integrated into the economic and social development of Croatia to a greater extent, and with more ease.





DEVELOPMENT OF CITIZEN-FRIENDLY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Providing the citizens of Croatia with security and ensuring their well-being directly depends on efficient public administration and public services. Citizens and the public evaluate the quality of the realisation of their rights and having their needs met according to the quality of state and public administration activities. They then indirectly develop a sense of security and overall quality of life. An efficient judicial system, all levels of the administration system, health care availability, social care services, science, and education each have an important role toward the realisation of this goal.

The reaction of competent state bodies to violations of law and in terms of penalizing illegal acts have a strong general preventive effect, thus contributing to the protection of fundamental constitutional values, and human and citizens' rights.

The Judicial system will adapt to new emerging manifestations of law imperilment and in doing so will provide favourable conditions for the overall social development of Croatia. Croatia will take part in international community efforts aimed at establishing a legal framework for processing new forms of crimes. Close attention will be given to cooperation regarding the implementation of adopted international conventions, agreements and other international acts.

Strengthening institutional capability and cooperation among authorised regulatory agencies, public administration bodies, and legal entities vested with public authority, will provide not only for the financial stability of the state, unhindered functioning of the financial transactions and cash distribution systems, but at the same time provide for effectively combatting money laundering and forgery.

The administrative system will undertake ongoing efforts to modernise administrative services and functions that will create a suitable environment for development of the economy, science, overall social life, and particularly for the individual development of citizens. In order to attain these goals, state and public administration will continue to introduce modern technologies in their work. This will simplify all administrative procedures and make them more available to citizens and legal entities.

Croatia will make additional efforts and provide a normative framework and resources for the extensive digitalisation of state and public administration, and public services. Efforts will also be directed towards ensuring the general availability of top quality internet to all citizens and economic actors. This will provide for a decisive breakthrough in the implementation of the European Union's plans on widespread availability of next

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generation Internet to all citizens and business. By implementing digitalization, the quality of public services will be upgraded, thus directly influencing the quality of life of citizens and efficiency of the state at all levels.

With the digitalisation of all public and state services the Croatian economy will be provided with a powerful incentive for accelerated development, simultaneously facilitating and accelerating the development and application of new technologies, upscaling international inclusion and interconnectivity of the economy, public services, scientific community, institutions and individuals active in the sphere of culture, civil society organisations and each individual.

Croatia will develop measures to strengthen robustness of the information and communications systems in cyberspace, as well as to reduce negative consequences of their endangerment or incapacitation. The emphasis will be on key systems for the normal functioning of state institutions, storage, transmission and exchange of classified and personal data of the citizens.

Regulations will be designed governing the modes of forming and safeguarding databases that are of importance for national security and citizens' security. They will also regulate the infrastructure for data storage, and contain measures for oversight and control of the legality of accessing such databases.

An integral health care system, available to the citizens of Croatia, will continue to develop preventive measures and build capabilities in the field of public health protection, with the aim of preventing infectious diseases and massive spread of non-communicable

diseases. Dependence on industrial production and the mass distribution of food products increases the risk of poisoning due to error or abuse. The protection of citizens against such threats to health, along with quality control of food and drinking water, is among the priorities in the field of security and health.

Economic sustainability and stability will be achieved concurrently with the just distribution of social opportunities and environmental protection. With active measures of protection of the most vulnerable



The image shows a login form for mTOKEN. At the top, there is a logo consisting of a red square with a white document icon and the text 'mTOKEN' in red. Below the logo, there are two input fields. The first is labeled 'Serijski broj tokena:' and the second is labeled 'Jednokratna lozinka:'. At the bottom of the form, there is a red button with the text 'Prijava' in white.



parts of the population, Croatia will reduce social inequalities and attain social peace.

The introduction of fundamental changes into the educational system will improve approaches to reveal and develop youth potential. Moreover, it will improve the development of knowledge and skills with particular emphasis on information, digital and technological literacy, while establishing harmonisation with the requirements of the labour market. By activating youth potential, the educational system will ensure that individuals leave the system with the ability to develop the society and adjust to changes. The concept of life-long education will be promoted as a necessity and a model of the educational system.

Within educational reforms, particular attention will be given to natural, technical and interdisciplinary areas, which have so far been neglected.

In conformity with labour market requirements and the economic development of the country, an appropriate immigration policy will be planned. Accordingly, the integration potential of the society will be increased.

By strengthening the integrity, responsibility and transparency of public authorities, Croatia will combat corruption in public affairs and increase the confidence of citizens in state institutions. Anticorruption mechanisms will be strengthened, cooperation and capabilities of public authorities will be fostered, and the role of citizens, civil society and media in detecting and tackling corruption will be supported.

Croatia will develop and apply a model of strategic communication that will render the national interests and strategic goals defined by this Strategy accessible and comprehensible. Achieving strategic goals and attaining the desired level of protection of national interests is possible only under the condition that the entire public and the citizens understand these interests and goals and comprehend the means of their realisation. Communication with the general public and the opportunity to receive and understand the public's opinion on the Strategy's implementation processes is crucial for its successful management. Through a communication strategy and procedures, the public and citizens will be availed of the possibility to participate in the creation of security at all levels, thus realising and deepening the partnership for security.

Media are among the central actors of the public, and their free and responsible action has an important role in two-way communication and in the support of fundamental values that a democratic system rests on. The responsibility lies with all participating actors and the sharing of messages in media space to create a favourable atmosphere in society – characterised by tolerance, dialogue and appreciation, with the absence of extremism, hate speech, exclusiveness and violence. By fostering media freedoms, Croatia will provide the conditions for the free development of public, commercial and non-commercial media.

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C NATIONAL IDENTITY, INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AND INFLUENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

PROTECTING, STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING THE HIGHEST CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND CROATIAN NATIONAL IDENTITY

Croatian national and cultural identity is the foundation of the Croatian state and society. Particular care will be given to the preservation of the Croatian language as the most important element of Croatian national identity. The cultural and national identity of national minorities is an integral part of the overall identity of Croatia.

Croatian national identity is founded on constitutional values that promote freedoms, rights, equality and a favourable social climate including: tolerance, legal equality, equal opportunity for self-realisation, protection of human dignity, general and minority rights, appreciation of similarities and differences, protection of vulnerable groups, and excluding all forms of discrimination.

Croatia, as a European, and in particular a Mediterranean and Central European state, shares common Judeo-Christian identity origins with other European states, together with other common civilizational values to which it contributes with its historical heritage.



Education has one of the most important roles in preserving Croatian national identity. Work will continue on the development of curricula that will adequately address Croatian historical, cultural, linguistic, architectural, natural, and other legacy and heritage. Croatian national and cultural identity will be perceived in the context of the European community of peoples, languages, history, traditions and identities, enabling citizens to communicate on equal terms in such a community.



Appropriate efforts will be devoted to protecting the identities of minority groups living in Croatia.

As a party to international instruments regulating the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms, guidelines of which are integrated into the national legislation, Croatia will strongly stimulate and support organisations that can significantly contribute to improving the realisation of human rights and freedoms, and the protection and development of the national identity. Free media are an important prerequisite for the protection and promotion of Croatian national identity.

Croatia will maintain a high level of respect for and implementation of national rights and national minority rights.

Promoting the scientifically established truth about the Homeland War, material and non-material cultural heritage, natural heritage, the Croatian language and its customs, all contribute to Croatia's international recognisability and reputation worldwide.

The Homeland War provided for the protection of universal values, unifying all components of Croatian society and overcoming ideological divisions, thus constituting a community of free and equal persons.

Croatia will systematically oppose defamatory attempts against the Croatian people and the State through science-based truth about the Homeland War and other events from Croatian history, including the history of relations with other nations and states.

The preservation of the Homeland War values, protection of Croatian war veterans, disabled persons, the families of the fallen and missing participants of the Homeland War and their status in the society, are key requirements for both preserving the dignity of the Homeland War, and in the evaluation of its importance for the creation of the Croatian state and building of the Croatian society.

Croatia will exert additional efforts to locate and identify Homeland War missing persons. Judicial and law enforcement bodies will continue to prosecute perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Croatia will work with particular attention on the protection of the Croatian language and affirmation of national symbols that will unify citizens. In addition, Croatia will pay special attention to preserving the memory of important events from Croatia's past and the Homeland War, and paying tribute to all victims who laid down their lives and health for Croatian freedom and statehood. National holidays and important anniversaries from Croatian history, in particular important events from the Homeland War, will be marked with particular reverence and pride, expressing dignity and respect to those having merit for Croatian freedom.

In the consciousness of our citizens, the Remembrance Day of the victims of Vukovar and Škabrnja is gradually becoming the day to pay tribute and cherish the memory of all victims fallen for Croatia.

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Croatia will regulate the marking of the Remembrance Day for all victims fallen for Croatia, with appropriate symbols and manner of commemoration by a separate law.

The Croatian Armed Forces and the Croatian police are an integral part of the national identity and Croatian history. As such, they will preserve the traditions of the Homeland War and Croatian war veterans. In the fulfilment of their tasks, they will promote and foster excellence and fellowship with the citizens.

Efforts will be made to inform citizens about fundamental values, foster public debates on social issues, and encourage cooperation between public institutions, the media and civil society, as well as pluralism. Proactive public activities will prevent the spreading of hatred, radical and extremist ideas and will promote the protection of human rights and freedoms.





BUILDING THE INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AND INFLUENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Croatia promotes peace, freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, international cooperation, and the implementation and respect of international law in international relations. In accordance with its possibilities, Croatia contributes to the activities of multilateral organisations and integrations of which it is a member, notably the United Nations, NATO, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe.

Croatia is committed to the concept of a secure, prosperous, social and strong European Union as a community of equal states that share common civilization values, respect of human rights and freedoms, parliamentary democracy and the rule of law.

For Croatia, NATO is a guarantee of peace, stability and security.

Besides the membership in the European Union, Trans-Atlantic cooperation and alliance with the United States of America will continue to be one of the main pillars of Croatian foreign and security policy. Croatia, as a relatively small state according to the number of citizens and its GDP, will build its international reputation and influence within the European Union with a range of measures and public policies, while working together with other partners to meet common goals.

In the international environment, primarily in its immediate neighbourhood, in Europe and in the world, Croatia will develop the reputation of a safe state to live and do business in. This will be achieved by means of Croatia's diplomacy, economy, historical and cultural heritage, and the scientific and academic community. Members of other states will develop a positive view of Croatia and its citizens, and with whom they share similar values, and will view it as a country that is desirable to visit for tourism purposes and for doing business, also for education or permanent residence.

The development of the reputation and influence of Croatia will be supported by neighbourly cooperation and partnerships with other states. This is to be done through joint projects that reinforce the security protection against threats and its international position.

Invariably, Croatia is committed to the implementation of arms control mechanisms and measures, along with the measures for building confidence and security at the global, European and regional levels.

Croatia will continue to actively provide humanitarian and development assistance to other states, especially in the crisis situations, either bilaterally or in the framework of multilateral cooperation.

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In line with its financial possibilities, Croatia will grant scholarships to students from other states. Upon completion of their education in Croatia, those students will be a bridge for cooperation and understanding among nations. Some of them may even take permanent residence in Croatia.

Croatia will take advantage of the successes of its scientists, artists, and its excellent sporting potentials and the talent and success of its sportspersons and clubs to spread the reputation of the nation that has achieved remarkable results worldwide.

By participating in international missions and operations abroad, Croatia will promote its reputation and influence as a state that strongly contributes to international peace and order.

Programmes of the Croatian Radiotelevision for foreign countries will be utilised more intensively to promote Croatian culture, historical and architectural heritage, way of life, preserved natural environment and numerous business opportunities.

Potentials offered by Croatian health care and spa-therapy capacities will enjoy the support and care of governmental bodies, as an important instrument not only for spreading their reputation to other states, but also as an important potential of the economy for finding new markets.

The security and stability of its immediate environment and neighbourhood is of decisive importance for Croatian national security. Croatia will use its membership in NATO and the European Union to reinforce its international position and to increase its influence on regional and global security circumstances, especially in relation to its southeast neighbourhood.

Croatia will continue to promote alliances and partnerships, including the Three Seas Initiative, connecting the North and Southeast, and strengthening its Central European, Danube-Basin and Adriatic dimension and cooperation with states. This is a potential driving force for strengthening and preserving the European project.

Through its diplomacy, Croatia will advance the said partnerships and alliances, attract foreign investments and help Croatian exporters to place their goods and services on foreign markets.

Croatia will evaluate its own geopolitical and geographical position as a state that is strengthening its own energy security and stability of supply, and contributing to the energy diversification and security of its immediate neighbourhood and the broader European area. Diversification of oil and gas sources will be ensured, whereby Croatia will become an energy link among Southeast, Central and Northern Europe, and further towards Asia.





Croatia will enhance its geostrategic and transport position through full integration into European transport routes, connecting to Adriatic-Ionian route and participating in other initiatives of international transport connection.

In seeking to resolve existing border disputes, Croatia will employ direct negotiations. Should such negotiations fail, it would be acceptable for Croatia that such case be relinquished to the jurisdiction of an international legislative body applying the rules of international law.

In the development of bilateral relations with particular states, Croatia will take into account any defamatory treatment directed towards it. Croatia will be guided by such treatment when considering the further development of mutual relations.

Particular attention will be given to the preservation of minority groups and cooperation in resolving common issues. For Croatia, the area of Southeast Europe is of strategic importance and interest. It is a priority in terms of security. Despite the reform and democratisation progress achieved by individual states, the continuation of the trends of instability, insecurity, tension and external destabilising impacts in this area is reflected on the overall regional stability and security of the broader European area. Croatia places emphasis on investing in the stability of the southeast neighbourhood. Euro-Atlantic integration and the implementation of reforms are perceived as key factors and instruments for achieving stability and security; strengthening and building the resistance of neighbouring states to internal and external challenges; and for their economic modernisation and progress. Croatia will therefore systematically act to support democratic and stabilisation processes and the accession of Southeast European states into Euro-Atlantic integrations, as well as in terms of the renewal of trust and engagement in dialogue.

Croatia remains committed to the Euro-Atlantic perspective and Euro-Atlantic future of Southeast European countries and strongly supports the enlargement process of the European Union and NATO. Croatia is determined to provide further support and encouragement in their aspirations to Euro-Atlantic integration and associated processes, and reform processes in general. Croatia remains ready to share the experience and knowledge from its own accession processes with the aspiring countries. Furthermore, Croatia will provide assistance in the building and strengthening of the capabilities of the aspirants in order for them to be capable of independent responses to security challenges and threats. At the same time, Croatia will stress the importance and need for all membership conditions to be met and democratic institutions to be developed, all as an investment in societal transformation and successful democratic transition.

Croatia will continue to build regional and global partnerships in line with the developments of the political and security situation and its own interests.

4

STRATEGIC GOALS

D CROATS OUTSIDE THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

ENSURING EXISTENCE, PROTECTING IDENTITY AND POLITICAL SUBJECTIVITY OF THE CROATIAN PEOPLE, AS CONSTITUTIVE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING CROATS IN OTHER STATES AND DIASPORA

For centuries, parts of the Croatian people have resided in states of Central and Southeast Europe as national minorities, whereas Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina are a domicile, constitutive and constitutional nation. Their position has changed throughout the centuries, depending on the political, state and social circumstances in those countries.

After the establishment of peace in 1995 and signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement that set up the constitutional legal framework of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croats were reaffirmed as a constitutive people. In the period after 1995, and particularly after 2000, gradual changes in the electoral legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina took place, leading to the encroachment of constitutionality, sovereignty and equality of Croats.

Croatia is determined to fulfil its constitutional obligation of extending special care to the Croatian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Croatia is further steadfast in fulfilling its commitments arising from international agreements and will thus employ all diplomatic, political, economic, educational, communication and other mechanisms available to it, in order to protect their constitutional status, equality and sovereignty. Ensuring the equality of the Croatian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as established by the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is a catalyst for building a functional and internally stable Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is equally a catalyst for the security and stability of the European area.

Croatia will firmly advocate the rights of the Croatian people as constitutive and equal to all other constitutive peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It will give its support so that decisions concerning the future status of Bosnia and Herzegovina reaffirm the status of Croats as a constitutive and equal people.

Croatia will uphold the need for the accelerated Euro-Atlantic integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Using its own knowledge and experience gathered during the accession processes, Croatia will provide assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the required reforms and meet the criteria for accession into these integrations.

In terms of bilateral relations, Croatia fully respects the statehood, sovereignty and



territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a state of three constitutive peoples.

Croatia will continue to support infrastructural, health, scientific, educational and cultural projects that are important for the survival and improved position of the Croatian people. Using different forms of European regional and cross-border cooperation, Croatia will provide incentive to large-scale investments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in regions and projects that are in support of the existence and protection of the national identity and political subjectivity of the Croatian people.

Croatia deems of key importance the entitlement of the Croatian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina to education and public media in the Croatian language, to have the right to free decision making in political life and the right of electing legitimate political representatives in the representative bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Croatia will support activities aimed at promoting coexistence and interreligious dialogue and cultural diversity.

The position and existence of Croats as a national minority in other states of Central and Southeast Europe depends on the degree of development of the political system and democratic institutions in those states. Croatia will continue to take care of their position and support all activities related to the protection of their national identity.

The Croatian national minority living in states where their minority rights are not fully protected enjoys particular attention and care of Croatia. Through its bilateral relations with those countries and its membership and influence within the European Union, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, Croatia will ensure the highest standards of protection of all national minorities, including Croatian.

The position of the Croatian national minority and Croatian diaspora throughout the world will be strengthened through diplomatic-political and economic cooperation, and cooperation in the field of culture and science. By their good integration, minorities can be the catalysts for protection and promotion of Euro-Atlantic values, especially tolerance and pluralism. In this way they can be a valuable stakeholder in strengthening the security and stability of the communities in which they live.

In conjunction with the governments of those states, Croatia will support educational programmes in the Croatian language, support media and its programmes in the Croatian language and financially support students, members of the Croatian national minority who are educated in Croatia. In time to come, they will be proponents of the preservation of the national identity, language, culture and the overall position of the Croatian diaspora worldwide.



5

CONCLUSION

The National Security Strategy, starting from the highest constitutional values, geostrategic and geopolitical position of Croatia, national interests, and evaluation of security threats, risks and challenges Croatia has been faced with including those it might be faced with in the foreseeable future, has set strategic goals.

The National Security Strategy describes instruments and mechanisms available to Croatia for the development, protection and realisation of national interests, independently and in cooperation with allies and partners in areas of common interest.

The assessment of threats suggests a very low probability of conventional military threat that could jeopardise Croatian national security. The risks for Croatian national security have been identified in organised and economic crime, corruption, illegal state border crossings, terrorism, violent behaviour and extremism, climate change, deterioration of basic human rights and freedoms, natural and man-made accidents and disasters, endangerment of critical infrastructure and unfavourable demographic trends.

At the same time, numerous challenges for Croatia also offer opportunities to realise and protect national interests and attain strategic goals, thus providing possibilities for a balanced and sustainable development of the state and society.

This will be primarily achieved through the Homeland Security system, implementing partnership for security on the principles of respect for human rights and freedoms, transparency, solidarity, tolerance and dialogue.

Croatia will develop a modern, comprehensive, rational and efficient Homeland Security system.

Such results can hardly be achieved solely through activities of the governmental bodies and institutions that are in charge of and responsible for national security, without the understanding, support and activities of the general public, and without continued parliamentary, expert and civil monitoring.

In order to successfully implement and realise this Strategy, all governmental bodies are obligated to enact strategic and other documents that will, within the framework of their jurisdiction, define concrete goals, measures, procedures and capabilities to protect national security. In this way, the security system will continue to develop and be improved. This will be a guarantee to all citizens that Croatia is capable of responding, at any moment, rapidly, decisively and robustly, to any emerging threat, risk and challenge to national security.

This can only be accomplished by increasing the responsibility of all national security stakeholders and through the continuous assessment of the threats and risks in their field of operation, planning and execution of necessary actions and activities they are managing and deterring, besides the harmonised and rational utilisation of all available resources.

Implementation of this Strategy will enable the realisation of the vision of a democratic, safe, prosperous, influential and highly respected state with free and safe citizens, in addition to a protected national identity.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia will inform the Croatian Parliament about the implementation of the National Security Strategy, on an annual basis.



