Reducing obstacles to young people’s access to culture

This chapter outlines the key goals of the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Culture dedicated to young people followed by youth-related measures provided in the same document. The key goals are:

1.1.5. Programme “Art and culture for young people” is a national complementary programme of support to the kindergardens, elementary and high school curriculum related to art and culture implemented in Croatian schools by professional artists and experts. The programme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and a joint investment by the area of education and the area of culture at the state level. The programme provides children and youth with access and brings them closer to art and culture, develops their aesthetic culture and makes children and youth sensitive to the field of art and culture in order to train them for a positive approach to all types of art and culture. It is an interdisciplinary program that includes various forms of artistic and cultural expression from different cultural and historical periods. The comprehensiveness of the program stems from the inclusion and (joint) presentation of all art in all forms: musical, theatrical, visual and reproductive/performing arts, film arts, literature and cultural heritage. The programme implementation started as a pilot in 2013. During its development, it will adapt to the needs of counties or units of local and regional self-government, and the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports will make fundamental recommendations on its implementation. A public call for 2016 will be announced by the end of 2015. In 2016, a program for high school students will be funded by the European Social Fund (ESF).

1.1.9. Preparation and implementation of cultural projects from the Operational Programme "Effective Human Resources"
ESF-funded cultural programs will help develop (1) socio-cultural centres, (2) social entrepreneurship in culture, (3) community media, (4) developing the interests of young people and (5) older people for cultural and artistic content and (6) social inclusion of marginalized groups through cultural and artistic activities and reduce the share of financial resources from the public budget.

**Disseminating information on cultural opportunities**

Both of the abovementioned goals correspond to the chapter of Measure 2 titled Culture and Youth of the National Youth Program - Ensuring greater access of young people to culture. A program aimed at greater access of young people to culture was launched in 2013 under the title [A Backpack full of culture][1] with the purpose of "encouraging children and young people to understand and adopt art and culture in dislocated and traffic-poorly connected areas of the Republic of Croatia" with the aim of "preparing and implementing different cultural and artistic programs tailored to children and young people in kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools in dislocated, traffic-poorly connected areas of the Republic of Croatia "and is intended for" children aged 3 to 6, 1st to 4th grade pupils of primary schools, pupils from 5th to 8th grade of primary schools and secondary school students ". The program for the [Art and Culture for Youth][2], funded by the European Social Fund is an extension of this program, and the programme summary states: "Participation in cultural and artistic activities is an important aspect of inclusion into the society, and limited access to this type of activity can result in reduced opportunities for young people to develop social ties and skills and knowledge that contribute to their personal development. Therefore, the Call for Proposals "Art and Culture for Youth" aims to overcome the limitations of access due to unfavourable financial conditions, disabilities, etc.) and to encourage young people to actively participate in the cultural life of community." The first bidding cycle was announced on 12 December 2016. The competition was closed on 21 April 2017. The results have not yet been published and therefore the implementation of the accepted project proposals has not even started. The maximum duration of the project is 24 months and therefore the outcomes of this program will not be known in the next two years.

In addition to these programs and measures, young people are represented in the separate, disciplinary chapters of the strategic plan:

1.3.1. Encourage the development of national, public, private and regional theatres and art organizations and ensembles
- implies stronger linkage and cooperation between national homes, which should contribute to greater mobility of artists, primarily young people

1.3.2. Support to publishing and incentives to create new musical and dramatic works
Encouragement of projects by independent publishers within the music industry includes musical, discography, publicist, audio-visual and multimedia material. It equally refers to the new musical opuses of contemporary Croatian composers and the works that is granted the Marin Držić Award. By supporting such programs, on the one hand, they stimulate authors, and, on the other, make it easier to see the premieres and performances of their works. Creative potentials of contemporary Croatian composers, Croatian classics, young interpreters and other genres of music (jazz and ethno) are also thereby promoted.

1.4.2. Encouragement of versatile complementary audio-visual activities
It is necessary to encourage the spread of film and general audio-visual culture and specific knowledge of audio-visual creativity through publishing, film festivals, and nonprofessional creativity, as well as to encourage diverse forms of education - both for professionals and for young generations and for the general public.
1.5.5. National Strategy for the Promotion of Reading
Making of the National Strategy for the Promotion of Reading will increase the interest in reading of all age groups, interest groups, especially children and young people as a particularly important target group, support of other institutions to encourage reading, which will result in increased number of readership clubs, library membership and ultimately by purchasing books. National Strategy for the Promotion of Reading [3] was publicly presented in April 2017. It is still not officially adopted.

**Knowledge of cultural heritage amongst young people**