



UK Science & Innovation Network Country Snapshot:

Croatia

Country position in Global Innovation Index 2016:

41

Position of UK in country's international collaboration 2013-17:

4th

Croatia - Science and Innovation Landscape

In 2016, Croatia's gross R&D expenditure (GERD) was 0.84 percent of GDP which is considerably below the average of the EU-27 of 2.03 percent of GDP. Based on Eurostat data for 2016, Croatia lags behind comparable countries that recently joined the EU: Slovenia (2.00 percent), the Czech Republic (1.68 percent), Estonia (1.28 percent), and Hungary (1.21 percent). The most important source of funding for total domestic investments in R&D stems from the business enterprise sector which contributes 46.6 %, while the government contributes 36,4 %, remaining 17 % comes from abroad and non-profit private sector. The ratio in favour of business enterprise sector has significantly improved during last years.

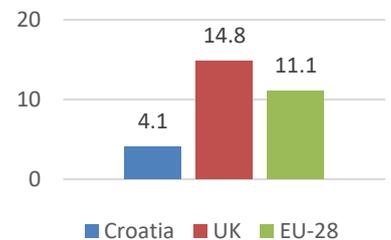
Recently, Croatian research and science sector has been developing quickly - according to the National Council for Higher Education, Croatia has doubled the number of higher education institutions over the last 7 years, while the number of academic programmes has tripled.

In its Smart Specialization Strategy 2016-2020, Croatia has identified six RDI priority thematic areas with competitive advantages and potential for excellence: **Health and quality of life, Energy and Sustainable Environment, Transport and Mobility, Security, Food and Bio-Economy and ICT**. According to the SCOPUS database, the top ranked subjects in the scientific output of the country are in the fields of **medicine and biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology**.

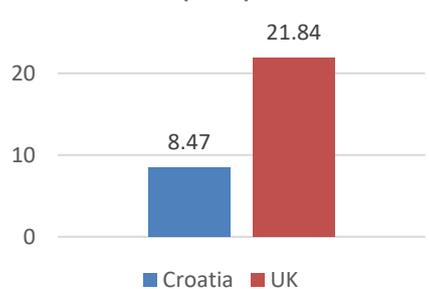
Despite of the limited financial resources for research infrastructure, Croatia currently participates in several ESFRI projects: SHARE-ERIC (The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe), CLARIN-ERIC (Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure), DARIAH - ERIC (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) and CERIC (Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium). Croatia is also a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). It is also engaged in the programme of the European Organization for Nuclear Research and European Space Agency.

[The Ministry of Science and Education \(MZO\)](#) is predominantly in charge of research and Innovation development policy. Quality of science and higher education is assured and supervised by the [Croatian Agency for Science and Higher Education \(ASHE\)](#). [The Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments \(HAMAG-BICRO\)](#) supports

Top 10% highly cited scientific publications (as % of total scientific publications of the country)



Citations per document (2016)



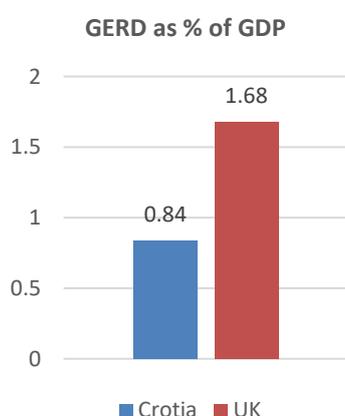
the innovation sector. [Croatian Science Foundation \(CSF\)](#), the primary funding body together with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, has been established by the Croatian Parliament in December 2001.

UK Science and Innovation in Croatia

In Croatia, UK S&I based policy making, and science and innovation in general have good reputation. There is a long lasting cooperation with the British Scholarship Trust awarding young Croatian scientists under 30 years of age scholarships for short research visits from 1 to 3 months at British universities. Candidates from Croatia are regularly awarded 7-8 scholarships every academic year.

There are many opportunities for UK engagement. Most cooperative R&D projects in Europe are carried out within the European Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development, such as FP7 (2007-2013) and Horizon 2020 (2014-2020). As candidate country, Croatia was associated to the Seventh EU research and development program (FP7), which meant that the research entities from Croatia could participate on the same footing as Member States. Croatia has done rather well under FP7, reaching an average success rate of 17.5 % between 2006 and 2013, compared to the EU-27 success rate of 20 %. In Horizon 2020 the success rate was 9.2 % compared to the EU-28 success rate of 13.0 %, but it is not substantially lower than the EU-13 success rate of 9.7%.

In Horizon 2020, 339 UK-Croatian collaborative projects were reported by March 2018, making the UK the fourth most important collaborator of Croatia after Spain, Italy and Germany. Among the British organizations the National Air Traffic Services (NATS), University College London and the University of Manchester have the largest number of collaborative projects with Croatia within Horizon 2020.



Croatia is particularly successful under the scientific themes in which it is also strong at national level i.e.: **healthcare, ICT, biotechnology and transport.** Croatia is a full member of the EUREKA Eurostar initiative as well as of COST.

According to the European Commission Science and Innovation Report, between 2014 and 2016 Croatia had 4,1% of the overall scientific publications within the 10 % most cited scientific publications worldwide (compared to 14,8 % of the UK). Most co-authorships of scientific publications included in the Web of Science in 2016 and 2017 were with Germany, USA, Italy and the UK at the fourth place. The UK has the largest co-authorship share on overall number of Croatian scientific papers in the field of Physics, Space Science, Clinical Medicine, Immunology, Molecular Biology and Neuroscience.

SIN works to support UK science and innovation policy objectives through exchange with Croatian counterparts and reporting on Croatian science and innovation landscape. Promoting UK science excellence and policies across Croatia is also a key objective. Multinational consortia are required and we are well prepared to help with building of useful networks.

SIN Croatia contacts

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Value of UK exports to Croatia:

£0.3bn

Value of UK imports from Croatia:

£0.6bn

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