

Date:	11-05-2022	Document:	F22-026 EN
Title:	National Report Croatia		
Authors:	Hrvatski liječnički sindikat (HLS) , Renata Čulinović-Čaić		

Croatian National Report - FEMS GA
Frauenkirchen, Austria, May13th- 14th 2022

COVID-19

The COVID-19 epidemic in Croatia has calmed down last few months. However, we still notice about 700-800 new cases per day. As of April 7, 2022, most restrictive measures have been canceled. Wearing masks is still mandatory in hospitals, health care institutions and in nursing homes. It is recommended to wear masks in public transport, shops, at religious ceremonies, indoor sports competitions and at social and public gatherings indoors. However, people generally do not follow the recommendations and it is rare to see someone with a mask in the store.

As of May 1, there were 1.128.239 COVID patients in Croatia, and 15.899 people died of COVID. 57% of the population was vaccinated with the first dose, 55% with the second dose, and only 15% of the population received the booster dose.

Collective bargaining

In November 2021, negotiations between 11 public service Unions and the Croatian Government began on the Basic Collective Agreement regulating the general labor rights and the salary base of 280,000 employees in public services (health, health insurance, education, culture, social work). After 6 months and 14 rounds of exhausting negotiations, no agreement was reached and the Unions began preparing for the strike. At that time, the Prime Minister joined the negotiations and an agreement was reached, so on May 6, the Unions and the Government finally signed a new Basic Collective Agreement. In addition to the 4% salary increase, additional benefits related to the cost of transport to work, systematic examinations, etc., have been agreed. It was also agreed that a new round of negotiations for further wage growth in the second part of the year will begin at the end of September.

It is especially important for trade Unions that the Basic Collective Agreement for the first time includes a provision on the application of part of the contractual rights only to trade union members.

Elections in the HLS

In March, elections were held in the HLS for the elected new leadership.

The current president was re-elected to this position for the next 4 years, and the Main Board was renewed with 7 new members.

Health care reform - new health laws

At the end of 2021, at the invitation of the Ministry of Health, HLS was actively involved in drafting amendments to the Law on Health Care. We have made a number of proposals to improve health care in Croatia and so far many of our proposals have been accepted.

The implementation of the new, amended Law is expected to begin in late 2022 or early 2023.

At the end of this year, negotiations for a new Collective Agreement for Health Care will begin.