

*For God so loved
the world...
shouldn't we?*

Sign up to do research for the country of your choice.
The sign up book can be found in the Narthex on the
table with the globe .

***Praying for the World
One Country at Time***



**Croatia
October 16, 2011**

Croatia

Full Name

Republic of Croatia

Capital

Zagreb



Location

Southeastern Europe bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia Herzegovina and Slovenia

Leadership

Presidential/parliamentary democracy. President Ivo JOSIPOVIC (since 18 February 2010); president elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for a second term)

Overview

The lands that today comprise Croatia were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the close of World War I. In 1918, the Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes formed a kingdom known after 1929 as Yugoslavia. Following World War II, Yugoslavia became a federal independent Communist state under the strong hand of Marshal TITO. Although Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, it took four years of sporadic, but often bitter, fighting before occupying Serb armies were mostly cleared from Croatian lands. Under UN supervision, the last Serb-held enclave in eastern Slavonia was returned to Croatia in 1998. In April 2009, Croatia joined NATO; it is a candidate for eventual EU accession.

Religion

Christianity

Population

4,483,804 (July 2011 est.)



Economy

Once one of the wealthiest of the Yugoslav republics, Croatia's economy suffered badly during the 1991-95 war as output collapsed and the country missed the early waves of investment in Central and Eastern Europe that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall. Difficult problems still remain, including a stubbornly high unemployment rate, a growing trade deficit and uneven regional development. The EU accession process should accelerate fiscal and structural reform. While long term growth prospects for the economy remain strong, Croatia will face significant pressure as a result of the global financial crisis. Croatia's high foreign debt, anemic export sector, strained state budget, and over-reliance on tourism revenue will result in higher risk to economic stability over the medium term.

Prayer Concerns

Peace-building among nations is the first priority in war-torn Croatia. The most important challenges are close cooperation with the Osijek Peace Center, the development of a peace studies program and other peace-building projects. Because religion has been a source of controversy and enmity, theological education needs to offer interfaith learning that transcends cultures and denominations. War affects the physical and mental health of everyone, but of children in particular. Dealing with the generation-spanning aftermath of violence is a challenge for our mission partners that need our support.