CROATIA

1. Smart cities in Croatia

According to some research, Croatia is a relatively conservative society when it comes to adopting new technological ideas. However, although it lags after urban areas in the European Union in this respect, it is still making small strides.

Out of 128 Croatian cities, **more than 40 are developing the concept of smart cities** and implementing smart solutions that enable a better quality of life in the city.

According to a survey conducted by the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences in Zagreb, most of the surveyed Croatian cities participate in some individual projects on smart cities, e-government, smart city, or similar terminology, and said they plan to allocate certain funds to implement the smart city concept. (51.7%).

Among the surveyed Croatian cities, 32% were **involved in the implementation of the smart city concept**, and 64% plan to apply them.

There are three important segments of smart mobility: intelligent use of information and communication technology (86.2%), smart public urban transport (65.5%) and smart parking (58.6%).

Implemented (in application): air quality control (33%), traffic control and supervision (22%), smart parking (11%).

Also, the research indicatively revealed that in the future it is planned to implement intelligent use of information and communication technologies within cities (60.7%), smart parking (50%), traffic control and monitoring (39.3%) and smart public urban transport. 32.1%).

Another advantage of the smart cities concept is that **it can be financed by European funds.** Croatia has a National Development Strategy until 2030, a strategic document that emphasizes the development of smart cities, villages, and islands.

It also must be mentioned that COVID-19 did **speed up significantly digitalisation** in Croatia and increased interest in the transformation of local governments and smart city projects.

2. The main actors

With the increased interest in smart city solutions, the number of companies in this field has increased significantly. From consulting companies to ICT companies, the main players are numerous and can hardly be mentioned all.

However one of the biggest project ongoing is **the Competence Center for Smart Cities** which is a three-year project of national importance, and at the same time the largest development project in Croatia in the field of information and communication solutions aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens https://smart-ri.hr/o-nama.

The Center for Competences for Smart Cities (CEKOM) implies a partnership in an innovation cluster that connects economic entities and research institutions on research and development projects in smart cities. The goal is to address the challenges facing cities, such as transport, energy, ecology, infrastructure, resource management.

3. **Useful links and sources**

- https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/388974
- https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2021_02_13_230.html
- https://pametni-gradovi.eu/
- https://eko.zagreb.hr/UserDocsImages/arhiva/slike/smart%20city/Zagreb_Grad%20budu%C4%87nosti_Okvirna_strategija_pametnog_grada_Zagreba_Zagreb_Smart_City_sa%C5%BEetak.pdf
- https://lider.events/smart-cities/