



CROATIAN  
CHAMBER OF  
ECONOMY

SEKTOR ZA MEĐUNARODNE POSLOVE  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECTOR

# Croatia – Investment & Business Cooperation Opportunities

April 2021





*“Where can you go that has history, gorgeous beaches, national parks, culture, quaint villages, rolling vineyards, and ancient architecture all in one place? Well there might be a few places, but Croatia is definitely one of them that comes highly recommended.”*

Travelers Today, February 2015





# Strategic Position with Export Potential

- ✓ EU member country
- ✓ Central European, Mediterranean & Danube
- ✓ In the center of Europe
- ✓ Northernmost arm of the Mediterranean Sea
- ✓ 3, 2 or 1 hour flight time to any bigger European city
- ✓ Access to a market of almost 500 million people





# Croatia in Numbers

Area: 56,594 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 4.05 million

Capital: Zagreb (Population: 800,000)

Currency: Croatian kuna (HRK)

Average exchange rate (2020):

1 EUR = 7.53 HRK

1 USD = 6.61 HRK

GDP: €49.1 bn

GDP per capita: €12,141

Inflation rate: 1.2% (March 2021)

Unemployment rate: 9.3% (March 2021)

Average net salary: €930.2 (February 2021)

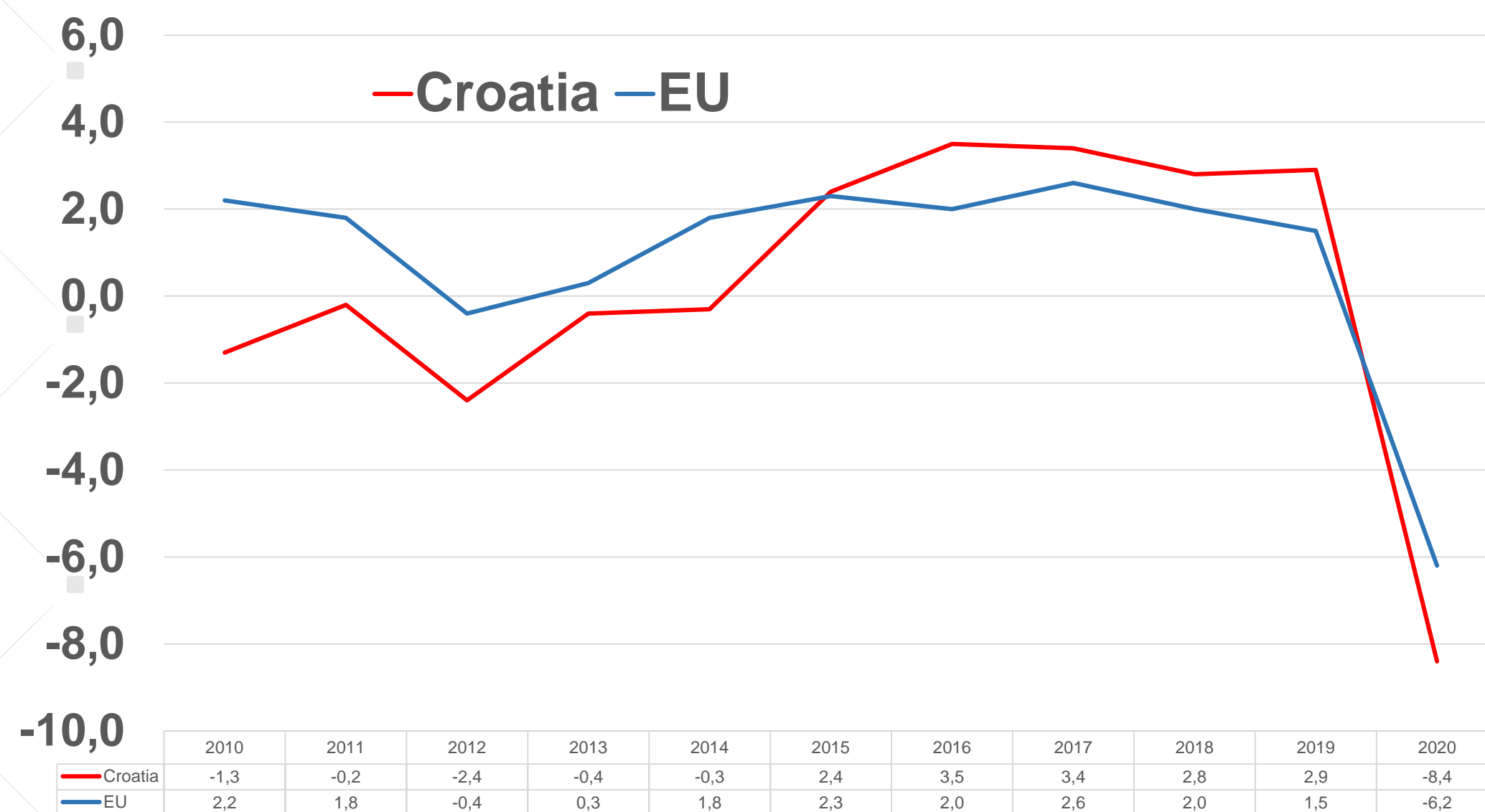
Average gross salary: €1,251.3 (February 2021)





# Vibrant & Dynamic Economy

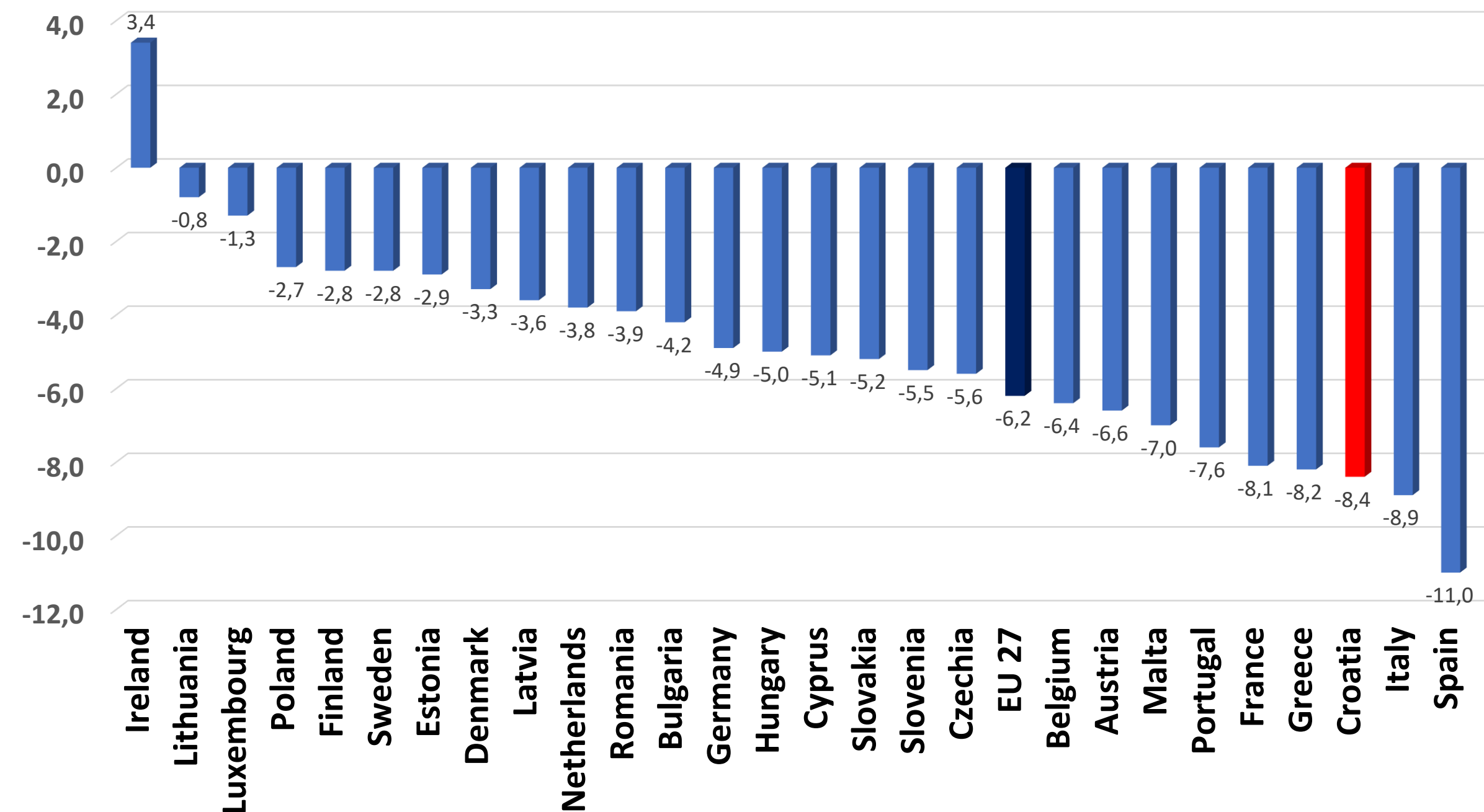
Real GDP growth rate (%)



Source: Eurostat



Real GDP growth rate 2020 (%)



Source: Eurostat

Estimations for 2021:

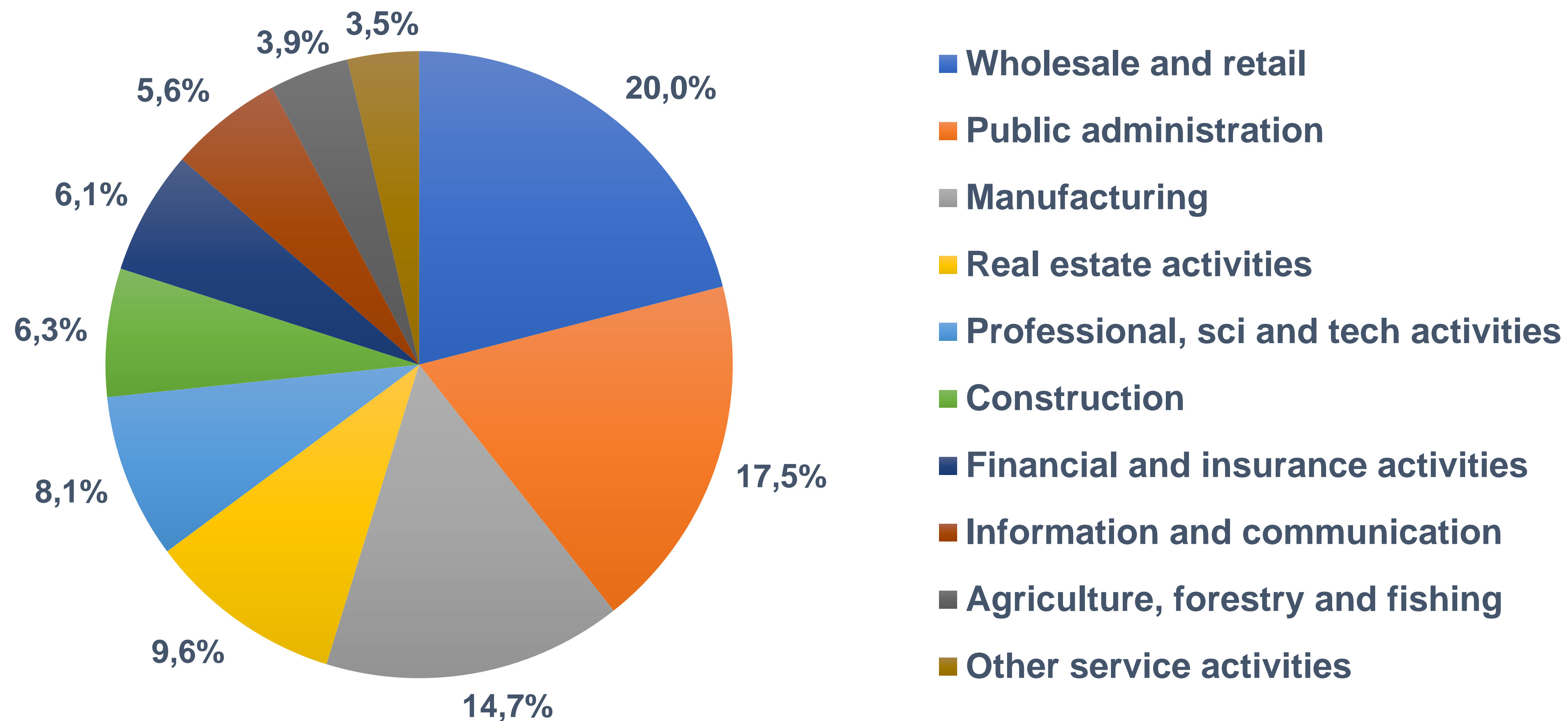
Ministry of Finance = 5.0%

EC = 5.3%

IMF = 4.7%

# Great economic potential

## GDP structure 2020



Source: Croatian Bureau of Statistics

# Export-oriented economy

**2020**

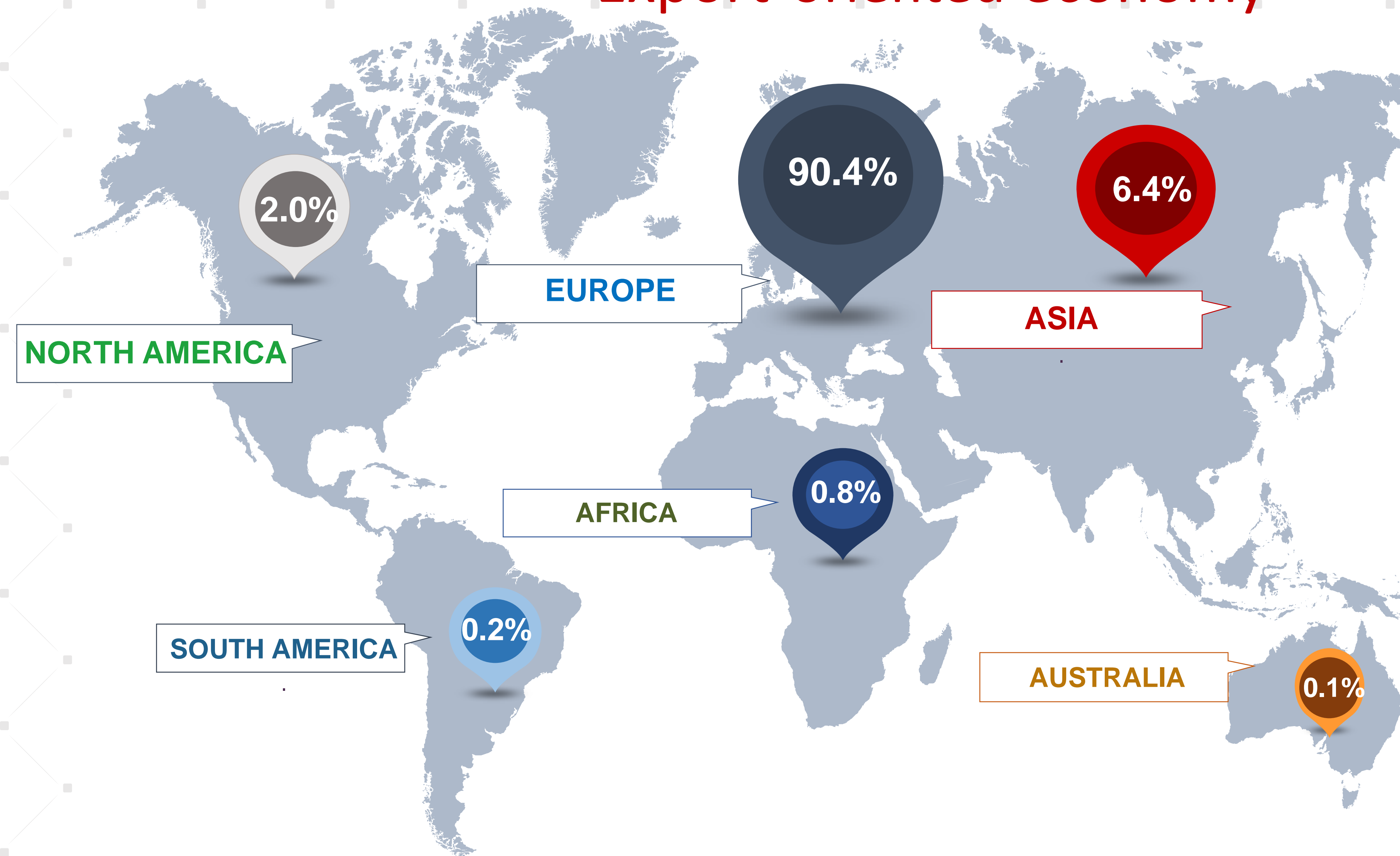
**TOTAL TRADE= € 37.7 bn**

**EXPORT = € 14.9 bn**

**IMPORT = € 22.8 bn**



1. Germany 14.3%
2. Italy 12.4%
3. Slovenia 10.9%
4. Hungary 7.5%
5. Austria 6.3%



# Croatia – South America

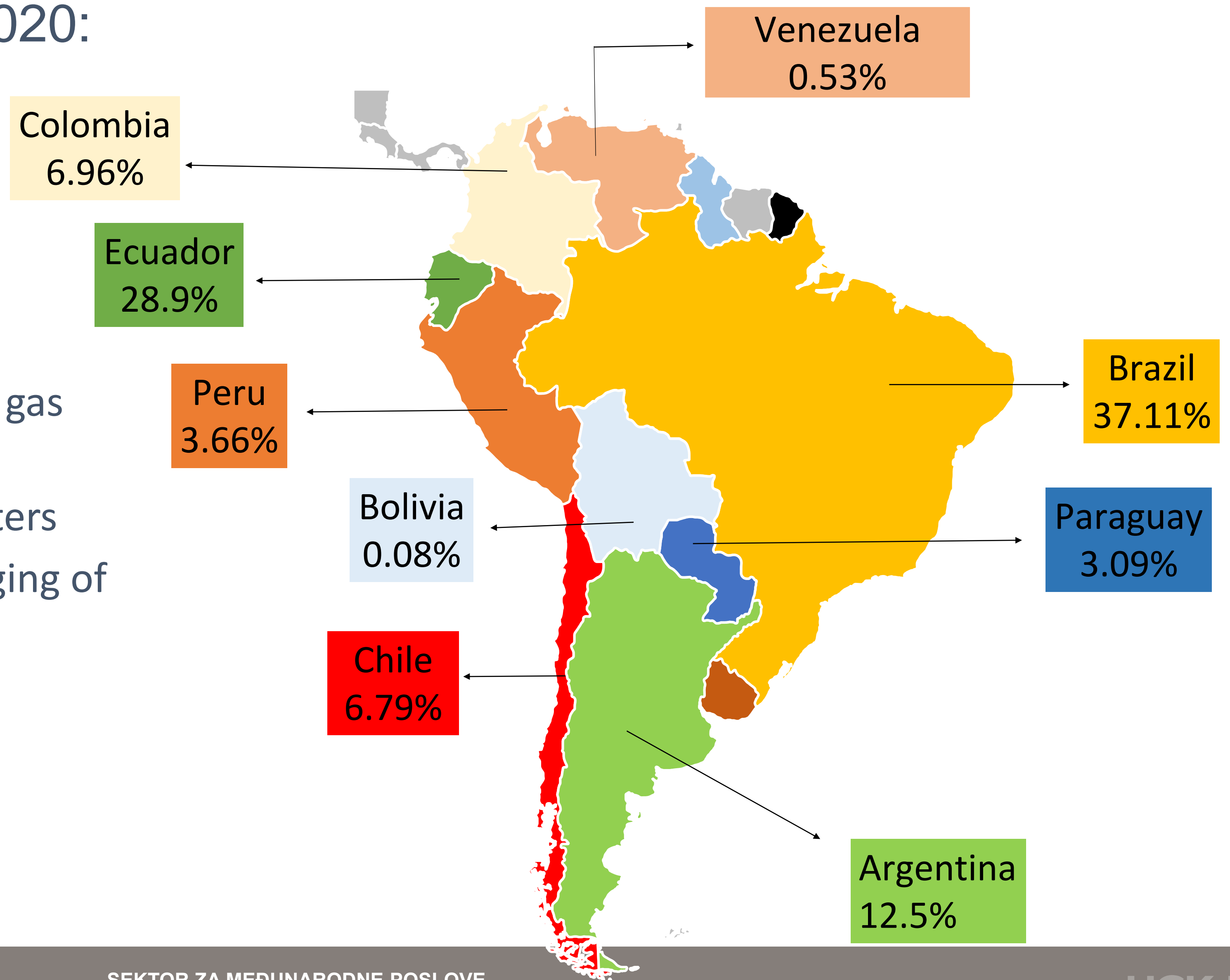
Total commodity exchange in 2020:

**€ 73,764,243**

## CROATIA → SOUTH AMERICA

### Export commodities

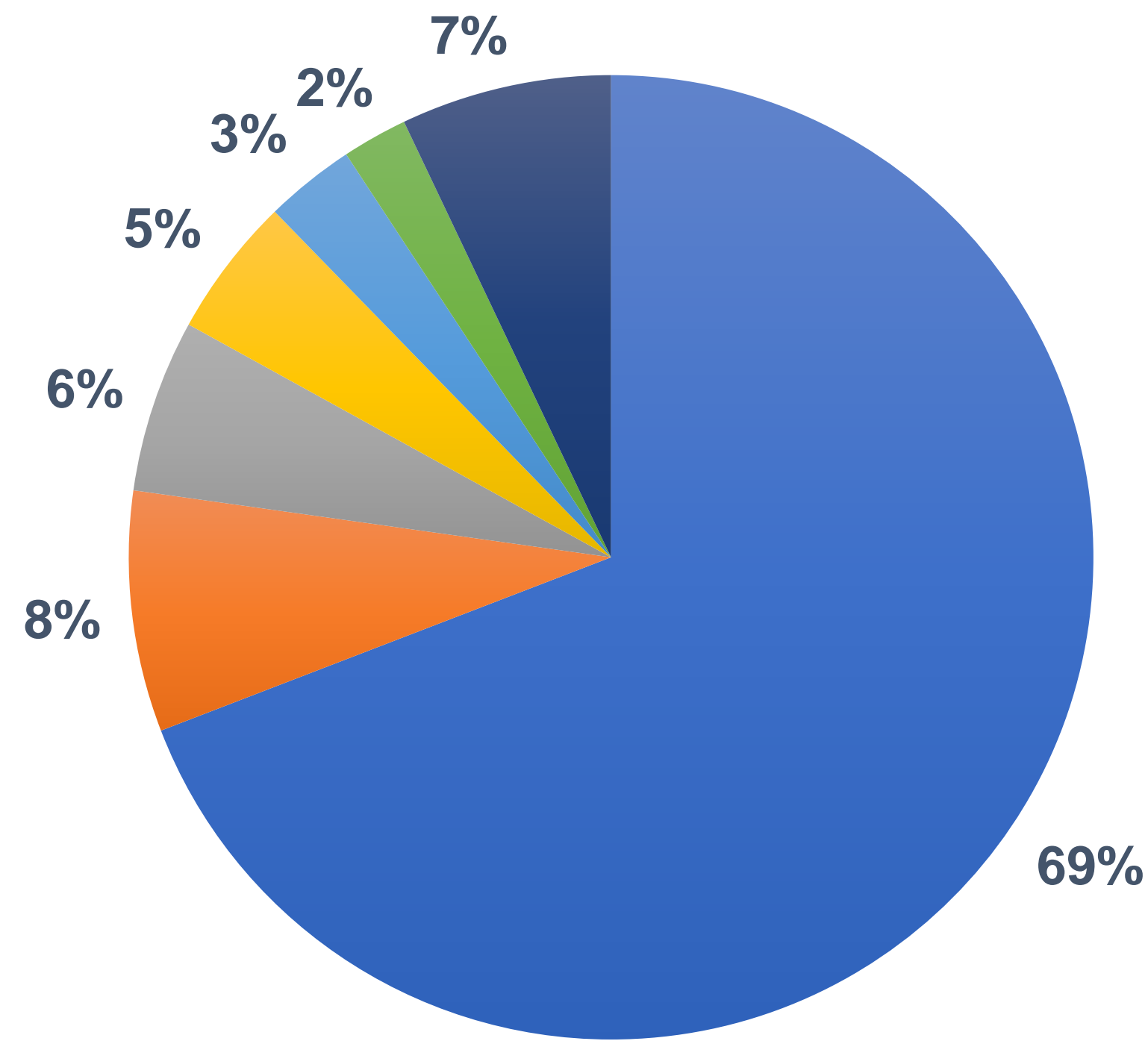
- Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines
- Electrical transformers, static converters
- Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics
- Vessels, incl. warships and lifeboats
- Medicaments
- Unmanufactured tobacco



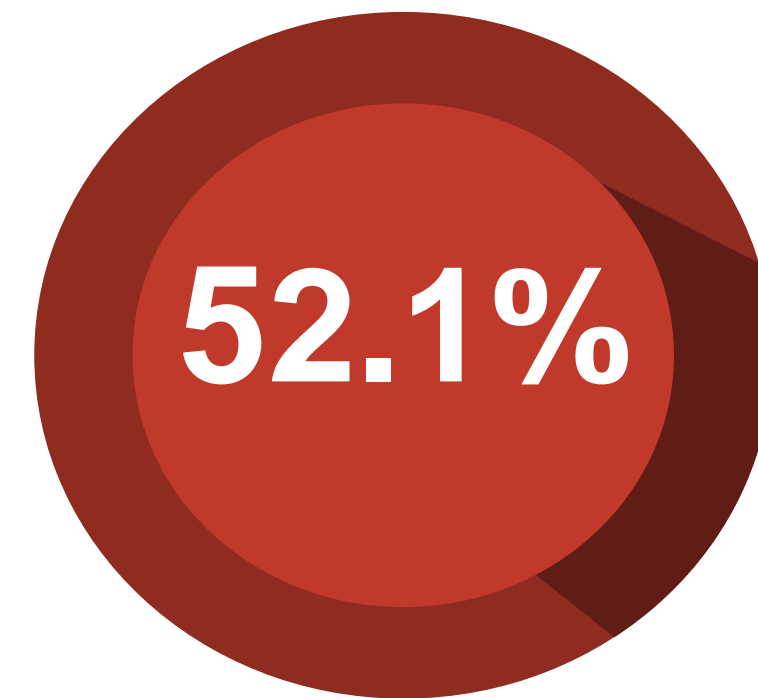


# Export structure (2019)

## SERVICES (50%)

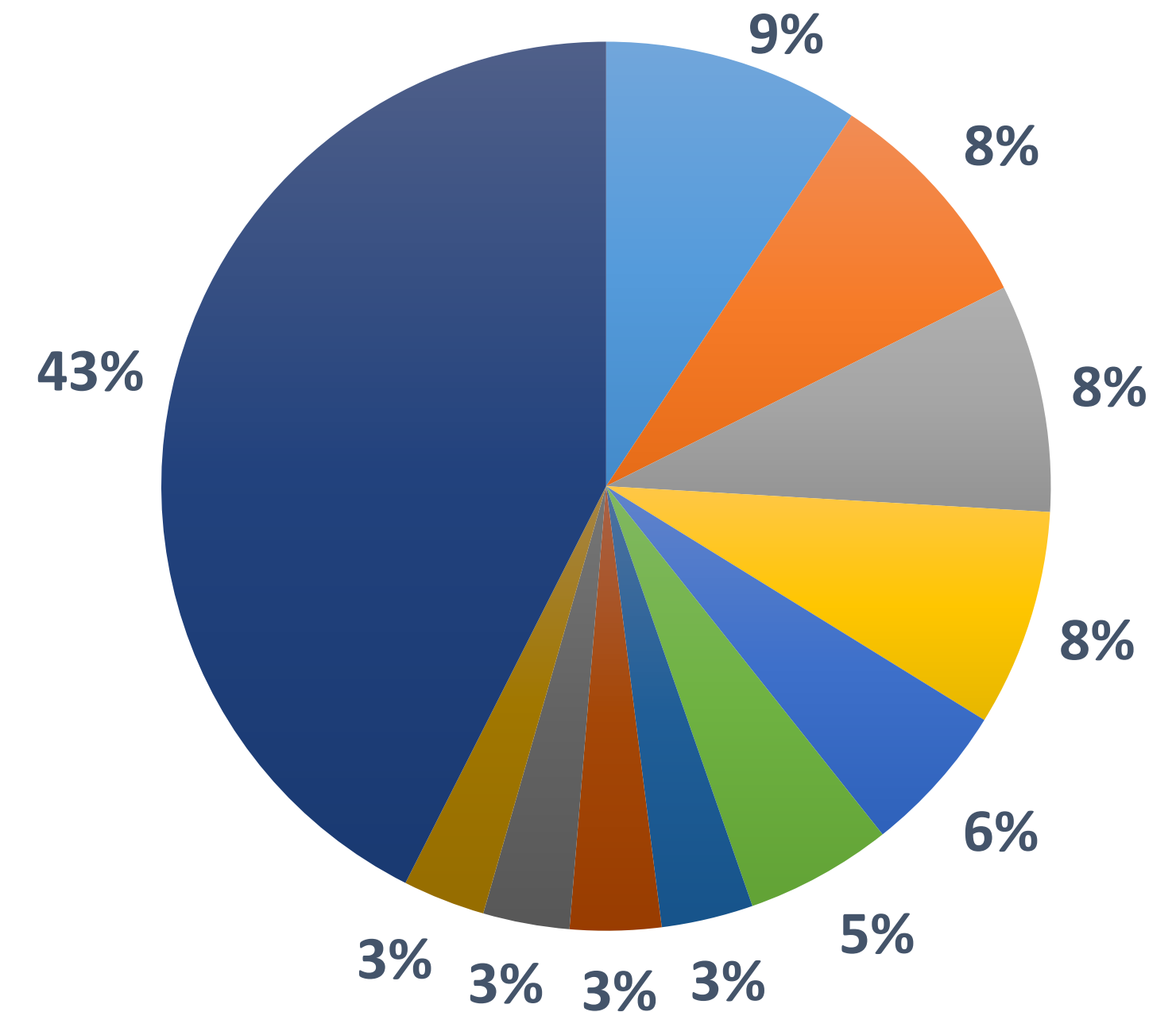


- Travel 69%
- Transport 8%
- Telecommunication, computer, and information services 6%
- Technical, trade-related, and other business services 5%
- Professional and management consulting services 3%
- Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others 2%
- Other services 7%



Exports of goods & services in % of GDP

## GOODS (50%)



- Mineral fuels and oils 9%
- Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances 8%
- Electrical machinery and equipment 8%
- Pharmaceutical products 8%
- Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock 6%
- Wood and articles of wood 5%
- Articles of apparel and clothing accessories 3%
- Articles of iron or steel 3%
- Aluminium and articles thereof 3%
- Plastics and articles thereof 3%
- Other 43%



# Croatian industry



**19.8%** of GDP

**93.3%** of total Croatian export

**20.5%** of total employment

**+16,000** companies

**-2.8%** industrial growth rate

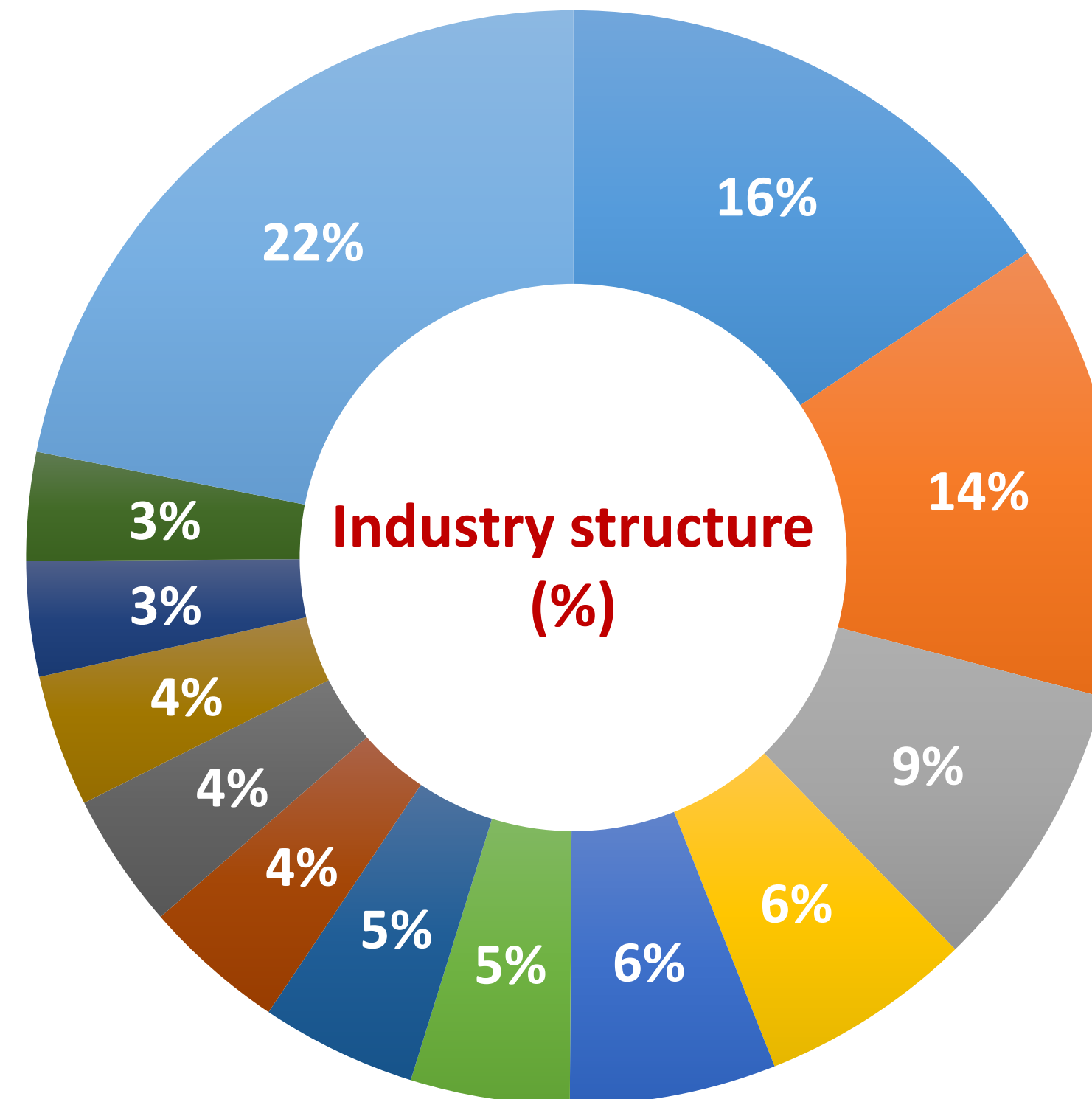
✓ Traditionally export-oriented

✓ Reliable local suppliers and contractors

✓ Skilled and educated workforce

✓ Tradition and quality in manufacturing

✓ Extensive track record on foreign markets



Food products

Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply

Metal products

Non-metallic mineral products

Pharmaceutical products

Rubber and plastic products

Repair and installation of machinery and equipment

Beverages

Chemicals and chemical products

Wood and products of wood and cork, except furniture

Electrical equipment

Machinery and equipment

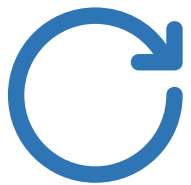
Other



# Industry growth potential



**Added-value manufacturing of  
road and rail vehicles parts and  
systems**



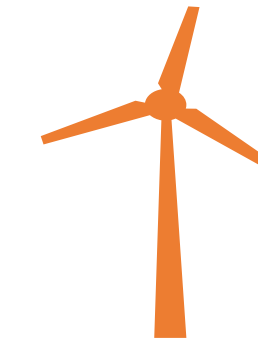
**Sustainable wood  
manufacturing and processing**



**Pharmaceuticals,  
biopharmaceuticals, medical  
equipment and devices**



**Energy technologies,  
systems and equipment**



**Environment-friendly  
technologies**



**Sustainable food production  
and processing**



# Energy sector



€5.5 bn	Total income (2019)
14.293	Employees
803	Companies (12 large, 23 middle, 88 small, 680 micro)
200.71 PJ	Primary energy production
405.72 PJ	Total primary energy supply
329.41 PJ	Croatia's energy import
121.75 PJ	Croatia's energy export

- ✓ **Long tradition** – one of the oldest power-generating facilities in the world - Jaruga Hydroelectric Power Plant
- ✓ **The largest Croatian company for equipment production and turn key projects** Končar - Electrical Industry Inc. – since 1921
- ✓ **Number of SMEs in project design** – different segments – providing all activities in the energy project
- ✓ **State of the art technology** – e.g. smart meters production, turn-key projects

## Suggestions how to do business in energy sector in Croatia:

- ✓ Identify potential project
- ✓ Contract with reliable Croatian companies that may ensure competitive service or product (sub-suppliers or consortium partners)
- ✓ CCE can help in finding partners, getting information, etc.



# Croatian tourism



€4.8 bn International tourism revenue (2020)

7.0 mil Tourist arrivals (-64.2%)

5.5 mil Foreign tourists (-68.0%)

40.8 mil Overnight stays (-55.3%)

+ 15,500 Companies

✓ Beautiful nature: 1,244 islands, 8 national parks

✓ Climate: 3 different climate zones

✓ Geographical location

✓ Cultural & historical heritage: 17 intangible cultural heritage, 10 cultural & natural heritage sites included in UNESCO World Heritage List

## Tourists from Latin America in 2020

✓ 21,752 tourists (-90%)

✓ 96,070 overnight stays (-83%)

## Business opportunities:

✓ Nautical tourism

✓ Medical tourism

✓ Congress tourism

✓ Investments in high quality tourist facilities

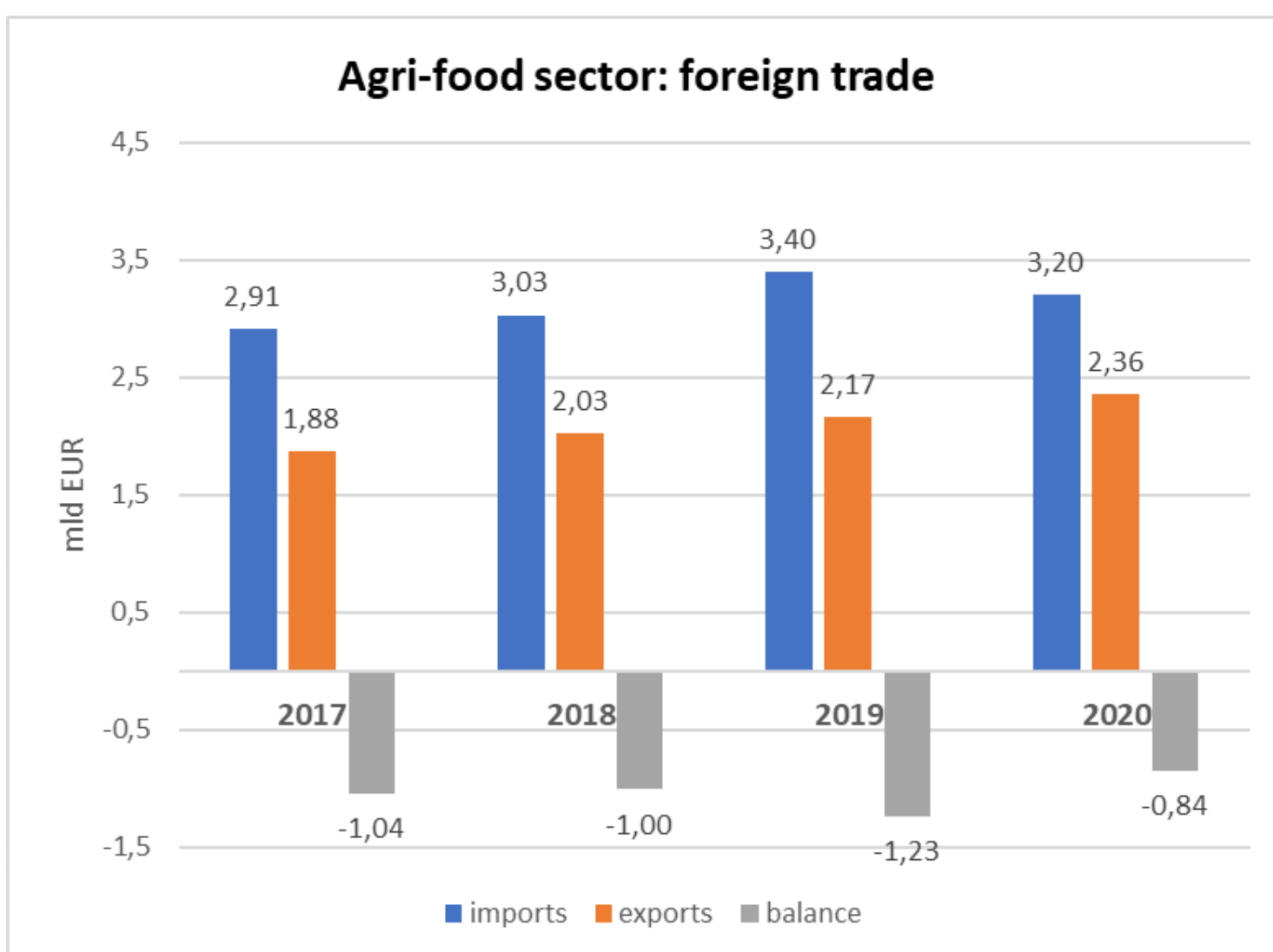




# Agri-food sector

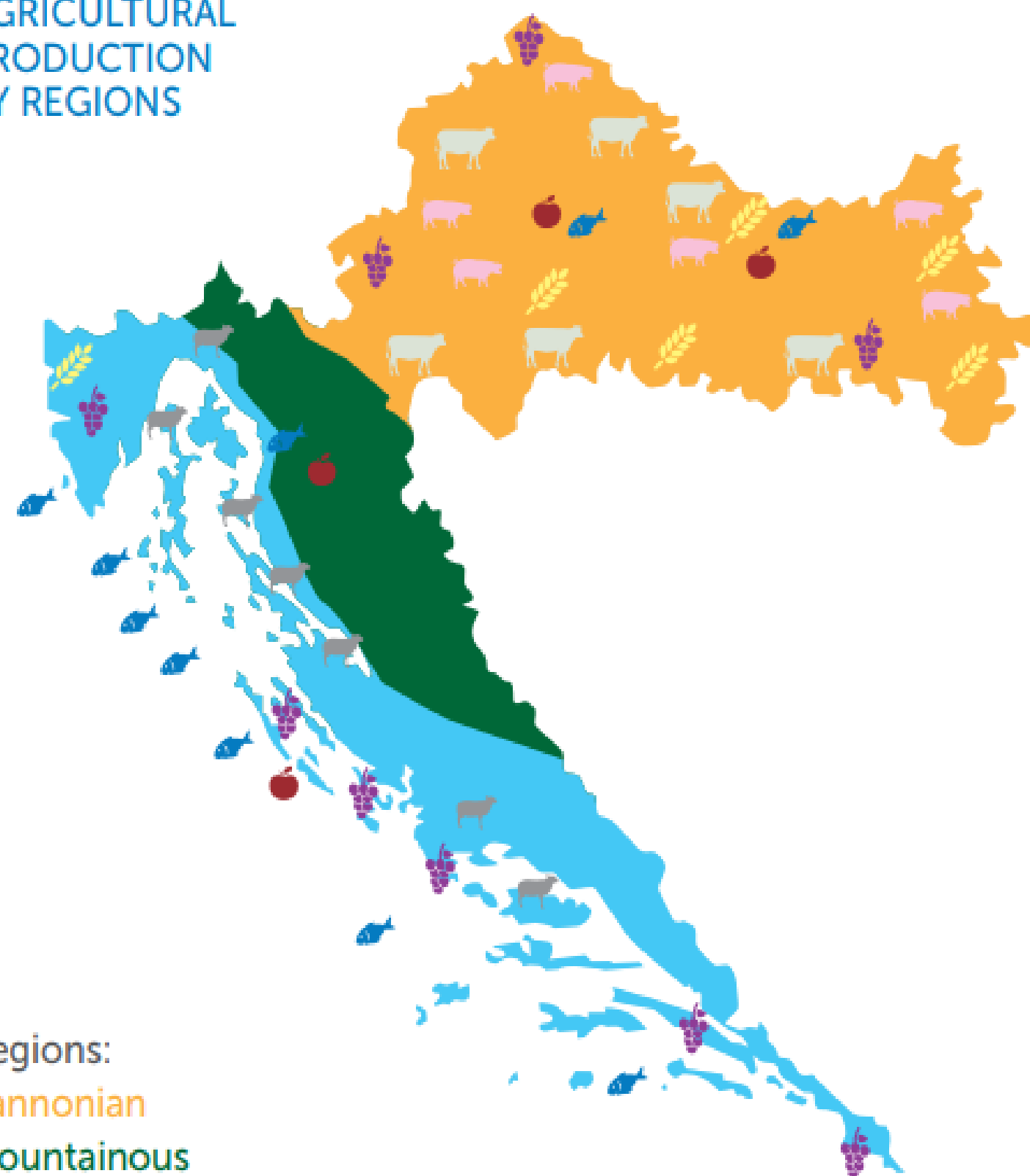
	GVA %	employment %
Agriculture	2.7	5.3
Fishing and aquaculture	0.3	0.3
Manufacture of food products; beverages and tobacco products	3.6	3.6
<b>Total Agri-food sector</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>9.2</b>

Source: Eurostat



Source: Croatian Bureau of Statistics

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY REGIONS



Regions:  
Pannonian  
Mountainous  
Mediterranean

## Business opportunities:

- ✓ Organic food production
- ✓ Aquaculture

- ✓ Preserved soil, unpolluted sea, rich sources of fresh water, high biodiversity
- ✓ 3 geographical & climate zones
- ✓ Wide range of products (arable crops, fruits and vegetables, olives, grapes, fish, meat and milk)
- ✓ Internationally recognized food products (confectionary, dairy products, olive oil, wine, soft drinks, water, beer, meat products, bakery products, tobacco products, etc.)
- ✓ High quality products protected on EU level
- ✓ Highest food quality and safety standards (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22000, HACCP, Kosher, Halal, IFS, BRC, OHSAS 18001, etc.)



# Possibilities of cooperation



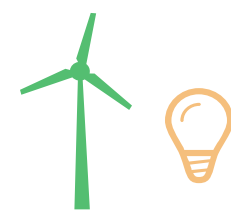
Agriculture and  
Food industry



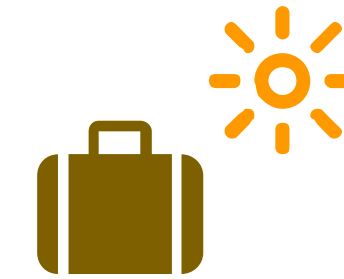
ICT



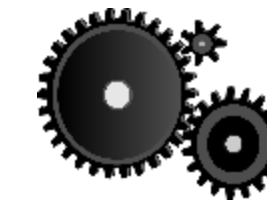
Wood processing industry



Energy technologies,  
systems, and equipment



Tourism



Metal processing industry



Healthcare industry



Expolration of energy  
sources

# CROATIA

*Unique location for your business.*

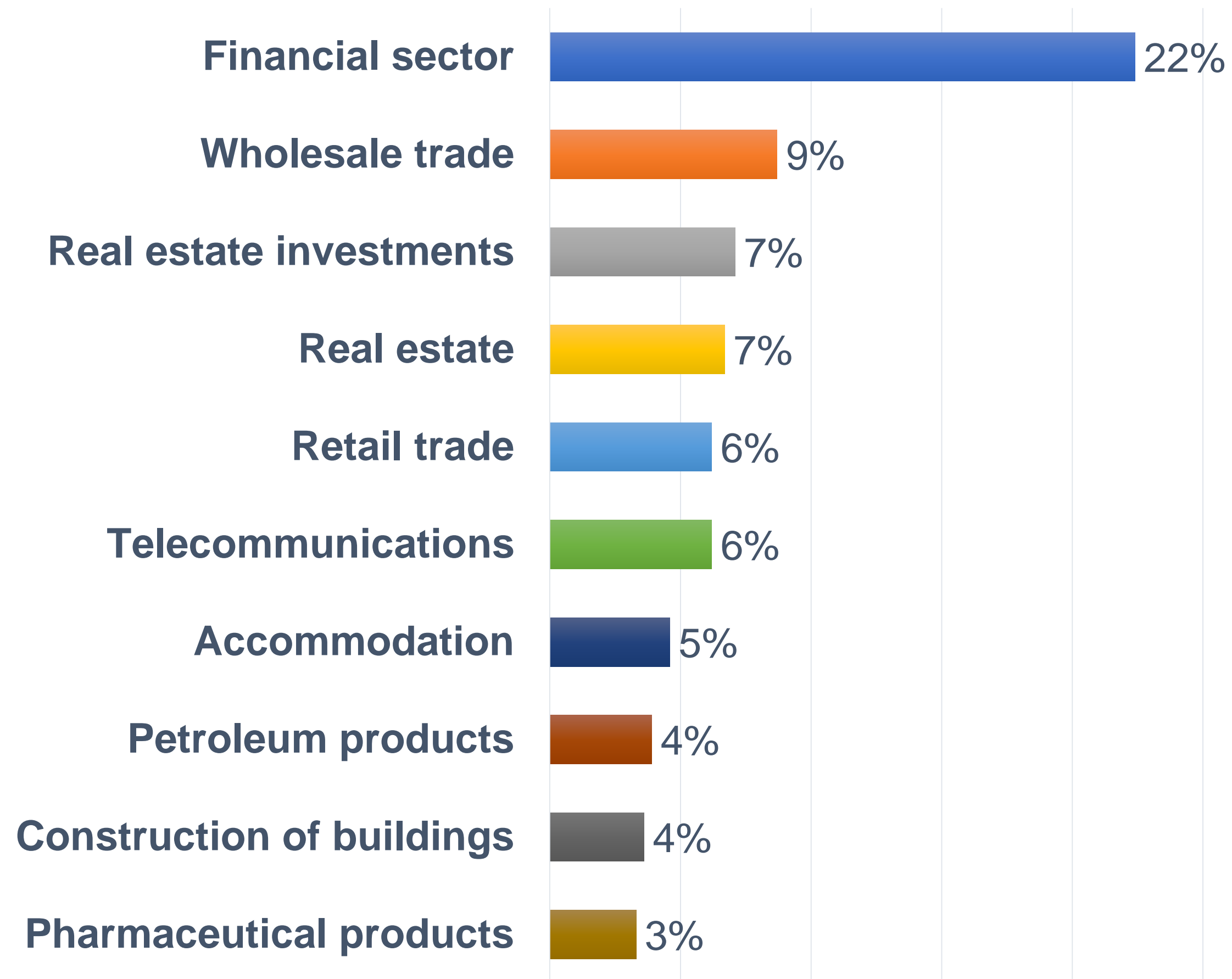




# Croatia – business & investment attractive destination

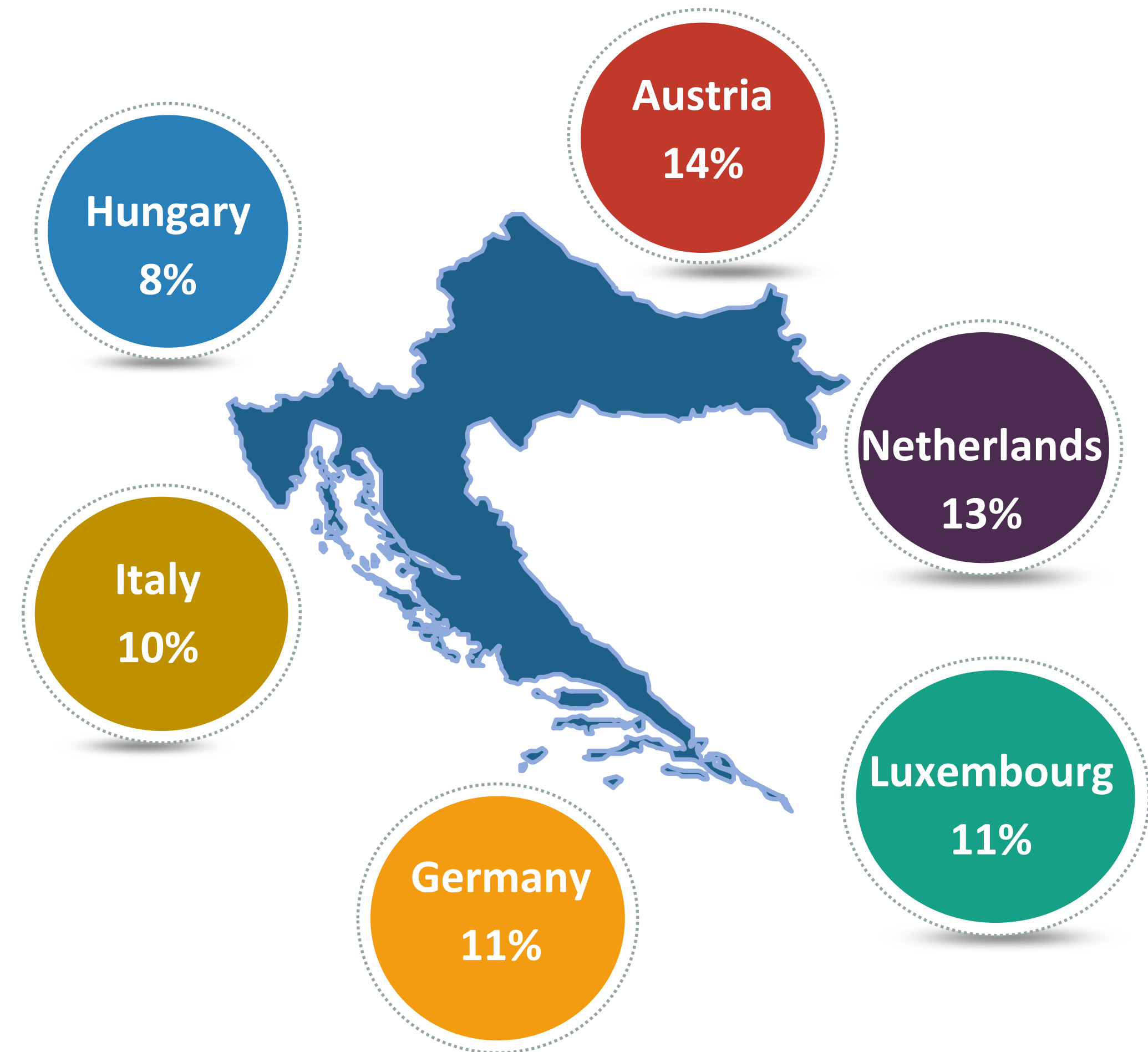


## FDI structure % of total FDI



**FDI = €33.05 bn**

(1993 – 2020)



Source: Croatian National Bank





# Croatia

recognized by more  
**than 15,000**  
foreign companies



# Croatia – your reliable business partner



Stimulating investment &  
business environment



Highly educated, multilingual &  
competent workforce



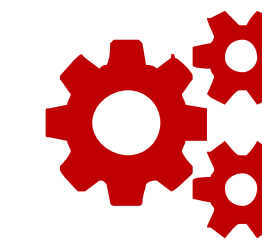
Stability & safety of business  
activity



Unique  
geostrategic  
location in Europe



EU member - access to  
a market of almost 500  
million people



Long tradition in industrial  
production



Modern transport  
infrastructure



Access to EU funds


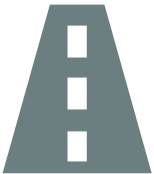




# Easier access to European & world markets

## Modern transport infrastructure





# Transport of goods

	2019 (in '000 t)	2020 (in '000 t)
<b>Goods carried</b>	<b>122 970</b>	<b>123 288</b>
 Railway transport	14 449	14 992
 Road transport	81 110	80 693
 Seawater and coastal transport	18 296	17 400
 Inland waterway transport	815	948
 Air Transport	2	1
 Transport via pipelines	8 298	9 253

Source: Croatian Bureau of Statistics

# Stimulating business environment

51/190

DB 2020

63/141

GCR 2019



**Equal rights for foreign & domestic investors**



**Avoidance of double taxation**

Signed with over 50 countries



**Corporate tax 10% and 18%**

Tax incentives up to 100% tax deduction



**Incentives for capital expenditure, labour cost, education grants**

Up to €9,000 per new job created



**EU funds**

24.5 billion EUR (Recovery and Resilience Facility and 2021-2027 long-term EU budget)



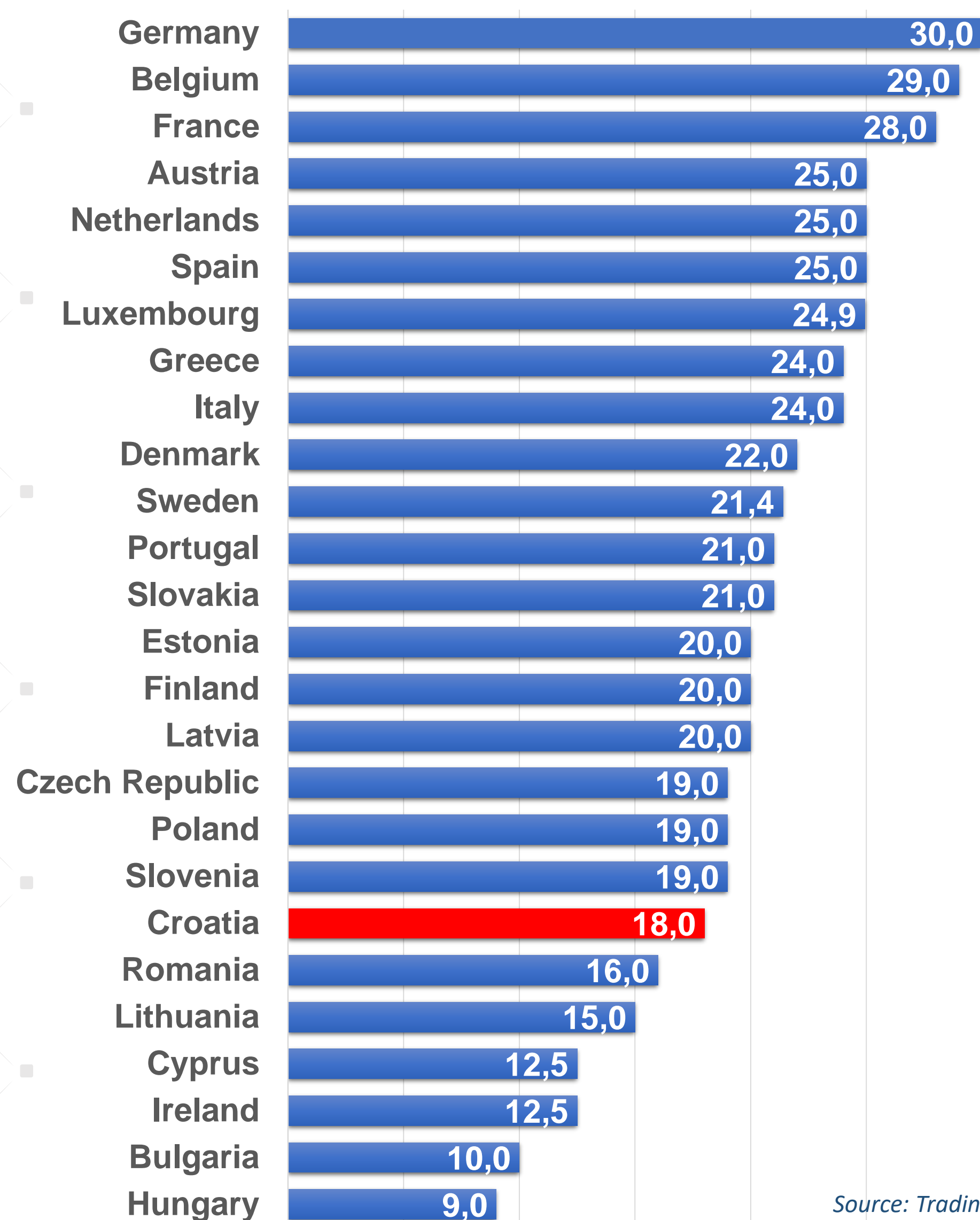
**Additional government support measures**

Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development; bank loan guarantees for SMEs (HAMAG-BICRO); EIB, EBRD, etc.



# Overview of Croatian tax system

## Corporate tax rate (% , 2020)



Source: Trading Economics

## VAT

25%

General tax rate

13%

Lowered tax rates

5%

## CORPORATE INCOME TAX

18%

≥ 7.5 mil. HRK

10%

< 7.5 mil. HRK

0%

Act on Investment  
Promotion

## CAPITAL INCOME TAX

10%

## PERSONAL INCOME TAX

20%

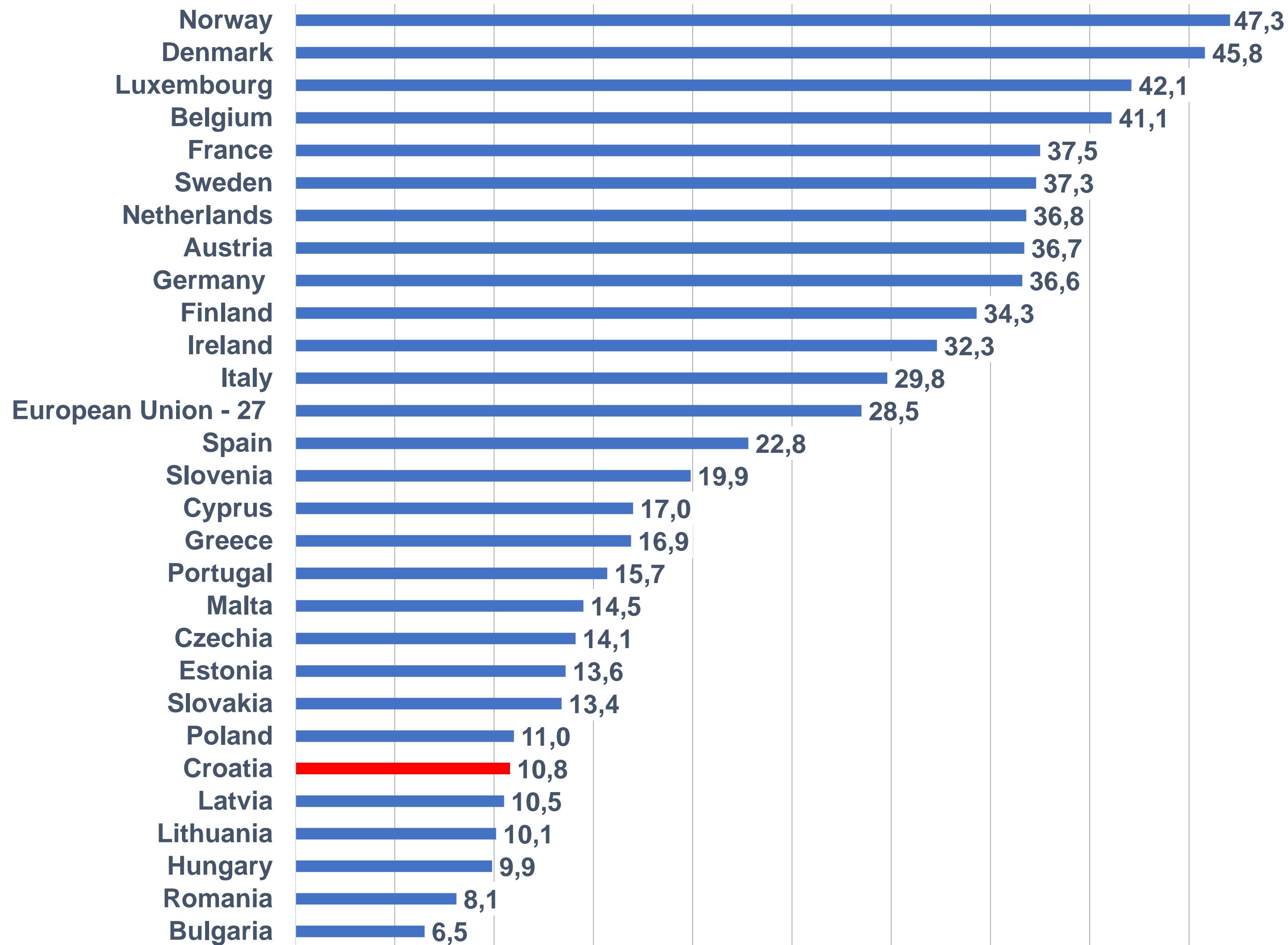
30%

## POSSIBILITY OF TAX RELIEFS (Entrepreneurial zones)

- ✓ Relief from utility tax
- ✓ Lower municipal services payments
- ✓ Lower land prices

# Cost competitive labour force

## Labour costs EUR/hour 2020



Source: Eurostat





# Act on Investment Promotion

## ■ Incentives for:

- Manufacturing and processing activities
- Development-innovation activities
- Business support activities
- High added value services
- Initial and capital expenses
- Labour intensive investment projects



## ■ Minimum investment required:

- €150,000 + creating 5 new jobs (for SMEs and large companies)
- €50,000 + creating 3 new jobs (micro entrepreneurs)
- €50,000 + creating 10 new jobs (centres for development of information-communication systems and software)
- €500,000 for investment projects in modernizing and increasing business process productivity

# Incentives



1. Tax incentives for micro entrepreneurs
2. Tax incentives for small, medium and large entrepreneurs
3. Incentives for eligible costs of creating new jobs related to investment project
4. Incentives for eligible costs of training related to investment project
5. Additional incentives for specific business activities:
  - Development-innovation activities
  - Business support activities
  - High added value services
6. Incentive measures for capital expenses of investment project
7. Incentive measures for labour intensive investment projects
8. Incentive measures for investment projects undertaking economic activation of inactive state-owned property of the Republic of Croatia
9. Incentive measures for modernization and increase of business processes productivity - automation, robotization and digitalisation of production and manufacturing processes



# Tax Incentives

Min. investment (€ million)	Number of newly employed	Corporate income tax reduction	Duration of incentives
>0,05 for micro entrepreneurs	3	50%	up to 5 years
>0,05 - 1 for ICT system and software development centers	10	50%	up to 10 years
0.15 - 1	5	50%	up to 10 years
1 – 3	10	75%	up to 10 years
More than 3	15	100%	up to 10 years

New vacancies have to be filled within 3 years after the start of investment.

Minimal period for maintaining investment project:

- SME – 3 years
- Large enterprises – 5 years

# Incentives for eligible costs of creating new jobs

County unemployment rate	*Mandatory period for retaining new jobs	Non-refundable financial incentive for the costs of creating new jobs	Max. incentive amount
up to 10%	3/5 years	up to 10% eligible costs	up to €3,000
10% - 20%	3/5 years	up to 20% eligible costs	up to €6,000
More than 20%	3/5 years	up to 30% eligible costs	up to €9,000

## Mandatory period for retaining new jobs

- SME – 3 years
- Large enterprises – 5 years



# Incentives for eligible costs of training

- The beneficiary of incentive measures shall be approved a non-repayable grant for training of employees in the newly created jobs linked to the investment project.

The maximum aid intensity does not exceed 50% of eligible costs and can be increased up to 70% of eligible costs as follows:

- by 10 percentage points if the training is conducted for disabled workers
- by 10 percentage points if the aid is granted to medium-sized enterprise
- by 20 percentage points if the aid is granted to small and micro entrepreneurs

# Additional incentives for specific business activities

- Development-innovation activities
- Business support activities
- High added value services

Non-refundable aid for the creation of new jobs created is increased as follows:

County unemployment rate	Mandatory period for retaining new jobs	Non-refundable financial incentive for the costs of creating new jobs	Max. incentive amount	Increase for development and innovation activities	Increase for business support activities and high value added services
up to 10%	5 years	10% eligible costs	€3,000	+50% (max. €1,500 )	+25% (max. €750 )
10% - 20%	5 years	20% eligible costs	€6,000	+50% (max. €3,000 )	+25% (max. €1,500 )
more than 20%	5 years	30% eligible costs	€9,000	+50% (max. €4,500 )	+25% (max. €2,250 )

- For investment in the development and innovation activities, **a non-repayable grant** is approved for the purchase of equipment/ machinery up to 20% of the eligible costs and in the maximum amount of €500,000 in equivalent HRK value



# Act on Strategic Investment Projects of the Republic of Croatia



## Criteria

- *private, public or public-private investment projects which include the construction of buildings*
- *total value of capital investment costs:*
  - ✓ equal to or greater than 75,000,000.00 HRK or
  - ✓ equal to or greater than 75,000,000.00 HRK and have the ability to be co-financed from the funds and programs of the EU or
  - ✓ equal to or greater than 10,000,000.00 HRK and are realized in assisted areas in accordance with the act governing the assisted areas and the regional development of the Republic of Croatia, or on islands, or if the investment falls within the area of agriculture production, fisheries and forestry;
- *in accordance with the physical planning documents*
- *if private investment project, the investment relates to:*
  - ✓ production and processing activities
  - ✓ development and innovation activities
  - ✓ business support activities
  - ✓ activities of high added value services
  - ✓ activities in energy sector
  - ✓ infrastructure
  - ✓ activities related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries
  - ✓ activities related to health care
  - ✓ activities related to science and education

# Investment sites

- More than **100** ready entrepreneurial zones
  - utility services, clear ownership, good logistic & traffic connection
- Strong support from local communities
- Additional tax reliefs:
  - ✓ relief from utility tax
  - ✓ lower payments for municipal services
  - ✓ lower land prices





# Home of many pioneering innovations



**128** higher education institutions



**155,939** enrolled students



**18.5%** graduates in tertiary education in science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction

**99.6%**

Secondary school students learning English

**1.2**

Average number of foreign languages studied per pupil = **3<sup>rd</sup> best in Europe**

**97%**

Young people with at least secondary education

**40%**

Human resources in science and technology (% of active population)



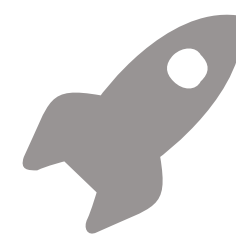
Tie



Slavoljub Penkala



Nikola Tesla



Torpedo



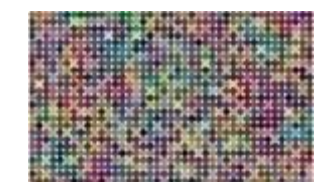
MP3 Audio



SMS Parking



Photomath



Infrared design

# How can we help?







# Croatian Chamber of Economy

169 year old tradition



**MORE THAN 130,000  
MEMBER COMPANIES**

**MORE THAN 60  
PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS**



**20 COUNTY CHAMBERS**

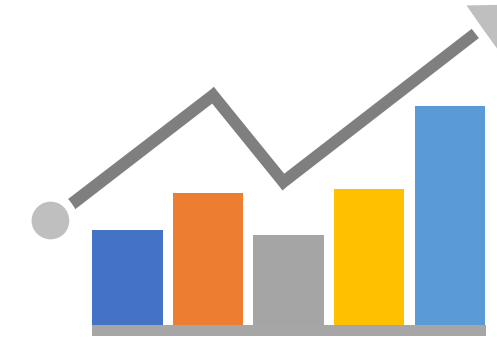
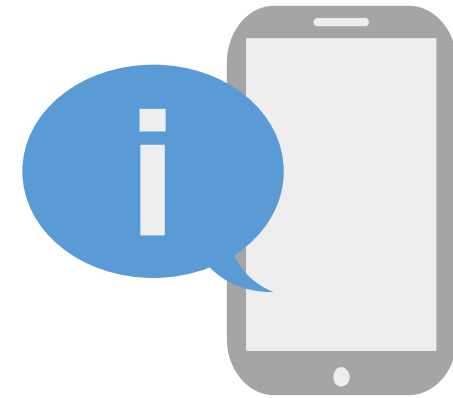
**REPRESENTATIVE  
OFFICES ABROAD**





# Our services

INFORMATION

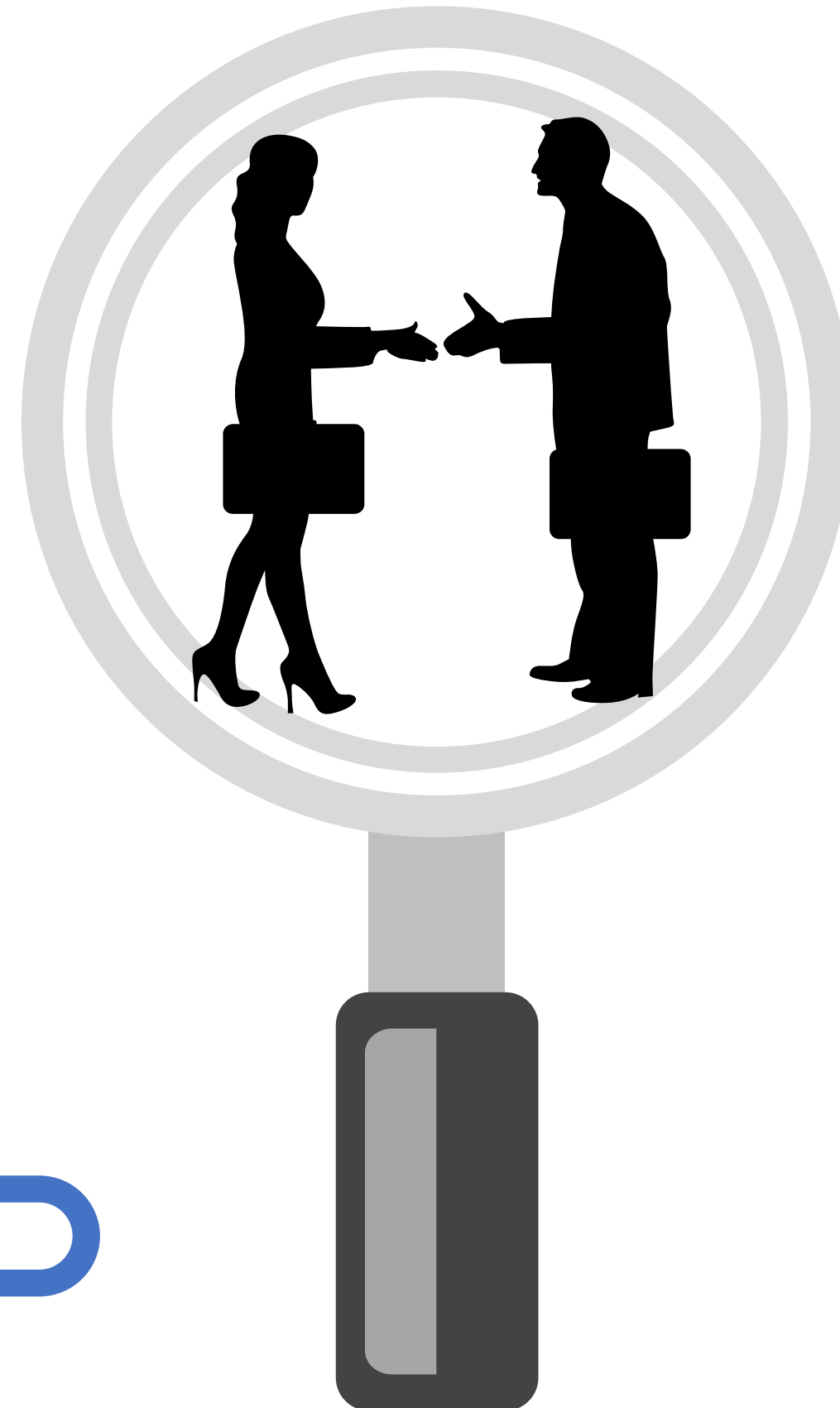


INTERNATIONALISATION

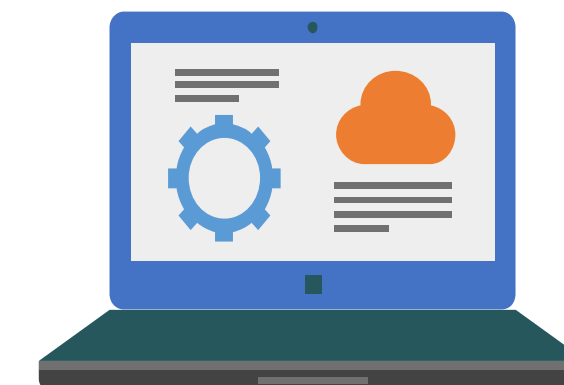
LEGISLATION



EDUCATION

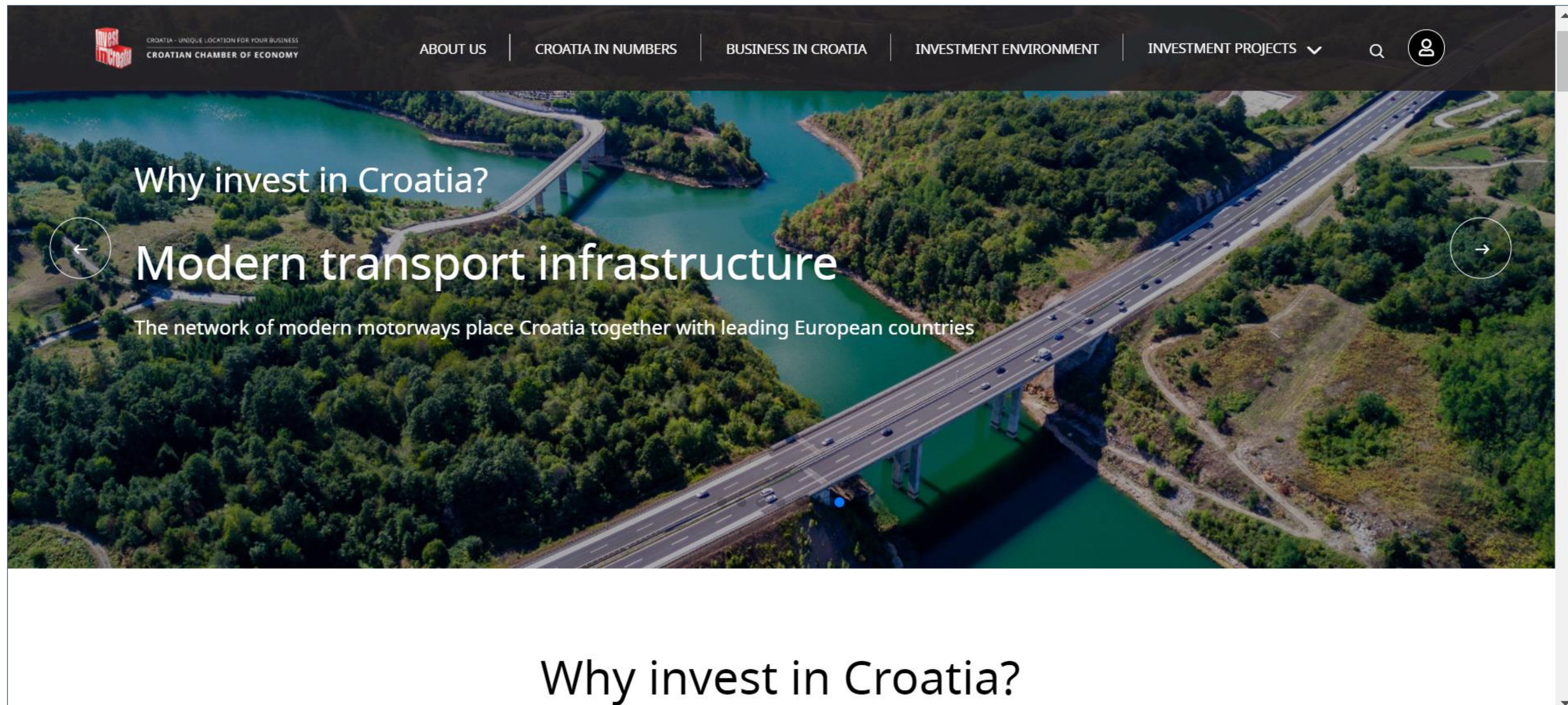


ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT



PROMOTION





- *Business and investment information*
- *Business zones information*
- *Investment projects catalogue*





# Contact us



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