**E-Schools in Croatia**

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E-Schools (<https://www.e-skole.hr/en/>) programme represents a framework for the informatization of the Croatian education system that will be implemented from 2015 until the end of 2022. It consists of:

1. Initial project covering 10% of all Croatian schools called: “e-Schools: Establishment of the system for the development of digitally mature schools (pilot project)” that last from 2015 to 2018, and
2. Major project, which will last from 2019 to 2022 and will be based on the results, findings, evaluation and recommendations from the pilot project.

Full name of the e-School programme is **“e-Schools: Complete informatization of business and education processes in the schools with a goal of creating digitally mature schools for the 21st century”. Overall objective of e-Schools programme** is to contribute to empowerment of the capacities of the primary and secondary education system with the goal of enabling students to become active participants of the labour market, pursue further education and engage in life-long learning.

## E-Schools – pilot project

“e-Schools: Establishment of the system for the development of digitally mature schools (pilot project)” lasts from 1st of March 2015 until 31st August 2018. Pilot project has the same overall objective as the e-Schools programme, however pilot has its own specific goals.

**Purpose of the pilot project** is to establish the system of the development of digitally mature schools through piloting and evaluation of the use of ICT in education and business processes in 10% of schools in the Republic of Croatia.

**Specific goal of the pilot project** is to plot the organisational, technological and educational concepts of introducing ICT in educational and business processes in selected schools in the period of two and a half years. Based on experience and lessons learned in pilot the strategy will be developed for the implementation of the system of the digitally mature schools in the whole system of primary and secondary education in the Republic of Croatia, through implementation of the major e-Schools project (2019-2022).

Project is financed mostly (85%) from Structural Funds of the European Union. Considering the specificity of the project objectives, its implementation has been separated into two strategic projects, which are financed and carried out through two different operational programmes: Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion (ERDF), and Operational Programme Efficient Human Resources (ESF). Pilot project is worth 40 000 000 € (Project A 30 million €, financed through European Regional Development Fund and Project B 10 million €, financed through European Social Fund).

The project coordinating body is the Croatian Academic and Research Network – CARNET (<https://www.carnet.hr/en>). The competent body authorized for CARNET is the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, which answers to the Government of the Republic of Croatia.