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АГЕНЦИЈА ЗА АКРЕДИТАЦИЈУ
ЗДРАВСТВЕНИХ УСТАНОВА СРБИЈЕ



BFHI Programme in Croatia: results and challenges

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CROATIA

- 4.5 million inhabitants
- 42 000 births per year
- Rate of preterm birth: 6%
- Rate of C-section: 19.7%
- Low infant mortality rate (3.6/1000 live births)
- 31 maternity wards + 1 private maternity facility
- 5 level III NICUs + 1 level IV NICU; 6 level II neonatal care units (special care nursery)



Source: *Croatian National Institute of Public Health 2012*

BFHI programme in Croatia 1993 – 2014

- 30 out of 31 maternity hospitals have been designated as “Baby – Friendly”



Results of BFHI implementation in Croatian maternity wards

- Increase in the number of breastfed newborns at hospital discharge (from 75% to 95%)
- 20 years ago mothers and newborn infants were separated in all maternity wards in Croatia
- Today mothers and newborns are staying together in all maternity wards



The impact of the BFHI programme on a space and hygienic conditions in Croatian maternity hospitals during 2007 - 2013

- **Built new maternity wards: 2 (Zabok, Split)**
- **Reconstructed maternity wards: 7 (Sisak, Karlovac, Požega, Šibenik, KB Merkur Zagreb, KBC Zagreb Petrova i KBC Sr. milosrdnice Zagreb)**

Breastfeeding is supported and promoted

- During antenatal care (information/BF courses)
- After delivery (the maternity wards offer strong support for BF; most of them are designated as BFH)
- The first month (community health nurse)
- Infants (CHN, pediatrician, family physician, community breastfeeding support)
- One-year maternity leave
- Time off for BF when starting to work (have the right for two hours per day, fully paid for the first 12 months)

Exclusive breastfeeding rates

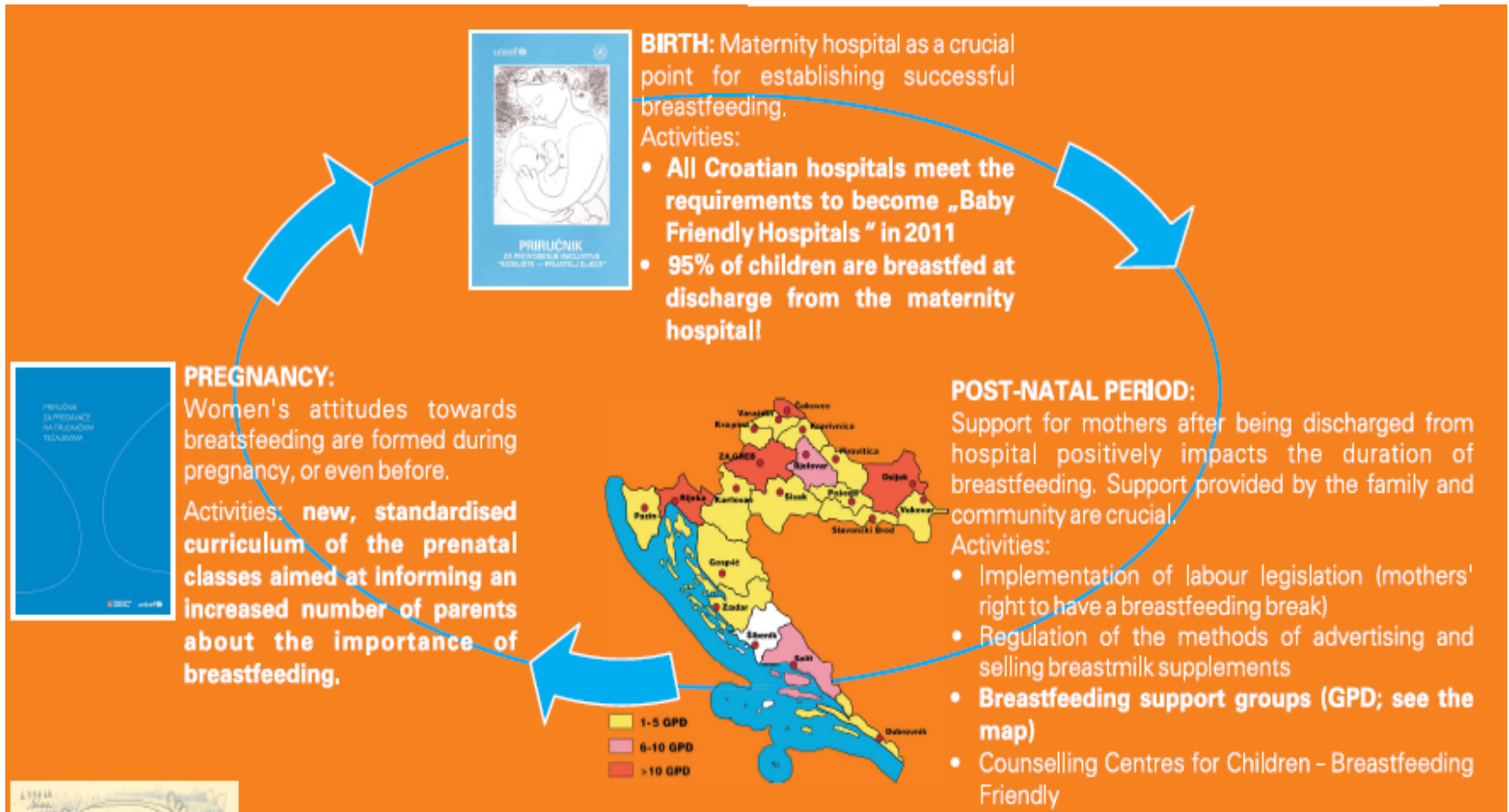
Year/ Infant age	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
0 -2 mo	76.2 %	66.3 %	64.5 %	56.7 %	51.3%
3-5 mo	54.2 %	45.9 %	44.7 %	41.4 %	32.4%
at 6 mo	14.8 %	15.9 %	16.6 %	18.2 %	16.5%

Source:

„Croatian Health Service Yearbook” 2007,2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Croatian National Institute of Public Health

BFHI programme expansion



Antenatal period

- **only 20% of pregnant women attending antenatal classes**
- **only 60% of pregnant women are visited by community health nurses**



Support in postpartum period – Breastfeeding support groups

- Community health nurses – 135 breastfeeding support groups are organized in Croatia



- Non-governmental organization RODA – breastfeeding support groups in the area Zagreb, Split and Osijek
- Non-governmental organization IZVOR, Zadar

Support in postpartum period - primary health care offices

Breastfeeding Friendly Primary Care Office Initiative: “Well Baby Clinic – Breastfeeding Friendly”

- launched in 2008
- have to fulfill “10 steps”
- since 2011, 8 pediatric primary offices and 1 family physician office have been designated



National Health Care Strategy *2012-2020*

- In September 2012 the Croatian parliament endorsed the *National Health Care Strategy 2012-2020* in which a separate section is dedicated to the promotion of breastfeeding in Croatia and calls for the implementation of the *National Program for the Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding*, including the BFHI, standardisation of antenatal courses and setting up of breastfeeding-friendly primary health care offices.

Challenges

- 1. Adopt the National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding**
- 2. Apply the International Code of marketing of breast-milk substitutes**
- 3. Maternity wards:**
 - Breastfeeding promotion in NICUs**
 - Mother and baby friendly hospitals**
- 4. Increase exclusive breastfeeding rates up to 6 months with appropriate complementary food**
- 5. Breastfeeding promotion in the community - creating a new culture of breastfeeding**
- 6. Develop a system of accreditation of maternity wards**



GREETINGS FROM CROATIA !



**Multi-country Workshop on
Development of Accreditation Standards for Maternity Wards and Neonatal Departments
15 – 16 September 2014, Belgrade**

