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US ALUMNI COMMUNITY OF CROATIA 3rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

***Preventing Croatia’s Next Brain Drain***

*Rijeka, 25th May 2013, Faculty of Economics*

In the course of your career, you have likely met or worked with someone with academic or professional experience in the United States of America.  These Alumni possess a unique skill set and a valuable international perspective.  The U.S. Embassy believes that Alumni are an extension of the Embassy community – because of the exchange of ideas to which they continue to contribute through their work.

The U.S. Embassy in Zagreb, the U.S. Alumni Community of Croatia (USACC), and Academy for Political Development (APD) are organizing the conference around the topic “Preventing Croatia’s Next Brain Drain.” We are expecting other partner organizations to also join in support of this important event.  As Croatia is approaching accession to the European Union, the strong possibility of a new “brain drain” is on the mind of many Croatians who chose to study overseas, but then chose to return to Croatia.  This conference is an ideal opportunity to project the impact of EU Accession on the next 5 years for Croatian graduates, workers, and employers.

Over 200 guests from the academic and business worlds are expected to attend.  The program will cover several interesting and timely topics – the point of view from the private sector about how to create jobs, the public sector’s viewpoint on how to keep workers in Croatian jobs, and the academic sector’s viewpoint on necessary reforms to the University system to better prepare graduates for the jobs that exist.  We will invite noteworthy speakers from the U.S. and Croatia, while moderators will facilitate discussion and audience interaction.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, and I look forward to working together on this critical discussion with policy implications.  I welcome further correspondence regarding your participation in the above mentioned activities, and wish you all the best.

***Jerko Markovina****,*

USACC president

[jmarkovina@agr.hr](mailto:jmarkovina@agr.hr)

[usacc@usaccroatia.com](mailto:usacc@usaccroatia.com)

[www.usaccroatia.com](http://www.usaccroatia.com)

**Vanja Ratkovic**

**Social Media Coordinator**

Public Affairs Section

U.S. Embassy Zagreb

T. Jeffersona 2, 10010 Zagreb

Tel. +385 (1) 661 2206

Mob. +385 (0)91 661 2344

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***U.S. Alumni Community of Croatia (USACC) Conference***

***“Preventing Croatia’s Next Brain Drain”***

***Faculty of Economics, Rijeka, Croatia – May 25, 2013***

**08.30 - 09.30       Registration**

**09.30 - 10.30       Opening Remarks**

Moderators: Cultural Affairs Officer Sita Sonty and USACC President Jerko Markovina

Hoyt B. Yee, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy

Zdenka Lončar, Assistant Minister of Entreprenuership

Representative of Faculty of Economics, University of Rijeka

**10.30 - 11.45       The Private Sector’s Viewpoint**

Moderator: Goran Radić, CISEX

        Saša Cvetojević, CRANE; Insako

        Ivana Maršić, Myrio

Boran Lončarić, Gdi Group

Boris Golob, StepRi

**11.45 – 12.00**       *Coffee break*

**12.00 - 13.30       The Public Sector’s Viewpoint**

Moderator: Nikolina Šajn, Jutarnji list

Marko Krištof, Assistant [Minister of Labour and Pension System](http://www.linkedin.com/company/2714304?trk=prof-0-ovw-curr_pos)

Melita Mulić, Member of the Croatian Parliament

Milan Tankosić, Deputy Mayor at Gračac municipality

**13.30 - 15.00** *Lunch Break*

**15.00-16.00         The Academic Sector’s Viewpoint**

Moderator: Krešimir Krolo, University of Zadar

           Ninoslav Šćukanec, IRO

Boris Jokić, IDIS

Zvonimir Jelinić, University of Osijek

**16.00 – 16.30       Closing Remarks**

USACC

CAO

APD

**16.30 - 17.30       Nominations and Elections for USACC leadership *Exclusive for Alumni***

***Elections for USACC President, Treasurer, 3 Trustees***

**18.00-20.00         Reception *Exclusive for Alumni***