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– Prof. dr. Radovan Vukadinovi : Croatia on the verge of joining NATO  
– Đana Luša: The student population and the membership of the Republic of  
Croatia in NATO  
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***Main titles from the study:***

- **Croatia on the verge of joining NATO**
  - High expectations*
  - Croatia in the Partnership for Peace*
  - The impact of the Iraq crisis*
  - The Adriatic Initiative*
  - Declining popularity*
  - The unity of Euro-Atlanticism*
  - Security community*
  - The role of public diplomacy*
  - The cost of joining NATO*
  - When do we join NATO?*
- **The student population and the membership of the Republic of Croatia in NATO**
  - Analysis of the results of the poll*
  - Summary*
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| <b>Annotation</b> |
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Since its formation, Croatia has committed itself to joining Euro-Atlantic integration, in both its forms: military-political and economic. Among the official documents of Croatian policy, this direction is more than obvious, and Croatian policy has emphasized at almost any stage of the process that it is a long-term interest, which is also the basis on which the modern Croatian state intends to develop further.

The first major disagreements arose over the perception of Croatia's attitude to the Iraq crisis. As in other transition countries, Croatian policy has not been best adjusted to the turmoil of the crisis. Once he strongly supported America's policy in Iraq, then he supported the European initiative, that is, the Franco-German initiative. It also highlighted the differences between the opinion differences of the Croatian president and the then prime minister, Račan.

In May 2003, an American urge moved the signing of the so-called Adriatic Charter on the partnership between Albania, Croatia and Macedonia. Understanding that the great debates on Iraq, as well as the so-called division into old and new Europe could affect Albania, Croatia and Macedonia; American policy tried to establish a link between these three countries and to give them the prospect of joining NATO if their cooperation relations are accelerated and reforms can be carried out more quickly.

By cooperating with the member states of the alliance, as a small European state, Croatia could be an active participant in the development of the European security system, and its role, regardless of the weight of its word, could also contribute to the development of new international relations. The opportunity to participate in the work of the world's largest politico-military organization is by no means a negligible fact. It would have weight, especially in the Southeast European region.

Through its repeated surveys of EU and NATO membership among the secondary school and university population, the Croatian Atlantic Council seeks to identify some of the prejudices and ingrained views of this population, as well as to gain an insight into the factual and level of awareness.