

Rules for mountain leaders from EU/foreign countries who want to provide services in Croatia

According to the UIMLA standard, an **International Mountain Leader** is a person who is qualified to lead, teach, support and train clients, paying or otherwise, to all areas in all seasons, including snow covered terrain, except for activities reserved for mountain guides. When providing cross border services Mountain Leader must comply with national laws related to the provision of services.

When in this questionnaire we make reference to EU citizens or EU member states we are also including citizens coming from Switzerland and EFTA countries.

Bellow you will find the applicable rules which were obtained in a form of questionnaire from respective national authorities and further processed by UIMLA. The information provided is confirmed by:

Contact details for the authority: Sasa Zrnic, szrnic@hgk.hr, Advisor Croatian Chamber of Economy, danijela.osrecakperic@mints.hr (Ministry of Tourism and Sport)

Date: 13 July 2023

1. Mountain leader profession

Does the profession of the mountain leader exist in Croatia?

No

And does a profession of a mountain leader exist as a profession independent of the profession of a mountain guide?

No

2. Entry requirements for mountain leaders from EU member states - prior declaration or other?

Do you require qualified mountain leaders **from EU member states** to send a **prior declaration** before they start temporarily providing services of a mountain leader in your country?

No

7. A profession of mountain leader does **not** exist in your country

Does it mean that mountain leaders are free to guide their clients in your country?

No

If 'No': does it mean that mountain leaders have to meet other entry requirements? Please describe what the other requirements are:

Mountain leaders services is one of tourist services of active and adventure tourism. They don't have to meet entry requirements but they have to meet a specific and special conditions that are established for the performance of individual activities of active and adventure tourism, as well as for the organization of events that include such activities when they provide their services.

Service provider of active and adventure tourism is obliged to have:

1. appropriate equipment for providing the service, with a declaration from authorized manufacturers or certified according to valid standards, to be kept in proper condition
2. use the equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions
3. when offering the service, specify which personal equipment for the safe realization of the activity the user must have, and which will be provided by the service provider within the price of the service
4. before starting the provision of the service with prominent information in written form and verbally inform the user of the service with the types of risks of the service, the way of using the equipment and with the risk assessment, plans and procedures for eliminating hazards
5. insure the user of the service against the consequences of an accident and make available to him information about the conditions of insurance concluded with an insurer in the Republic of Croatia or a contracting state of the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation
6. to provide the service, hire a person who has the appropriate domestic or foreign certificate, i.e. a certificate that determines the ability and level of skill to perform the activities (certificates are listed below)
7. meet special conditions (mentioned below)

Beside these requirements, if they want to provide service of mountaineering (walking, hiking, trekking, ferrata) they have to have one of the following certificates:

1. International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA)
2. Union of International Mountain Leader Associations (UIMLA)
3. Croatian Mountain Rescue Service (HGSS) - Croatian economy chamber (HGK)
4. Association of Mountain Guides (SGVH)
5. Croatian Mountaineering Association (HPS)
6. Sports University Zagreb Training program for mountain guide.

Special conditions:

Above specified minimum certificates are sufficient for territory that do not require the use of any additional equipment (handrails, harnesses, via ferrata set, etc.), while for guiding with the above-mentioned equipment in winter conditions (use of snowshoes, ice axes and crampons), mountaineering tours and mountain, i.e. touring skiing can only be guided by a guide trained according to the appropriate HPS standards B-D or the same SGVH standards, i.e. UIAA and UIMLA.