

ISRZ Newsletter

3/2014.

Editorial

The Newsletter of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb for 2014 presents our activities that marked the previous year. We give an overview of the domestic and the international projects, the ongoing ones and the ones that started in 2014, as well as the events that we (co)organized. We also bring information on international cooperation and collaboration with the national and local authorities and the civil society organizations in the previous year.

The year 2014 was marked by the celebration of the **50th anniversary of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb**, which was founded on April 21st 1964, by the University of Zagreb, as the first social scientific research institution in Croatia. This significant jubilee was celebrated in April 2014, in a ceremony held at the City Assembly of the City of Zagreb, under the auspices of the president of the Republic of Croatia, prof. Ivo Josipović.

The ISRZ celebrated its anniversary also by organizing two conferences with international participation that examined the topics in educational research, and by organizing a national scientific conference that problematized the issues young people face in the contemporary Croatian society.

In May 2014, The ISRZ and The Faculty of Teacher Education of the University of Zagreb hosted the international **TEPE 2014** conference (*Teacher Education Policy in Europe*), and in October The **2nd Days of Educational Sciences** were held, at which participants from the region, Europe and the USA presented their views on the role of research in educational change. The national scientific conference **“Demokratski potencijali mladih u Hr-**

vatskoj” [Democratic potentials of youth in Croatia] was also held in October and was organized by the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb and the Centre for Democracy and Rights “Miko Tripalo”. More about the 50th anniversary and the conferences that we (co) organized in the previous year can be read on the upcoming pages of the Newsletter.

Near the end of 2014 we organized an **Open Day of the ISRZ** in order to bring our most recent researches closer to the broader public in a popular way.

Among the projects that started in 2014, we give a more detailed overview of the competitive interdisciplinary project of the Croatian Science Foundation **“Modernizacijski stres, mladi i migracije” [Modernity Stress, Youth and Migration]**, project **„O učenju 2014” [About Learning 2014]**, that was initiated in cooperation with the County Professional Council of Pedagogues of Primary Schools of The City of Zagreb and project **„Evaluacija institucije Pravobraniteljice za ravnopravnost spolova RH od 2003. do 2013. godine” [Evaluation of the institution of Ombudsperson for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia from 2003 to 2013]**, that was realized in cooperation with The Ombudsperson for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia.

In 2014 we continued international cooperation both on institutional level through implementation of the ISSP (*International Social Survey Programme*) and through the continuation of cooperation within the **HEISEE** Initiative (*The Higher Education Initiative for Southeastern Europe*), and on the individual level through study visits of our researchers to educational institutions in Europe and the USA, within various exchange and fellowship programs.

All mentioned above, as well as the information on the publishing activity of the Institute for 2014 and the book promotions that we held in the previous year, can be found on the pages that follow.

We also invite you to regularly follow our activities at the [Institute web-site](#) and our [Facebook profile](#).

Projects in 2014

Research projects funded by the MSES

During 2014 the ISRZ continued the realization of projects financed by the MSES under the Program Agreement between the MSES and the ISRZ on multi-year institutional financing of the scientific activity.

A total of 8 projects are currently financed by the Program Agreement:

- Social Protagonists of Scientific and Technological Development – principal investigator: Adrijana Šuljok, Ph. D.
- Identity and body in the advertising messages – principal investigator: prof. Mladen Labus, Ph. D.
- Development of Social Sciences and Humanities in Croatia in time span 1991-2012 – principal investigator: prof. Marija Maja Jokić, Ph. D.
- Quality of living and housing in the settlement network of Zagreb – principal investigator: Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac, Ph. D.
- Secondary school pupils' civic competence, prejudice and discrimination experiences – principal investigator: Branislava Baranović, Ph. D.
- A study of pupils' conceptualisations of Nature of science and their attitudes toward science subjects in primary and secondary education – principal investigator: Zrinka Ristić Dedić, Ph. D.
- Teacher professional development during initial teacher education – longitudinal perspective – principal investigator: prof. Vlasta Vizek Vidović, Ph. D.
- Croatian students in European context: The emerging social elite – principal investigator: prof. Vlasta Ilišin, Ph. D.

The international ISSP project (International Social Survey Programme) was also co-financed by the Program Agreement.

Research projects funded by the CSF

In 2014 we continued the implementation of the competitive research project financed by the Croatian Science Foundation „Social identities, higher education access and course choice“ (http://www.idi.hr/sipvoos/index_en.html) and started implementing the interdisciplinary project “Modernity Stress, Youth and Migration” that we present further in the Newsletter.

International Projects

International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)

We continued with the ISSP – *International Social Survey Programme* – the oldest continuous project in the field of social sciences that has been implemented at the ISRZ continuously since 2005. During 2014, a field study for Module *National Identities* was conducted.

Dr. sc. Dinka Marinović Jerolimov and dr. sc. Branko Ančić participated in May at the ISSP annual meeting in Finland (Tampere) to prepare the research Module for 2015, *Work Orientation IV*. Data archive is available at <http://www.gesis.org/en/issp/issp-home/>.

IPA projects

During 2014 the ISRZ participated in numerous activities that were a part of the three IPA projects in which we were either the leading institution or the partner (Table 1).

Throughout Croatia, together with our partners, we organized workshops, seminars and training courses for different stakeholders in the national educational system, from teachers and school principals to the representatives of agencies, ministries and other authorities responsible for creating educational policies.

In 2014 we also realized 6 projects in which we collaborated with national and/or local authorities or the civil society organizations, which is shown in Table 2.

Table 1.
IPA projects

Project Title	Project Leader	Partner/s
Developing Curricula Culture: Empowering schools to develop and implement school curriculum	Institute for Social Research in Zagreb	Forum for Freedom in Education
Development of the national qualification standard for teachers as a basis for the implementation of a teacher licensing system	National Center for External Evaluation of Education	Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, Faculty of Teacher Education of the University of Zagreb, Primary school Pučišća, Agricultural School in Zagreb
E-Quality: Linking quality and social inclusion in higher education in Croatia	Institute for the Development of Education	Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, University of Rijeka, University of Zadar, The University of Applied Sciences "Marko Marulić" in Knin, Association for Development of Higher Education "Universitas", Agency for Science and Higher Education Croatia

Table 2.
Projects with the national and local authorities and the CSO

Project Title	Partner/s
Evaluation of the Action Cities / Counties Friends of Children from Children's Perspective	Cities/counties: Lovran, Mrkopalj, Nova Gradiška, Split
Exploitation of the results of research of high-school students' risk behaviours for more efficient planning and implementation of school programmes for prevention in the Istrian County	Institute of Public Health of the Istrian County - Istituto di sanità pubblica della regione Istriana
Research: "Support: permanent effect or stimulating moment?" (Research on Evaluation of the effects of support to the National Foundation on the social and economic development)	National Foundation for Civil Society Development
Mapping of Educational Policy related to the teachers in the region	Network of Education Policy Centers (NEPC)
About Learning 2014	The County Professional Council of Pedagogues of primary schools of The City of Zagreb
Evaluation of the institution of Ombudsperson for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia from 2003 to 2013	Ombudsperson for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia



Seminar for the Agency for Education and Teacher Training advisors, held from 25th-28th February, 2014 in Ogulin, as a part of the IPA project "Developing Curricula Culture: Empowering schools to develop and implement school curriculum"

CSF project "Modernity Stress, Youth and Migration"



Research team of the project "Modernity Stress, Youth and Migration". Left to right: dr. sc. Hrvojkja Marija Zeljko, dr. sc. Ana Malnar, dr. sc. Ivana Lučev, dr. sc. Roko Mišetić, dr. sc. Irena Martinović Klarić, dr. sc. Ivan Lajić and dr. sc. Lana Peternel

The project of the Croatian Science Foundation "Modernity Stress, Youth and Migration" was publicly presented on Friday, 7th February 2014, in the Public Library "Bogdan Ogrizović". Principal investigator Irena Martinović Klarić, Ph. D. and the associates Ivana Lučev, Ph. D. and Lana Peternel, Ph. D. introduced the project. Dr. Irena Martinović Klarić presented the basic information about the project, the composition and competence of the interdisciplinary research team, the aim of the project, theoretical framework within the research, the sample, the study protocol and the expected scientific, educational and social outcomes of the project. Dr. Lučev explained the hypothesis and the methodological and theoretical framework for the research. Dr. Peternel described the preliminary results of the cultural model of different domains of daily life spent among the high school population from high schools and vocational schools in Zagreb, Split, Knin and Vukovar. The project research team was also presented, which besides the forementioned researchers, consists of researchers from five different institutions: prof. Irena Drmić Hofman, Ph. D. (School of Medicine in Split), Ivan Lajić, Ph. D. and Ana Malnar, Ph. D. (Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, Zagreb), Roko Mišetić, Ph. D. (Croatian Catholic University, Zagreb), Daniela Šupe-Domić, MS Med. Biochemistry (KBC Split) and Dr. Med. Hrvojkja Marija Zeljko, Ph. D. (Merkur Hospital, Zagreb).

The aim of the project is to collect and use diverse empirical data for the development and application of new theoretical and methodological concept for research of the correlation of contemporary cultural changes, stress and migration of young people.

A pilot study was conducted in the X gymnasium "Ivan Supek" in Zagreb within the first year of the project, from March till April 2014. The qualitative phase of the pilot study consisted of in-depth interviews with the students, the school principal and the school psychologist. Focus groups were also held with the participation of twenty pupils. Many topics from everyday young people's lives, such as **education, employment, family, future plans, free time, preferred migration destinations, social participation and support** were discussed. The quantitative phase of the pilot study involved a total of 166 students. At this stage, the students filled out a questionnaire about individual orientations and behaviour in the cultural domains of everyday life, health and stress. Anthropometric and biometric measurements were conducted during this phase. For the first time, a protocol of giving saliva samples in non-clinical conditions was designed and implemented. Out of 166 students, 102 followed completely the protocol for administration of saliva and for them the concentration of cortisol right after awakening, cortisol 30 and 45 minutes after awakening, cortisol before bedtime and the morning activity of alpha-amylase was analyzed in a laboratory. Students who participated in the quantitative phase of the study were given a single written report with the values of anthropometric and biometric measurements and salivary analysis, together with an explanation of the daily rhythm of cortisol secretion and ECG findings.

Preliminary results of the pilot study were presented at the Moscow State University, the Institute and Museum of Anthropology, as a part of the 19th Congress of the European Anthropological Society called "Anthropology: unity in diversity", from 25th to 29th August 2014. As a part of the session "Applied Anthropology" Dr. Lana Peternel held a presentation "The role of ethnography in the implementation of bio-cultural research", and Dr. Irena Martinović Klarić presented "Stress in transition - a case study of students from a secondary school in Zagreb, Croatia."

During 2014, the first phase of field research was completed which consisted of structured in-depth interviews, focus groups with a free listing and a questionnaire for cultural consensus. In-depth interviews, focus groups and questionnaires were conducted with principals, psychologists/pedagogues and students in 15 schools in Split, Rijeka and Osijek and 12 schools in Zagreb.

More information about the project can be found on the project [web - page](#).

(I. Martinović Klarić and L. Peternel)

Project "About Learning 2014"

The Institute for Social Research in Zagreb and the County Professional Council of Pedagogues of Primary Schools of the City of Zagreb conducted a survey on pupils' 'learning to learn' competence among students of fourth and eighth grade of primary school. The survey was conducted in April and May, 2014. The research aimed at emphasizing the importance of students' perspectives and sought to strengthen the often neglected voice of the most important actors of the educational process. The survey collected valuable data on students' school experiences and approaches to learning, motivation for learning, attitudes about education and experience of teachers' and parental support in learning and education.

The research is specific in the Croatian context since it has been implemented voluntarily and with full cooperation of professional associates, pedagogues and researchers. Shortlist project team consisted of researchers from the Center for Educational Research and Development, Boris Jokić, Ph. D. and Zrinka Ristić Dedić, Ph. D, and the primary school pedagogues Jadranka Bizjak Igrec (Bukovac Primary School), Biljana Manin (Trnsko Primary School) and Violeta Vragotuk (Primary School Ljubljanića), but the research would not have been accomplished without collaboration with other 106 professionals and associate pedagogues in primary schools.

The unique fact here is that all public primary schools in Zagreb participated in the research - a total of 109. In each of the schools two classes were randomly selected: one eighth and one fourth grade. The study involved a total of 2417 pupils of the fourth and 2299 pupils of the eighth grade.

The research results were published on the project website as a series of short reports "About Learning 2014", in which the following issues were discussed:

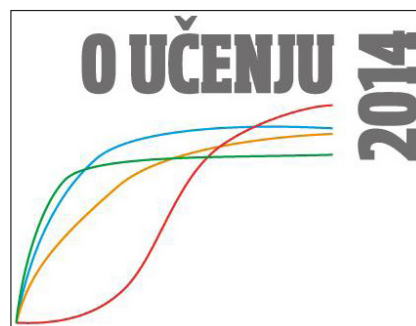
- Do students of fourth and eighth grades study, what do they study and how much do they study? (Report 1)
- What are the educational aspirations of students and their parents? Is education valuable to students? (Report 2)
- What is the learning support mechanism at school? Do parents support their children in learning? Why do the students study? (Report 3)
- Do students perceive Croatia as the environment in which studying and education are respected and appreciated? Why do they study? (Report 4)
- Private tutoring in primary schools (Report 5)

Through these reports, the authors presented key findings arising from the research and they tried to promote the idea of learning as 1) the central educational process in schools, 2) the core educational outcome of education, and 3) the key factor of reference and progress of the individual in the lifelong perspective.

Within the project, for each elementary school individualized reports were prepared in which the results of individual schools were compared with the results of all primary schools in the City of Zagreb. In this way, the schools were given feedback which can serve as a basis for planning of school activities related to encouraging the development of students' 'learning to learn' competence.

More information about the project and its results can be found on the project [web-site](#) and [Facebook](#).

(Z. Ristić Dedić)



Logo of the project "About learning 2014"

Project “Evaluation of the institution of Ombudsperson for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia from 2003 to 2013”

Independent evaluation of the eleven-year work of the institution of the Ombudsperson for gender equality of the Republic of Croatia in the period between 2003 and 2013 was conducted by the evaluation team of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb. The evaluation took place during the six months of 2014. The evaluation report is primarily based on sociological insights, which includes orientation to those indicators that point to the importance and value of the Institution for the Croatian, still by many parameters, patriarchal society.

In accordance with the interest for explaining the action and social power of the Institution of Ombudsperson, we were interested in evaluating the effects at different levels of social reality. The mentioned interest was transferred into the framework within which specific quantitative and qualitative indicators were determined as important for methodologically correct evaluation. These are the following indicators:

- individual or micro-level indicators, relating to the availability of the Institution for communication with the discriminated people, and the efficiency at that level;
- institutional or meso-level indicators that provide information on the extent and impact of the Institution on other interfering institutional levels;
- social or macro level indicators that describe the public activity of the Institution

In accordance with this framework, a methodology for evaluating the work of the Institution was developed as follows:

1) The qualitative and quantitative analysis of the Institution has been conducted, according to the monitoring of gender equality as defined by the Gender Equality Act from 2003 and 2008 (Official Gazette 116/03; OG 82/08), and other relevant Acts according to which the Institution governed its activities and submitted annual reports to the Parliament;

2) The quantitative analysis of semi-structured interviews with employees of the Institution has been carried out. Topics of the interviews are grouped into four sections:

a) assessment of human and infrastructure resources; b) principles of operation and evaluation of the comparative advantages of the Institution; c) assessment of the impact of external factors on the functioning of the Institution; d) plans and perspective of development.

3) The external evaluation of the Institution, based on the results of the questionnaire implemented by the network service has been performed. The survey was anonymous, and in the sample were represented individuals and institutions collaborators, stated by the Ombudsperson and those identified in the Reports of the Institution. Participation in the study was requested from related ombudsperson institutions, parliamentary committees, ministries and other state bodies, municipal, city and county commissions/committees for gender equality and other public institutions and civil society organizations.

Based on these parameters the work of the Institution was evaluated and the recommendations for improving policies and practices of the institution of the Ombudsperson were formed.

Results of the analysis and conclusions were made on the basis of an independent and autonomous work of the evaluation team that has worked jointly in all phases of the project. The evaluation team of the Institute for Social Research consists of Mirjana Adamović, Ph. D. (project leader), Anja Gvozdanović, Ph. D., Ana Maskalan, Ph. D. and Dunja Potočnik, Ph. D.

(M. Adamović)

Publishing

In 2014 the scientists of the Institute for Social Research published a total of 8 scientific books (5 authoring and 3 editorial) and 37 scientific papers. 9 papers were published in the journals indexed in Web of Science and/or Scopus, while 28 papers were published in the journals indexed in other internationally relevant bases or reviewed books.

The Institute for Social Research in Zagreb is the publisher of the book series Science and Society, the Special Editions and the scientific journal Sociology and Space.

In 2014 within the edition Science and Society the following books were published:



Sustainability perspectives from the European semi-periphery [Perspektive održivosti sa europske polu-periferije] / edited by Mladen Domazet, Dinka Marinović Jerolimov. Zagreb: Institute for Social Research: Heinrich Böll Stiftung Hrvatska, 2014. – 393 p.

Volume is in English and is fully available at the [ISRZ web-site](#).



Sociološki portret hrvatskih studenata [Sociological Portrait of Croatian Students] / editor Vlasta Ilišin. Zagreb: Institut za društvena istraživanja, 2014. – 485 p.

Within the Special Editions the following monographies and publications were issued:

YOUNG WOMEN IN POST-YUGOSLAV SOCIETIES: RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND POLICY

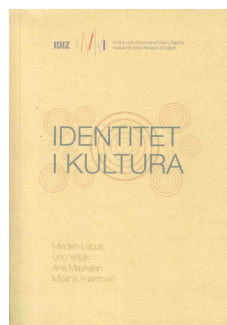
EDITORS: Mirjana Adamović, Branka Galić, Anja Gvozdanović, Ana Maskalan, Dunja Potočnik, Lejla Somun Krupalija



Young women in post-Yugoslav societies: research, practice and policy / editors Mirjana Adamović, Branka Galić, Anja Gvozdanović, Ana Maskalan, Dunja Potočnik, Lejla Somun Krupalija. Zagreb: Institute for Social Research; Sarajevo: Human Rights Centre, University of Sarajevo, 2014. – 277 p.



Institut za društvena istraživanja u Zagrebu: 1964.-2014. [Institute for Social Research in Zagreb: 1964-2014] / editor Vlasta Ilišin. Zagreb: Institut za društvena istraživanja, 2014. – 454 p.



Labus, Mladen; Veljak, Lino; Maskalan, Ana; Adamović, Mirjana. **Identitet i kultura [Identity and Culture]**. Zagreb: Institut za društvena istraživanja, 2014. – 161 p.

In 2014 we also published the **ISRZ Manual for Mentoring Young Researchers (IDIZ-ov priručnik za mentoriranje mladih istraživača)** by Vlasta Vizek Vidović, Marija Brajdić Vuković and Jelena Matić. Full text in Croatian is available at the [ISRZ web-site](#).



Publications by the ISRZ researchers resulting from the Institute projects and published by other publishers:

Jokić, Boris; Ristić Dedić Zrinka. **Postati student u Hrvatskoj [Becoming a Student in Croatia]**. – Zagreb: Agencija za znanost i visoko obrazovanje, 2014. – 120 p.

Full text in Croatian is available at the [ISRZ web-site](#).



Journal Sociology and Space

With the first issue for 2014, the journal *Sociology and Space* began a new thematic phase, more specialized on spatial themes coming from the disciplines of urban and

rural sociology and their related disciplines: social geography, social ecology, demography, architecture, urban planning, urban anthropology and others. This resulted in a change of the editorial board so that it consists of the experts from the previously mentioned professions. During 2014, the transition to the online system of receiving and reviewing papers, the so-called OJS system was initiated, which makes the current tasks in journal preparation and publishing much easier.

By the middle of 2014, the journal finished the process of digitalization of its entire material, from 1963 to the present, which was planned in 2013, and for which funds that covered most of the costs of digitalization were donated by the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

(dr. sc. Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac, editor-in-chief)

In 2014 all of the three yearly numbers were published. In them, a total of 20 scientific papers were published, of which 7 original scientific papers, 6 review papers, 1 preliminary communication, 6 reviews and 1 foreword.

Events (co)organized by the Institute

The 50th Anniversary of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb

The Institute celebrated its 50th anniversary in April, 2014 at the premises of the Zagreb City Assembly. Solemn anniversary was held under the auspices of the Croatian President, Prof. Ivo Josipović, Ph. D. On this occasion, the guests were welcomed by the director of the Institute, Dr. Branislava Baranović, Prof. Vlasta Ilišin, Ph. D. and Dr. Dinka Marinović Jerolimov. In their speeches, they referred to the past fifty years of existence and activity of the Institute, its current state and tendencies for development of the Institute in the future. On the occasion of the celebration, the monography *"Institute for Social Research in Zagreb: 1964-2014"* was presented, and a short documentary about ISRZ called "Challenges of society", created in collaboration with the Student Television, was projected to the guests. Also, former deserving employees of the ISRZ were assigned special acknowledgements for their respected contribution to the Institute.



The 50th anniversary of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb

International scientific conference TEPE 2014

Annual conference of the TEPE network for 2014 was held at the Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb, from 15th till 17th May 2014 and was organized by the Centre for Educational Research and Development of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb and the Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb. Teacher Education Policy in Europe - TEPE is an academic network resulting from the previous European collaborative projects in the field of teacher education policy. The network was founded in 2007 with the aim of continuous research and development of recommendations for teacher education policy at the institutional national and European level. The theme of the TEPE 2014 conference was *“Overcoming Fragmentation in Teacher Education Policy and Practice”* which was discussed by nearly a hundred scientists from more than 20 European countries, such as Hungary, Sweden, Scotland, Serbia, Italy, England, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Finland, Croatia and many others. Through four plenary sessions and 12 thematic sessions, different aspects of fragmentation between the education policy and the practical work of teachers were presented.

During the conference, the following topics were explored:

- Overcoming fragmentation by linking the educational sciences with subject methodologies
- Overcoming fragmentation between university faculty and school-based teacher educators
- Overcoming fragmentation by bridging the gap between initial teacher education, induction and continuous professional development
- Overcoming fragmentation by embedding the European dimension within national contexts

Invited speakers at the TEPE 2014 conference were:

Dr. Edem Adubra, Head of the Secretariat, International Task Force on Teachers for EFA, Division for Teachers and Higher Education, UNESCO; Prof. Anthony Finn, University of Glasgow, UK; Prof. Kwame Akyeampong, University of Sussex, UK and Prof. Pavel Zgaga, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

More information about TEPE 2014 conference can be found at: <https://www.idi.hr/tepe2014/>. More information about the network, the previous conferences and the publications is available on the TEPE network website: <http://tepe.wordpress.com>.

Also, it should be noted that the next conference, TEPE 2015 with the theme “Building partnerships” will be held from 14th to 16th May 2015 in Dundee, Scotland. (<http://www.tepe2015.eu>)

(M. Čehulić)



Prof. Pavel Zgaga from The University of Ljubljana speaking at the TEPE 2014 conference

2nd Days of Educational Sciences

The scientific conference with international participation *2nd Days of Educational Sciences* was held in Zagreb, from 16th till 17th October 2014 and was organized by the Centre for Educational Research and Development of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb. The *2nd Days of Educational Sciences* were devoted to examining the role of scientific research in educational change, which was discussed by nearly seventy gathered scientists and practitioners involved in the national educational system. The conference opened with a plenary lecture by Darleen Opfer, director of RAND Education and principal investigator of numerous international projects in the field of educational policy in England, Scotland, the USA, India and South Africa. The plenary lecturer who opened the second day of the conference was prof. Jasminka Ledić, Ph. D. from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Rijeka. At the conference,

scientists and researchers presented in 12 parallel sessions their research, ranging from international to action research, through which they tried to or managed to accomplish educational changes. Each of the two conference days was concluded with a round table, the first of which addressed the use of international comparative research on the national level, and the second one problematized the role of scientists in educational change.

More information about the **2nd Days of Educational Sciences** as well as the Book of Abstracts can be found on the conference [web-site](#).



2nd Days of Educational Sciences

Scientific conference: Democratic potentials of youth in Croatia

Scientific conference *Demokratski potencijali mladih u Hrvatskoj* [*Democratic potentials of youth in Croatia*] was organized by the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb and the Centre for Democracy and Rights "Miko Tripalo.

The outlining of the symposium topic originated from the assumption that the modern generation of young people in Croatia matures in a society marked by noticeable democratic deficits. These deficiencies are the result of the totalitarian political system heritage and the authoritarian tendencies in the period of transition, which is now joined by the impacts of the lasting crisis, which after the economic sphere spilt over into other areas of social life. Young people are, therefore, the segment of the population that is mostly exposed to the existing social impacts. In addition, there are also specific generational problems arising from the expectations of society for young people to adequately prepare

themselves for entering into the adult world, wherein, accompanied by current unfavourable conditions and circumstances, they have to make far-reaching life decisions whose consequences are becoming more and more difficult to predict.

Scientific studies conducted in Croatia have shown that social and political changes that have taken place since 1990 have not increased the chances of young people for a better social integration, nor have they encouraged them to participate more in social life of the community and the decision-making processes. These findings gain further importance if one takes into account that democratic values and patterns of behaviour develop through participation in the daily life of the society and the community to which the individual belongs to. Long-term (self)marginalization of young people raised a number of topics for discussion, especially in a society that is still going through democratic transformation (consolidation), for quality of which is necessary to involve all of the citizens and activate their potentials. In this context, it was especially important to analyze political culture, social capital, values and behaviour patterns of young people, and their ability for adequate participation in social and political institutions and processes. It was also important to have an insight into how young people perceive the opportunities for generational participation in social decisions, and what influences their (un)willingness to actively participate in institutional politics and civil society, including the actions in the broader European context. On the other hand, it was necessary to identify and analyze young people policies to obtain a complete insight into the (un)stimulating environment for the development and realization of the democratic potentials of youth.

The conference was attended by about 50 participants and invited speakers from several scientific and higher education institutions in Croatia that presented the following presentations: prof. Vlasta Ilišin, Ph. D.: *Paradoxes of the democratic potential of contemporary youth generation*; Dr. Renata Franc, Vanja Međugorac: *Youth and (dis) trust in the institutions: possible determinants and consequences*; Dr. Anja Gvozdanović: *Sources of social trust of the students in Croatia*; Dr. Marko Mustapić: *Interest in history and the culture of memory of youth in Zagreb: "...hmm...history...well, it interests me, but...it doesn't, too..."*; Doc. Nebojša Blanuša, Ph. D.: *The Second World War as a transgenerational trauma: ghosts of the past*

among the youth in Croatia; prof. Vedrana Spajić Vrkaš, Ph. D.: *Civic education in Croatia – a way to conformity or the emancipation of youth*; prof. Berto Šalaj, Ph. D.: *New curriculum of civic education in Croatian schools: the beginning of a serious work on the development of democratic political culture of youth or a fig leaf of the Ministry?*; doc. Karin Doolan, Ph. D.: *Activist citizenship: biographical effect of participation in student protests*; prof. Dražen Lalić, Ph. D.: *Young soccer fans as right wing extremists. Sports and social conditioning of verbal violence in connection with soccer from 2012 to 2014 in Croatia*; Dr. Benjamin Perasović: *Subculture, movement or (neo)tribe? On the theoretical implications of the new research on soccer fans*; Dr. Dunja Potočnik: *Social networks and the political participation of youth: between activism and slacktivism*; prof. Nada Zgrabljic Rotar, Ph. D.: *Non-profit media as a democratic potential of youth*; prof. Gordana Vilović, Ph. D.: *(Under)representation of topics about young people in the election campaign for the EU Parliament 2014: analysis of national daily newspapers*; Marko Kovačić, M. A.: *Youth policy in Croatia – the anatomy of one public policy*.

At the conference, publication of the Proceedings, containing integrated conference presentations was announced, as well as the intention for establishing continuity in organizing scientific conferences about various problems of youth in Croatia.

Open Day ISRZ

With the aim of bringing closer our work to the broader public, at the end of 2014 we organized an Open Day of the ISRZ. The director of the Institute, Dr. Branislava Baranović, opened the programme by giving a short speech, after which the ISRZ researchers held their presentations. Dr. Boris Jokić, Dr. Irena Martinović Klarić, Dr. Krešimir Zauder, Dr. Srebrenka Letina, Dr. Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac and Dr. Jelena Zlatar presented to the audience their most recent research findings in a popular way. Members of the Croatian Debate Association also participated in the programme, with the debate “Croatia is a Knowledge Society” and by which they induced noticeable interest and reactions among the gathered, mostly younger audience.



Scientific conference „Democratic potentials of youth in Croatia“



Open Day ISRZ

Book promotions

Proceedings "Young Women in Post-Yugoslav Society: Research, Practice, Policy"

The Proceedings co-published by the ISRZ and the Human Rights Centre of the University of Sarajevo were presented in February 2014, in Zagreb. The editors of the Proceedings are: Mirjana Adamović, Branka Galić, Anja Gvozdanić, Ana Maskalan, Dunja Potočnik and Lejla Somun Krupalija. The Proceedings bring full texts that were presented at the international scientific conference *"Young Women and Gender Equality in Post-Yugoslav Societies: Research, Practice and Policy"* that was held as a part of the UNESCO Participation Programme. The book was presented by the editors Dr. Mirjana Adamović (ISRZ) and Lejla Somun Krupalija (Human Rights Centre of the University of Sarajevo), Helena Štimac Radin (Office for Gender Equality) and prof. Eva D. Bahovec, Ph. D. (The University of Ljubljana).

Urban transformations of contemporary Zagreb

The promotion of the book by Dr. Jelena Zlatar *"Urban transformations of contemporary Zagreb. Sociological analysis"* was held on 13th March, 2014 at the Public Library "Bogdan Ogrizović". Besides the author, the book was presented by the reviewers Dr. Saša Poljanec Borić and prof. Vladimir Lay, Ph. D., Dr. Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac, scientific associate at ISRZ and the editor Ilija Ranić. The book is a very extensive analysis of urban changes in Croatia in the transition and the post-socialist period. The basic types of urban transformations are conceptualized and operationalized (urban renewal, revitalization, regeneration and reconstruction, and urban planning) and also the basic types of urban stakeholders are identified (technical, economic, political and civilian). The book analyzes the "transition" aspects of urban renewal, and as examples are taken business skyscrapers, shopping malls and underground parking garages.

Sustainability Perspectives from the European Semi-periphery

The book *"Sustainability Perspectives from the European Semi-periphery"* edited by Dr. Dinka Marinović Jerolimov and Dr. Mladen Domazet was presented on 11th June, 2014 in Zagreb. The publication consists of theoretical and empirical texts of 14 authors, framed by the exploration of the relationships between environmental, social and economic systems and political and cultural institutions and norms. For clarification of these relationships the works reflect a specific perspective of the "European semi-periphery".

Besides the editors Dr. Dinka Marinović Jerolimov and Dr. Mladen Domazet, the book was presented by Vedran Horvat, the director of HBS Croatia and the reviewers, prof. Vjerran Katunarić, Ph. D and prof. Vladimir Lay, Ph. D.

Identity and Culture

The presentation of the book *"Identity and Culture"* by prof. Mladen Labus, Ph. D., prof. Lino Veljak, Ph. D., Ana Maskalan, Ph. D. and Mirjana Adamović, Ph. D. was held on 17th September, 2014 at the Public Library "Bogdan Ogrizović", thus completing the scientific project *"The identity of Others in the Republic of Croatia"*. The book was presented by prof. Mladen Labus, Ph. D. and the reviewers prof. Lino Veljak, Ph. D. and Hrvoje Jurić, Ph. D. The presentation induced remarkable interest among the gathered audience and prompted a very interesting discussion.

Doctorates

In 2014 the Ph. D. degrees were acquired by: Srebrenka Letina with the thesis "Analysis of cooperation networks of scientists from the three fields of social sciences from 1992 to 2012" and Krešimir Zauder – „The development of scientometrics as represented by the journal *Scientometrics* since the beginning of its publication in 1978 to 2010“.

International cooperation

HEISEE cooperation (The Higher Education Initiative for Southeastern Europe)

Dr. Edward Simpson, emeritus professor of the Institute of Higher Education of the University in Georgia, Athens, GA, USA visited the Institute from 21st to 25th January, 2014. A visit was organized as a part of the partnership programme HEISEE - *The Higher Education Initiative for Southeastern Europe* that has been implemented sin-

ce 2012. The aim of the programme is to improve the management and quality assurance in higher education institutions in Croatia and countries of Southeastern Europe. The following members of the HEISEE initiative participate in the project: The Centre for Educational Research and Development (CERD) of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb (ISRZ), The University of Georgia – Institute of Higher Education, Institute for the Development of Education, Agency for Science and Higher Education in partnership with The University of Rijeka. The project is financially supported by The Embassy of the United States of America in Zagreb.

More information can be found at the project web-site: www.heisee.org

Study visit by Zrinka Ristić Dedić, Ph. D., to Ghent (Flanders)

In the framework of the Life Long Learning Programme – a transversal programme implemented by the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes, Zrinka Ristić Dedić from the Center for Educational Research and Development stayed from 17th till 21st March in Flanders, Belgium, on a study visit *„Equal opportunities in education through policy and consultation with local stakeholders“*. A visit was organized by the Flemish Department of Education and Training. Participants from Bulgaria, Denmark, England, Croatia, Hungary, Malta, Germany and Poland were informed about the equal educational opportunities policy that is implemented on the local level (in the cities of Ghent, Lokeren and Sint Niklaas). Participants of the study visit visited a couple of schools at different educational levels where they talked about school practises with the objective of strengthening the equal educational opportunities and ensuring equality of all the students at school. They were also guests of the heads of LOPs, representatives of cities, educational agencies and the Ministry of Education. In Zrinka Ristić Dedić's own words: *„The most impressive part of the study visit certainly was participation in lessons at the so-called OKAN classes that accept children who have recently arrived to Belgium and who don't speak Flemish. It was touching to see with how much enthusiasm, openness, empathy and joy the young teachers approach children helping them make their „first steps“ in the new country... Those are re-*

ally the teachers with a great heart!—Also, it was valuable to see what can be done for the education of one city by the interested local community when all of the local resources are used in a constructive, focused and collaborative way. From the perspective of our, still rather centralised educational system and the local authorities that are usually more interested in painting the walls or repairing the school roofs, than in the quality of education and the overall wellbeing of school children, activities on the local level in Ghent seemed just unbelievable!!“



Zrinka Ristić Dedić and the students of one of the so-called OKAN classes that have recently arrived to Belgium

Invited lecture by Boris Jokić, Ph. D., to The University of Hong Kong

Boris Jokić was an invited speaker at The University of Hong Kong where he stayed from 27th April till 1st May, 2014 at the methodological colloquium *„International colloquium - Research methods on shadow education“*, where he presented his findings on private tutoring. He was the only participant from Europe (others were from Asia, America and the Pacific) which enabled him to compare his own research findings with the international, specifically Asian experiences, as well as to consider certain educational topics from a new perspective, quite different than the usual one at the European conferences. B. Jokić evaluated very positively the conference format: the presentations in the form of colloquiums enabled significantly greater participation and activity of participants and thus contributed to the activity of learning, both of the presenters and the interested public.

Study visit to the USA by Marko Kovačić, MA

Marko Kovačić, a member of the youth research group at the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, participated in the study visit to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Marko was a member of the Croatian youth workers and researchers team that spent two weeks at the University of Minnesota (USA) where they had the opportunity to get to know with the Minnesotan youth sector.

The visit was organized by the Department of Youth Studies, University of Minnesota, aimed at introducing the Croatian researchers and civil society representatives with youth policies of Minnesota, as well as with diverse concepts of youth work. During a two-week stay in the U.S., Croatian researchers participated in a seminar *Youth work in contested spaces* run by the distinguished American expert in youth work, prof. Ross Velor Roholt, Ph. D. Other parts of this study visit included visits to various institutions and organizations dealing with youth and holding several public lectures on youth in Croatia through the prism of post-conflict area.

Representatives from the University of Minnesota expressed desire to continue cooperation with the Croatian organizations on similar topics and to realize institutional cooperation with Croatian public research institutes and universities.

This study visit is a first part of a larger project that will end up with a visit to Croatia by the American colleagues, starting mid 2015.

In addition to the study visit, an international conference on youth work *Youth Work History* was held on 2nd and 3rd June 2014 in St. Paul, where Marko Kovačić gave a presentation on the formal mechanisms of social and political participation of young people in Croatia.

Scholarships and Fellowships

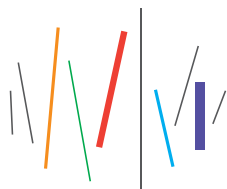
Dr. Srebrenka Letina is a recipient of the competitive *Endeavour Fellowship* for a 6-month post-doctoral specialization at the University of Melbourne, at one of the top 10 ranked departments for psychology in the world (*Melbourne School of Psychological Science*), where she will have the opportunity to learn from experts of the social network analysis (SNA) in the field of psychology (from the Center for SNA – Melnet). She will use newly developed methods for statistical analysis of the network structure (exponential random graph models - ERGM) and conduct her own research in the field of SNA. More about her study visit and her experiences will be available in the next issue of Newsletter.

International conference presentations in 2014

In the previous year we participated in many scientific conferences, both national and international, among which more than 30 were held in Europe or worldwide, which is shown in Map 1.



Study visit to the USA by Marko Kovačić, MA



Map 1. International conference presentations in 2014

Baku	Kaunas
Basel	Krakov
Belgrade	Leipzig
Bohinj	London
Bohinjska Bistrica	Madrid
Braga	Minneapolis
Bruxelles	Moscow
Budapest	Sarajevo
Budva	Stockholm
Cavtat	Thessaloniki
Dublin	Torino
Ghent	Toruń
Graz	Vienna
Hong Kong	Yokohama

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