

IGU CGE Geography Education Questionnaire

Country: CROATIA

Name respondent: Ružica Vuk and Ivan Čanjevac

Email address respondent: canjevac@geog.pmf.hr.

1. What is the aim of geography in primary education in your country?

The aim is gaining of basic geographical knowledge about the Earth, importance and interconnectivity of natural elements and social phenomena and processes; developing of geographical way of thinking and social skills.

2. What is the aim of geography in secondary education in your country?

Enlarging and deepen of knowledge about physical-geographical, economic, social and cultural characteristics of modern world; spotting the need of cooperation and solidarity among people and nations; learning about homeland.

3. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in primary education in your country?

Primary education in Croatia last for eight years.

11. years old (5th grade): one and a half hour every week (one week one hour, one week two hours)

12. years old (6th grade): two hours every week

13. years old (7th grade): two hours every week

14. years old (8th grade): two hours every week

4. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in secondary education in your country?

Secondary education in Croatia last for between one and four years. There are different types of schools with a different duration of geography education.

Around 1/3 of all high-school students (gymnasiums, some vocational schools) have two hours per week of geography education during all four years.

In other vocational schools which last for four or three years students mainly have geography education one or two hours a week during first two years.

5. What are the most important themes in primary geography teaching in your country?

Introduction to physical geography (relief, climate, water, soil, flora and fauna) and their interrelationship with social phenomena (population, lifestyle, culture). Basic geographical characteristics of Croatia. Geographical characteristics of continents through analyse of specific countries. Basics of ecology and cartography.

6. What are the most important themes in secondary geography teaching in your country?

Space, Earth and Solar system, physical-geographical elements and processes, social-geographical characteristics of the world (population, economy, settlements), globalization, transition, multinational companies, international and regional organizations, regional disparities in the world, problems of developing countries, geography of Croatia.

7. What is the position of geography in the upper levels of secondary education in your country?

Croatia doesn't have differentiation on lower and upper levels of secondary education.

8. What is the biggest problem for geography teaching in your country?

Earnings of teachers, enlargement of teaching quota, work in shifts (most of primary schools and almost all secondary schools), too many students in class, weak motivation of students, big pressure during grading, difficulties during work with students with special needs (in primary schools in every class there are up to three students with special needs and several students with individualized programme, and the average number of students in class is 25).

9. Mention one or more good practices or very successful projects of geography teaching in your country.

National competitions, projects (GLOBE; eco-schools, local and regional projects within Croatia).

10. Mention research projects in the field of geography teaching in your country.

E-school of geography. Some research projects are in the preparation phase.

11. Mention publications or websites with information in English about geography teaching in your country.

There are no such publications or websites at the moment.

12. Mention contact addresses for information about geography teaching in your country.

*Ivan Čanjevac
University of Zagreb
Faculty of Science
Department of Geography
Marulićev trg 19/II
10000 Zagreb
Croatia
canjevac@geog.pmf.hr
tel. +38514895424
fax + 38514895440*