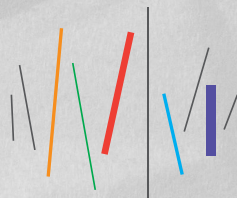


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb

15/2023

IDIZ



Institut za društvena istraživanja u Zagrebu
Institute for Social Research in Zagreb

Editorial

The previous year was exceptionally successful for the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb. We adopted important acts ensuring the institution's development. In line with the new Act on Higher Education and Scientific Activity, we adopted the new Statute. In December, the Institute as the first among all scientific organizations, signed the Programme Agreement with the Ministry of Science and Education, which enables the implementation of new projects, financial stability of the institution, and development of human resources until 2027. The negotiation process with the Ministry's Directorate for Science was exceptionally constructive and fair.

The Institute conducted a total of 30 scientific research projects in 2023, of which 15 were approved for financing at competitive national and international calls. In the same year we began the implementation of three international competitive scientific projects (HORIZON EUROPE and CERV). The Institute conducted 7 Croatian Science Foundation projects, of which one was approved for financing and started in 2023. None less valuable are other projects financed from international and national sources, as well as those financed by the programme sources. In 2023, 7 new competitive scientific research projects were submitted to international calls. In addition, for the first time the Institute carried out a project that was financed by a business subject. Besides that, the year was marked by project collaborations with the Ministry of Science and Education, state institutions, local authorities, higher education institutions and non-governmental bodies. Besides the intensive work on projects, we also had a high quality scientific production in 2023: we published 35 a1 papers. In line with the strategic orientation towards publishing in highest ranking journals, 13 scientific papers were published in Q1 and Q2 journals. In the same year we also published 1 scientific monograph, 11 scientific chapters, and a series of reports and studies. The Institute also co-organized two im-

portant world conferences that attracted the attention of both the national and international academic public, as well as the broader public. We were very active in higher education teaching and in the mentoring of higher education candidates. The journal "Sociology and Space" continued with its high-quality work. The Institute's library published a series of special editions. The work of the Institute and its staff was intensively covered by the media. The Institute's work had clear practical and developmental consequences, primarily through youth work, influence on the local and national policies, the school subject School and Community, and a new extracurricular activity for 5th and 6th grade pupils.

Finally, it is our honour and pleasure to announce two big events coming up in 2024. This is the year in which we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Institute's activity and the publishing of the "Sociology and Space" journal (previously "Rural Sociology"). We are planning to celebrate the Institute's 60th birthday in Lauba in April 2024 by organizing a panel-discussion on the role of social sciences in future challenging times. We also announce the conference 6th Days of Educational Sciences "Future of Education: New Directions in Research and Practice", which will be held from 16th to 18th October 2024 in Algebra, Zagreb. We therefore invite you to follow our website and social networks, and stay informed about all our activities.

Director

Boris Jokić, PhD

Ongoing projects in 2023

National and international competitive projects

In 2023 the Institute was conducting 6 competitive national and international projects financed by the EU programmes Horizon Europe and Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values, and the bilateral cooperation programme of the Croatian Science Foundation.

Horizon Europe project 'Critical ChangeLab'

The project aims to restore the relations between the young and democracy, and therefore the future of European 21st century democracy. Coordinated by the Finnish university Oulun Yliopisto Oulu, the project strives to encourage active democratic citizenship of youth, in times when polarization, deep political divisions and decline of trust in democracy is spreading across Europe. Besides the Institute, the project consortium includes additional nine partners: Ars Electronica, University of Oulu, Trinity College Dublin, European Alternatives, University of Barcelona, LATRA, Tactical Tech, Kersnikova Institute and Waag FutureLab. The project PI for ISRZ is Boris Jokić, and the members of the ISRZ project team are Zrinka Ristić Dedić, Iva Odak, Jelena Matić Bojić, Nikola Baketa and Jana Šimon. During 2023, a questionnaire of democratic health of formal and informal educational institutions was designed (Democracy Health Questionnaire – DHQ). The data of more than 1,000 educational institutions in 10 European countries were collected by the DHQ, and a model of democratic pedagogy was created. The model will be tested in participatory action research with youth. The Critical ChangeLab project was presented at the NECE festival in 2023. More information can be found at the [link](#).



CERV project 'MOJ DOM. Refugees, migration and erased memories in the aftermath of Yugoslav wars'

The main objective of the project is to address a burdensome historical legacy of the Western Balkans by employing a multidisciplinary approach. Besides the Institute, the project consortium consists of additional seven organizations: coordinator Codici Cooperativa Sociale (Italy), and partners Regensburg University (Germany), Documenta (Croatia), APS Lapsus (Italy), The Peace Institute (Slovenia), Mask (Slovenia) and Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research (Croatia). The project addresses the relation towards the past, both significant and problematic, even controversial, and at the same time having an important role in the shaping of political and social present in post-conflict societies. The project aims to raise awareness on the common European history among its citizens, by focusing on small-scale historical events at the local and community level, to create a link between global, continental and local histories, and to highlight the relationship between historical events and their relevance for the present time. Besides reflecting on the past, the project might offer an opportunity for a discussion on future enlargements on the Western Balkans area, and the area of Southeastern Europe. The consortium involved in the development of the project idea and its implementation is comprised of various institutions: centres for research of remembrance, university departments, theatres, institutions in the domain of oral history and public history, educational institutions and independent research organizations. The target groups are students, researchers, employees of institutions dealing with remembrance, secondary school pupils, teachers and educators, performers, citizens of four European countries that are involved in the following project activities: historical research, planning of educations, didactical dissemination and public dissemination adjusted to the present. The role of the Institute is to lead and organize focus groups. A total of 80 young people participated in focus

groups and research workshops in Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. The Institute constructed a protocol for focus groups with youth. In November and December 2023 four focus groups were held in Osijek, Vukovar and Zagreb with a total of 30 young participants. The project PI is Anja Gvozdanović.

CERV project 'Raising awareness about gender-based cybEr violence and advocating for SAFEr online environment for women and girls (bE-SAFE)'

The project is focused on an important topic of raising awareness and knowledge on the problem of gender-based cyber violence and on advocating for comprehensive responses to this type of violence in Croatia, Spain, Portugal and other European countries, from the perspective of legal regulation and public policies. This will be accomplished by a nationally representative research on gender-based violence among children and youth, educational experts and public services in charge of law enforcement; organizing of educational programmes on this type of violence for pupils and professionals from primary and secondary schools, and training of professionals in supporting services and those in law enforcement. Also, the project goals will be achieved by engaging in large-scale advocacy activities among competent institutional actors, decision-makers and public policy creators, and civil society organizations, as well as by instigating the processes of making laws and public policies related to gender-based cyber violence at the local, national and European level, and the initiation of a campaign for raising awareness. The project is intended for youth in the education system, teachers, professionals working with youth, police officers, social workers, health workers, legal professionals, representatives of local, regional and national authorities, CSOs, professionals for gender issues, members of Parliament and representatives of bodies in charge of equality. The project is coordinated by the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia. The partner

organizations are CESI – Centre for Education, Counselling and Research, Domine – Organization for the Promotion of Women's Rights, and ISRZ (Croatia), Lobby Europeo de Mujeres en España - LEM España (Spain) and Comissão para a Cidadania e a Igdaldade de Género (Portugal). The project's PI for ISRZ is Mirjana Adamović, and the co-PI is Anja Gvozdanović. The project collaborators are Dunja Potočnik, Ratko Đokić and Dora Ranogajec.

CSF project 'YO-VID22: Youth wellbeing and support structures before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic'

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a source of many potentially stressful and risk-inducing factors for the psychosocial development and well-being of youth, has recently become a subject of intense interest and discussions among scientists and public policy creators, and among the broader public. The research is based on a combination of quantitative (questionnaire and secondary data analysis) and qualitative methodology (in-depth interviews, focus groups and content analysis). This approach will also enable an insight into the functioning of various developmentally relevant structures of social support (family, peers, educational institutions, social services, youth clinics and CSOs) that were available to youth before, during and after the pandemic, as well as the roles of these support structures in youth wellbeing. The project was publically presented in the Bogdan Ogrizović Library in Zagreb in May, 2023. The project was presented by the PI of the Croatian research group Dunja Potočnik, and the PI of the Slovenian team Andrej Naterer (Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor), along with collaborators from Slovenia (Miran Lavrič, Suzana Košir, Vesna Godina Vuk, Danijela Lahe and Minea Rutar) and Croatia (Gordana Kuterovac Jagodić, Darja Maslić Seršić, Anja Gvozdanović and Iva Odak). The project collaborator is Sandra Antulić Majcen (ISRZ).



Presentation of the CSF project YO-VID 22



Field study as part of the CSF project ISOLATION

CSF project 'Isolated People and Communities in Slovenia and Croatia – ISOLATION'

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore some relevant questions such as physical and social isolation, which are the focus of this project. By employing an anthropological approach, the project aims to present and explain what it means to be isolated. Through ethnographic research in isolated and abandoned spaces, it is shown how isolation shapes experiences of isolation and emptiness among individuals and communities in urban and rural areas of Slovenia and Croatia. The project is carried out collaboratively by ISRZ (coordinator for Croatia) and the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts - Institute of Slovenian Ethnology ZRC SAZU (coordinator for Slovenia). The PI of the Croatian research team is Lana Peternel, and the project collaborator is Nikolina Hazdovac Bajić. The PI of the Slovenian research team is Dan Podjed. This year, ethnographic field research was carried out in Slovenia and Croatia, on ten locations. Also, within the Network of Applied Anthropologists of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, the project team organized the conference "Why the World Needs Anthropologists – The Power of Isolation" in collaboration with a number of international and national scientific research institutions. The conference was attended by around two hundred participants from Croatia and the world, and was held in Supetar on the island of Brač.

CSF project 'Quality of living in the Housing Estates of the socialist and post-socialist era: a comparative analysis between Slovenia and Croatia (HESC)'

The project explored housing estates in Slovenia and Croatia by comparing the quality of life of residents in socialist and post-socialist estates. In the final year of the project, the project results were publicly presented and the scientific and professional papers were written. The research results are provided in the study titled '[Basic overview of results on the quality of life in socialist and post-socialist housing estates in Croatia and Slovenia](#)', published in the Institute's Special Editions. The PI and team members presented the project results at four scientific conferences: three international and one national (ENHR 2023 annual conference in Lodz, Poland, REAL CORP 2023 in Ljubljana, Slovenija, 26th Days of Ramiro and Zoran Bujas in Zagreb, and at the conference of the Croatian Sociological Association in Split, Croatia). Also, the results were disseminated to the Croatian and European scientific public in multiple public presentations. The Croatian PI is Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac, and the Slovenian Richard Sendi. The collaborators from the Institute are Jelena Zlatar Gamberožić, Ratko Đokić, Mirjana Adamović and Anamaria Klasić.



Team of the CSF project HESC

CSF projects

This year we were conducting a total of 4 projects financed by the Croatian Science Foundation (CSF).

CSF project 'Changes in the Organization of the Educational Process caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic: Effects on Educational Experiences, Well-being and Aspirations of Pupils in Croatia (EWACHange)

The project explored the changes arising in the Croatian educational system as a consequence of the pandemic. The emphasis was put on educational and psychosocial effects of these changes on pupils, especially on the changes in their educational experiences, wellbeing and aspirations. More than 40,000 pupils and 10,000 educational professionals from 167 schools participated in the project. The project PI is Boris Jokić, and the collaborators are Zrinka Ristić Dedić, Iris Marušić, Teo Matković, Josip Šabić and Jana Šimon. The final conference titled 'Growing up in the (post)pandemic time – Croatian experiences' was held in the Croatian Journalists' Club. At the final conference, the project results were presented, and then discussed by Zrinka Ristić Dedić (ISRZ), Suzana Hitrec (Administrative Secondary School, Zagreb), Irena Ihas Jurić (Second Grammar School, Zagreb), Klara Bilić Meštrić (CARNET) and Zoran Kirinić (Primary

School Glina). The presented project results can be found [here](#).



Final conference of the CSF project EWACHange

CSF project 'The role of personality, motivation and socio-emotional competences in early-career teachers' occupational well-being (TeachWell)

The research designed within the project aims to examine the mutual contribution of characteristics such as personality, motivation for teaching and socio-emotional competencies to positive outcomes such as enthusiasm for teaching, satisfaction with the job, work engagement, the plan to remain in the profession and low level of professional burn-out in early-career stages. The project team led by Iris Marušić presented the current project findings at a number of national and international conferences. Josip Šabić and Dora Petrović participated with poster-presentations at the EARLI conference in Thessaloniki, Greece (European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction). Branislava Baranović, Iris Marušić, Jelena Matić Bojić, Iva Odak and Mirta Mornar participated at the ECER 2023 - European Conference on Educational Research at the University of Glasgow. Iris Marušić and Ivana Pikić Jugović participated at the NEPC's 7th Primary Colors of Education "ARISE for well-being" conference in Tirana, Albania. The project findings were presented at the 26th Days of Ramiro and Zoran Bujas.



Team of the CSF project TeachWell



Assistants of the CSF project IDEU at the ECPR conference

CSF project 'Integration and disintegration of the European Union: Dynamics of Europeanism and Euroscepticism (IDEU)'

By employing an interdisciplinary approach and innovative comparative methodology, this project compares the development and dynamic of Europeanism and Euroscepticism. The project builds on sociological theories, which were rarely used in similar research. The ideas of Europeanism and Euroscepticism in times of very strong social polarization are key in the understanding of integration and disintegration processes. The research results should contribute to the understanding of the influence of various historical experiences to different visions of European integration in divided European societies. This eventually implies a contribution to a counterideologisation of debates on European integration and European identity in the scientific and public arena. The project PI is Nikola Petrović, and ISRZ collaborators are Filip Fila and Josip Bilić. During 2023, the research results were presented at a number of national and international scientific conferences, among which we single out the ECPR General Conference held at the Charles University in Prague, and within which the project team held the presentation “Belonging where (and to whom)? Geopolitical orientations of Croatian presidents” within the panel titled “Central European Presidents, Governments, and Foreign Policy”.

CSF project 'Social responsibility and professional ethics of Croatian researchers (RESETH)'

This year we started the implementation of another project financed by the Croatian Science Foundation. The project in question is “Social responsibility and professional ethics of Croatian researchers – RESETH”. The main research focus is the question of what it means to be a socially responsible researcher, and how social responsibility is described, experienced and practiced by Croatian researchers from natural, biomedical, technical and social sciences. The basis of social responsibility of science is, as we see it, related to professional ethics of science through the values, attitudes and behaviour of researchers. So far, there have not been many research projects, analyses or theoretical papers that would be deeply focused on the topic of social responsibility of Croatian scientists. In the international context also, the research on the social responsibility of science that include the role of scientists are rare, and mostly refer to life sciences and biotechnology, and are conducted on relatively small samples. There are practically no studies on the social responsibility of science in times of social crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will try to contribute to the social policies of scientific responsibility in Croatia, strengthened reflectivity of scientists on the relationship of science and society, and the social role of science,

while adding to the ideas related to the engagement and role of the public in the scientific research system. The project's PI is Marija Brajdić Vuković, and the ISRZ project team are Ana Maskalan, Adrijana Šuljok and Nikola Petrović.

Other national and international competitive projects

In this section we have listed the Institute's projects financed by the European Social Fund and the EU programme Erasmus+, as well as the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training - CEDEFOP.

ESF project 'METER to a better climate (Network for Education, Transition, Adaptation and Development)'

The objective of the METER project was to establish a permanent network of civil society organizations (CSOs), local self-government units and scientific research organizations, with the aim of contributing to transition into a low-carbon society adapted to climate changes without energy poverty, by being involved in all phases of public policies' development. Through permanent collaboration, a contribution was made to the development of new skills and capacities of civil society organizations for argument-based advocacy in this domain, with scientific research organizations and local self-government units being involved in new ways of informing and inclusion of the professional and broader public. In its final year, the project was presented to the professional and broader public. Also, the [Guidelines for the Action Plan for Energy and Climate Sustainable Development \(SECAP\)](#) were published. It is a strategic planning document serving to the local communities as a signpost for reducing greenhouse gases, increasing energy efficiency and transition to renewable energy sources. The project was coordinated by the association DOOR, and the Institute was one of the academic partners. The project PI was Branko Ančić, and collaborators were Marija Brajdić Vuković, Lana Peternel and Tomislav Cik.

ESF project 'Thematic Network Lifelong Education Accessible to All (TEMCO)'

The TEMCO project was conducted with the aim to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations for achieving an efficient dialogue with public administration and the scientific community in the shaping and implementation of public policies for ensuring lifelong learning accessible to all, by which a precondition for the reduction of educational inequalities in Croatia is provided. The project was coordinated by the Institute for the Development of Education. In the project's final year, the project team presented the project findings at multiple round tables, and in numerous media outlets. The project co-principal investigators for ISRZ Iva Odak and Saša Puzić presented the research findings related to the social dimension of higher education and the problem of dropping out of students in Croatia at a round table organized by the Club of Representatives of the Social Democratic Party in the Croatian Parliament. The project resulted with the publication of the monograph "[Educational Inequalities in Secondary Education from the Perspective of Students and Teachers](#)" in the Institute's Special Editions. The authors of the monograph are Saša Puzić, Iris Marušić, Jelena Matić Bojić, Ivana Pikić Jugović and Josip Šabić.



Team of the TEMCO project in the Croatian Parliament

E+ project 'Support to better knowledge in youth policy (YouthWiki)'

The EU has set, as one of its priorities within youth policies, the launching of YouthWiki – a kind of an encyclopaedia of national youth poli-

cies. The aim of the YouthWiki Croatia project, which is an integral part of the whole YouthWiki project at the EU level, is to collect, systematize and analyse data classified in nine domains of youth policies, in line with the European Youth Strategy. The project is coordinated by ISRZ, and the Institute's Centre for Youth and Gender Studies is the focal point for reporting on national youth policies. In this year, all the necessary updates of the [YouthWiki web-page](#) were completed. The project's PI is Marita Grubišić-Čabo.

E+ project 'HAND IN HAND: Empowering teachers across Europe to deal with social, emotional and diversity related career challenges'

The project aims to strengthen the socio-emotional competencies of teachers and their diversity awareness, to provide them support in their working with different pupils and to equip them with the skills for coping with new challenges. The project is focused on teachers' well-being, while pointing out that the development of their socio-emotional competencies and diversity awareness at the same time fosters their self-care. The project coordinator is the Educational Research Institute, Ljubljana, and the Institute is responsible for the implementation of the system for empowering teachers in Croatia and giving recommendations based on the research results, serving to create national educational policies. The project's PI for ISRZ is Jelena Matić Bojić, and the research team members are Iris Marušić, Iva Odak, Ivana Pikić Jugović, Saša Puzić, Josip Šabić, Ana Maskalan and Dora Ranogajec. During 2023, regular monthly meetings were held with around 100 teachers from 9 experimental schools participating in the project. In January and April a two-hour online, and a whole-day live meetings were held with around 30 principals and professional staff from 9 experimental schools. Additionally, whole-day workshops for around 90 participants from 8 control schools were held. The project idea and project results were disseminated in various scientific and professional circles (e.g. ECER 2023 in Glasgow, Annual Confer-

ence of Croatian Psychologists 2023 in Zagreb, international conference 'Why the World Needs Anthropologists' in Supetar, study visit of teachers and principals from Northern Ireland and Wales to Zagreb, 'Arise for well-being' conference in Tirana, County's Expert Council of Math Teachers in Zagreb, etc.).



Hand in Hand workshop in Samobor

CEDEFOP project 'Thematic country review (TCR) on upskilling pathways for (low skilled) adults'

The overall objective of the project is to conduct two in-depth country reviews of Croatia and Spain regarding their national approaches to the implementation of the Upskilling Pathways Recommendation. The findings will allow for a better understanding of the way the Recommendation is implemented in Croatia and Spain, and contribute to the spreading of knowledge on coherent and coordinated approaches to the upskilling of low-skilled adults across Europe. The project coordinator is Istituto per la ricerca sociale (IRS), and the partners are ISRZ and IKEI Research and Consultancy (Spain). The project's PI for ISRZ is Teo Matković. In 2023, an initial report and a thematic matrix was developed, in which the Adult Education Act was recognized as the national equivalent for the Recommendation. Based on mapped priority domains, a review study was developed in which the situation in selected dimensions and groups was assessed, which will serve as the basis for empirical research work in the next year.

National projects

During 2023, the Institute conducted a total of 10 national projects, financed by competent state bodies (Ministry of Science and Education, Central State Office for Demography and Youth, Agency for Science and Higher Education), local self-government units (cities and municipalities), educational institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations and foundations (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Active Citizens Fund), and a business entity (A1 Croatia).

A1 project 'Aspirations of girls towards educational and professional pathways in the STEM domain – Steam'

In partnership with A1 Croatia and the City of Split, the Institute has developed an innovative extracurricular activity STeam within the A1 project 'STEMfemme Junior'. The aim of this activity is to empower girls to pursue various domains of STEAM, and to strengthen their aspirations towards STEM occupations. This extracurricular activity is intended primarily for female pupils, nevertheless not excluding pupils of fifth and sixth grades of primary schools. It is implemented in 14 primary schools in Split in the school year 2023/24. STeam involves intensive collaboration with various institutions dealing with STEAM in Split (scientific and educational institutions, city offices, firms, art organizations and collectives), and establishment of mentorship relations with pupils. In 2023, extracurricular activities and a couple of experiential workshops were held for pupils of primary schools in Split. The project's PI for ISRZ is Boris Jokić, and collaborators from ISRZ are Zrinka Ristić Dedić, Marija Klara Sedlar and Jana Šimon.

STeam
powered by



**A1 STEMfemme
JUNIOR**



A1 project 'STEMfemme Junior'

Project 'City for Youth – A model of certifying Croatian cities based on local policies'

Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia initiated a programme of certifying Croatian cities in the domain of implementing local youth policies. An analysis of existing models of certifying cities across Europe was carried out by the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, following the request of the Association. The analysis included eight models from various countries, and served as a basis for creating the Croatian model. The Association of Cities established a working group for drafting the Croatian model, in which it gathered representatives of relevant organizations and institutions in the field. In 2023, a detailed analysis and revision of existing criteria for the certificate 'City for Youth' was conducted, along with all the preparatory activities for new applications and re-certification of existing ones. The project's PI for ISRZ is Marita Grubišić-Čabo.

Project 'Generation of Support and deStigmatization' - GPS 1.1.

Upon examining the needs of youth, the need for establishing a non-formal Youth Counselling Centre was recognized and incorporated in the City of Karlovac Youth Programme 2020-2023 (Measure 1.1.). The main objective of the GPS 1.1. project is to design and implement workshops for educating the civil sector on the improvement of youth mental health. The project coordinator is the association DrONE. The col-

laborators from the Institute Marita Grubišić-Čabo and Jana Šimon developed a questionnaire and analysed the obtained results, which served to assemble the final report titled ‘Mental Health of Youth in the City of Karlovac’. Besides that, the collaborators provided support to the qualitative research within the project, and were editors of the qualitative part of the report. At the final project conference they presented the results of the questionnaire survey to the interested public in Karlovac.

Project ‘Analysis of research into employability of graduated students’

Upon request of the Agency for Science and Higher Education and under the coordination of Teo Matković, the Institute conducted an analysis of transition of graduated students (generation 2021) to the labour market. The Institute’s team linked the results of 2021 questionnaire surveys with data from the Croatian Qualifications Framework portal. The results were compared across years, and an analysis of transition to the labour market of students having graduated in 2020 was complemented. An analysis of individual results for each examined higher education institution was carried out also. The results were consolidated and presented in the publication “[To Graduate during the Pandemic: Results of Fourth National Research into Employability of Graduated Students](#)“. Additionally, assessments of key indicators of outcomes at the level of scientific fields and higher education institutions were conducted. The research was carried out in the end of 2021, encompassing the generation who graduated in 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, which in its first year significantly struck the educational system and the labour market altogether. The research encompassed a total of 4,858 of graduate students, or 14.6 % of persons who obtained a higher education diploma in 2020 in Croatia. The project collaborators were Katarina Jaklin, Dunja Potočnik and Andrea Grus.

Evaluation of the programme ‘City/ municipality – Friend of children’ from the children’s perspective in 2023: municipalities of Velika, Petrijanec and Štrigova

The research is one of the phases of the evaluation of the programme “Cities/municipalities – Friends of Children”, in which it is explored to what extent a city or municipality acknowledges and takes care of the needs of their children and youth. The research is based on examination of children’s and young people’s experiences, and is conducted among pupils of 4th to 8th grades of primary schools in the city/municipality area. The sample is conceived in such a way that it represents all children living in the area of the examined city/municipality. In 2023, the research was conducted and the report was assembled for municipalities Velika, Petrijanec and Štrigova – candidates for the title “Municipality – Friend of Children“. The project PI for ISRZ is Zrinka Ristić Dedić.

Development of the Sociological Study Gornji Grad and Kaptol within the Programme of comprehensive reconstruction of the historical centre of Zagreb

The Sociological Study was elaborated for Gornji Grad and Kaptol, within the Programme of comprehensive reconstruction of the historical centre of Zagreb. It was developed by the following research team: Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac (PI), Jelena Zlatar Gamberožić, Mirjana Adamović, Ratko Đokić and Anamaria Klasić. Regarding the specificities of this part of protected space, participatory processes had to be carried out, which included focus groups, and structured and semi-structured interviews with the residents and users of this space. The planned research methods can contribute significantly in carrying out a successful communication with the citizens involved. The research aimed at obtaining an insight into short-term and long-term direction of development and planning of the renewal of this specific part of the City of Zagreb’s centre. Based on residents’ and users’ opinions and the resulting conclusions and recommendations, the Sociological

Study provided an expert contribution to the development of an interdisciplinary Programme of comprehensive reconstruction of the historical centre of Zagreb, coordinated by the Institute for Physical Planning of the City of Zagreb.

Mid-term evaluation of the programmes Erasmus+ and ESS

The ISRZ team consisting of Branko Ančić, Nikola Baketa, Marija Brajdić Vuković and Katarina Jaklin conducted an evaluation study for the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes at the mid-term period of the implementation of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes (2021-2027), as requested by the European Commission. In addition, the final evaluation study of the programme period 2014-2020 was conducted. The evaluation encompassed all activities in the sectors/domains supported by the programme in the 2014-2023 period in all participating countries.

A survey on the working conditions in Croatia's non-profit sector

The project investigated the working conditions in all types of working activities of the non-profit sector, allowing for a comparison of working conditions in the non-profit sector and in other sectors. The survey was funded by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung foundation, and was conducted in collaboration with the SKUPA workers' union. In 2023 all phases of the survey were conducted on a sample of employees of CSOs. The survey included 1,075 employees from 643 associations, or 7 % of employees in associations. The research results were presented in the House of Europe in Zagreb. In 2023, a research report was written with the project results, which will be published in 2024 at the Institute's web-page. The project's PI is Katarina Jaklin.

A Study on Students' Work

The Institute and the Faculty of Electronic Engineering of the University of Zagreb carried out a project aimed at exploring the employment of

students of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering that work along with studying. Due to a significant increase in the number of working students, the aim of the study was to better understand the causes and motives of students' increased workload, as well as individual and institutional consequences that such work might have, from the perspective of students, teachers and employers. The study aimed at acquiring an in-depth understanding of the causes behind the decision to work along with studying, of the needs related to studying, and the academic and professional socialization. Based on the qualitative and quantitative research, an analysis of interviews and collected data was carried out, and a research report containing recommendations for the improvement of existing situation was written. The project PI is Iva Odak, and the collaborators are Saša Puzić, Branislava Baranović, Dora Petrović and Mirta Mornar.

Youth Study in South-Eastern Europe 2023-24: Youth Study in Croatia

Youth Study in Croatia is a part of the international research project conducted in 12 South-east European countries. Besides in Croatia, the research is conducted in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Greece, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Serbia and Turkey. The aim is to ascertain the needs, interests and attitudes of the youth in the region, with regard to various life domains, such as employment, education, mobility, family relations, value orientations, etc. The Institute's role is to write the Croatian research report based on quantitative data, gathered by a questionnaire survey on a nationally representative sample of youth (N=1,500) aged 16 to 29. The project PI is Anja Gvozdanović, and the project collaborators are Mirjana Adamović, Nikola Baketa, Ratko Đokić, Dunja Potočnik and Vlasta Ilišin.

Programme Agreement (VIF) projects

In 2023 the Institute conducted 6 projects financed by the Programme of multi-year institu-

tional financing by the Ministry of Science and Education (VIF).

School and Community

The “School and Community” project is implemented jointly by the University of Rijeka, Rijeka’s First Croatian High School, Centre for the Culture of Dialogue and the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb. “School and Community” is a non-compulsory subject within the civic education in secondary schools. The subject is created with the purpose of changing the perspective on civic education by bringing schools closer to communities, and communities closer to schools. The subject is an innovative and unique educational experience, complementary to the intercurricular topic of civic education, as well as the outcomes in the curricula of the subjects in the domain of social sciences and humanities. “School and Community” is based on the notion that it is necessary to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes among pupils on the importance of being connected within the community and being active members of the community. Within this subject, pupils choose, explore, acquire experience and suggest solutions to certain problems they recognize in their communities. In 2023, numerous meetings and educational workshops for secondary school pupils were held. Also, three presentations of pupils’ final works were held. In the school year 2023/24, a total of 105 teachers, and more than 1,400 pupils from 70 schools in the City of Zagreb, Krapina-Zagorje County and Primorje-Gorski Kotar County were involved in the subject implementation.



School and Community - pupils visiting ISRZ

ISSP Programme

ISSP is a continuous annual programme of international collaboration between scientific institutions from 46 countries that by employing the method of questionnaire survey cover significant social topics such as: national identity, family, changing gender roles, religion, social inequalities, work orientations, environment, leisure time and sports, social networks, role of government, health, etc. The main aim is to ensure an international comparative research context, while the repetition of thematic blocks in certain time periods provides insight into changes. This way a whole array of relevant social problems is examined, both cyclically and on a one-time basis, as well as locally and globally. The comparative and longitudinal dimension enable a more in-depth and broader explanation and understanding of social phenomena. In 2023, the data bases Health and Health Care 2021 were deposited in the mutual publically available database in the GESIS Leibnitz Institute in Köln. The research group from ISRZ participated in the annual ISSP meeting held in Reykjavik, Island. The project was presented at the 9th Congress of the Croatian Sociological Association. As of 1st January 2024, the project will be financed by the Institute’s Research Programme funded by the Ministry of Science and Education under the Next Generation EU fund. The project PI for ISRZ is Branko Ančić, PhD.

Project ‘Assessment of institutional and structural determinants of application for and success at State Matura exams’

The project aims to identify whether there are systematic and persistent differences in students’ applications for and results at State Matura exams, which can be attributed to the characteristics of high school, programme or place of residence, after controlling for differences in attendees’ school success achieved during compulsory elementary education. We hypothesize that there is significant variability in applications for and results at

State Matura exams with regard to students' regional affiliation, type of school, and educational programme, which cannot be explained by the structure of the student corpus (i.e. previous school success, sex structure and age). Nevertheless, the patterns can be different in particular counties, due to the structure of secondary education, economic development, and the level of investment in education. Such a study design is among the more common analytical applications of standardized national exams, common in the international context and very applicable for the comprehension and development of educational systems. The project's PI is Teo Matković, PhD.

Project 'Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism: Examples of selected mid-Dalmatian islands of Hvar and Brač'

The research is a continuation of the research of tourism development on islands, and it builds on, among others, on case studies of various settlements on the islands of Hvar and Brač. The explorations of tourism determinants on the island of Brač, more precisely in three island settlements: Povelja, Postira and Bol, and in the city of Hvar on the island of Hvar, aimed to analyse various types of developments in these settlements, from mass tourism (Bol and Hvar), over sustainable tourism (Postira) to stagnation (Povelja). These studies are a basis for further exploration of these islands, whereby it is planned to further compare smaller and larger settlements on the mentioned islands by employing longitudinal comparative analyses. In 2023, the results were presented to the local community in Postira, Brač, and were also presented at the conference 'Islandness in the Contemporary Social Context', and at the Summer School 'Waterscapes in Heritage and Environment'. The project PI is Jelena Zlatar Gamberožić, PhD.

Project 'Attitudes on inequality and injustice in Croatia'

Inequality is one of the great challenges that 21st century democracies are facing. The growing inequal-

ity in Europe is related to the downfall of public support to democracy and, often, the increasing affinity towards nationalist-populist leaders. The concern due to inequality grew after the 2008 financial crisis and the global COVID-19 pandemic, exposing some of the deep divisions within and between European peoples. This project aims to explore how people in Croatia reflect on various forms of inequalities that they are facing in everyday living. We will explore how and why beliefs and moral judgements on inequalities are formed, and some of the ways in which inequalities are justified or criticized. Instead of focusing exclusively on inequalities in income, the project will explore the various types of inequalities within various spheres of human lives, including household, work place and the Croatian society as a whole. The way people understand inequalities within their own contexts of activities and usual practical concerns will be explored. Croatia is an interesting context for studying these topics, because it is one of the more egalitarian European countries regarding wealth distribution, and the country in which equality is particularly valued. The project PIs are Iva Odak, PhD and Harry Walker, PhD, anthropologist from the London School of Economics.

Research on political literacy of high school graduate students

Research on political literacy of high school graduate students is a continuous project of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, in which youth political competency is examined periodically. With a focus on exploring political knowledge, attitudes, values and behaviour of youth, an interdisciplinary team of researchers has been engaged since 2010 in monitoring changes and analysing trends in political literacy of high school graduate students, and thus evaluating the ways in which civic education is delivered in the Croatian education system. Until now, three waves of fieldwork were conducted – in 2010, 2015 and 2021, while in the periods between the empirical surveys, the research team was engaged

in the analysis and interpretation of results, and the publishing of papers reporting on youth civic competencies. Besides that, the project aims to collaborate with civil society organizations, by providing a scientific basis for drafting educational programmes and strengthening advocacies regarding youth civic competency. The ISRZ project team are Nikola Baketa, PhD and Jelena Matić Bojić, PhD. The list of all collaborators involved in various research phases and a more detailed description of the project are available [here](#). As of 1st January 2024, the project will be financed under the Institute’s Research Programme under the title ‘Political Competence of Youth at the Verge of Adulthood’.

International collaboration, mobility and study visits

Filip Fila: Experience of CEEPUS freemover mobility

Filip Fila, assistant and doctoral student at the Institute’s CSF project “Integration and disintegration of the European Union: Dynamics of Europeanism and Euroscepticism” shared his experience of mobility within the CEEPUS freemover programme. Filip stayed at the Masaryk University in Brno, in the Czech Republic in the period between February and April 2023. He shared the experience of his three-month mobility at the following [link](#).

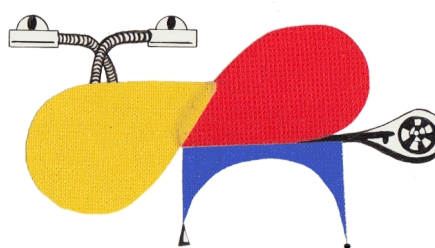


Filip Fila - CEEPUS mobility

Events (co)organized by the Institute

9th International Degrowth Conference

The 9th International Degrowth Conference “Planet, People, Care: It Spells Degrowth!” was held in Zagreb, from 29th August till 2nd September 2023. The conference speakers were experts from Croatia and abroad whose areas of interest are the social and political aspects of climate change, and the questions of social justice and equality. Besides the conference programme, which was held in the morning, the afternoon was reserved for the panels open to the public, which were addressing numerous topics related to sustainable development, degrowth and climate change. The conference was organized by the Institute for Political Ecology, DOOR - Society for Sustainable Development Design, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, WHW, Mi2 – Multimedia Institute, and Scientists for Climate – Croatia. The members of the conference Scientific Committee were the following ISRZ researchers: Branko Ančić, Marija Brajdić Vuković, Teo Matković, Katarina Jaklin and Tomislav Cik. The panels are available at the Youtube channel of the 9th Degrowth Conference.



9th International Degrowth Conference Aug 29 – Sep 2 2023 Zagreb

Degrowth conference

International conference ‘Why the World Needs Anthropologists - The Power of Isolation’

The 11th international conference “Why the World Needs Anthropologists - The Power of Isolation” was held in Supetar on the island of

Brač from 27th to 29th October 2023. The conference was organized by the Applied Anthropology Network - European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA) and partners. The conference was attended by 248 anthropologists from Croatia and Slovenia, and various countries of Europe and the world who participated in lectures and workshops discussing what isolation means in the context of longstanding and mutually interconnected crises. The participants listened to the lectures in the Supetar cinema for two days, while 7 workshops were organized on various locations on the island of Brač. Isolation as a construct in redefining the political, social and digital reality was discussed by Dace Dzenovska (University of Oxford), Lana Bobić (VoxFeminae), Karmen Šterk (University of Ljubljana), Rafram Chaddad (<https://www.rafram.com/>), Tomislav Pletenac (University of Zagreb), Heli Rantavuo (Spotify, eBay, Microsoft, OP Financial Group), Anders Kristian Munk (University of Copenhagen) and students of anthropology from Europe and Croatia. The Organizational team expresses gratitude to the support of all participants, institutions, partners and sponsors (Croatian Science Foundation, Slovenian Research Agency, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, Croatian Ethnological Society, Zagreb University of Applied Sciences, the City of Supetar, Supetar Tourist Board, etc).



EASA international conference on Brač

Final conference and round table of the bilateral Slovenian-Croatian CSF-SRA project HESC

The final conference and round table of the bilateral Slovenian-Croatian CSF-SRA project titled *Quality of living in the Housing Estates of the socialist and post-socialist era: a comparative analysis between Slovenia and Croatia - HESC* (2020-2023) were held on 26th May 2023 in the premises of the City of Zagreb Forum in Zagreb. At the conference, the members of the Croatian team (Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac, Project Leader, and collaborators: Ratko Đokić, Jelena Zlatar Gamberožić, Mirjana Adamović and Anamaria Klasić) presented the expert study titled *Basic overview of results on the quality of living in socialist and post-socialist large housing estates in Croatia and Slovenia*. The study encompasses results of the questionnaire survey conducted in selected housing estates in Croatia and Slovenia (Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek, and Ljubljana and Maribor). The round table discussion gathered colleagues from the project and guests from various city and state institutions: Richard Sendi, PhD, Research Councillor - Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia and Project Leader for Slovenia, Associate Professor Boštjan Kerbler, PhD, Professional Research Councillor - Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia and project collaborator, Željko Uhlir, MA – State Secretary in the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets, Nikša Božić, BSc ing. arch. – Director of the Institute for Physical Planning of the City of Zagreb, Mladen Ilijević, BSc ing. arch. – The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, Bojan Linardić, BSc ing. arch. – Director of the Institute for Spatial Development of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets, and Prof. Tihomir Jukić, PhD – project collaborator from the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb. All participants were actively engaged in the discussion, while emphasizing the importance of the topic of housing, and the necessity of regulation of housing policies in Croatia and Slovenia.



CSF - SRA project HESC round table

The CSF – SRA bilateral project on youth wellbeing and the COVID-19 pandemic was presented to the public

The project YO-VID22: *Youth wellbeing and support structures before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic* was presented to the public on 12th May 2023, in the “Bogdan Ogrizović” Library in Zagreb. The project was presented by Principal Investigators Dunja Potočnik (Institute for Social Research in Zagreb) and Andrej Narterer (University of Maribor Faculty of Arts), and collaborators from Slovenia (Miran Lavrič, Suzana Košir, Vesna Godina Vuk, Danijela Lahe and Minea Rutar) and Croatia (Gordana Kuterovac Jagodić, Darja Maslić Seršić, Anja Gvozdanović and Iva Odak). The bilateral project began in October 2022 and will last for three years. It is financed by the Croatian Science Foundation (CSF) and the Slovenian Research Agency (SRA).

The CSF - SRA bilateral project ISOLATION' was presented to the public

The Slovenian-Croatian bilateral project of the Slovenian Research Agency and Croatian Science Foundation ‘Isolated People and Communities in Slovenia and Croatia – ISOLATION’ was presented to the public in the ‘Bogdan Ogrizović’ Library in Zagreb on 1st March 2023. The project was presented by Principal Investigators Dan Podjed (Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts - Institute of Slovenian Ethnology ZRC SAZU) and Lana Peternel (Institute for Social Research in Zagreb), and project collaborators Tatiana Ba-

juk Senčar and Miha Kozorog from Slovenia, and Filip Škiljan, Lucija Mihaljević, Hrvoje Čargonja and Nikolina Hazdovac Bajić from Croatia. During 2023, the research team conducted numerous field studies in depopulated places in Croatia and Slovenia.



Presentation of the CSF project ISOLATION

Final conference of the CSF EWChange project

The final conference of the EWChange project was held in Novinarski dom in Zagreb on 14th February 2023. The conference’s title was “Growing up in the post(pandemic) time – Experiences from Croatia“. The project that included more than 40,000 pupils and 10,000 educational professionals from 167 schools was financed by the Croatian Science Foundation. Within the conference, the results of the EWChange project were presented and discussed. The participants of the discussion were Zrinka Ristić Dedić (ISRZ), Suzana Hitrec (Administration School Zagreb), Irena Ihas Jurić (Second Grammar School Zagreb), Klara Bilić Meštrić (CARNET) and Zoran Kirinić (Primary School Glina). The presented results can be found [here](#).

Open Day ISRZ

The Institute’s Open Day was held on 14th December 2023. It is an event that we organize with the aim to present the results of our scientific research to the interested public in a popular and informal way. The visitors were greeted by


the Director Boris Jokić. The Open Day started with two presentations of our recent educational research studies. Dora Petrović, PhD candidate and assistant at the CSF project “The role of personality, motivation and socio-emotional competences in early-career teachers’ occupational well-being” (PI Iris Marušić, PhD) discussed the challenges that teachers face in their early-career stage. Jana Šimon, PhD candidate and assistant at the CSF project “Educational aspirations of pupils at transitional periods of Croatian elementary education: nature, determinants and change – EWACHange” (PI Boris Jokić) presented the findings of the research on the ban of the use of mobile phones in elementary schools. Afterwar-

ds, Anamaria Klasić, PhD candidate and assistant at the CSF project “Quality of living in the Housing Estates of the socialist and post-socialist era: a comparative analysis between Slovenia and Croatia– HESC” (PI Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac, PhD) presented the results of the study on the quality of life in Zagreb housing estates. The final presentation was held by Branko Ančić, PhD. It was titled “Degrowth – Why is it an important topic in social sciences and why is it inevitable?“. The visitors contributed actively to the quality of the discussions, and after the programme we all gathered informally to exchange our experiences in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.



Open Day ISRZ

Reports and Publications

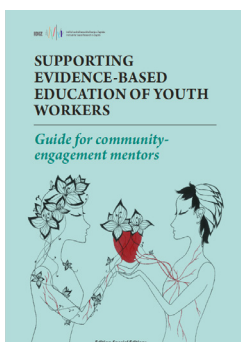
Cover	Publication title	Author/s	Publisher
	'Sociological Study Gornji Grad and Kaptol' as part of the Programme of comprehensive renewal of the historical centre of Zagreb	Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac	Institute for Physical Planning of the City of Zagreb, ISRZ
	To Graduate during the pandemic: Results of the Fourth national research into employability of graduated students	Teo Matković, Katarina Jaklin, Andrea Grus, Dunja Potočnik	Agency for Science and Higher Education
	Recommendations for the strengthening of equity and inclusiveness at all educational levels	Thematic Network Lifelong Education Accessible to All	Institute for the Development of Education
	Guidelines for the Action Plan for Energy and Climate Sustainable Development (SECAP)	METER to a better climate (Network for Education, Transition, Adaptation and Development)	DOOR - Society for Sustainable Development Design
	Family Relations in Croatia from the Youth Perspective	Boris Jokić, Zrinka Ristić Dedić	ISRZ
	Growing up in the post(pandemic) time – Experiences from Croatia	Boris Jokić	ISRZ
	A report on the use of mobile phones in Croatian primary schools published	Boris Jokić, Zrinka Ristić Dedić and Jana Šimon	ISRZ's Horizons

Publishing

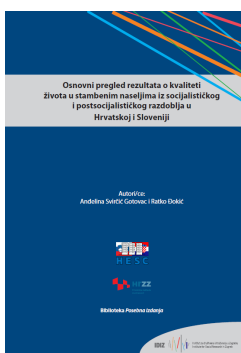
In 2023, the total scientific production of the Institute included 1 edited book, 28 scientific papers, and 11 scientific chapters. Out of that number, 28 papers were published in journals indexed in Web of Science and/or Scopus.

The Institute publishes the “*Science and Society*” Edition and the “*Special Editions*”, and the scientific journal “*Sociology and Space*”.

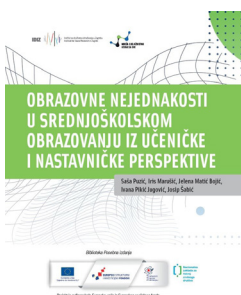
In the *Special Editions* the following titles were published:



- Sunčana Kusturin, Bojana Čulum Ilić. Supporting Evidence-based Education of Youth workers. Zagreb: Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, 2023.



- Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac, Ratko Đokić. Basic overview of results on the quality of living in socialist and post-socialist large housing estates in Croatia and Slovenia. Zagreb: Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, 2023.



- Saša Puzić, Iris Marušić, Jelena Matić Bojić, Ivana Pikić Jugović, Josip Šabić. Educational Inequalities in Secondary Education from the Perspective of Students and Teachers. Zagreb: Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, 2023.

Journal “Sociology and Space”

In 2023 the journal “Sociology and Space” published scientific papers from the domains of sociology, urban/rural sociology, social geography, psychology, education and related disciplines. Two regular annual numbers were published, Vol. 61 No. 1 (226) and Vol. 61 No.2 (227), available at the Institute’s web-page and on Hrčak. The second annual number of the journal Vol. 61 No. 2 (227) was realised as a thematic issue dedicated to the topic of new public culture and spaces of sociability. The visiting editor of this issue is Željka Tonković of the Department of Sociology of the University of Zadar. The project “New public culture and spaces of sociability” is co-financed by the European Social Fund. The third regular annual number Vol. 61 No. 3 (228) was published in early 2024. In it, the 60th anniversary of the publishing of “Sociology and Space” and the establishment of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb is announced.



Announcements

6th Days of Educational Sciences

The 6th Days of Educational Sciences “Future of Education: New Directions in Research and Practice” will be held from 16th till 18th October 2024 in Algebra, Zagreb.

In contemporary times marked by an exceptional development of technologies, the presence of global crises and constant social changes, and even tensions that shape the complex context of the educational system, it is imperative to seek

new educational paradigms and shape innovative developmental directions that can address these challenges.

At the conference “Future of Education“ we wish to analyse contemporary educational phenomena and processes, and outline the directions that will redefine the future of educational research and practice. The conference is open to various topics, and particularly encourages papers on:

- trends in the development of education, schooling, teaching profession, etc.
- innovative practices of learning and teaching that inspire and empower pupils/students and teachers and ensure the acquisition of relevant knowledge and competencies for life in the 21st century
- inclusive practices that successfully address increasing diversity in classrooms and foster the development and advancement of all pupils/students, regardless of the settings that they come from or their individual characteristics
- possibilities of contemporary technologies to improve learning, teaching and assessment
- educational policy and reforms that have the potential to transform the educational system positively
- influence of broader social phenomena and changes (e.g., migrations, increase of social inequalities, climate changes) on the educational system
- new approaches in educational research.

The conference is envisioned as a place of networking, learning, rich discussions, and collaboration of scientists of different profiles and researchers-practitioners looking for solutions for better quality educational experiences for all. We invite you to join us in a dialogue and joint reflection on the future of education.

Welcome to the 6th Days of Educational Sciences 2024 ‘Future of Education: New Directions in Research and Practice’! More information can be obtained at the conference website.

60th Anniversary of the ‘Sociology and Space’ journal

This year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our Institute and the publishing of the “Sociology and Space“ journal. To mark this important year for us, we will organize a series of events dedicated to the celebration of our first 60 years. The main event will be held on 22nd April 2024 in Lauba, where a panel will be organized addressing the challenges that the future brings on to social scientists and humanities researchers in the light of contemporary crises. At the event, the thematic number of the ‘Sociology and Space’ journal will also be presented. We therefore invite you to follow our social media channels and stay updated on our forthcoming events.

Everyday life at ISRZ...



Editors: Tana Morić and Stjepan Tribuson