

## IDIZ Newsletter

1/2012.

In preparation of the 50th anniversary of the Institute, we decided to approach the public with information on the Institute activities by publishing the Newsletter of the Institute in which we shall from now on report on our work and achievements.

### Editorial

#### About the Institute

I gladly start this introduction by sharing the fact that the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb is Croatia's oldest scientific research institution in the field of sociology and other social sciences and humanities. It was founded by the Council of the University of Zagreb following a proposal by a group of university teachers on the 21st April 1964 under the name of the Institute for Social and Sociological Research. The next year we celebrate 50 years of its existence and we have already started intensive preparations for marking the anniversary.

During the 50-year period, the Institute has systematically and interdisciplinary researched the society, particularly the social structure, socio-cultural aspects of space, youth, education, science, religion, culture and gender. We strive to become the Institute which will be recognized within these research areas, both in Croatia and internationally, as well as acknowledged by its originality, scientific and social relevance and actuality.

The Institute has had and still keeps a significant role in the development of social research with especially important contribution to the development of sociology and related scientific disciplines, professional development, and the creation of infrastructure and logistic assumptions of scientific work.

Among the institute's accomplishments, the 50 years of publication of the journal *Sociology and Space*, which developed from *Rural Sociology*, the first journal in the field of rural sociology in Croatia, surely bears special mention along with the publication of a specialized book series "Science and society" which has published 32 books since 2001, not counting special editions of the books of the Institute.

The Institute also systematically fosters inter-institutional and international cooperation as the framework built on the principles of partnership and complementarity through which the Institute cooperates with numerous and diverse institutions, such as research institutes and universities, professional associations, civil organizations and government institutions.

To summarize, the work of the Institute shows that up to now about 400 research projects were realized, including highly-competitive national projects (eg. Croatian Science Foundation project) and international projects such as the ISSP, ERASMUS and TEMPUS projects, and more than 3,500 scientific works were published. On that basis, we can say that the work of the Institute is an important part of contemporary Croatian science and scientific heritage in the field of social sciences.

**Branislava Baranović, Ph.D.**

**director**

## Projects

### Domestic projects

10 projects are being implemented at the Institute in the framework of two research programs approved and funded by Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. During 2012, regular scientific research projects were marked by final gathering of empirical data, implementation of various analyses and data interpretation. Unfinished synthesis of research data will continue in 2013 along with the dissemination of results through domestic and international publications and participation in conferences.

As part of the program *Social Protagonists of Scientific, Technological, Sociospatial and Sociocultural Development in Croatia* (principal investigator: Katarina Prpić, Ph.D.) these projects were conducted:

- ***Identity of the Others in the Republic of Croatia***  
(principal investigator: Mladen Labus, Ph.D.)
- ***Stratification and Value Orientations in Croatian Society***  
(principal investigator: Duško Sekulić, Ph.D.)
- ***Croatian Students in European Context: The Coming Social Elite***  
(principal investigator: Vlasta Ilišin, Ph.D.)
- ***Actors of Social Change in the Space***  
(principal investigator: Dušica Seferagić, Ph.D.)
- ***Minor Religious Communities as Actors of Religious Changes in Croatian Society***  
(principal investigator: Ankica Marinović, Ph.D.)
- ***Social Protagonists of Scientific and Technological Development***  
(principal investigator: Katarina Prpić, Ph.D.)

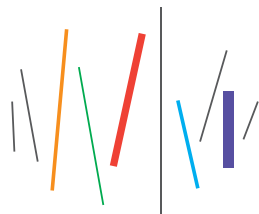
As part of the program *Knowledge Based Society and Improving the Quality of Education in Croatia* (principal investigator: Branislava Baranović, Ph.D.) these projects were conducted:

- ***Professional Development of Teachers During Initial Education and Induction***  
(principal investigator: Vlasta Vizek Vidović, Ph.D.)
- ***Improvement and Equalisation of the Quality of Compulsory Education in Croatia***  
(principal investigator: Nikola Pastuović, Ph.D.)
- ***Competences for Knowledge Based Society and National Curriculum in Croatia***  
(principal investigator: Branislava Baranović, Ph.D.)

Additionally, apart from the research programs a stand-alone project *The Development of a Model for the Evaluation of Scientific Work in Croatia* (principal investigator: Marija Maja Jokić, Ph.D.) was conducted at the Institute.

### International projects

Two international projects were continued in the past year. *International Social Survey Programme* under guidance of Dinka Marinović Jerolimov, Ph.D. has been carried out continuously since 2005. It is the oldest international research project in the social sciences with participation of over 40 countries ([www.issp.org](http://www.issp.org)). In addition to ISSP, working on Tempus project *Towards Equitable and Transparent Access to Higher Education in Croatia – ACCESS* is continued under guidance of Karin Doolan, Ph.D.



## Other projects

In 2012 the researchers from the Institute conducted a total of 10 market projects whose topics were related to education, social policy and the young:

Naziv projekta	Partneri
Perceptions and Attitudes of Young People in Croatia Toward Changing Reality	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
Quality to success. Analysis of capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities and organizations that bring benefit to people with disabilities for using EU funds	DIM – Association for Civic Education; National Foundation for Civil Society Development
Expert analysis of the relevant documents on youth in order to develop the Law on Youth	Ministry of Social Policy and Youth
Development of the Instruments for Evaluation of Classes	Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency
Strengthening of Internal Capacities of Elementary Schools of Rijeka for Enforcement of School-based Prevention Programs	City of Rijeka, Department of Health and Social welfare
The Use of Drugs Among High School Students in Dubrovnik Neretva County	Department of Public Health Dubrovnik-Neretva County
Life and Studying in Dubrovnik: Opinions of Dubrovnik University Students on Student life, Studies and Risk Behaviors of Students	Department of Public Health Dubrovnik-Neretva County
Content Analysis and Examination of Results of State Graduation in Mathematics in the Period of 2010-2012	National Center for external Evaluation of education
Analysis of the Study Programs of Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Croatia on the Basis of the Results of the First State Graduation Conducted in Academic Year 2012-2013.	Agency for Science and Higher Education
Evaluation of Cities – Friends of Children	Alliance of Croatian „Naša djeca“ organizations; Croatian society for preventive and social pediatrics; UNICEF; local Government

## Review of the project through the interview: Branislava Baranović, Ph.D.

*Could you, please, briefly introduce the project “Social Identities, Access to Higher Education and Selection of Studies”.*

The project examines the impact of social identity and individual characteristics of students in Croatia on their decisions about continuing their education at the tertiary level, choice of study and performance in the first year of study. Objectives of the project are: to explain educational biographies on the basis of theoretical and empirical insight (continuing education on tertiary level, the selection of studies, performance of studies); to develop mixed-method approach to researching educational biographies, and to link theoretical and empirical findings of the research with educational policies to ensure equal educational opportunities in higher education.

The quantitative part of the study (the administration of the questionnaire) will be carried out on a sample of students of the final year of secondary education (stratified sample of 5% of secondary schools, with controlling types of secondary schools (gymnasium, 4 - and 3-year vocational schools) and the region, while the qualitative methods (semi-structured interviews) will be applied on the sample of students of the first year of undergraduate studies at universities and professional schools (selected by study fields).

The project applies Bourdieu's theory of practice (1977) and Eccles' (1998) theory of expectations and values that jointly allow the testing of the impact of social (e.g. economic and cultural characteristics), institutional (e.g. type of high school and its status) and individual student characteristics (e.g. grades, motivation) on their educational biographies. Thus project contributes to the development of interdisciplinary and integrated conceptual framework for explaining educational biographies of students.



IDIZ employees and other project members of project  
*"Social identities, access to higher education and selection of studies"*

From left to right: Branislava Baranović, Ph.D. - principal investigator, Karin Doolan, Ph.D., Olgica Klepač, Saša Puzić, Ph.D., Ivana Jugović, Ph.D., Iva Košutić

We expect that the findings of the project will contribute to creating evidence based policy in the field of education, especially in eliminating social inequalities in higher education.

The project duration is 3 years, from 2013 to 2016. It is carried out by an interdisciplinary team, consisted of, in accordance with the objectives of the research, associates from institutes, universities, NGOs and governmental institutions. In addition to domestic ones, foreign associates also collaborate on the project as consultants.

The project team are:

- Baranović, B., Jugović, I., Klepač, O., Košutić, I., Puzić, S. - IDIZ-CERD
- Doolan, K. - Department of Sociology, University of Zadar
- Karajić, N. - Department of Sociology, University of Zagreb
- Zgaga, P. - Center for Research on Educational Politics, University of Ljubljana
- Farnell, T. - The Institute for the Development of Education

- Štimac-Radin, H. - Government Office for Gender equality
- Opfer, D. - RAND Education Department

The project is funded by Croatian Science Foundation in the amount of 671,516.00 HRK.

***Please briefly comment on the application process and the evaluation of the project.***

The project falls within the national competitive research projects and it passed the usual application procedure provided by Croatian Science Foundation for this type of projects. It is characterized by a high degree of competitiveness with only a few projects passing, very high standards in writing and evaluation of project proposals (foreign reviews) and monitoring of the implementation of the project. This procedure is used as a good preparation for applying to the European funds and we believe that by setting up the European criteria we shall contribute to improving the quality of our research team and the Institute.

*Finally, what would you single out as the most important for application of the project to the Croatian Science Foundation and which elements you think are crucial in the application (and positive evaluation) of the project? Do you have any advice to share with all those who would apply projects to Croatian Science Foundation in the future?*

The topic of the project should be scientifically significant (contributing to enriching the fund of scientific knowledge and innovating theoretical-methodological approaches) and socially useful. It is very important that research is a continuation of previous scientific work of the researchers, i.e. that researchers on the project have previous research results and work that guarantees successful implementation of the project. Also, it is important that the proposal is written clearly, precisely, that it is theoretically and empirically grounded and reasoned, and that the research team is of good quality and interdisciplinary and allowing collaboration between institutions within and outside of Croatia. Based on our experience, I would say that better evaluation of the project proposal is, among other factors, due to planning of professional development and employing of young

researchers (graduating).

## Published papers and conference presentations in 2012

Researchers from the Institute published a total of 25 scientific publications of various kinds in 2012. Of these, 7 were books, 6 book chapters and 12 articles in different national and international journals. Many of these publications are in English in order to be available to the wider scientific community. As expected by the nature of the projects, publications cover a wide range of topics. Social changes, education and the school system, sustainable growth, religion and religious communities, gender differences and science and research contributions are only some of them.

Employees of the Institute actively participated in numerous scientific and professional conferences at home and abroad. In addition to local meetings in Zagreb, Zadar, Šibenik and Split, employees have participated also at gatherings in Buenos Aires, San Juan and Windhoek, as well as the European conferences that can be seen on the map below.

Participation of IDIZ employees at the European and world conferences



## International cooperation

In October 2012 a cooperation agreement was signed between The University of Georgia - Institute for Higher Education and the Institute for Social Research, Centre for Educational Research and Development on joint initiative for higher education for South Eastern Europe (HEISEE - Higher Education Initiative for Southeastern Europe).

The aim of this initiative is the establishment of cooperation model of the institutions involved in the development of higher education in South Eastern Europe, with the task of encouraging and improving the quality of tertiary education, creating a network of institutions and individuals involved in this type of research, the establishment of a database, as well as professional and consulting activities related to the adoption of educational policies and their implementation.



Signing of the agreement

From left to right: Karen Webber, Ph.D. (Institute of Higher Education, University of Georgia), Branislava Baranović, Ph.D. (IDIZ director), Vlasta Vizek Vidović, Ph.D. (CERD director)

The initiative is a joint action of the Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE), Institute for Educational Development and The U.S. Embassy in Zagreb. More information is available at <http://www.heisee.org/>.

Since October 2012 Centre for Educational Research and Development guests Matthew Becker, a postgraduate from The University of Mississippi. Matthew is a scholar of David L. Boren Foundation which awards scholarships as a part of the National Security Education Program.



The purpose of his stay in Croatia and Bosnia during the academic year 2012/13 is to conduct research in secondary schools and to work on his Ph.D. thesis which problematizes effects of war on the secondary education system and the formation of students' attitudes. The working title of his dissertation is "School Systems and the Political Socialization of High School Students in Bosnia and Herzegovina". Help in the design of the initial stages of research as well as expert assistance and supervision to the guest researcher was provided by Branislava Baranović, Ph.D.

## Publishing

Institute for Social Research is the publisher of the Library Science and Society and the scientific journal Sociology and Space. In 2012 the Science and Society book series published 3 books as a result of working on the Institute projects:



Pastuović, Nikola. *Education and Development: How education Develops a Person and Changes Society, and How Does Society Influence Education.* - Zagreb: Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, 2012 – 369 pp. – (Science and Society; 30).

### *Actors of Social Change in Space: Transformation of Space and Quality of Life in Croatia.*

Inter-regional scientific congress (round table) held in the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb on December 16, 2011 / editors: Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac and Jelena Zlatar. - Zagreb: Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, 2012 – 270 pp. – (Science and Society; 31).



Jokić, Maja; Zauder, Krešimir; Letina, Srebrenka. *Characteristics of Croatian National and International Scientific Production in Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts 1991-2005.* – Zagreb: Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, 2012 – 342 pp. – (Library Science and Society; 32).

In the past year Institute was also a co-publisher of the publication:

Bezinović, Petar; Marušić, Iris; Ristić Dedić, Zrinka. *Observation and Improvement of School Education.* - Zagreb: Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency; Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, 2012 – 64 pp.



## Sociology and Space

Journal *Sociology and Space* has published three issues in 2012 (192 (1), 193 (2) and 194 (3)) which consist of a total of 17 scientific papers, 2 professional papers and 7 reviews. Published papers can be accessed through the web on: <http://hrcak.srce.hr/sociologija-i-prostor>.

After receiving funds (during 2013), the plan is to digitize the entire collection, i.e. all issues of the journal Sociology and Space (Rural sociology) that previously could not be digitized because of lack of funds. That includes 158 issues of the journal printed in the period 1963-2003, since the period from 2003 onwards (numbers 159-194) is already digitized. Upon completion of the project open access to digitized material will be provided on the website of the *Institute for Social Research* ([www.idi.hr](http://www.idi.hr)) and *Hrčak*, the central portal of Croatian scientific and professional journals (<http://hrcak.srce.hr/sociology-and-space>).

## Events organized by the Institute

### ISSP Cavtat Conference

In April 2012, an annual meeting of all partners involved in the international project *International Social Survey Programme* was organized for the first time in Croatia. The meeting was held in Cavtat, under the auspices of *Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Tourist Board of Cavtat*, the *Croatian Tourist Board* and the *City Council of Dubrovnik*.

Five-day meeting was joined by more than 80 researchers from 40 countries that in a series of successful meetings completed the questionnaire for research module *National Identity*, and discussed some important issues associated with the future module called *Citizenship*. At the end of the meeting members of the project gave Croatian members of the ISSP project a great honor by electing Croatia (IDIZ as a representative) in the Standing Committee of the ISSP project.

Photos from ISSP Cavtat conference



## The first Days of Educational Sciences

In October 2012, the Center for Educational Research and Development successfully organized scientific conference **1. Dani obrazovnih znanosti** that covered the topic of quality of education – research perspectives. This scientific conference sought to further affirm the field of educational sciences within the wider academic and professional community, to motivate scientists for cooperation and networking, not only within but also outside the Croatian borders and sought to contribute to further guidance and strengthening of professional identity of scientists in this dynamic field.



Theme of the conference included the concept of quality of education in its broadest sense, including analysis of stakeholders in education – students, teachers, and other employees of educational institutions and parents;

analysis of the process of learning, teaching, assessment, initial teacher education, professional development of teachers and principals, and leadership and management of educational institutions. At the conference participants also discussed the content of education, expressed through curriculum and other decisions, on the outcomes of education expressed by student scores on internal and external evaluation and the indicators of competence development of each stakeholder in the educational system. Also, topics included elements of school atmosphere, material conditions of schools and the issue of security in educational institutions. Organization of second conference “2. Dani obrazovnih znanosti” is planned for 2014. More information can be found at <http://www.idi.hr/doz2012>.

## Internal seminars

During 2012, the following internal invited-speaker seminars were held at the Institute: **Checkout of the Modified Bloom's Taxonomy in the Field of Mathematics** – Natalija Čurković (National Center for the Evaluation of Education) and **Education for Democratic Citizenship** Alistar Ross (Emeritus Professor of Education, Institute for Policy Studies in Education, London Metropolitan University. Visiting Professor, University of Bedfordshire. Jean Monnet ad Personam Professor of Citizenship Education in Europe).

## Announcement of activities in 2013

The 50th anniversary of the journal **Sociology and Space (Rural Sociology)** will be celebrated in October 2013. The journal has continuously been published since 1963 under the title Rural Sociology until 2007 when its name was changed to Sociology and Space. Regarding the 50th anniversary, a round table/conference will be held, titled “Rural Development of Croatia: Perspectives of integrated and sustainable development of rural areas”, aiming to consolidate the former mission of the journal, which was based on on comprehensive rural sociology

and related research, with space development planning and challenges of Croatian rural area and agriculture during and after joining the EU..

The meeting will bring together eminent domestic and foreign professionals from different disciplines. Upon completion of the round table, promotion of jubilee volume of the Journal is planned. Deadline for participation is July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. For further information and registration please contact the following address: [svircic@idi.hr](mailto:svircic@idi.hr) or [adrijana@idi.hr](mailto:adrijana@idi.hr).

**Editorial board:** Branko Ančić, Marija Brajdić Vuković, Tana Morić, Adrijana Šuljok and Krešimir Zauder.

Amruševa 11/II, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

**Tel:** +385 1 48 10 264; **Fax:** +385 1 48 10 263; **E-mail:** [idi@idi.hr](mailto:idi@idi.hr)