

Croatian Geographical Society

Marulićev trg 19, 10 000 Zagreb

Croatia

International Geographical Union (IGU-UGI)

Professor Mike Meadows

Secretary-General and Treasurer

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Summary report of activities to IGU General Assembly over the inter-congress period 2012-16

Introductory information

Croatian Geographical Society (in Croatian officially Hrvatsko geografsko društvo (*HGD*), established in 1897) is a non-profit, non-government organization acting primarily as a national hub for professional geographers with its main goal of promoting geographic education, knowledge, skills and practices throughout the society. It is a member of Croatian natural science association (est. 1885), European Association of Geographers (*EUROGEO*) and of the International Geographical Union (*IGU-UGI*). The Croatian Geographical Society headquarters address is Marulićev trg 19, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia (Hrvatska). Its website URL is <http://www.hagede.hr/>. The current membership is around 300 members. Current president is Associate professor Danijel Orešić (5 year mandate 2013-2017)

General goals and activity

The Croatian Geographical Society was founded to encourage the dissemination of geographic research and knowledge, to cooperate with other similar societies in Croatia and abroad and to generally popularize geography. Improving geographic education and professionalization is among its mayor goals especially after WWII. Its members are mainly geography and geography education masters as well as alumni employed in business, government and nonprofit organizations in the Republic of Croatia.

The Society accomplishes its goals through its journals, one scientific (*Hrvatski geografski glasnik*, ISSN 1331-5854, since 1929, currently 2 issues annually) and one professional/popular (*Geografski horizont*, ISSN 0016-7266, since 1955, currently 2 issues

annually; occasional monographies/special editions; national congresses (every 4 years) and other scientific meetings; lifelong learning programs; national and international school geography competitions, web geography education and popularization. On many of its goals it cooperates with Ministry of science, education and sports, government educational agencies, university geographical institutions and regional geographic societies.

Major activities and projects in 2012-2016 IGU intercongress period

Administrative activities:

In January 2013 electorate assembly was held and according to the statute for the next mandate 2013-2017 period 13 member management board was elected, which elected the president of the society (Danijel Orešić), its vice-president (Ivan Čanjevac) and its secretary (Marin Cvitanović).

New editors in chief of Croatian Geographical Society publications was elected in 2013, Vuk Tvrtko Opačić for *Hrvatski geografski glasnik* and Vedran Prelogović for *Geografski horizont*.

In 2015 Croatian Geographical Society revised its statute according to the new law considering nonprofit organizations. Minor changes were made.

Scientific activities:

In the 2012-2016 period Croatian Geographical Society organized:

In August 2014 International scientific conference *Water sustainability: new challenges and solutions* hosted by Commission for Water Sustainability of the IGU in Dubrovnik, Croatia. There were 22 registered participants from 9 countries, 17 presentations and a book of abstract was published. A one day conference field trip was

Its 6th national congress, officially *6th geographical congress: Integrative and applied spatial research* in Trogir, from September 29th till October 2nd 2015. There were 99 registered participants, including colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. There were 62 presentations and a book of abstracts was published. A field excursion was held during October 1st and 2nd in the Split-Dalmatian County in Croatia and in the neighboring part of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

And co-organized (as one of the organizers):

In May 20-23 2015 6th Croatian Water Conference with International Participation: *Croatian Waters on the Investment Wave*, Opatija, Croatia. Proceedings (ISBN 978-953-7672-12-6) published all 134 papers presented.

Lifelong education programs

Croatian Geographical Society regularly holds its seminars for geography teachers, two every year: Winter Seminar for geography teachers (annually since 1955) and Summer Seminar for geography teachers (annually since 1951). Those are regularly organized during the 2012-2016 period, 2 days every winter with some 15 presentations gathering around 500 teachers from all over the country, and 1 day every summer with up to 10 presentations gathering around 300 teachers.

In the 2012-2016 period also several Geography workshops for smaller groups (up to 20) was held by the members of the Department of Geography, Faculty of science, Zagreb University, mainly about information technology in teaching geography.

School geography education and competitions:

Croatian Geographical Society in cooperation with State Agency for Education organizes National school geography competition (annually since 1994) as one of the largest school competition in Croatia. It is being organized on communes, county and state levels. From it selection is made for participation on IGEO - International Geography Olympiad (participation since 2009). Croatian Geographic Society is preparing the geography Olympiad team. In the period 2012-2016. Croatian team participated on every IGEO: Köln 2012, Kyoto 2013, Krakow 2014, Tver 2015 and they won 13 medals in total (6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals) showing excellent results.

Popularization activities:

In the 2012-2016 period Croatian Geographical Society continued hosting (a tradition since 1947) it's popular Geographic Monday Public Lectures with a dozen lectures annually.

Society Web programs *E-school for young scientists* and *Educative portal www.geografija.hr* continued its work.

Publications:

In the period 2012-2016 Croatian Geographical Society continuously and regularly published its scientific publication *Hrvatski geografski glasnik*, 2 issues annually (<http://hrcak.srce.hr/hrvatski-geografski-glasnik>). The new editor in chief strengthened its international character, introducing new editorial members from abroad and since Vol.77, No.2 issue the publication is published in a revised format and bilingually, in both Croatian and English. The professional/popular publication *Geografski horizont* was also regularly and continuously published.

Conclusion remarks

Croatian Geographic Society in the 2012-2016 period remained the umbrella organization for all its geographers, though independent regional geographic societies are also active. The Society furthered its cooperation with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and with state educational agencies and worked with them on geography curriculum questions and state high school graduation exams. Most important it significantly contributed to the new project of the national curriculum in 2015 and 2016 especially in the geography curriculum, contributing to the new student-oriented and research-oriented curriculum.

The future mission of Croatian Geographic Society is to remain on the path of advancement of geography education and of validation of geography as a modern science which in dealing with functional organization of geospatial systems can provide many answers to questions of our sustainable development.

In the name of the Croatian Geographic Society

Danijel Orešić, president