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Short profile of Organisation

The Institute for Social Research in Zagreb (IDIZ) is the first social science research institution established in Croatia. It was founded by the University of Zagreb in 1964.

Research experience

IDIZ conducts interdisciplinary scientific research in the fields of social structures, youth, education, culture, leisure time, science and technology, religion, space (rural and urban) as well as research of global social values. IDIZ is already a member of the consortium for the FP6 CA project *Religions and Values: Central and Eastern European Research Network* (REVACERN) – coordinated by SZEGEDI TUDOMANYEGYETEM, Hungary.

Staff / Office

There are 43 employees at the Institute among which 37 are researchers and 5 administrative staff. It operates from a fully equipped centrally-located office.

The **Centre for Educational Research and Development** was founded in 2001, as part of the Institute for Social Research. It employs 4 senior researchers, 14 junior researchers, 2 administrative staff. CERD also closely cooperates with numerous educational experts from Croatian universities.

In the last 5 years, CERD has conducted numerous research and development projects covering primary, secondary and higher education. The themes covered are as follows: structure of educational systems, curriculum and competencies, assessment and evaluation, teacher education, higher education standards, soft corruption in education, gender in textbooks and classroom practice, bullying.

CERD is a member of several international networks:

1. CIDREE Consortium of Institutions for Development and Research in Education in Europe
2. SEE-ECN South East European Education Cooperation Network – CERD is a country node for the network
3. NEPC *Network of Education Policy Centres* – CERD is the host institution to NEPC for the period from 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2008.

IDIZ turnover in 2006 – approx 1 200 000 \$

CERD expertise - Science in society

The CERD team consists of experts with background in social and natural sciences, as well as more focused expertise on educational research and public policy. Our members are graduates of prestigious Croatian and European universities (incl. Oxbridge and the LSE).

Our experiences range from needs assessment, status and strategy reports concerning a wide range of educational issues spanning from national and regional to the European level. For instance, we have conducted extensive theoretical research into factors shaping the contemporary knowledge society; educational systems and curricula; centralised assessment and factors of self-evaluation; motivation of students, teachers and student-teachers for knowledge transformation.

CERD is looking for partners in Science in Society section of FP7: specifically popularisation of science subjects at non-specialised levels of education and choice of science as a career. As part of a larger institution we can also extend the proposed activities to FP7 SSH Collaborative research in this field. Through educational research we are capable of addressing motivational and other issues related to science subjects, as faced by students in the public schooling system. Through policy proposals we can help actively promote interest in science subjects, address levels of general public's understanding of science, as well as mandate assistance in choosing science and technology careers.

CERD has implemented projects in public perception of science with partners from Europe and the region. We have recently conducted comparative analysis of European science curricula and have previously addressed the factors affecting the 15-year-olds attitude to studying science. We are convinced that noteworthy science promotion activities (festivals, media-oriented products etc.) go hand in hand with the perception of science created within the educational system, from the basic idea about science in primary school all the way up to motivation of undergraduates to undertake further research. Our strengths lie in the ability to navigate the labyrinth of institutionalised education and sociology of profession whilst focusing on popularisation of what science is today.

Project Information

Area	5.2.2.1, 5.2.2.2, 5.3.0.6.
Call Identifier	FP7 – Science-in-Society-2007 - 1
Deadline	May 2007

