Education for digital citizenship in Internet era
in Croatian Schools

Suzana Hitrec, Brankica Žugaj

Association of Croatian Secondary School Principals

2 April 2019, Berlin
Inclusive education in Croatia

• Our education system affords all children, learners and young people – including those with developmental disabilities, members of national minorities, gifted learners and those in a disadvantaged position.

• Professional support and pedagogic, didactic and spatial adjustment to ensure suitable education in schools
  o Educational rehabilitators, speech and language therapists, social pedagogues, special teachers, personal assistants, sign language interpreters

• Children with minor developmental difficulties are included in mainstream classes and are taught according to general curricula with the help of individualised plans or curricula adjusted to their capabilities
Citizenship Education in Croatia

- First attempt in 1998 → as the government’s response to the 1995–2004 UN Decade of Human Rights Education
- In the following years, the human rights and democratic citizenship education would be nominally included in all major laws and strategic papers on education and national policies but not in practice
- Drafting of the first Croatian Citizenship Education Curriculum (CEC) in 2010 → accepted by Minister of education
- The format of curriculum had not, yet, been recognised by law, CEC had to be formally rewritten as the Citizenship Education Programme for Primary and Secondary Schools (CEP)
- In the process of "e-consultations with the interested public" opened by the Ministry in 2014, CEP was attacked by the coalition of civil organizations who claimed to be the guardians of the family and national interests
- The National Comprehensive Curricular Reform in 2015 → Citizenship Education Curriculum developed as a cross-curricular topic, got multiple attacks from civil organisations
- 25.1.2019 – published cross curricula which will be implemented in schools in school year 2019/2020
Citizenship Education in Croatia—cross-curricular topic

- **Purpose**: contribute to the preparation of students for their active and effective citizen’s role

- **Human rights**
- **Democracy**
- **Civil society**

- Croatian Ombudswoman has in her report of 2018 recommended that Citizenship Education should be a mandatory subject in schools
Good practice

- Rijeka was the first and for now the only city in Croatia to introduce Civic Education as a curricular activity to elementary schools in 2017

  - Students citizens: informed, active and responsible
    (the manual)

- National school competition of simulated trials
  - goal: to understand the role of law and rule of law in democratic society
Bullying/violence prevention

- ‘Stop Violence among Children’ – a programme for the prevention of peer violence and bullying conceived by UNICEF together with domestic experts

“Over the ten years of its implementation (2003-2012) violence amongst school children reduced by half in those schools that participated in the programme… – one of the most successful of its kind in the world

- 2019 Development of National Action plan for preventing violence in schools
School for Life – pilot project

- Experimental project (school year 2018/19) – 74 schools, 8,500 students and 2,000 teachers
- Tablets for each student
- Digital learning materials
- Computer science as a compulsory subject in all primary schools
- New curricula of general subjects
- Cross curricula subject Citizenship education
e-Schools
https://pilot.e-skole.hr/en/

- e-Schools: a comprehensive informatization of school operation processes and teaching processes aimed at the creation of digitally mature schools for the 21st century
- Training for e-Schools - 26 workshops, 10 webinars, 5 MOOC - massive online open courses
- First phase – (2015 - 2018) pilot project – 151 Croatian schools
- Result – increased the level of digital maturity by 10%

- Second phase (2019 – 2022)
- Expectation: Every Croatian school = e-School
Teacher training in virtual classroom

- **81 Virtual classrooms**
- **42724 Participants**
- **386 topics**
e-Safety

- Protecting devices, personal data, privacy and well-being
- School Strategy - manual for safe use of computers at school
- e-Safety badge
- Organizing the Safer Internet Day
- Licensed software
#DeleteCyberbullying

- **ACTIVE PARENTS**
- Since 2014 Parents Association „Step by step” with partner COFACE and DAPHNE
- **79%** of parents never talked with their own children about what is the child doing on the Internet and on the computer
- **35%** of teenagers reported having experience with sexual harassment on the Internet
- **62%** received threatening texts on social networks
- **52%** never reported the cyberbullying

- The manual for parents
“Safer Internet Centre Croatia: Making Internet a good and safe place” (2016-2018)“

Centre for missing and abused children with patronage of Networks Executive Agency (NEA)

- **49%** parents believe that their children talk to them all about their on-line behaviour
- **71%** children hide Internet content to parents
- **50%** children don’t know who can they talk to if they experience cyberbullying

- Hotline service for improvement and reporting hurtful and illegal content
- Helpline (for children and parents for reporting hurtful content and providing professional help/advising)

- Web detectives – traces and reports inappropriate contents by e-application
Digital school for all

Vision: Safe digital school for all

Mission: Improve school digital maturity, establish school e-safety, create digital laboratory, creating teaching scenarios, develop students digital competences

SAFE DIGITAL SCHOOL FOR ALL

digital infrastructure

pedagogical change

teachers
students

organizational structure for support
organize evaluation and self-evaluation - Digital Mirror create organizational structure to ensure school digital development

change management

support (peer to peer, teams, expert, supervision)
support and education for parents
develop school strategy with roles and responsibilities for everyone involved
preparation of human resources, students and infrastructures
risk management
self-evaluation and evaluation

IT labs
digital safety
establish one to one model
technical support and maintenance
wi-fi, network
legal softwares

Croatian team at Erasmus+ course „How to make your school more digital“, January 18, 2019, Tenerife
Thank you

- suzana.hitrec@gmail.com
- brankica.zugaj@gmail.com