

## Summary

# Social Distance of Croatian Secondary School Students towards Ethnic and Religious Groups

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The Croatian system of education has undergone numerous paradigmatic changes in the last ten years (including the Bologna Process, the State Graduation Exam, the Development Strategy of the Vocational Education System, National Framework Curriculum, Croatian National Educational Standard, and so on). These reforms have recognised and included issues such as intercultural education, European dimension of education, social and civic competence, cultural awareness and expression as some of their key priorities, but at the same time have paid closer attention to the education of national minorities as the primary symbol of Croatian multiculturalism. However, so far it has not been established whether the said reforms, as well as the time span involved, have influenced a change in the attitude of Croatian secondary education students. There have been no further surveys of the social distance of Croatian students towards ethnic and religious minorities since the early period of Croatian independence in 1993 and 1998. For this reason data has now been gathered across twenty-seven Croatian secondary schools in order to measure, according to Bogardus Social Distance Scale, the social distance assumed towards certain ethnic and religious groups and to establish whether the level of such a distance has been lowered in comparison to previous surveys. The results of a simple analysis of variance with an additional Scheffé's test have shown that negative responses are more likely to be found among male students, students attending lower grades, mostly students from the region of Osijek, and those of Croatian ethnicity and Catholic religion.

**Keywords:** social distance, secondary school students, ethnic and religious groups, education of national minorities.