

# 21st International Geography Olympiad (iGeo)

Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, July 26th – August 1st 2025



The 21st International Geography Olympiad was held from 26 July to 1 August 2025 in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, organised by Chulalongkorn University and under the high patronage of Her Majesty Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand. The International Geography Olympiad, in which high school students aged 16 to 19 participate, has been held under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU) since 1996, when the first International Olympiad took place in The Hague, The Netherlands. The main goals of the International Geography Olympiad are to stimulate young people's interest in geographical research, develop their geographical knowledge and skills, contribute to awareness of the importance of geography as a school subject, and encourage social contact

among competitors and mutual respect for different peoples and cultures. From 1996 to 2012, the Geography Olympiads were held every other year, and since 2012 they have been held annually.

This year's Olympiad in Bangkok was attended by 179 students from 47 countries across six continents. This was Croatia's 14th participation, represented by Dino Fazlić (XV Gymnasium, Zagreb), Marin Lakoš (XV Gymnasium, Zagreb), Nereo Rundić (Andrija Mohorovičić Gymnasium, Rijeka), and Petra Žnidarić (Krapina High School). They were selected based on their years of participation and achievements at the National Geography Competitions, held since 1994, as well as additional national qualifications. The team was prepared by experts from the Department of Geography at the Faculty of Science in

Zagreb and was led to the Olympiad by Assist. Prof. Dr. Sc. Ivan Šulc, Vice President of the Croatian Geographical Society, and Dr. Sc. Ivan Ivić, Member of the General Board of the Croatian Geographical Society. Assist. Prof. Dr. Sc. Dubravka Spevec, a long-standing member of the Steering Committee of the International Geography Olympiad (since 2017), who was elected co-chair of the Steering Committee and the IGU Commission for the International Geography Olympiad on the last day of the event, was also present in Bangkok.

The competitive section of this year's Geography Olympiad comprised three parts. The written exam (WRT) and the field research exercise (FEW) each accounted for 40%, while the multimedia exam contributed 20% of the total points. The written exam, which featured challenging questions from six different thematic sections (Landslides, Waves and Coastline, Water Stress, World Energy Consumption, the Darién Gap, and Urban Heat Island), assessed the ability to analyse, connect, and draw conclusions. The fieldwork, which included several segments, took place on the small river island of Ko Kret in Nonthaburi Province, on the Chao Phraya River. Students demonstrated their cartographic skills (creating, analysing, and interpreting map content), problem-solving and expression through their answers, and graphic skills (creating diagrams, sketches, and tables). The multimedia exam consisted of a series of tasks that students completed on a computer using photographs, thematic maps, satellite images, diagrams, and other resources. Students completed each part of the competition

# 21. međunarodna geografska olimpijada (iGeo)

Bangkok, Kraljevina Tajland, 26. 7. – 1. 8. 2025.

Od 26. srpnja do 1. kolovoza 2025., u tajlandskoj prijestolnici Bangkoku, u organizaciji sveučilišta Chulalongkorn te pod visokim pokroviteljstvom njezina veličanstva tajlandske princeze Mahe Chakri Sirindhorn, održana je 21. međunarodna geografska olimpijada. Međunarodne geografske olimpijade, na kojima sudjeluju učenici srednjih škola u dobi od 16 do 19 godina, održavaju se pod pokroviteljstvom Međunarodne geografske unije (IGU) još od 1996., kada je održana prva međunarodna olimpijada u Den Hagu u Nizozemskoj. Osnovni ciljevi međunarodnih geografskih olimpijada su poticati zanimanje mladih ljudi za geografska istraživanja, razvijati njihova geografska znanja i vještine, doprinijeti razvoju svijesti o važnosti geografije kao predmeta u školama, ali i poticati socijalni kontakt među natjecateljima kao i međusobno uvažavanje različitih naroda i kultura. Od 1996. do 2012. godine geografske su se olimpijade održavale svake druge, a od 2012. održavaju se svake godine.

Na ovogodišnjoj olimpijadi u Bangkoku sudjelovalo je 179 učenika iz 47 država sa šest kontinenata. Hrvatskoj je to bilo 14. sudjelovanje, a na ovogodišnjoj olimpijadi predstavljali su je Dino Fazlić (XV. gimnazija, Zagreb), Marin Lakoš (XV. gimnazija, Zagreb), Nereo Rundić (Gimnazija Andrije Mohorovičića, Rijeka) i Petra Žnidarić (Srednja škola Krapina), koji su odabrani na temelju višegodišnjih sudjelovanja i ostvarenih rezultata na državnim natjecanjima iz geografije, koja se provode od 1994. godine te na temelju dodatnih nacionalnih kvalifikacija. Za natjecanje ih je pripremao



tim stručnjaka s Geografskog odsjeka PMF-a u Zagrebu, a na olimpijadu su ih vodili doc. dr. sc. Ivan Šulc, potpredsjednik Hrvatskog geografskog društva i dr. sc. Ivan Ivić, član Upravnog odbora Hrvatskog geografskog društva. U Bangkoku je bila i doc. dr. sc. Dubravka Spevec, višegodišnja članica Upravnog odbora Međunarodne geografske olimpijade (od 2017.), a koja je posljednjega dana Olimpijade izabrana i za supredsjednicu (co-Chair) UO i IGU komisije za Međunarodnu geografsku olimpijadu.

Natjecateljski se dio i ovogodišnje geografske olimpijade sastojao od tri dijela. Pisani ispit i terenski istraživački rad donose svaki po 40 %, a multimedijalni ispit 20 % ukupnih bodova. Pisanim ispitom, koji se sastojao od problemski postavljenih pitanja iz šest različitih tematskih dijelova (Landslides, Waves and coastline, Water stress, World energy consumption, The Darién Gap and Urban Heat Island), provjeravaju se sposobnosti analiziranja, povezivanja

i zaključivanja. Terenski rad sastojao se od više segmenata, a održao se na malo riječnom otoku Ko Kret, provincija Nonthaburi, na rijeci Chao Phraya. Učenici su prezentirali svoje kartografske vještine (izrada, analiza i čitanje sadržaja karte), sposobnost problemskog razmišljanja i izražavanja kroz odgovore na postavljena pitanja te grafičke vještine (izrada dijagrama, skica i tablica). Multimedijalni ispit sastojao se od niza zadataka koje su učenici rješavali na računalu uz pomoć fotografija, tematskih karata, satelitskih snimaka, dijagrama itd. Svaki dio natjecanja učenici odrađuju samostalno, a rezultati se prezentiraju za svakog učenika individualno, ali i timski. Hrvatski su učenici, od 2010. godine, od kada redovito sudjeluju na Međunarodnoj geografskoj olimpijadi, osvojili ukupno 38 medalja – 7 zlatnih, 13 srebrnih i 18 brončanih. Ovogodišnji veliki uspjeh su tri osvojena odličja: srebrne su medalje osvojili Dino Fazlić i Marin Lakoš, dok je Nereo Rundić osvojio

independently, and the results were presented for each student individually as well as for the team. Since 2010, when Croatian students began participating regularly in the International Geography Olympiad, they have won a total of 38 medals: 7 gold, 13 silver, and 18 bronze. This year's major achievement is the winning of three medals: Dino Fazlić and Marin Lakoš received silver medals, while Nereo Rundić was awarded bronze. In addition to these medals, the Croatian national team's qualification for the finals in the poster category, on the theme of Unity in Diversity, is particularly noteworthy. By reaching

the finals, the Croatian poster was ranked among the nine most successful entries in the entire competition.

Alongside the competitive events, an important aspect of every Geographic Olympiad is social interaction, which takes place through a series of social and cultural events and excursions. To introduce all Olympiad participants to the sights and lifestyle of the host country, the organisers arranged two half-day excursions in Bangkok: a visit to the Grand Palace and to the artificial river island of Bang Krachao, also known as the "green lungs" of Bangkok. After the

Olympiad concluded, the Croatian team spent a further four days on a post-iGeo excursion in the Isan region, in the northeast of the Kingdom of Thailand.

This year, the Croatian team's trip to the Olympiad was again organised by the Croatian Geographical Society and financially supported by the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, as well as the sponsor, the company GDi, to whom we would like to express our gratitude.

*Dubravka Spevec* ■

## STEM Games 2025



This was yet another year in which we have witnessed the repeated participation of the Faculty of Geodesy University of Zagreb in the already indispensable and the largest student competition in the region – STEM Games. The competition took place in Umag from May 11 to May 16. This year, around 2000 participants competed in various categories such as sports, knowledge, eSports, and different additional program activities. When it comes to knowledge, our students confidently took on the challenges of the Mathematics Arena. In the sports area, our futsal players overcame Pula's UniPU in the match

for third place and thus proudly returned home with a medal. Besides futsal, our students also competed this year in beach volleyball, cross-country, and tennis, which was a novelty at this year's STEM Games, and we had the honor of being one of the first faculties to compete in this sport at this competition. Our students also took part in the eSports arena, competing in EAFC 25. Although we were one of the smallest among the 24 faculties with around forty participants, we made good use of the opportunity to showcase both our collective and individual qualities.

*Karlo Maletić* ■

brončano odličje. Osim osvojenih medalja, posebno raduje plasman hrvatske reprezentacije u finale natjecanja u kategoriji postera na temu Unity in Diversity. Plasmanom u finale ovoga natjecanja hrvatski je poster svrstan među devet najuspješnijih na cijelom natjecanju.

Osim natjecateljskog dijela, važan dio svake geografske olimpijade je i druženje koje se ostvaruje kroz niz društvenih i kulturnih događanja te izlete.

Kako bi se sudionike olimpijade upoznao sa znamenitostima i načinom života zemlje domaćina, organizatori su pripremili dva poludnevna izleta u Bangkok (posjet kraljevskoj palači Grand Palace te umjetnom riječnom otoku Bang Krachao, kojeg još

nazivaju i „zelenim plućima“ Bangkoka). Po završetku olimpijade, hrvatski tim proveo je još četiri dana na post-iGeo ekskurziji – u regiji Isan na sjeveroistoku Kraljevine Tajland.

I ove godine odlazak hrvatskog tima na olimpijadu organiziralo je Hrvatsko geografsko društvo, a financijski potpomoglo Ministarstvo znanosti, obrazovanja i mladih te sponzor – tvrtka GDi, na čemu im zahvaljujemo.



Dubravka Spevec ■

## STEM Games 2025

I ove godine svjedočili smo ponovnom sudjelovanju Geodetskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu na već neizostavnom najvećem studentskom natjecanju u regiji – STEM Games. Natjecanje se održalo u Umagu od 11. do 16. svibnja. Ove godine se natjecalo oko 2000 natjecatelja u različitim kategorijama kao što su sport, znanje, eSport te različite aktivnosti dodatnog programa. Što se tiče znanja, naši studenti odlučno su prihvatili izazove Matematičke arene. Na sportskom području, u futsalu su naši nogometaši u utakmici za treće mjesto nadjačali pulski UniPU te se tako ponosno vratili

kući s medaljom. Osim futsala, naši studenti su se ove godine natjecali i u odbojci na pijesku, krosu i u tenisu koji je bio novitet na ovogodišnjem STEM Gamesu te smo imali čast biti jedan od prvih fakulteta koji se natječe u tom sportu na ovome natjecanju. Naši studenti također su nastupili u eSport areni natječući se u EAFC 25. Iako smo bili jedan od najmanjih među 24 fakulteta s četrdesetak sudionika, dobro smo iskoristili priliku pokazivanja naših zajedničkih i pojedinačnih kvaliteta.

Karlo Maletić ■

