

igsm

CROATIA 2010

Zagreb, 2. - 8. May

INTRODUCTION

With great impatience and a great number of sleepless nights, we finally greeted the historic event on our faculty International Geodetic Students Meeting-IGSM. Organization board, with Hrvoje Mahović and Sandra Keran ahead, have spent more than one year preparing for this unique gathering of students from Albania, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Great Britain. This year we had Canada as participating country for the first time along with some other European universities which never participated at this event.

IGSM CROATIA 2010

As the date of the meeting was approaching the excitement in the eyes of the organizers as well as fear whether everything would pass as planned grew from day to day. Long-term preparations were at their peak and the IGSM Croatia 2010 Organization Board composed of 8 young students from The Faculty of Geodesy in Zagreb did everything for this project to succeed. Each of the organizers was in charge of one segment of organization: Hrvoje Mahović, the Board president did the coordination and together with Sandra Keran, the Board vice president, dealt with the issues of accommodation and agenda, Petra Dobravac, the Board secretary, dealt with the issue of food, Damir Kontrec, the design and web master, did the web page, all the certificates and promotional materials, Albert Hrženjak and Luka Pavličić searched for the sponsors, Mario Božić organized parties, Leonida Klarić participated in finding sponsors.

Several weeks before the meeting preparations intensified: the team from our faculty, which would become an important part of the IGSM, gathered. After the invitation was sent over 20 students, who wanted to actively participate, applied and each of them was given a special task. The team members were: Andelo Jareb, Antonije Ivanović, Daria Kolak, Domagoj Pavlik, Hrvoje Bogner, Ivan Padovan, Ivan Tomljenović, Lucija Vučić, Marijan Grgić, Marino Čuljat, Marko Orlović, Nada Ćosić, Ozren Buriša, Petra Vrljičak, Sanja Čarić, Tea Babić and Zorana Marunčić, to whom we express our gratitude for volunteering which presented one unforgettable experience and new friendships to them.

As soon as the first participants came every doubt in bad organization disappeared; the guests showed their enthusiasm with the way they were welcomed but also with the faculty building which, together with the sports facility in the area, became an ideal shelter where they slept, ate, listened to the lectures and participated in workshops. Even though it rained on the day of their arrival it did not discourage them so they went sightseeing the same day based on their own interests and wishes.

Author: Sandra Keran

Photographs: Ivan Tomljenović,
Hrvoje Bogner and Ozren Buriša



1. Immediate IGSM Croatia 2010 Organization Board
2. A few of the IGSM Croatia 2010 host students
3. IGSM Croatia 2010 participants' registration





MONDAY

The official beginning of the IGSM was on the next morning. The ceremonious atmosphere filled the air but we were still not aware how special that moment was because we were only at the beginning of the week. The biggest and the most beautiful lecture-room which is the representative pattern of a faculty lecture-room was chosen for the opening of the meeting. The opening ceremony was held by the Organization Board secretary Petra Dobravac who did this important part of the protocol professionally. Her role was to present the appreciated guests and to announce the speakers as well as Zadar's harmony-singing group, Kandelora which opened the meeting by performing the national anthem "Lijepa naša domovino" (figure 4)

The first speaker was the president of the IGSM Croatia 2010 Organization Board and the IGSO general secretary, Hrvoje Mahović, the central person who governed this project (figure 6)

Hrvoje Mahović expressed his gratitude to all those who helped in the project realization, presented members of the organization board, staff from the faculty and sponsors (figure 1).

The dean for academic affairs prof. dr. sc. Damir Medak took over the microphone after Hrvoje and his speech additionally encouraged us and raised our self-confidence which was very important at the moment.

The following speakers were: prof. dr. sc. Bojan Baletić, the Vice-Chancellor for space planning who held a short speech in the name of prof. dr. sc. Aleksa Bjeliš, the head of Zagreb University; prof. dr. sc. Željko Bačić the president of State geodetic administration who held speech in the name of Mrs. Marina Matulović Dropulić, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction woman minister; Jožef Delak, dipl. ing. geod., the president of Croatian geodetic society. A letter from the Croatian Lady Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor was read and she wished us a successful and productive week.

The rest of the day passed in sightseeing in a unique geodetic way-





Geochallenge. Namely, we divided participants into 10 groups trying to combine students from different countries in each of the groups. Each group was taken to its starting point. The group's guide shortly explained the sights and the history of the place and set a short assignment for the group before it moved to the next point. Some of the assignments were to find the geodetic point in the circle of 30 m, to read the temperature on the thermometer, to find an important cultural monument and similar. The group moved to the next point by using the city plan with guidelines and in that way they got to know the city and its sights.

The participants were delighted by the interesting and instructive city sightseeing and as the name Geochallenge says there was a surprise at the end. When all groups gathered in front of the Croatian National Theatre the group representatives had to answer the questions concerned with what they saw or heard. The best group representative won a reward for his/her group-beer free of charge. The photographer Ivan Tomljenović took a photograph which represented us in media and on our web page.

We spent the rest of the night in K pivovari-hall where our guests enjoyed the good food and home brewed beer.

4. Harmony-singing group, Kandelora which opened the meeting by performing the national anthem
5. IGSM Croatia 2010 opening ceremony
6. The IGSM Croatia 2010 Organization Board president, Hrvoje Mahović
7. The dean for academic affairs prof. dr. sc. Damir Medak







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TUESDAY

The next day marked the beginning of the formal part of the program: lectures, given by our professors and assistants. The professors were: doc. dr. sc. Vlado Cetl, dr. sc. Robert Župan, prof. dr. sc. Damir Medak, doc. dr. sc. Jelena Beban-Brkić, mr. sc. Vida Zadelj Martić, Krešimir Babić, dipl. ing. geod. and Dražen Odošić, dipl. ing. geod., whom we are grateful for participation and contribution (figure 11). Their interesting lectures greatly increased the quality of the whole IGSM!

We went on a trip to Lonjsko polje and Novska in the afternoon. After lectures we went on a two hour bus ride during which the participants were sleeping due to a dense schedule which was filled with parties but also with lectures and workshops. As we came to Lonjsko polje the participants were divided into two groups. One group saw a 20 minute long film about the importance of Lonjsko polje and the wildlife that occupies the area (figure 11) while another group went for a walk with gamekeepers who also explained the origins of environment and natural changes specific for the area (figure 12). After they finished the groups swapped and free time was used for taking photographs and relaxing.

8. The participants while exploring Zagreb during Geochallenge
9. The IGSM Croatia 2010 participants in front of the Croatian National Theatre
10. The participants in the beer-hall
11. Geodetic faculty professors' lectures
12. doc. dr. sc. Jelena Beban-Brkić lectures
13. Lonjsko polje wildlife, movie presentation



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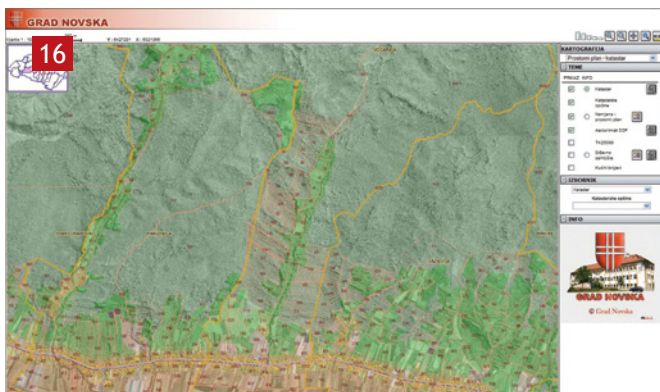
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At the end of our tour we went towards Novska. Upon coming to town, the mayor of Novska, Antun Vidaković, dipl. ing. geod. greeted us in their newly opened cinema and told us something about the history of the town. He presented us The Geographical Informational System (GIS) which was recently implemented and contained spatial data from different sources united in digital spatial database (figure 16)



The purpose of WEB GIS of the city of Novska is to offer its citizens, businessmen, tourist and everyone else seeking information, insight in almost every spatial data trough simple approach. This project enables spatial orientation, positioning and physical space through the system of maps and locations based on topographic content in GIS technology. It contains regional plan of arrangement, urban plan of Novska, digital cadastral plan, digital ortho-photo plan, state agricultural plan and log of house numbers.

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The mayor wished us a successful meeting and escorted us to primary school where we had dinner: beans prepared in a hunter's manner-specialty of the area. Everybody enjoyed this delicacy except for Turks, who don't eat pork because of religious reasons.

Upon coming to Zagreb we took a short break before our night out in Saloon, Zagreb night club. The quests were welcomed by Jagermeister hostesses, who placed a flower collar around everyone's neck and by doing this, symbolised introduction into dancing atmosphere with DJ Boris Poklepović who also attended IGSM Valencia two years ago. In my opinion this was the best party and lasted all the way till morning.



- 14. Participants in the nature park
- 15. Participants in Lonjsko polje
- 16. Novska GIS
- 17. Participants in Novska
- 18. In front of Novska city cinema
- 19. Saloon party



WEDNESDAY

Wednesday was the day devoted to education: workshops and lectures. From early morning all classrooms were set up and prepared for workshops which were held in cooperation with our professors and assistants. We offered 4 different workshops to our participants and they were able to choose one of them. Attending workshops was optional, but if they chose to participate they were rewarded with 1 ECTS point in form of a certificate given by the University of Zagreb on the last day of the meeting. Participants were obliged to inform their ECTS coordinator upon coming back to faculty so that he/she could accept this point. This is also a novelty on IGSM and we are proud that we were able to realize professor Medak's idea.

The workshops were: The geodetic instruments, Road modeling, Theory and application of terrestrial laser scanning in geodesy and OpenStreetMap- a free of charge map of the world.

However, bad weather influenced our workshops and we had to transfer instruments and other equipment inside the faculty building. This didn't affect the quality of workshops. Groups made of 30 students were spread throughout the whole building and thanks to our workshop leader, our idea was a success.

After the lunch break participants held their lectures in the english language. I would like to point out the lecture "Studying in Belgrade" given by our colleagues from Belgrade University, Petar Lojanica, Nenad Višnjevac and Stefan Ivanović which made us laugh. Namely, the Belgrade team presented the-

ir faculty in an unusual manner by describing everything that would be interesting to a student who would come to study in Belgrade: dorms, canteen, nightlife and sights worth seeing. In the middle of their presentation they threw rubber balls and gave us their Tourist community DVDs. At the end of presentation they asked us a question and a reward for the student who answered correctly was a book Least squares with the author's inscription. The lecture ended in a cheerful tone by rewarding the participant who answered the question and by taking a photograph.

After the lecturers entertained audience, we continued with other lectures. Our students Petra Dobravec, Jasmina Hamzić and Marko Gojčeta got a grade in their index for an excellent lecture.

We were impatiently waiting for dinner because it was a national dinner. Every country presents its own specialties during this event. Each country had its own table in Odeon students' mess hall and we were going from table to table and tasted offered delicacies. The Swiss brought chocolate and cheese, the Germans beer, Turkish made their homemade potato and tomato soup and Polish offered us with their best quality vodka – Żubrówka. The most interesting performance was made by Austrians, who offered us a 'burning cookie', a chocolate wafer or a Mozart ball on a toothpick dipped into homemade rum 'Stroh', which is then lit up and eaten while burning. To avoid first degree burns, the cookie must be put in mouth from above and you should close your mouth as soon as you can so that the flame would extinguish due to lack of oxygen.

We also had our own table, around which participants, as every year before, gathered and enjoyed tasting smoked ham from Drniš, cheese from Pag, walnut loaf, plum brandy and wine.

The atmosphere in Odeon reached its peak when DJ Poklepović arrived; this was the second night in a row that he entertained the participants. I can only say that I don't see Odeon the same way as before. It's like it's no longer just a place where we go to eat and drink coffee. After we ate and drank everything, the party transferred to the upper part of Odeon and into the back yard. Other students from our faculty also joined us on this night.



- 20. The lecture given by participants
- 21. Participants during lectures
- 22. Submitting the book
- 23. Burning cookie – preparation





- 24. Burning cookie – Swiss specialty
- 25. Turkish potato and tomato soup preparation
- 26. Smoked ham from Drniš
- 27. Table with food
- 28. Participants in front of the biggest waterfall in Plitvice lakes



THURSDAY

The day we all waited for! Participants went on a trip to the most beautiful gem of Croatian heritage – the Plitvice lakes. This was one of two surprise trips and we kept that information as a secret till the moment we set on our journey.

Given the fact that we as organizers were not able to hide the excitement because of the upcoming trip and we couldn't keep our mouths shut, the information about where we were going to go leaked out in the open so our guests' excitement grew from day to day. We departed from Zagreb just a few minutes before 9 a.m. and after about 10 minutes we saw the same scenario as the one when we went to Lonjsko polje; everyone was tired because of the last night's party, and they all tried to catch some sleep to compensate for the past few days of not having any.

The first impression of the national park thrilled them; it was as if they were in a fairytale which was only a figment of imagination; after the initial shock, they realized it was real and that the miracle of nature was right in front of their eyes. After a short introduction given by our

guide, we went down the paths which led straight to the lakes of beauty and rocks of untouched nature. I think that this kind of trip to nature was something we all needed after a few days spent in urban bustle, except for Lonjsko polje trip. Participants enjoyed beautiful waterfalls and in front of the biggest one, we took a small break.

We were all thrilled with the boat ride on the biggest lake Kozjak. Despite the wind, we all truly enjoyed the view of the surrounding nature. We spent the rest of the day walking around and chatting, but on our way back we faced an unpleasant surprise: a few of our participants got lost! We immediately tried to solve this problem and thanks to modern technology, it was solved quickly. One part of board members who stayed in Zagreb had the participants' mobile phone numbers and we found them on the second exit. This just proved our thesis that not even one day can pass without a small dose of stress, which, luckily, disappeared quickly.

After we returned to Zagreb our impressions settled because our night out was about to begin and we were to go to Boing, club on Šalata.

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29. Party at Boeing (1)

30. Party at Boeing (2)

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31. Hrvoje Mahović gives a statement
32. Sandra Keran gives a statement
33. Dinner at Baschiera
34. Night in Shamballa

FRIDAY

Upon coming to faculty, the press was waiting for us. We arranged shooting for the show "Znanstvene vijesti" shown once a week and containing reports from different scientific gatherings. Although IGSM is not strictly a scientific gathering, they decided to make a report about our happening. TV crew first took statements from Hrvoje and Sandra, and then from our professor Medak, who pointed out the importance and tradition of this meeting.

One of our participants, Muzaffer Can Iban from Turkey, gave a statement in which he expressed his delight with Croatia. Television crew also recorded the first part of lectures held by our participants who didn't show a glimpse of nervousness in front of television crew, everything was happening according to the schedule.

After lunch in Odeon we went to, as we considered, the most interesting museums. Those were: Klovićevi dvori (on the world wide famous exhibition: Bodies revealed), Museum of the city of Zagreb, Natural sciences museum and the Contemporary arts museum. The participants had the right to choose which of the above mentioned museums to visit. After the visit we had a short break so they could rest a bit. They also had enough time to prepare for the final formal dinner in a restaurant Baschiera. At around 19:00 the participants began to gather in front of the faculty building and soon departed towards the restaurant with our organizers. The dinner was made in Italian style, which meant mostly pizza and pasta. By the look of their faces everyone enjoyed it.

Because some of the participants were going home soon, they used this opportunity to give us gifts. Some of the gifts were: rose brandy from Bulgaria, Swiss relief map and brandies... The rest of the evening was spent in a pleasant chat and summary of the impressions of the previous week. This was the last night in Zagreb for those who were not going with us on trip to Zadar which was planned for Sunday morning.

After dinner we went to have some fun, this time we went to Shamballa where a pop group Magazin held its concert for our participants. Participants received a 20 kn drink voucher and they all rushed to spend it. The party continued till the early morning, but with sadness in eyes of a few because this was their last night in Zagreb.



SATURDAY

It was a big day, the General assembly or the final session; the host for 25th IGSM 2012 was chosen and important decisions were made. After the introductory lecture about ISPRS consortium held by Ivana Dabanović and choosing Luka Pavličić and Damir Kontrec as official vote counters, a short movie about last years' IGSM was screened. After that came the official part, the representation of IGSM 2009 expenses and the approximate expenses for IGSM Croatia 2010. After the approval of both financial reports, the group of students from the United Kingdom held a presentation, IGSM 2011, which is due to be held in Newcastle because they managed to win hosting a year before. They showed us their costs, happening schedule and trips they planned to perform, along with a short video. The next thing on our schedule was presentation of candidates for the IGSM 2012. During the week, two universities applied: Istanbul Technical University from Turkey and Universidad de Jaén from Spain. Both groups presented an impressive program and it was hard to decide for who to vote

for. After voting, the final decision fell on Spain; only one vote prevailed. The Spanish team was thrilled and they continued to celebrate for the whole day.

The remaining program was dedicated to the approval of new IGSO members. The decision was made to approve members from countries which participated for the first time. The certificates of IGSM Croatia 2010 participation and gaining 1 ECTS point were given at the end.

The end of the General assembly marked the end of the meeting. Even though we had tired expressions on our faces we didn't want this fairytale to finish. Suddenly, with the sound of a mallet, president of the organization board and General Secretary of IGSO Hrvoje Mahović, symbolically closed the meeting. He invited the team from Newcastle to give them the mallet and the official IGSO flag, and by doing this, he symbolically gave chairmanship to England and their president Matthew Good, who had to go earlier because of the plane, so Matthias Kunz took his position for this.

Participants used this opportunity to give us gifts. Some of those amazed us, like the Slovenian bear "giraffe", Canadian flag with message from participants and other useful and interesting gifts.

We said goodbye to one group of our participants, and the other group stayed because they decided to go on an additional trip to Zadar. With sadness in our eyes, we waved them from our faculty's steps; after a week they became part of our daily routine and we couldn't believe that the time for their departure came so soon. ☑

35. Hosts of IGSM 2012, Jaén, Spain

36. Certificate of IGSM Croatia 2010 participation and gaining 1 ECTS point

37. Symbolic transfer of the mallet to English

38. Slovenian beer "giraffe"

39. Canadian flag

40. Gift package from Poland

41. Good bye friends, see you next year!!!

