



Varaždin County - Croatia

Partners:

Varaždin County

Secondary school "Arboretum Opeka"

Vocational high school Varaždin

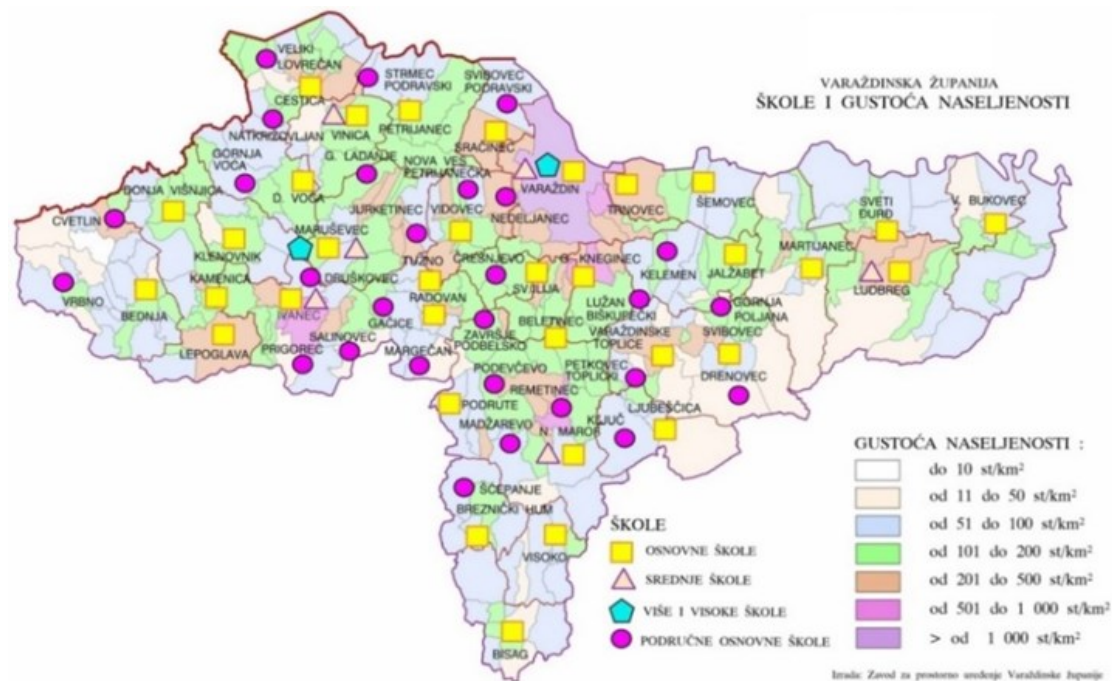


Where are we?

- Varaždin County is in northern Croatia near the borders with Slovenia and Hungary.
- It is one of 20 regional self-government units in the Republic of Croatia



Varaždin County



- Population: 175,951 or 139.42 per square kilometre
- 77 schools (14 secondary, 33 primary and 30 subsidy)
- 10,233 primary school pupils and 7,749 secondary school students

PARTNER VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS:

- VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN VARAŽDIN



- Vocational School in Varaždin continues the rich tradition of education in the crafts of Varaždin County. There are almost 600 students at the school who are trained in 32 classrooms, school`s training facilities and 15 different vocational programmes some of them lasting for four and some for three years.



OBRADA KOŽE
galanterist



OSOBNJE USLUGE
kozmetičar, frizer



TEKSTIL
modni tehničar, krojač, pomoćni krojač



PREHRANA
pekar, pomoćni pekar, mesar, mljekar

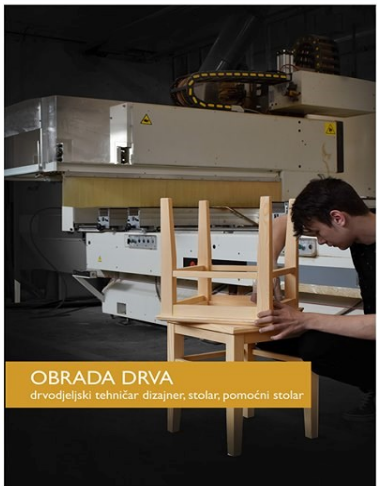


LIKOVNA UMJETNOST I DIZAJN
grafički dizajner, dizajner odjeće

... UPIŠI SREDNJU STRUKOVNU! ...



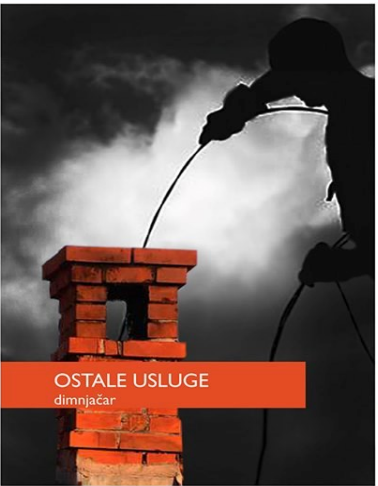
USLUGE ZAŠTITE
tehničar zaštite osoba i imovine



OBRADA DRVA
drvodjeljski tehničar, dizajner, stolar, pomoćni stolar



OSTALE USLUGE
tapetar, staklar



OSTALE USLUGE
dimnjačar



OSTALE USLUGE
soboslikar, dimnjačar, autolakirer

- **VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ARBORETUM OPEKA IN MARČAN**

- In 2018 the school was declared as ‘Regional Centre of Competence in Agriculture’.
- The Centre’s proprieties are innovative teaching methods and innovative learning model as well as hands-on based learning for more efficient inclusion of the students into job-market; recognition and inclusion of students with special needs and other vulnerable minority groups.



Mesaures taken by the region

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has issued instructions on the manner of teaching in primary and secondary schools as well as in higher education institutions and the performance of work in pre-school and educational institutions in the conditions of the COVID-19 epidemic.

According to these instructions, school principals are obliged to organize work in schools in accordance with the recommendations of the Croatian Public Health Institution and **the proposed 3 models of work:**

- **Model A** - school teaching - all students are in school in compliance with epidemiological measures
 - **Model B** - mixed form of teaching - students follow the teaching partly at school, partly online
 - **Model C** - distance learning - all students follow distance learning and teachers teach online
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- For students of all proposed models, if they belong to a highly sensitive group, classes are organized online exclusively.

Main Challenges identified

- **Implementation of vocational practice** - in the conditions of an epidemic, it is difficult to organize the implementation of practical classes and going to field classes, which is of crucial importance for students of vocational schools
- **Ensuring sufficient space in classrooms** - some classrooms are of inadequate size and it is impossible to provide the required distance.
- **Lack of quality monitoring of online classes** - it was noticed that a number of students did not regularly apply for online classes and ignored the instructions for work and their tasks.

- We noticed that the **pandemic crisis has highlighted some challenges and limitations of distance learning**, first of all in technical, structural and social areas.
- For apprentices in short-time work, **training** is often reduced to consolidating theoretical content of their profession, while the practical work in **direct contact with the customer**, with machines and equipment is stopped for weeks.

Lessons learnt

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world of work **seriously threatens opportunities for access to vocational and technical training and education.**
- With increasing experience in the use of digital tools in distance teaching, **the teaching of new content** is becoming more important.
- It is vital for educational institutions to keep their learning platforms or technologies up- to-date so they can effectively respond to the needs of their students in the event of a crisis like that of the coronavirus.

What we would like to learn from other regions in this project

- How did other regions organize classes in vocational high schools during the epidemic?
- How do they continue cooperation with companies where their students do their internships?
- What kind of a model is applied in vocational schools when it comes to carrying out students` practical training at schools facilities, labs and workshops?

Thank you for your attention!

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