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Short profile of Organisation			
<p>The Institute for Social Research in Zagreb (IDIZ) is the first social science research institution established in Croatia. It was founded by the University of Zagreb in 1964.</p> <p>Research experience IDIZ conducts interdisciplinary scientific research in the fields of social structures, family, youth, education, culture, leisure time, science and technology, religion, space (rural and urban), public opinion surveys, as well as research of global social values.</p> <p>Staff / Office There are 45 employees at the Institute among which 36 are researchers and 5 administrative staff. It operates from a fully equipped centrally located office.</p> <p>The Center for Educational Research and Development was founded in 2001, as part of the Institute for Social Research. It employs 3 senior researchers, 13 junior researchers, and 2 administrative staff. CERD also closely cooperates with numerous educational experts from Croatian Universities.</p> <p>In the last 5 years, CERD has conducted numerous research and development projects covering primary, secondary and higher education. The themes covered are as follows: structure of educational systems, curriculum and competencies, assessment and evaluation, teachers education, higher education standards, soft corruption in education, gender in textbooks and classroom practice, bullying.</p> <p>CERD is a member of several international networks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CIDREE Consortium of Institutions for Development and Research in Education in Europe 2. SEE-ECN South East European Education Cooperation Network – CERD is a country node for the network 3. NEPC <i>Network of Education Policy Centres</i> – CERD is the host institution to NEPC for the period from 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2008. 			
CERD expertise - Science in society			
<p>The CERD team consists of experts with background in social and natural sciences (including joint degrees), as well as more focused expertise on educational research and public policy. Our members are graduates of prestigious universities, including Oxford, Cambridge and the LSE.</p> <p>Our experiences range from needs assessment, status and strategy reports concerning a wide range of educational issues ranging from national and regional to the European level. For instance, we have conducted extensive theoretical research into factors shaping the contemporary knowledge society; educational systems and curricula; centralised assessment and factors of self-evaluation; motivation of students, and teachers for knowledge transformation.</p>			

CERD is looking for partners in Science in Society section of FP7: specifically popularising of science subjects at non-specialised levels of education and advocating the choice of science as career. As part of a larger institution we can also extend the proposed activities to FP7 SSH Collaborative research in this field. Through educational research we are capable of addressing motivational and other issues related to science subjects, as faced by students in the public schooling system. Through policy proposals we can help actively promote interest in science subjects, address levels of general public's understanding of science, as well as mandating assistance in choosing science and technology careers.

CERD has implemented projects in public perception of science with partners from Europe and the region. We have recently conducted comparative analysis of European science curricula and have previously addressed the factors affecting the 15-year-olds attitude to studying science. We are convinced that noteworthy science promotion activities (festivals, media-oriented products etc.) go hand in hand with the perception of science created within the educational system, from the basic idea about science in primary school all the way up to motivation of undergraduates to undertake further research. Our strengths lie in the ability to navigate the labyrinth of institutionalised education and sociology of profession whilst focusing on popularisation of what science is today.

Project Information	
Area	5.2.2.1. Supporting formal and informal science education in schools as well as through science centres and museums and other relevant means
Call Identifier	FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2008-3
Deadline	24 July 2008

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