CROATIAN SUCCESS STORY

In cooperation with US Embassy, Faculty of Sciences and OIKON institute for applied ecology, we organized a competition *My Place Today and Yesterday* on the occasion of the Earth Day 2024.

The idea was to promote technologies that were not so much used previously in our schools.

The instruction for schools was to illustrate changes of their environment by comparing the available satellite images from different years. They should use images that are free and that represent their place that they could find in previous period and today.

We organized two workshops with the topic of comparison of satellite images, explaining were to find free images and how to use them.

The form of the report that should be used was *Story map*, appropriate for showing changes that occurred in the area.

US Embassy in Zagreb appointed 8 scientists in judging committee, and their work was voluntary. All story maps were published on Croatian GLOBE web site (http://globe.hr/moje-mjesto-jucer-i-danas-popis-projekata/). Each committee member would select 5 reports that he or she found the best. By summing up the points awarded, we got the most successful projects to be presented in person on the celebration of the Earth Day. The judging committee had just one online meeting and the assessment system was simple and transparent. Therefore, we had no disagreements about four school teams selected to be the winners.

Faculty of Sciences and OIKON institute for applied ecology provided a presents for schools and meeting facilities in Zagreb. US Embassy covered traveling costs for teachers and students, because the schools were from four different parts of Croatia.



Fig. 1 Croatian GLOBE web site home page with highlighted title leading to virtual exhibition, the part of Climate and carbon world campaign.

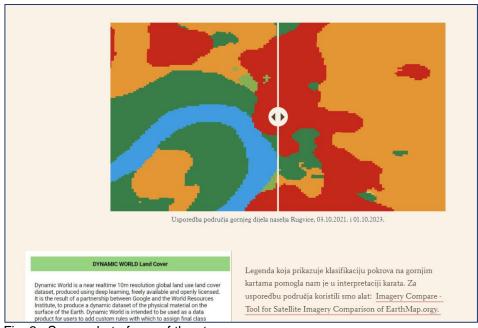


Fig. 2 Screenshot of one of the story maps.