

Summer geographical camp and preparation for international competitions in Czechia



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Geographical Olympiad is a geographical competition for students of elementary and secondary schools. Successful participants of the Czech national round then represent Czechia at international geographical competitions. Since 2012/2013, the main organizer has been the Department of Social and Regional Geography, Faculty of Science, Charles University (Prague). In the school year 2020/2021, 4,879 students participated in the district round.

Czech students have been successful at international geographical competitions. Over the last 20 years, they participated in the International Geography Olympiad (iGeo), International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO), National Geographic World Championship, Central European Regional Olympiad (CERIGEO) and European Geography Olympiad (EGEO). The preparation for the IESO is done together with the organizers of the Geological Olympiad.

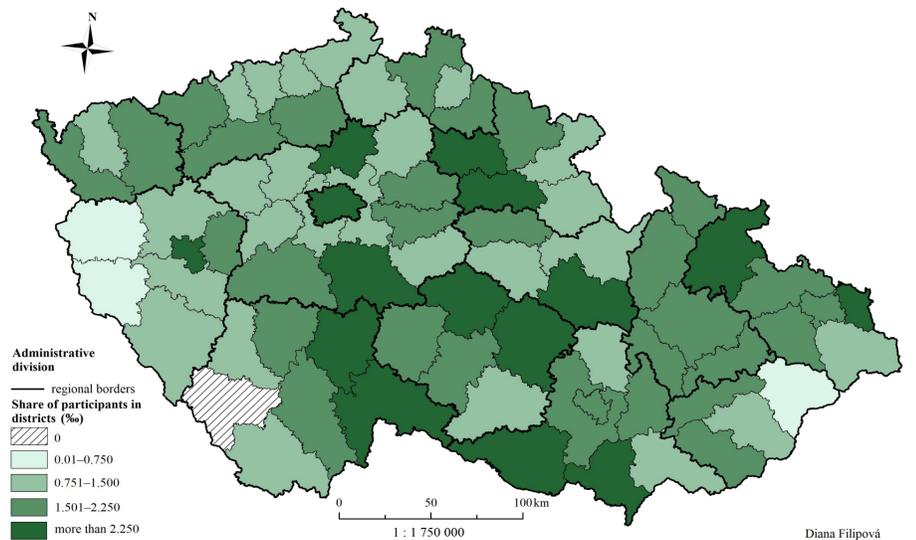


Medals at iGeo and IESO 2015–2019

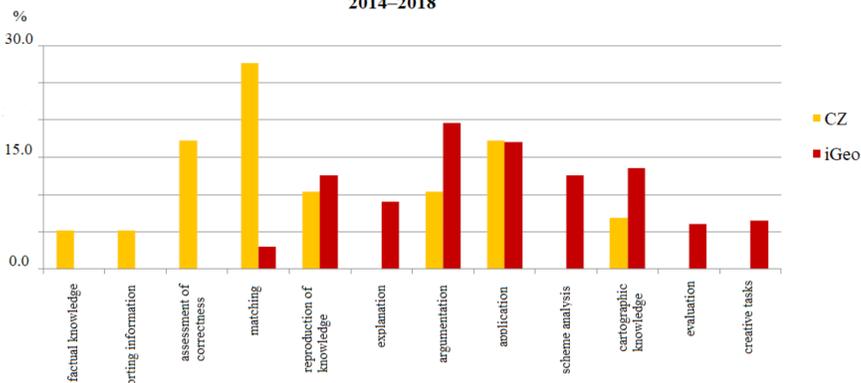
As the graph below shows, there are still differences between the Czech competition and the international competitions, namely iGeo. To prepare our students for the international competition, we adjust the Czech national round to the international standard that is more focused on creative tasks. During the summer camp, we work further with the students to prepare them for different tasks in international competitions.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE DISTRICT ROUND AGED 15–18

percentage of the total population aged 15–18
school year 2020/2021



Comparison of types of tasks in the Czech national round and the international competition iGeo 2014–2018



Source: Křížová 2021

Every year, we organize a short summer camp in order to prepare students for international competitions, especially iGeo and IESO. Because IESO also includes geology, we decided to cooperate on the preparation with our colleagues from the Geological Olympiad. In 2021, we organized for the first time a summer school for 35 students, and we widened the range of activities. We believe that the changes will help our students to be successful not only in international competitions, but also in their future education. We also included more younger students who have chance to participate in the international olympiads in the future.



Teamwork is important (Blansko 2019)



Geology outdoors (Kladno 2021)



Geology indoors (Brno 2019)



Guest lecturers come to discuss different topics (Kladno 2021)

Cartography – learning to work with GIS (Kladno 2021)

Observing and mapping urban areas (Dobruška 2018)

Reviewing past tests from international competitions (Blansko 2019)

Practising English terminology (Blansko 2019)

