

## RESEARCH SUMMARY

During November 2018 GTF-ISG conducted a survey among high school principals. 113 high schools were contacted and sent to fill out surveys on the activities they carry out in their schools. However, 30 schools have been selected to participate in the final competition.

The principals filled out a short questionnaire about their activities and which factors influence students' desire to choose a certain occupation. The questions were open-ended and closed-ended type. A short summary is shown below.

### 1. Who, in your opinion, has the greatest influence on the choice of professions?

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When asked who has the greatest impact on the student's choice of profession, 99% of school principals responded that parents influence the most. Besides the answer "parents", most often found answers were: "friends, environment, teachers, the media, and school enrollment options".

### 2. Does your school conduct certain activities (e.g. Career Days, Professional Orientation, etc.) that help students choose their future occupation?

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Each school director responded affirmatively to this question. This is good because it is important that at least some activities are carried out by schools.

### 3. If yes, specify which activities and when are you doing them.

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Most of the schools carry their activities in the period from April to June, during holidays or in October:

- Career Days in October - when schools have the opportunity to present themselves to their potential students
- Scholarship and Higher Education Fair in October
- Festival of the Universities - November
- Questionnaire on Professional Interests - February



A lot of schools take students to the University fairs and organize Open School Days for the eighth grade students in elementary schools. These are some of the examples of the schools that have interesting activities:

When a certain school has The Open Days, for example - *Technical school in Bjelovar*, students are able to go sightseeing, visit laboratories and classrooms to ask future professors what they have always wanted.

Most of the schools cooperate with the Croatian Employment Service and with the CISOK (Career Information and Counseling Center). Also, conversations with a school psychologist are quite popular. Certain schools organize parent-teacher meetings to which parents are invited accompanied by their children.

In *Nursing School Vinogradska in Zagreb*, starting from this school year - students with their teachers are going to give a lecture to the elementary school students.

High school *Matija Antun Reljković in Slavonski Brod* sets a good example to other schools by doing joint projects from kindergartens to elementary schools (they cooperate with the Elementary School *Antun Mihanović*) where they enhance environmental awareness by planting tree. This program is called "Life school".

In *Gymnasium Lucijan Vranjanin in Zagreb*, for the third and fourth grade students, there are also presentations of the faculties and students are encouraged to go to the University fair to get a personal insight into the programs of certain universities and colleges.

Every November *Tourist and hospitality school Anton Štifanić in Poreč* in cooperation with the company "Blue Lagoon" is having workshops "I want to learn, I want to work" for students in elementary school.

*Construction-geodetic technical school in Split* during their "Open days" in June, has an exhibition of works and participates at every possible event, construction fair etc.

*Trade and commercial school Davor Milas in Osijek* sends two professors accompanied three to four students to elementary schools and where they present the work of the school, from the profession to the activities that occur during the school year. Dates are adapted to parenting sessions in the elementary schools, where parents and students present high school choices.

*High school Vela Luka* is very engaged in the local media: they go to the local radio stations, post on the web and on Facebook. They even cooperate with the Chamber of Crafts and organize

Career Day in Hotel Posejdon where they invite numerous entrepreneurial guests, former students, employers etc.

*High school XIII Gimnazija Zagreb* is very active with various activities. This school conducts a survey among 8 elementary school students in the local environment, discusses with principals, pedagogues and elementary school teachers, organizes eighth grade students' visit to their school and school workshop together with socializing with the first grade students. This has proven to be very successful because students like to spend some time together. Of course, parents are always informed and involved in all activities from the beginning.

4. Do you think teachers should be more involved in the career choice and professional development of their students?

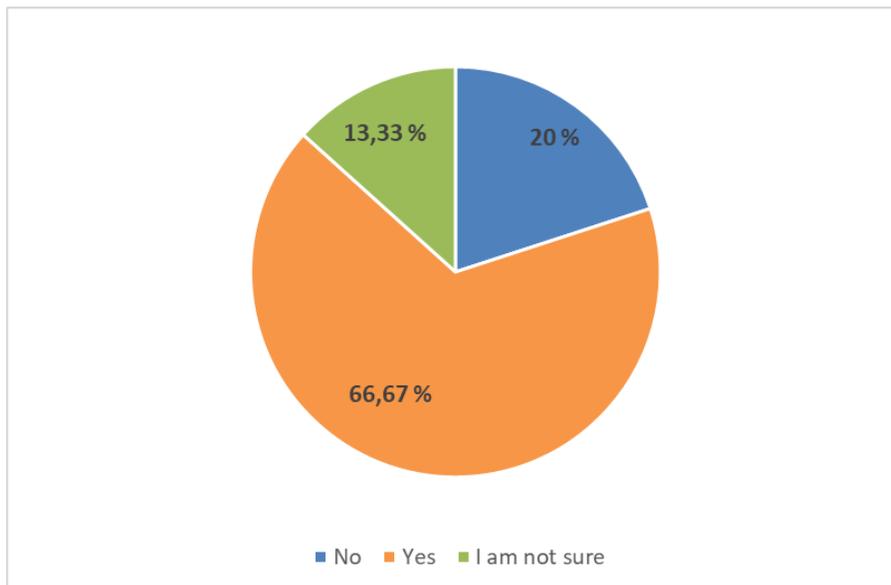


Chart 1

The school directors answered this question differently. Most of them agreed that teachers should be more involved in the career choice and professional development of their students but some of them are not quite sure if teachers are qualified enough.

Some of them are concerned about how the parents would react: *“Our teachers are included in the activities and refer students to institutions specializing in career choice and professional development of students. However, educators as well as principals can provide information but we cannot interfere and advise someone (pupils) because we can get into a complicated situation if a parent responds to what the counselor advises. We simply do not have the legal basis to get involved in this area.”*

Here’s another interesting answer: *“Of course! Specialists in elementary schools, not just in the eighth grade, have a special role to be able to detect students' preferences and abilities for a particular interest in high school. The phrase: "Son, if you won't educate yourself, you will have to work!" needs to be urgently changed!”*

Most of the school directors agree that their teachers have enough responsibilities and should not be burdened more than they already are. Also, some of them mentioned that parents should be more involved in these activities because they have the biggest influence on their children.

## 5. Is your school aware of the gender statistics?

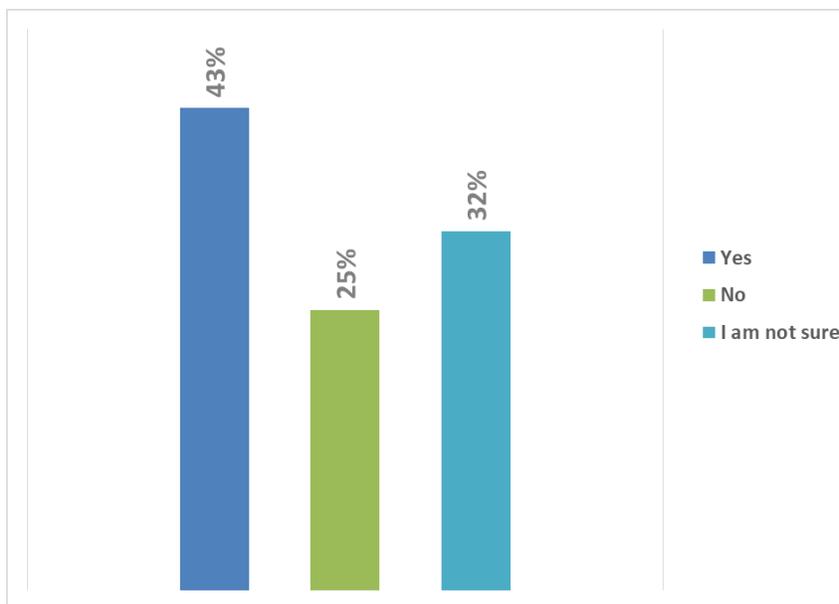


Chart 2



Most of the respondents answered that they are aware of statistical issues related to gender stereotypes. However, a large percentage (32%) is still not sure and therefore this issue needs to be addressed more.

## 6. What does your school do in terms of existing stereotypes?

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A large number of respondents answered that they had started to think over this issue more ever since they joined the "Career ROCKET" project because they did not give so much importance to gender stereotypes before. They have stated that activities such as conducting surveys on the professional interests of individual students, Curriculum with teachers and students, joining the school festivals, discussion of student's and professor's views on gender stereotypes, workshop organization will contribute to improving the situation related to this issue.

