

## **StatPlanet – Possibilities and Applications**

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**Abstract:** StatPlanet is a free software for creating fully customizable and interactive maps. In addition, the software also has the option of including interactive graphs to create feature-rich infographics. It is used by many different kinds of organizations such as UNESCO, International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, European Commission, World Bank and others. It can also be used as education software for children (ages 9 and more) to learn about the world through interactive maps. StatPlanet was produced by StatSilk, an Australian company founded by Frank van Cappelle. Company website features is a list with more than 400 interactive world maps covering areas such as health, education, crime, economy, environment, population for all countries, which indicates a wide range of application. StatPlanet won the first prize of the World Bank's competition – Apps for Development in 2011. The program exists in different versions to cater to different user's needs. All versions can be used both as a desktop application for offline use and a web-based application which can be published online with certain restrictions. Although the software is increasing in popularity around the world, but not Croatia. Therefore, possibilities of the desktop version of StatPlanet Plus were explored.

An interactive map of the Republic of Croatia with administrative divisions by counties and cities/municipalities was created using this software version. Attribute and spatial data downloaded from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics website were used to prepare the map. The map also contains data on the number of children's drawings in 10 Barbara Petchenik Award Children's World Map competitions held in Croatia. The Award was created by the International Cartographic Association (ICA) in 1993 as a memorial for Barbara Petchenik, a past Vice President of the ICA and cartographer who had a lifelong interest in maps for children. The awards are given out every two years during the International Cartographic Conference. If possible, at least one award is given to each continent, with special attention paid to the age of the author. ICA member nations (including Croatia) send maps produced by children under 16. So far, Croatia has participated in 10 International Children's Map Exhibitions, which were held within the scope of the International Cartographic Conference. The competition in Croatia was executed by the Section for Cartography of the Croatian Geodetic Society until 2001, and the Croatian Cartographic Society has organized it since 2003. The paper will present the process of creating the mentioned interactive map and the possibilities of creating thematic maps and graphs which various analyses can be based on.

**Keywords:** Republic of Croatia, StatPlanet, interactive map, thematic maps, graphs