

GIS in Education of Landscape Architects

Dora Tomić Reljić, Vesna Koščak Miočić-Stošić, Sonja Butula, Goran Andlar
dtomic@agr.hr
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agronomy, Svetošimunska 25, Zagreb, Croatia

Abstract

Landscape architecture is an interdisciplinary profession in practice and education. Its basic task is to analyse landscape as space we live in and which we experience through our interests, but also as a real space which is constantly changing as a result of human activities. Evaluation and analysis of complex system of qualities, characteristics and changes in the landscape, aiming to preserve spatial values, are facilitated by digital tools. Although GIS is one of the most useful digital tools in landscape architecture and many other professions, it is still not sufficiently used at all levels of spatial thinking in Croatian practice.

This paper will show various analytical approaches based on GIS tools developed within the landscape architecture studies in the last 15 years; landscape evaluation, spatial modelling, strategic planning, environmental impact assessments (including visual assessments and simulations), landscape typology, green infrastructure and production of landscape plans and landscape revitalization plans. These procedures have a wide range of application in spatial and strategic planning, rural development, nature and environmental protection, cultural heritage conservation and management of natural and cultural values. Knowledge of the application of GIS tools which young experts in landscape architecture acquire during their studies is considered a very important issue in the improvement of spatial solutions for achievement of sustainable development.

Keywords: landscape architecture, GIS, analyses, evaluation, landscape, space