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Social participation and geography education - the importance of Participatory Geographic Information Systems in the organisation of fieldwork – summary of doctoral thesis

Geographical studies include natural and socio-economic aspects. Geography is essential in educating a responsible, active citizen, therefore the key to geography education is referring to global environmental, socio-economic challenges and studying the local environment, especially in the form of fieldwork. Therefore it is important to take into account in geographical studies the context of social participation and the use of modern technologies, which in geography finds its reference through the use of Participatory Geographic Information Systems (PPGIS). The aim of the study is to determine the importance of social participation in contemporary geography education with particular emphasis on the use of PPGIS in organizing geography fieldwork.

The thesis extends the knowledge on social participation in geography education both through comparative analysis of core curricula and geography-didactic studies from Poland, Spain, England and Finland, as well as survey research conducted among teachers in Poznan, Madrid, London and Helsinki. Taking into account the importance of fieldwork in geography education, the thesis presents the process of teachers' participation in the development of a digital map to support the organisation of fieldwork activities using a geo-questionnaire (PPGIS example). The case study from Poznan includes the possibility of using a digital map for self-organisation of fieldwork.