

Go/WeiQi in Croatia



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Croatia in European Go

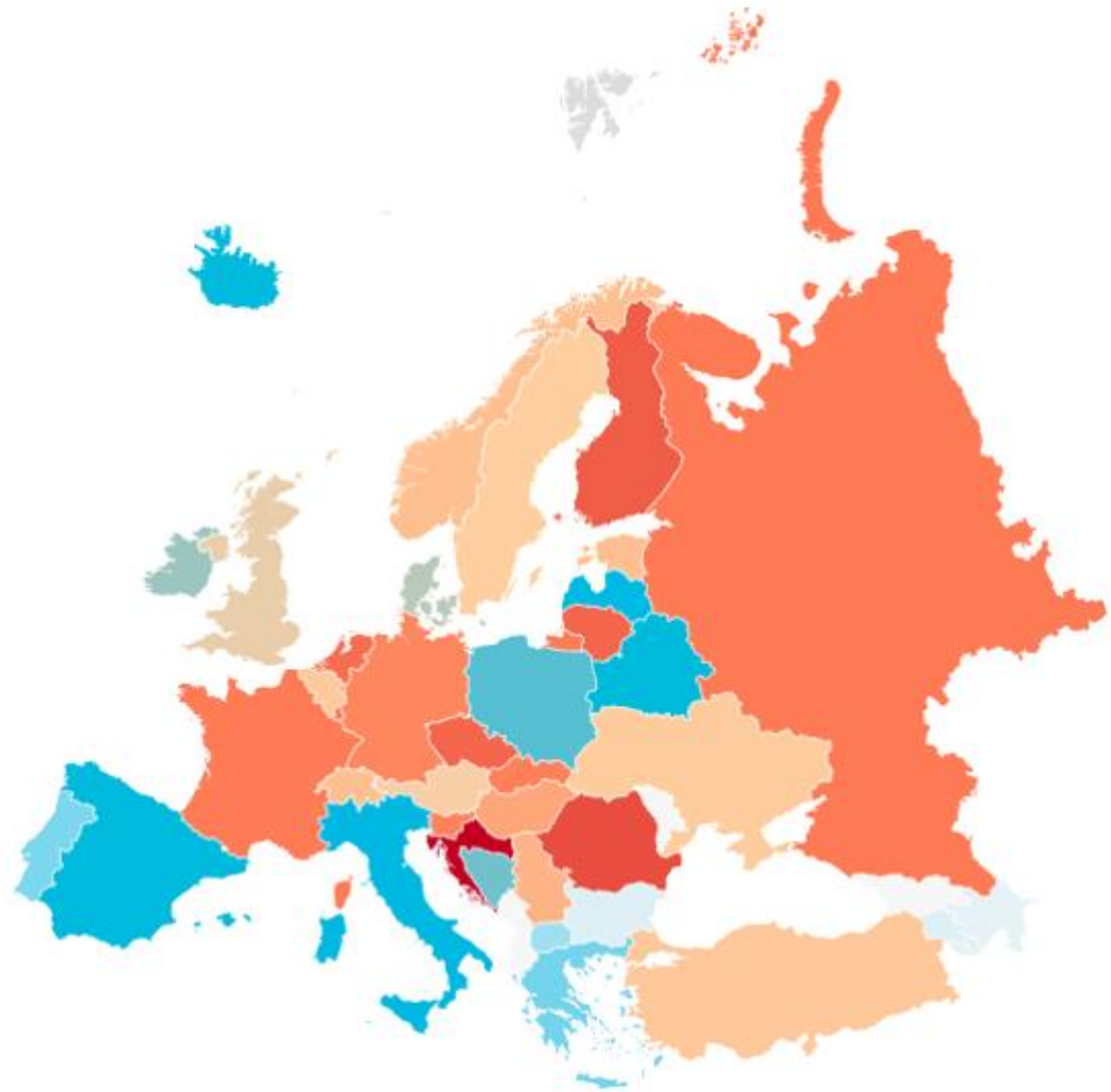
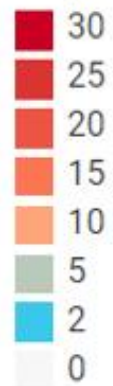
- Population: 4 000 000
- Area: 56 594 km²
- Sailors brought the game 100 years ago
- 3 European Go Congresses: 1974, 1980, 2002
- Zoran Mutabzija - 2 times European champion (1967 and 1971)
- 500 registered players in European Go Database
- A „crisis” 10 years ago

Important moves

- **Project applications** (Ministry of Science and **Education**, Central State Office for **Sport**) since 2016,
- Starting **School League** Grand Prix (14 schools next year) since 2017,
- Starting international projects – Saijo European Youth Go Tour (**SEYGO Tour**) since 2019,
- **The result** is the rapid increase of children playing go (100 children compared to 2 children 5 years ago),
- Croatia became the country with the largest number of active Go players compared to the population.

Active EGD players in 2018 per 1.000.000 citizens

Players

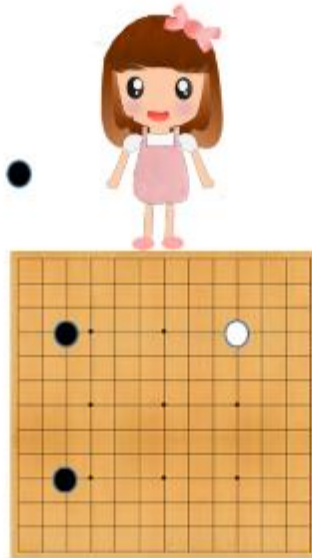


Go/WeiQi in Croatia

Chess+Go

Setup:

two boards,
two pairs,
one clock



- Chess is very popular in Croatia, Europe and China (winning men and women olympiads).
- **Pair Go/Chess** competition has been **invented in Croatia** and became very popular in European Go Congresses since 2017.
- It stresses physical movement and the team spirit.

Diving Go



- „**Diving Go**” has been recently introduced as a fun activity
- It connects swimming (as an olympic sport), diving, tourism, ecology and Go.
- It stresses the team spirit and makes Go more visible to the public.

What comes next?



- Go clubs formed Go Federation with the goal to join the **national Olympic Committee** in 2019.
- Croatia will host **25th European Youth Go Championships** (U12, U16, U20) in March 2020.
- With the help of the **SEYGO Tour** project and the **EGF Academy**, we expect the number of children playing go in Croatia to **double** in 2020.

What we need?

- We feel that more dedicated Go teachers is already needed.
- More children-oriented media coverage related to Go/WeiQi is necessary (cartoons, Go „mini-games”).
- We need more „Go-exchanges” within Europe, but also with Asia.
- **Global** strategy with the goal of the recognition of **Go as a non-olympic sport** is very important.