

Varaždin County, Croatia



## Drone Pilot Academy

**Keyword(s):**

future occupations, continuing training,  
non-formal training, crash courses



**Introduction:**

As the drone industry continues to grow and develop at a rapid rate, it's crucial that pilots and operators do the same in order to fly responsibly and safely. Otherwise, users can endanger lives and property through their irresponsible behavior. Therefore, education upon safe drone flights called Drone Pilot Academy was established in Varaždin County.

**Main challenge:**

How to ensure the right education for the occupations of the future? How to create education that will enable learners to responsibly operate drones while adhering to the legal regulations of the European Union and the Republic of Croatia and learn their application in various fields?

**Timing:**

September 2021 - today

**Objective**

Through quality education, we want to create young pilots who will use airspace in a responsible way and strengthen our educational offer ensuring competitiveness and long-term economic development, both for our students and wider community.

## **Target groups**

Drone Pilot Academy is an education for drone pilots intended for high school students, students, and all citizens over 16 years of age.

## **Geographical range**

Varaždin County

## **Stakeholders and partners**

The organizers of the training are the Faculty of Organization and Informatics (FOI), Varaždin County and the Public Institution "European Talent Center Croatia - Centers of Excellence of Varaždin County" adult education institution. Project is being supported by the Electrical Engineering School Varaždin, Orqa doo, Looma, Limitless Design, Croatian Agency for Civil Aviation, AVITEH Audio Video Technologies Ltd. and Euroherc d.d.

## **Strategy / materials**

Education lasts for 5 working days as follows:

Day 1: History, Classifications of drones, Basics of flight, Simulation flight

Day 2: Legal framework and security, Flight planning, Simulation flight

Day 3: Multimedia, Actual flight

Day 4: Multimedia, Actual flight

Day 5: Theoretical exam, Practical exam

Participants work in small groups. Equipment for all participants is ensured. Experienced professionals guarantee an individual approach and quality knowledge transfer that includes theoretical knowledge and practical application. In addition to the theoretical knowledge in the fields of physics, electronics, communication and multimedia necessary to operate an aircraft, participants also learn practical knowledge and gain flying experience.

## **Resources**

The Drone Pilot Academy takes place in Črešnjevo, small Municipality of Beretinec. The number of places is limited, and the price of education is now 2,500 kn (cca 340 euros) per participant. All participants are provided with the necessary equipment and do not need to have their own drone or previous flight experience.

## **Compliance with SDG's**

Project is in-line with SDG's Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

### **Innovation(s)**

With this project we are again raising the quality of education, especially lifelong learning in our county. Currently, there is no another organized form of education that allows users to encounter drones from an early age in Croatia. It is developed with the support of Croatian Agency for Civil Aviation and it is novelty in Croatia.

### **Evaluation**

So far, in total 20 students finished Drone Pilot Academy during which they were trained to independently operate drones through theoretical knowledge, practical exercises and work with experienced instructors. At its launching phase the project offered free participation to 4 most motivated participants.

### **Success parameters**

With this partnership, Varaždin County raises the quality of the educational offer and imposes itself as the leading county in technological innovations in education.

### **Concluding remarks**

We are proud that this academy is being launched and that we are making a joint contribution in applying new technologies responsibly and safely.

### **Website/Facebook profile of the initiative:**

<https://dronepilotacademy.edu.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/dronepilotacademy.edu.eu>

### **Contact details:**

Head of Department for Education, Culture and Sport in Varaždin County

T: +385 42 390 542

@ [miroslav.hudjek@vzz.hr](mailto:miroslav.hudjek@vzz.hr)

Contributor	dr. sc. Miroslav Huđek, Head of Department for Education, Culture and Sport in Varaždin County
Date of documentation	November 2021