



Formal Education on Natural Disasters

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Education on natural disasters is a dynamic process which creates knowledge, attitudes and skills leading to prevention or mitigation of consequences caused by natural disasters impact on people and their environment. In Serbia, knowledge related to natural disasters has traditionally been transferred through informal and non-formal education. Due to the fact that these forms of education are not officially standardized by laws and regulations, their effects are unsatisfactory. Additional problem is that informal education is not subject to any expert verification. Through the electronic and printed media, under the pressure of the market, great deal of information related to natural disasters is presented in a sensational or even fatalistic context. The effects of such reporting lead to panic reactions and the feeling of weakness. On the contrary, the non-formal education is objective, carried out through the activities of scientific and expert institutions (e.g. Seismological Survey), societies, international organizations, such as UNICEF, etc. The drawback of this type of education is that it reaches relatively small number of people and, additionally, it mostly considers reactive protection measures, instead of proactive. Finally, in order to increase the resilience of the society, Serbia established the formal education on natural disasters in 2017/2018. The Ministry of Education enacted the Programs of Teaching and Learning which explicitly defined the outcomes related to this thematic field. The Programs encourage the learning in all three domains: cognitive, affective and psycho-motoric. Cognitive domain is traditionally the dominant one, explaining the notion, process and dynamics of natural disasters. Affective domain is related to readiness for integration of the received information to personal assurances and attitudes, which reduces the panic reactions. The third domain are psychomotor skills which contribute to the development of the appropriate physical reactions in cases of potential natural disasters.