# Summary

The monograph *Geographical Research of Slovene Istria 1* was written based on research on the geographical characteristics of Slovene Istria conducted by university professors and associates of the Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska. They, together with the students of university and master's study program Geography have been carrying out field and cabinet work in this area for many years. Namely, Slovene Istria is the only Slovene region with direct contact with the sea, but not exclusively because of the latter, a geographically extremely diverse and picturesque landscape, which represents to geographers an exceptional laboratory for various narrowly disciplinary and broadly based research from the entire spectrum of geographical discipline. The aims of the monograph are related to the presentation of the results of selected geographical research of Slovene Istria, from the basic presentation and placement of the region to very specific geographical topics related to thematic routes along the area of Kraški rob.

In the first chapter, the natural geographical characteristics of Slovene Istria are presented in a synthetic way. The review is based on the results of our own observations and research and findings from the literature and other sources. The basic geological and geomorphological characteristics in the landscape are presented in a transparent way, showing duality with flysch hills on one-side and karst plains on the other, in between is an interesting cuesta landscape of Kraški rob. The article also deals with the characteristics of water bodies, climate, soil and vegetation of Slovene Istria. This chapter also presents the geographical definition of Slovene Istria as a region and the dilemmas regarding its naming.

The chapter presents the basic socio-geographical characteristics of Slovene Istria. The introductory part deals with the population development of the debated area from the second half of the 19$^{th}$ century onwards, and analyses the main demographical features in the last decade. The following section focuses on settlement structure and patterns in Slovene Istria, while the last part presents its economic-geographical outline, with a special emphasis on tourist sector. In each section, the authors analysed selected statistical indicators, which, with the help of ta-

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bles, cartographic and graphic representations and comparisons with the national average, provide a detailed insight into the discussed topics.

The third chapter presents the morphometric characteristics of dolines (perimeter, area, circularity, length of the shortest and longest axes) and some other characteristics (land use, cross-sectional shape, composition of slopes and bottom, dry-stone wall boundary, ground plan symmetry) in Rakitovec-Movraž kras karst plain in Slovene Istria. Data on 276 sinkholes were obtained through field mapping and the use of GIS. In the study area, dolines of small planar areas (1245 $m^2$) and shallow dolines (3.1 m) prevail. Most of the dolines are of circular planar shape, 94% of them are bowl-shaped in cross section. Dry-stone walls surround 83% of the dolines and most of dolines are overgrowing. The density of dolines in the study area is 72 per $km^2$; together they cover 7% of the area. Both data are comparable to the neighbouring karst regions.

The fourth chapter presents a field survey of hydromorphological elements on the case of the Dragonja River. The inventory of hydromorphological elements was based on the methodology, prepared by the Slovene Environment Agency as a part of the river's ecological status assessment. The results show that the middle course of the river is in almost natural condition, while the lower course is completely altered. Here, the riverbed is regulated, surrounded by flood embankments, and tree vegetation is removed. There is also a noticeable difference in the land use of riparian area, which is dominated by forests and less agricultural areas in the middle course, especially on the left bank of the river. In the lower course, intensive agriculture dominates on both sides of the Dragonja River. The hydromorphological alteration of Dragonja, determined by the field survey, confirmed the assessment of the river's ecological state good in 2019.

The fifth chapter presents the characteristics of local water resources in the hinterland of Slovene Istria. They were once important for the drinking water supply and other uses, but after the area being connected to the public water supply system, they were mostly abandoned. We tried to determine which water resources the inhabitants still maintain, use, what was the purpose of their use in the past, their present permanence and condition of the facilities built for storing and collecting of water. The results of measurements of the basic physicochemical characteristics of selected water sources, which can be related to the landscape characteristics of the area, are also presented. Analyses show small differences in the reaction of water between different types of water sources, while the

indicators of total and carbonate hardness, as well as oxygen concentration (the largest are in the captured springs) slightly differ.

The six chapter is related to the preparation of proposals for thematic routes that guide visitors along the Kraški Rob area. The area is very attractive for leisure and recreational activities and it is often visited. Associations and active locals planned these routes, and together with the students, we looked for interesting contents that would enrich these routes with descriptions. Thematic trails usually include a presentation of geographical, geological, botanical, ethnological-historical and other contents of the area and can represent an important development potential of the rural areas. The chapter presents the role and importance of thematic or educational trails in the introduction and describes the experiences of students and associates of the Department of Geography of the University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities with the establishment and definition of such routes in the Kraški Rob area. The presented procedures mainly include the explanation of theoretical and contextual preparation of the elaborate and definition of the route of each trail in the field, including selection of relevant points for presentation. In the chapter, two projects of thematic trails along the Kraški Rob area are presented in more detail, one of which remained on a theoretical basis, while the other was implemented in practice.

The monograph can be a help and encouragement in planning research in Slovene Istria and beyond. Furthermore, it is suitable as a study literature and a professional tool for teachers of geography and related subjects in primary and secondary schools; both, for those from Slovene Istria and those from other regions coming to Slovene Istria as organizers of professional excursions, school activity days, etc. We believe that reading can be useful for all those who are dealing professionally or amateurly with the spatial processes and phenomena in Slovene Istria and is suitable for the wider community of readers as well.