**AUTHOR**

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**COUNTRY**

Slovenia


**FIELD OF HUMANITIES**

Geography

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS ACTIVITY**


**1. Digital technology:**
Computer, ArcGIS Collector, and smart phones.

**2. Pre-existing knowledge and skills:**
Familiarity with ArcGIS Collector, knowledge in priorities of rural development, and Local Development Strategy.
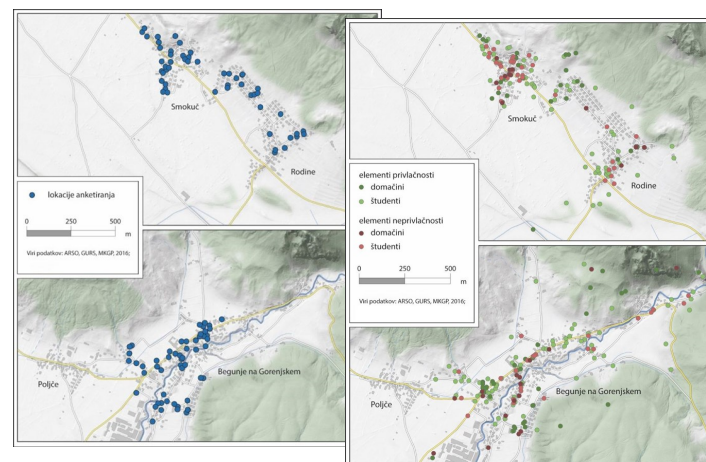
# COLLABORATIVE MAPPING OF AMENITIES IN RURAL AREAS

Collaborative mapping of amenities in rural areas – testing the usability of the mentioned hardware and software (ArcGIS Collector, GNSS) as part of the fieldwork in several phases.

## GOALS

The ArcGIS Collector application was used to perform field exercises, enabling field capture of points, lines and polygons via a mobile device. The application allows users to easily prepare a survey questionnaire, which contains the attributes (in our case these are (dis)amenities by categories and elements), while the location of the entry is obtained using GNSS (global navigation satellite systems) receiver in mobile phones.

*Fig. 1. Survey locations in Dežela region (left) and Spatial distribution of (dis)amenity elements (right).*



## KEY OUTCOMES

The introduction of the modern fieldwork techniques has many advantages that enable faster, more precise and more efficient data collection. Enabling students to use mobile technologies increases interest in fieldwork and requires less map reading skills, which on the other hand can also be considered as a negative. The problems we have encountered to date are mostly of a technical nature, since in narrow valleys and in sparsely populated areas there can be mobile connectivity issues, and consequently disruptions in entering data points. In other age groups, there may still be issues with smartphone uptake and use. The user interface and performance of the mobile applications could be improved, although updates are generally frequent with applications becoming more easy-to-use, whilst at the same time users are becoming more adept.