

Dinaric perspectives on PIRLS 2021

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Two key perspectives for the presentation and time for questions ²

- 1: An insider's view and experience from the cooperation (Danijela Djukic)
- 2: The view from an 'aliens' perspective (Christian Christrup Kjeldsen)
- 3: Q & A

An insider's view and experience from the cooperation

Dinaric region and IEA

- Named after the Dinaric Alps, is located in South-eastern Europe, and stretches through Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo*, Albania, and North Macedonia.

The Dinaric region first became involved in IEA international assessments over 60 years ago



Dinaric perspectives- educational challenges, strenghts and weaknesses

- Similar educational system, similar educational policies, similar organization of educational institutions.
- Common mission: is the connection of experts from the entire region who deal with a multidimensional and culturally sensitive perspective of the results of international research in the Dinaric region.

Dinaric perspectives- international research

- International research is mostly carried out by state institutions/government agencies in the Dinaric region.
- The results of international research (PIRLS, TIMSS, ICCS, ICILS...) have been used in different ways by education systems across the region during this long series of years, thus having different impacts.

Dinaric perspectives PIRLS 2021

7

Comparative research : great importance & big challenge



IEA Research for Education volume 16, Dinaric Perspectives on PIRLS 2021:

- *National Curriculum on language as a basis for teaching and students achievement in reading comprehension*
- *Comparing Texts Used In Pirls And In Mother Tongue Textbooks In The Dinaric Region: Are Students Well Prepared To Take The Test?*

Dinaric perspectives

- Cooperation between institutions
- Cooperation between researchers



Dinaric perspectives after PIRLS 2021

- Action plan for reading strategy (in cooperation with Croatia, Slovenia and Kosovo).
- Workbooks for reading literacy, mathematical literacy, scientific literacy for 10 years old students.

The view from an ‘aliens’ perspective

Strengthening Capacity Through Regional Collaboration

Key Points:

- **Capacity Building Across Regions:** Collaborating with colleagues from another region enhanced skills, broadened perspectives, and cultivated a shared learning environment.
- **The Importance of In-person Meetings:** These interactions are essential for building trust, developing a deeper understanding, and creating an open space for sharing ideas. We did not do that enough in this book-project – still:
 - **The Collaborative Process:** The journey from initial planning to finalizing the academic book demonstrated the power of co-creation, showing that regional collaboration leads to richer and more nuanced outcomes

Balancing Insider and Outsider Perspectives (I)

Key Points:

- **Insider Perspective:** Team members with deep context knowledge ensured the academic book's content was relevant, comprehensive, and anchored in 'reality' (contextual knowledge).
- **Outsider's Naïve Questioning:** Fresh perspectives from those less familiar with the context encouraged questioning of assumptions, soiling the ground for deeper exploration.

Balancing Insider and Outsider Perspectives (II)

Key Points:

- **Epistemological Gains:** The combination of insider expertise and outsider curiosity led to a more profound and holistic understanding, enriching the quality of the work.
- **Mutual Respect and Learning:**
 - **Building Trust:** When researchers already knew each other this led to a respectful dialogue allowed team members to challenge each other's ideas constructively, leading to deeper insights and stronger outcomes – and was more fun to participate in (I have known Ines for years know)
 - **Valuing Diverse Perspectives:** It is important from the start of such a project to ensure a collaboration that recognizing that every viewpoint has merit, regardless of experience or background, fostered a collaborative atmosphere.

Investigating Home Environment Impact on Reading Achievement¹⁴

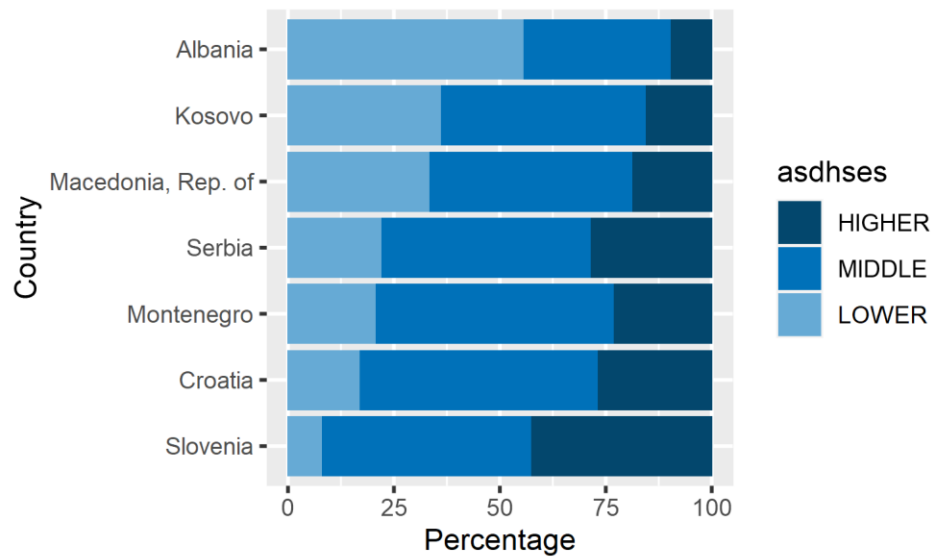
Key Points:

- **Objective:** To analyze the influence of home learning environments on fourth-grade students' reading achievements and attitudes in the Dinaric region.
- **Data & Analysis:** Used Quantile Regression techniques to understand how factors like home socioeconomic status, pre-primary literacy activities, and parental reading behavior impact reading performance across different achievement levels.
- **Why Quantile Regression?** This method goes beyond average effects, providing insights into how these factors affect students at various proficiency levels, revealing nuanced relationships that standard regression might overlook.

Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Reading Achievement

Key Points:

- **Overall Findings:** Socioeconomic status (SES) significantly impacts reading achievement, with lower SES students lagging behind. For instance, in Macedonia, there's a notable 92-point gap between high and low SES groups.
- **Variance Explained by SES:** SES accounts for varying percentages of reading score variance across countries, ranging from 12-13% in Montenegro, Kosovo, Slovenia, and Albania, to 19.3% in Serbia.
- **Implication:** Students from lower SES backgrounds require targeted support, as SES disparities have a pronounced impact on their reading proficiency, especially among lower achievers.

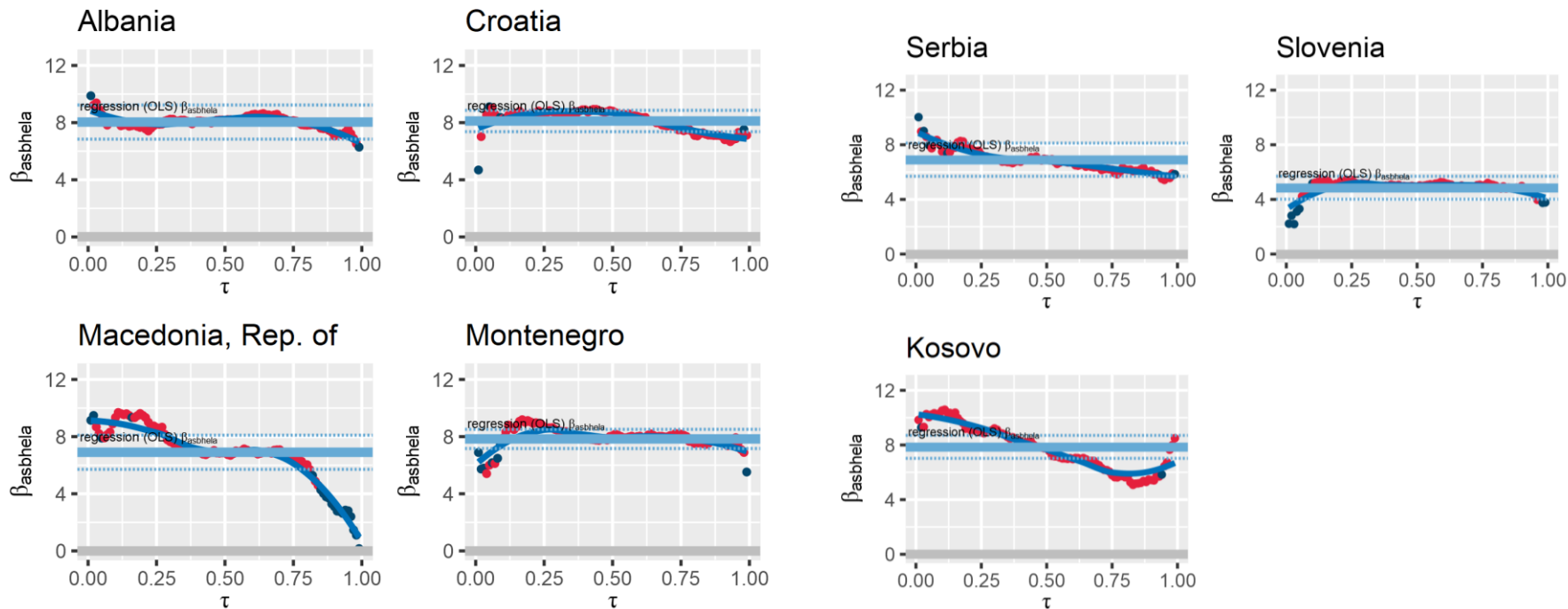


Influence of Early Literacy and Parental Reading

Key Points:

- **Early Literacy Activities:** These activities are linked to better reading outcomes. Students whose parents often engaged in early literacy activities scored higher.
- **Parental Reading Behavior:** Children of parents who enjoy reading tend to achieve higher reading scores. The gap in reading scores between students with parents who "very much like" reading and those who "do not like" reading is significant, especially for lower achievers.
- **Policy Implications:** Engaging parents in reading activities and promoting positive reading environments at home can enhance reading achievements, particularly for students struggling with reading.

Quantile Regression: Reading score and Early Literacy Activities Scale



Q & A



Researching education, improving learning