

# Dyslexia and library programms for motivation to read in Croatia

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# Republic of Croatia

**Population: 4 284 889** (population census 2011.)

**Area: 56 538 km<sup>2</sup>**

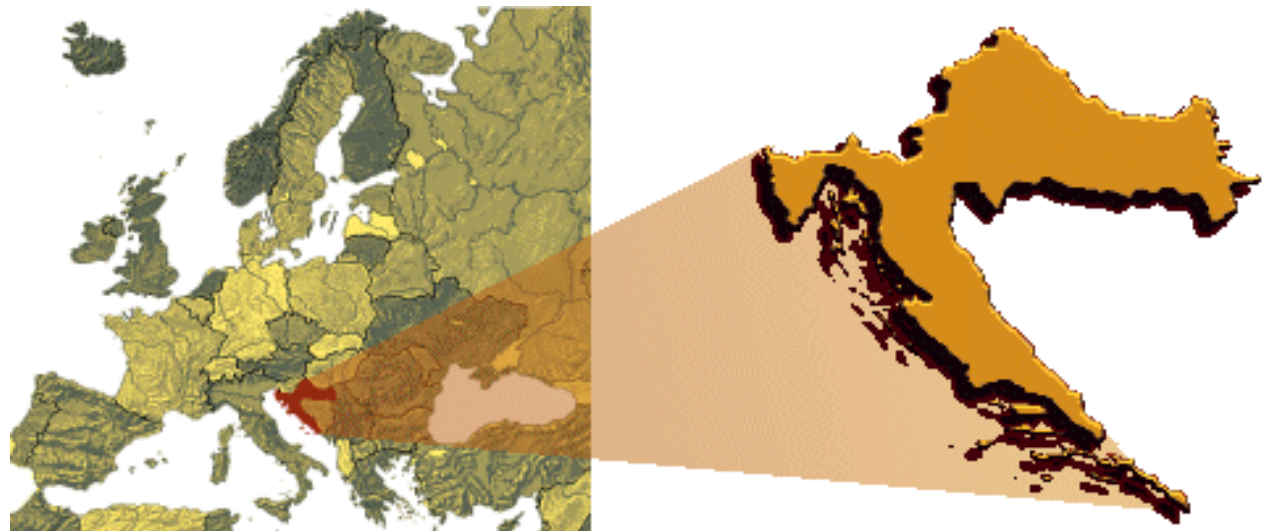
**Capital: Zagreb**

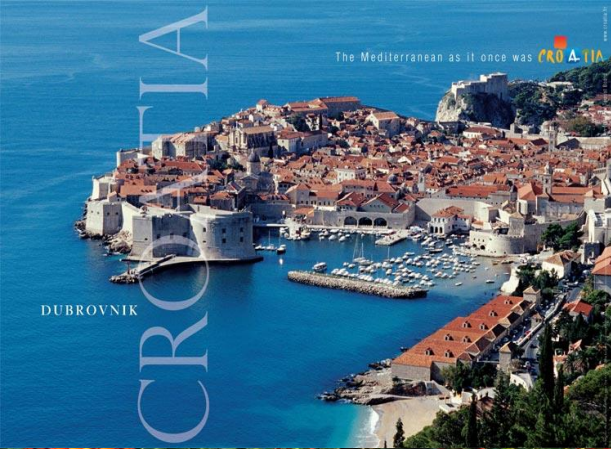
Administrative subdivisions:

**20 counties and City of Zagreb**

**429 municipalities and 127 cities**

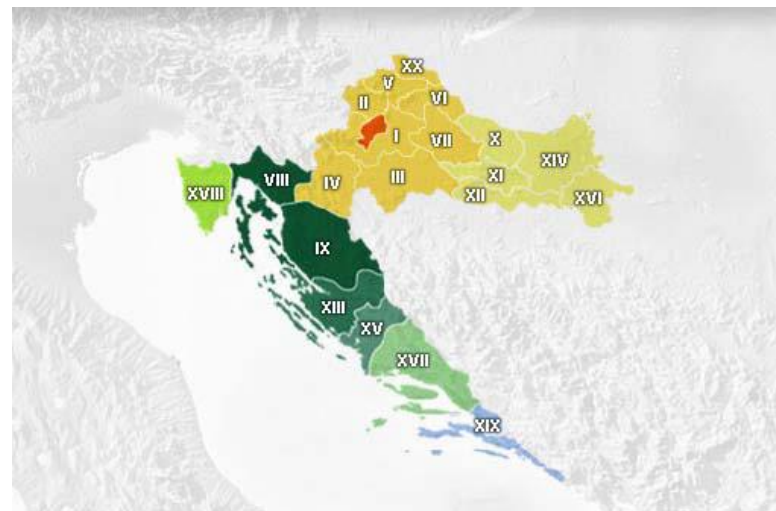
**1000 islands**



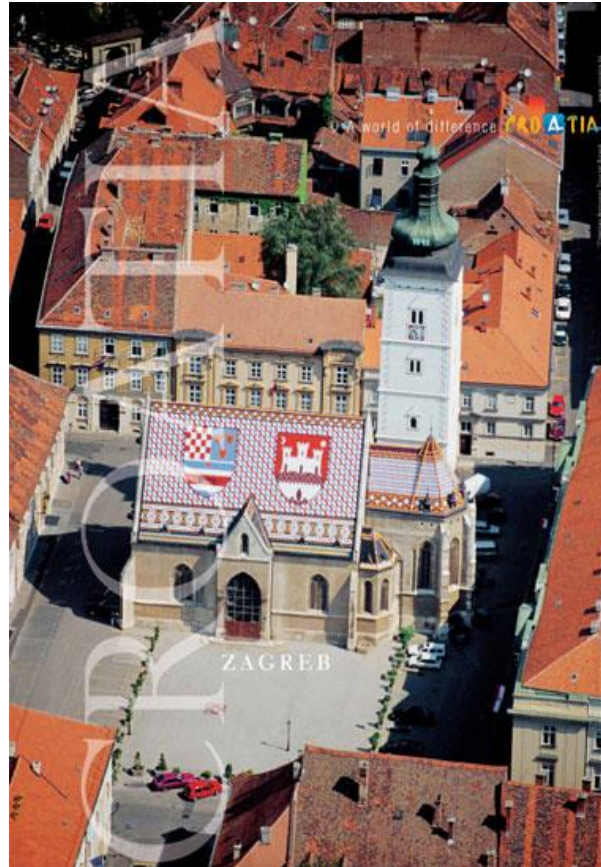


# Public Library System in Croatia

- Public Library System consists of **20 County Central Library Services for Public and School Libraries**
- Functions:
  - Monitoring, supervision, professional help and advice
  - Planning the library network, planning the design and layout of new and refurbished libraries
  - Introduction of information technology and network development
  - Staff training and continuing professional education
- **Public Library Network** consists of 202 public libraries (without branches and units): city libraries, municipality libraries, county libraries (as independent institutions) and libraries as part of Cultural Centres or Public Open Universities



# Zagreb – the capital of Croatia



# Dyslexia in Croatia

- there is no official government definition of dyslexia
- the term dyslexia is not integrated as a part of any law – there is no legislative act where this term would be specifically used
- dyslexia and literacy difficulties are treated like disabilities/other types of special needs or developmental disorders within different regulations in educational systems (kindergartens and schools)
- dyslexia is being studied in Croatia (systematically, according to the features of language) for the last 20 years
- scientific knowledge of dyslexia gives a significant contribution to prevention of consequences of dyslexia among citizens of all ages (from preschool to working population)

# Dyslexia in Croatia today

- dyslexia is one of the difficulties in reading, writing and learning which covers 5-10 % of worldwide population
- even though there are 30.000 dyslexic pupils in Croatia, there is no adequate learning programme for them
- high awareness about the necessity for creating better public recognition of dyslexia and the importance of providing assistance and support for people with dyslexia in Croatia
- joined efforts of librarians and speech and language pathologists in **common projects**:  
**(1) translating and publishing the IFLA Guidelines** for Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia (Nielsen, Irvall, 2001) and IFLA Guidelines for Easy-to-Read Materials (Nomura, Nielsen, Tronbacke, 2010)

## (II) common project: Organizing workshops, seminars and other forms of permanent education for the librarians, teachers and professional staff

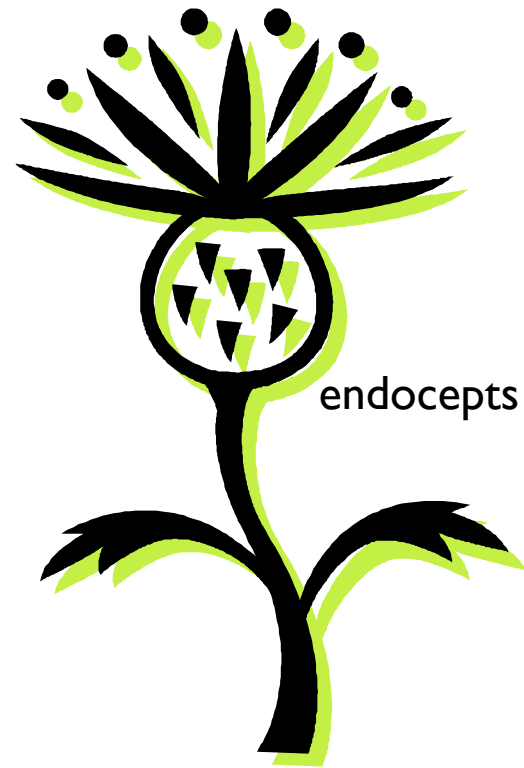
Librarians in co-operation with speech and language pathologists are participating in recognising persons with reading difficulties and learn how to make the library, books and reading more approachable to the treated population and how to create a special program of *logobibliotherapy*.





# Bibliotherapy – therapeutic reading

- Identification
- Projection
- Catharsis
- Conclusion



## What is the logobibliotherapy?

- Guided reading – intervention in the text and process of reading
- Preparing easy reading materials and special reading programs

## (III) common project: project sponsored by UNICEF “Read To Me!”

- the first national campaign for motivation to read aloud to children at their earliest age-<http://www.citajmi.info/kampanja/>
- the campaign was launched on April 2nd 2013 on the occasion of European Year of Reading Aloud, under the patronage of Ministry of Social Politics and Young People
- **organizers:** Croatian Library Association, UNICEF, Croatian Pediatrics Association, Croatian Reading Association, Croatian Association of Researchers in Childrens' Literature and Croatian Logopedic Association.
- **the goal:** to encourage parents' competences for making a quality selection of reading materials and the importance of understanding the parameters of reading to a child, as well as those that enhance the parents' knowledge on **early literacy**
- these activities are the basis of the *activities for prevention of the adverse effects of dyslexia*

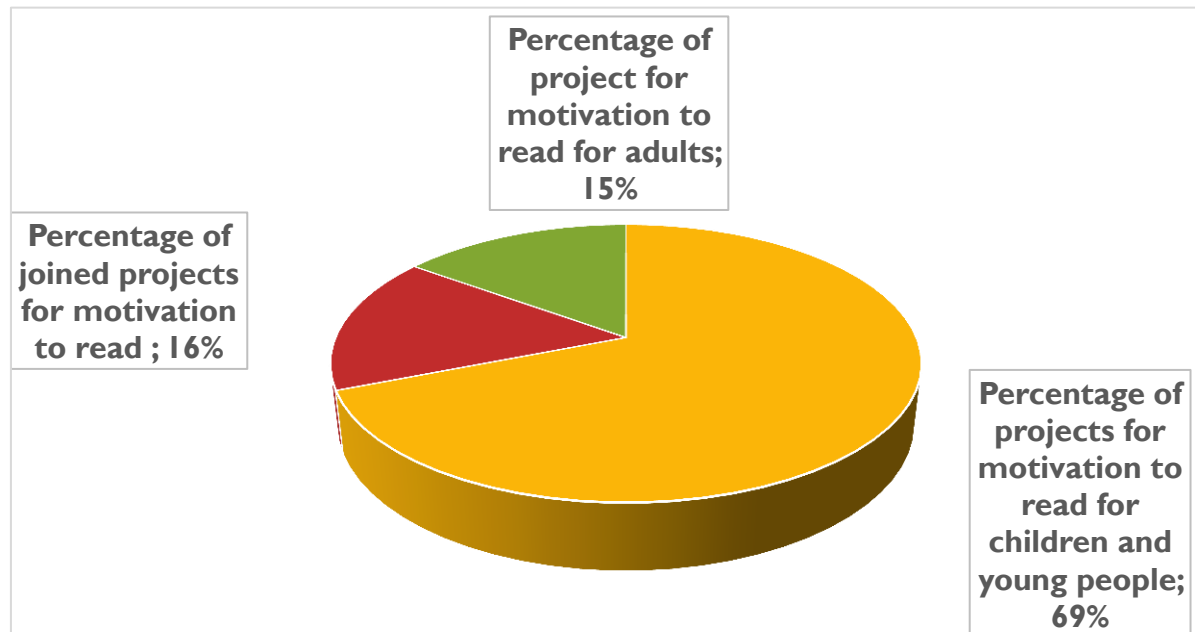
# (IV) common project: study conducted in kindergartens

- some characteristics of **early literacy** in children age 4 to 6 in Croatia - features of their print awareness, emergent literacy and letter knowledge
- emergent literacy is lacking, especially when it comes to visual vocabulary and writing letters and words
- **emergent literacy** is a term that is used to explain a child's knowledge of reading and writing skills before they learn how to read and write words
- young children are in the process of becoming literate, through the support of parents, caregivers, and educators, a child can successfully progress from emergent to conventional reading
- emergent literacy is of critical importance in early education in light of research showing that children learn skills that prepare them to read years before they start school

(V) **common project:** Checklists for early literacy - start of intensive prereading programs especially for children at risk for dyslexia

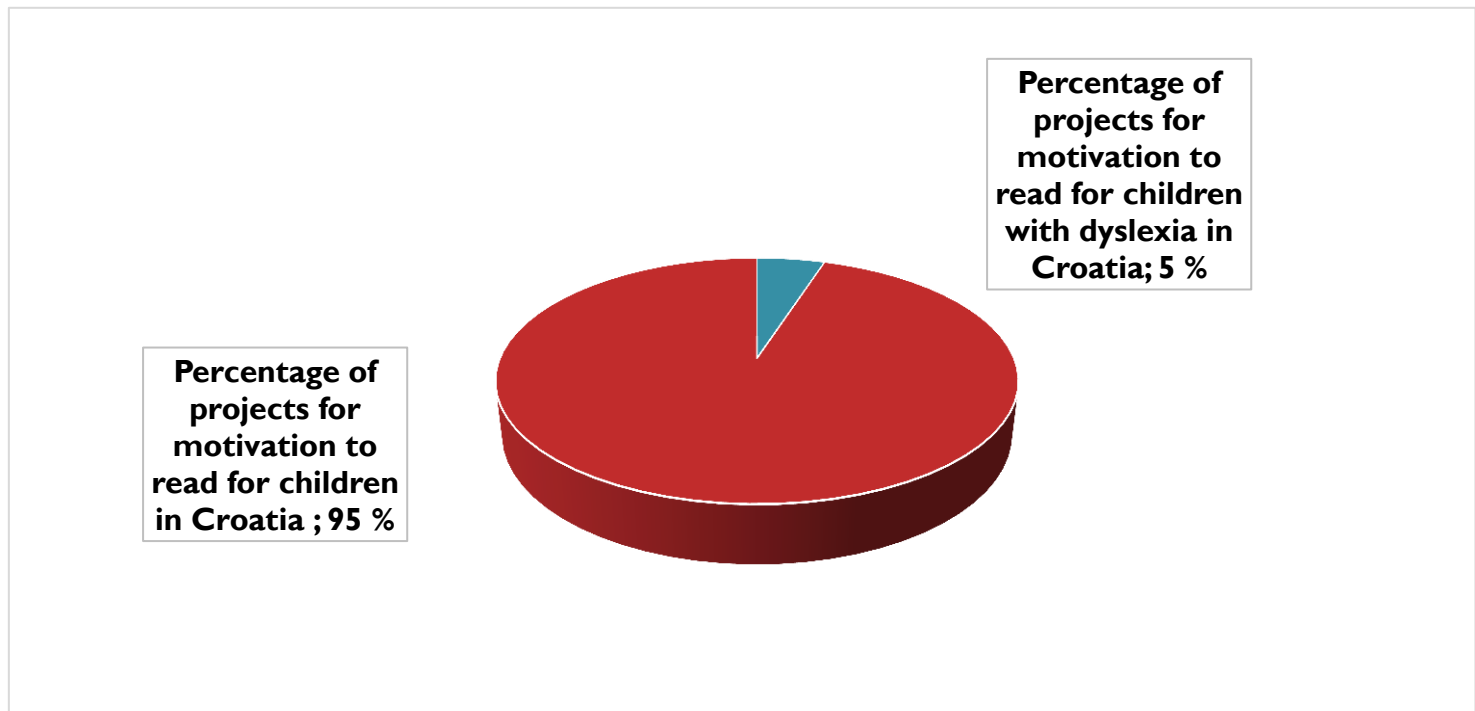
# Projects for motivation to read in Croatia

- 2 surveys have been conducted during 2013 in Croatian public libraries on projects for motivation to read for all the library users and particularly for children and young adults who cannot use conventional library services for any reason
- In Croatian public libraries in 2013 there were 317 projects for motivation to read conducted in all 20 counties and the City of Zagreb.
- the majority of projects (219 or 69%) were intended for children and young people, joined programmes aimed to all the age groups make 16 % of the projects and projects for adults make 5 % of the projects.



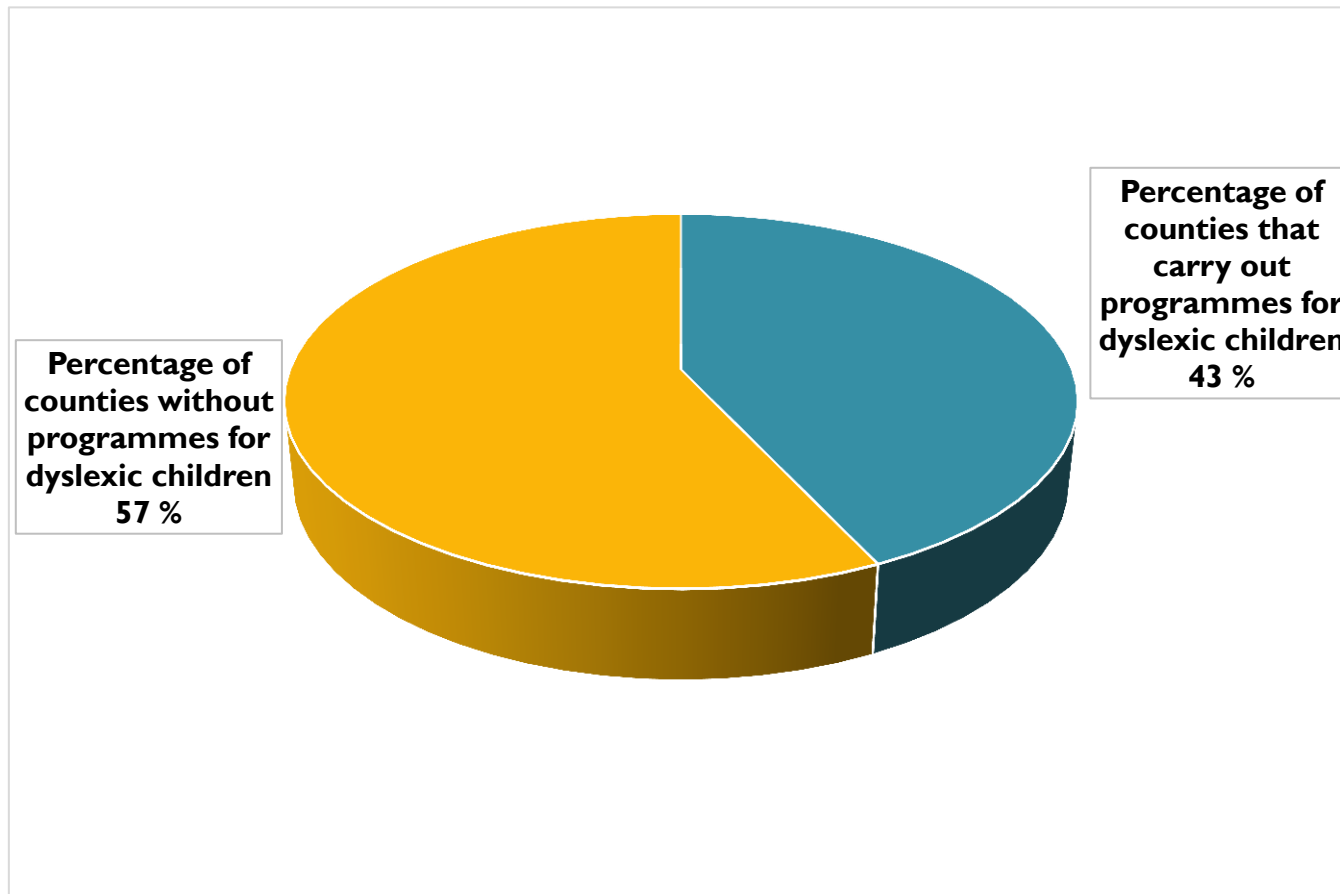
# Projects for motivation to read in Croatia

- data on a total of 10 ongoing projects for motivation to read for children and young adults with dyslexia in 2013 were extracted from both surveys
- out of a total number (219) of projects for motivation to read for children and young adults in Croatian public libraries, programmes for children and young adults with dyslexia (10) represent less than 5 % of the programmes.



# Projects for motivation to read in Croatia

- 10 projects for children and young adults are aimed to dyslexic
- they were carried out in 8 counties and the City of Zagreb which represent near 43 % of counties in Croatia



# 10 projects for motivation to read for children and young adults with dyslexia in Croatia

- Workshop of the Stories was created in 2006 in Public Library Bjelovar for the children with difficulties in reading speech and writing
- workshop was conducted by librarians in cooperation with speech and language pathologist and consists of reading stories, practicing spelling and speech, advising parents
- the results of the Workshop are 7 picture books and audio stories for children with dyslexia
- Reading by Playing was designed for children with dyslexia and dysgraphia by the City Library in Pula in 2011
- project for acquiring prereading skills through playtime
- it's held once a month for 2 hours and attended by dyslexic children and their parents
- children are given a text and different creative tasks using various techniques like modelling, painting, making comic books, collage technique, sewing, tying knots and using recycled materials
- lets dyslexic children overcome their fear of books and reading

# 10 projects for motivation to read for children and young adults with dyslexia in Croatia

- *Children's Playroom* exists for 37 years (1976-2013) and is being conducted in City Library in Krizevci
- interactive workshops are held 2 to 3 times a week in two groups – children aged 1-3, and 3-7.
- workshop is managed by a librarian who is also licenced kindergarten educator, with the assistance of a speech and language pathologist
- the number of participants is 10-20 children and their parents
- performed as reading stories, conversing, expressing creatively (drawing, modelling, making posters) based on the text
- Workshop project for children with reading and writing difficulties are being held since 2004 at the City Library in Pregrada in cooperation with Elementary School
- creativity workshops are ran by a librarian in association with a school speech and language pathologist twice a month, attended by around 10 children who are also Library users
- contribute to self-confidence, certainty and social inclusion



# 10 projects for motivation to read for children and young adults with dyslexia in Croatia

- Shhhh, we're Reading! is being held at the Rijeka City Library since 2011
- designed for children with reading difficulties
- represents exercises of reading aloud for the 1st grade elementary students, takes place once a week for a group of 12 children
- exercises include guided reading followed by oral and written language games, exercises for attention, memory and exercises of comprehending what they have read
- special book collection for beginners learning to read
- professional materials for their parents on speech development, language and expression
- brochures are also available with tips for parents and a list of recommended literature for children and parents
- children of early school age with difficulties in reading can practice in groups which results in increased interest for books

# 10 projects for motivation to read for children and young adults with dyslexia in Croatia

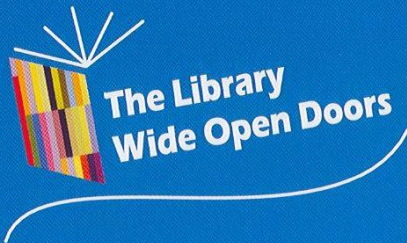
- Reading with You: How to Recognize Reading Difficulties – Dyslexia is being held in the Public Library in Koprivnica since 2002
- activities are lectures (attended by around 30 participants – children with parents and professionals), borrowing books and non-book materials, informative leaflets for children and adults, newsletters with a list of audio books for children, parents and schools, updates on dyslexia at the Library web site
- Organized tours for dyslexic students of Industrial-Trade Secondary School to the City Library in Slatina since 2011
- once a year 2-5 dyslexic students visit a Library and are introduced to the Library activities they can utilize in their spare time as well as the collection of audio books

# 10 projects for motivation to read for children and young adults with dyslexia in Croatia

- Project of assistance with book reports is being carried out at the City and University Library in Osijek since 2009
- librarians and children writing a book report, i.e. a short essay on a literary text they have read.
- the programme takes place once a week with a participation of 2-5 children, Library users
- this kind of specific help in doing homework contributes to the reputation of the libraries among the children and young adults
- **Quiz for Children with Dyslexia** is programme for reading and writing book reports at the City Library in Sibenik since 2006
- it is organized 3 to 4 times a year for 8 dyslexic children
- accomplished in cooperation with speech and language pathologist from the Centre for Education
- children compete in topics of school book reading assignments created by librarians and after that children fill out a quiz on a computer individually and make a picture book

# Zagreb City Libraries today

- Well organized network of public libraries in the City of Zagreb
- The biggest public library in Croatia
- **County Central Library Service** for public and school libraries in the City of Zagreb and the County of Zagreb
- Zagreb City Libraries:
  - 42 public libraries with 73 units
  - 2 mobile library services (bibliobus)
  - 317 school libraries



Since 2007 **Zagreb City Libraries** have been conducting the project *The Library wide open doors*, with the goals to promote reading and life long learning and social inclusion of children with development handicaps and youth with disabilities.

The project includes:

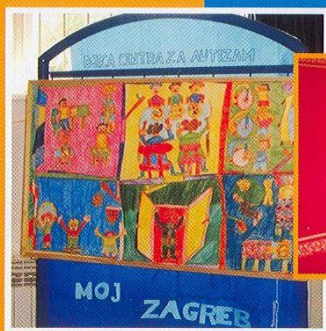
**Play session - Storytelling - Imaginative session** - programmes for inclusion of children with hearing impairment, speech impairment, reading and writing difficulties, into regular programs of the library;

**Creative workshops and cultural events** for children with development handicaps, and young adults with mental impairment, and with physical handicaps;

**Musical educational meetings** for blind and partially sighted children;

**Hand-making of tactile picture books** for the blind and partially sighted children and sensibilisation of children who can see.

The Library wide open door won in 2007 the **Second Prize in the ERSTE Foundation Award for Social Integration in Central and South Eastern European countries.**



# The Library Wide Open Doors Project

**The goals:** to promote reading, lifelong learning and social inclusion of children with developmental disabilities and and physically handicapped young adults

The project includes:

- *Storytelling and Imaginative Session*, programmes (with elements of bibliotherapy) for inclusion of children with hearing and speech impairment, reading and writing difficulties, into regular library programme
- *creativity workshops and cultural events*
- *musical educational meetings*
- *hand-making of tactile picture books*

# The Library Wide Open Doors Project

- part of this project is the programme ***Book Reports in a Different Way*** for children and young adults with reading and writing difficulties, which is held twice a month in groups of 10-25 children
- includes a new programme Zita Reads „***I am Your Dog, Read to me Aloud!***“ in City Library of Zagreb
- Reading is intended for the children up to 12 years of age and especially for those with reading and writing difficulties, speaking and emotional difficulties, attention and concentration difficulties, fear of public appearance, fear of dogs, a need to be with a dog.
- Read to Dog helps a child's love for reading by sharing books and facing dyslexia, because dogs do not criticize your reading, spelling and behavior.

Zagreb City Libraries  
The City Library of Zagreb  
Children's and Young Adults'  
Department  
Starčevićev trg 4  
Zagreb

2013 The European Year of Reading Aloud

## **Zita reads!**

„I am your dog, read to me aloud!“

for the pupils of the 4th grade of „Petar Zrinski“ elementary school

Tuesday 12.11.2013. at 11 A.M. in the Children's and Young Adults'  
Department of the City Library of Zagreb, Starčevićev trg 4, Zagreb

Reading is intended for the children up to 12 years of age, and especially  
to those with:

- speaking and emotional difficulties
- attention and concentration difficulties
  - fear of public appearance
  - fear of dog
  - desire to be with a dog



KNJIŽNICE GRADA ZAGREBA  
GRADSKA KNJIŽNICA  
Odjel za djecu i mladež  
Starčevićev trg 4  
ZAGREB

2013.  
Europska godina  
čitanja na glas

## Zita čita



**“Ja sam tvoj pas, čitaj mi naglas!”**

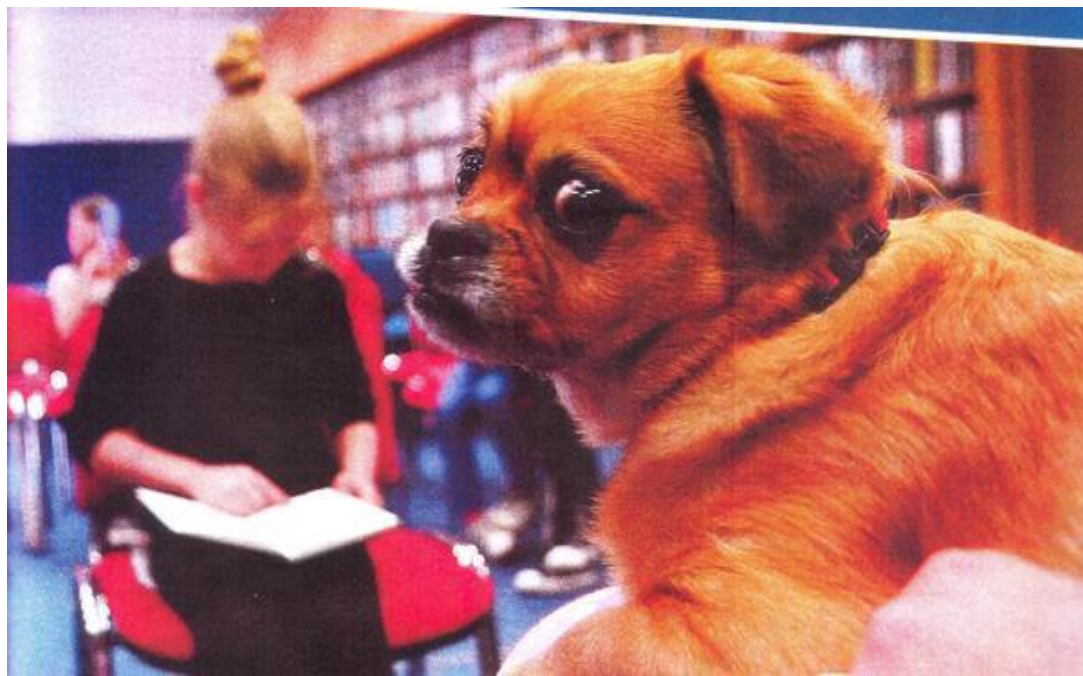
za učenike četvrtih razreda OŠ Petra Zrinskog

Utorak, 12. 11. 2013. u 11 sati  
u Odjelu za djecu i mladež Gradske knjižnice,  
Starčevićev trg 4, Zagreb

Čitanje je namijenjeno svojoj djeci do dvanaeste godine života,  
a osobito onima koja imaju:

- govorno-jezične i emocionalne teškoće
- teškoće pažnje i koncentracije
- strah od javnog nastupa
- strah od psa
- želju za druženjem sa psom





# Conclusion

- considerable part of contribution for dyslexic people is accomplished in croatian public libraries in the last 10 years, thanks to cooperation among librarians and speech and language therapists
- Projects for motivation to read for people with reading and writing difficulties are developed by Croatian Library Association, Croatian Dyslexia Association and Croatian Logopedic Association.
- most of the activities carried out by librarians and speech and language pathologists in Croatia focused on changes in understanding dyslexia
- projects are still partial solutions, but they can help in providing certain forms of assistance and support for persons with dyslexia and at risk of dyslexia
- projects can initiate changes to the relevant legislation - the basis for the realization of the rights of people with dyslexia



# Thank you!

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