

International ELINET Symposium 2018
“Literacy in the 21st Century: Participation – Inclusion – Equity”.

July 23-24, 2018, Cologne, Germany



Good Practice Session III: Increasing participation, inclusion and equity

Chair: Viv Bird, ELINET Management Board

Tuesday, July 24, at 10.00–11.00 **Location:** Seminar Building / Room S 22

LITERACY CHANGES LIVES.

Digital literacy behind and beyond bars

Presenters:

Kristina Cunovic & Snjezana Berak, Croatian Reading Association, Croatia

Abstract:

The Croatian Reading Association (CroRA) is a non-governmental, not-profit association whose mission is encouraging research and promoting reading. Reading promotion projects have been initiated that use literature and modern technology for therapeutic and educational purposes among which the most interesting is the Croatian Prison Reading Programme for detainees and their children.

Since 2015, CroRA, in partnership with the association Parent in Action (RODA) and with the financial support of two ministries, has been running a reading project for parent prisoners. It involves fathers in prison getting picture books and/or books appropriate for older children, from which they choose a book for their child. They read the text aloud as if they were reading it to their child directly, and the prison employees assist them in recording the audio. With the assistance of RODA and CroRA, the audio recording is then sent to the child on behalf of the programme.

Croatian Reading Association members developed workshops, prepared a manual for the implementation of the programme and composed a book list for children and young people, while imprisoned fathers can choose a book to read to their child. During the implementation of the reading programme all of the planned activities are monitored, and there are evaluation questionnaires for every target group. Programme sustainability has been addressed at several different levels. For the last three years, association providers of the programme have been transmitting very positive messages to the public, professionals and decision makers in order to enlist their support. In 2017, the Croatian Prison Reading Programme for detainees and their children was awarded *The International Literacy Association Award for Innovative Reading Promotion in Europe 2017* at the 20th European Conference on Literacy in Madrid.

References

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Brkić, Lorena (2013):. “Djeca čiji su roditelji na izdržavanju kazne zatvora” [Children whose parents are serving a prison sentence]. In: Socijalna politika i socijalni rad 1: p.p. 8-37.

RODA (Parents in Action). 2016. Children with parents serving prison sentences. Accessed January 24, 2018. http://www.roda.hr/media/attachments/udruga/projekti/mame/djeca_ciji_su_roditelji_zatvoreni_ENG.pdf

Bio Notes:

Kristina Čunović is senior librarian at City library "Ivan Goran Kovačić" Karlovac, Croatia. She is coordinator of the first Croatian campaign ‘Read to Me!’ and she organizes activities, programmes and services in Croatia that promote family and early literacy. She also manages workshop for librarians about library services for babies, children of an early age and their parents in The Training Centre for Continuing Education of Librarians. Her research has been focused on early literacy. From 2014 to 2016, she participated in the ELINET project. She is the Vice President of The Croatian Reading Association since 2016.

Snježana Berak is the head educator of the children's programme in the public library "Petar Preradović" in Bjelovar (Croatia) and an active member of librarian community. The areas of her work include early development of children and reading and stimulating early literacy. She is the winner of the Annual Award for Promoting Child Rights for 2014. From 2014 to 2016, she participated in the ELINET project - the European Literacy Policy Network. She has been President of The Croatian Reading Association since 2016.