

90  
1927.  
2017.



UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
**Andrija Štampar School of Public Health**



# Education of children with special needs in Croatia

Assistant Professor Vera Musil, MD, PhD, specialist of school medicine

<sup>1</sup> University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Andrija Štampar School of Public Health, Zagreb, Croatia

<sup>2</sup> Andrija Štampar Teaching Institute of Public Health, Zagreb, Croatia

Bonn, September 28<sup>th</sup> 2018



## Organization of education system in Croatia

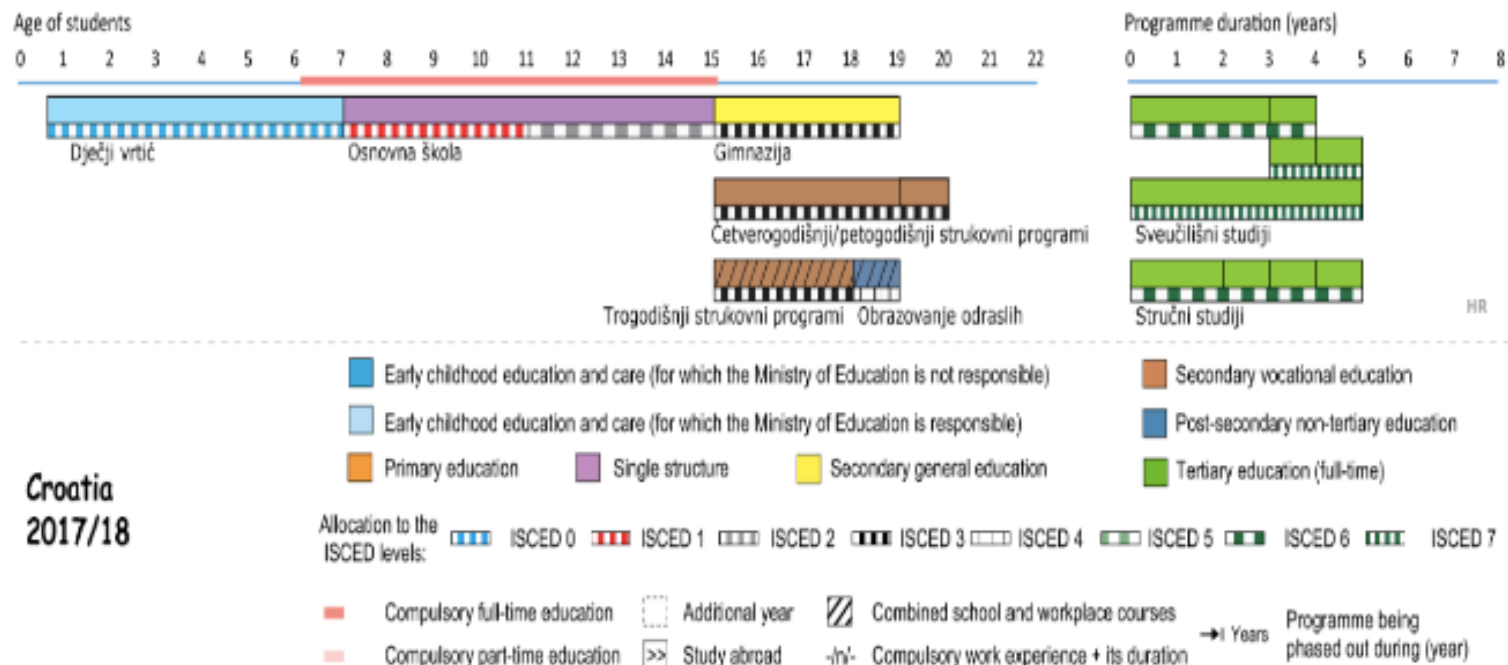
- pre-primary
- primary
- secondary
- higher
- adult education

### Constitution of the Republic of Croatia:

- primary education
  - compulsory and free to everyone
- secondary and higher education
  - equal conditions in accordance with capacities

# Organization of education system in Croatia

## Structure of the National Education System



source: Eurydice 2017-2018



# Health care for school aged children in Croatia

## Primary level

- school and adolescent medicine service
  - preventive care
- pediatricians or family medicine doctors
  - curative care



## School and adolescent medicine

- institute of public health
- county level
- regular national health system
- covered by compulsory health insurance



# School and adolescent medicine

- school and adolescent medicine specialist & nurse
- responsible for a number of elementary, secondary schools and faculties
- systematic examination
- screening
- counselling
- health education & promotion
- vaccination



## Before entering education system...

- age of six
- compulsory assessment
- committee composed of teacher, pedagogue, psychologist and school medicine specialist
- maturity and readiness for school

# Children with special needs

- developmental difficulties
- disabilities
- severe medical conditions
  
- national minority members  
(Czech, Hungarian, Serbian and Italian language)
- gifted children
  - identify gifted learners
  - ensure development of their potential
  - focus on satisfying cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs
  - constantly monitoring and evaluating of accomplishments



**PRAVILNIK**

**O OSNOVNOŠKOLSKOM I SREDNJOŠKOLSKOM ODGOJU I OBRAZOVANJU  
UCENIKA S TEŠKOĆAMA U RAZVOJU**

PREDMET PRAVILNIKA

Članak 1.

(1) Ovim pravilnikom utvrđuju se vrste teškoća učenika s teškoćama u razvoju na temelju kojih učenicima osigurava pravo na prilagođene programe školovanja i prilagođene oblike pomoći školovanja.

# Education of children with special needs

- Regulation on primary and secondary education of students with developmental difficulties (Official Gazette, No. 24/2015)
- based on principles of inclusion and an individual approach to every child with special needs
- acknowledgment of variances among students
- adjustment of education system to students' needs
- improvement of students' life quality

# Education of children with special needs

Regulation on primary and secondary education of students with developmental difficulties (*Official Gazette, No. 24/2015*)

Type of difficulties:

Type 1. Visual impairment

Type 2. Hearing impairment

Type 3. Language & speech disorders, learning difficulties

Type 4. Chronic diseases

Type 5. Intellectual disorders

Type 6. Behavioral and mental disorders

Type 7. Multiple disorders



## Education of children with special needs

Suitable education programs, based on individual skills, abilities and needs, are:

- REGULAR PROGRAM WITH INDIVIDUALIZATION
- ADJUSTED PROGRAM
- SPECIAL PROGRAM
- SPECIAL TRAINING FOR AUTONOMOUS LIFE



# Education of children with special needs

Suitable education program could be implemented:

- complete inclusion

regular class in regular school

- incomplete inclusion

partly in regular, partly in special class in regular school

- special classes in regular or special school



## Education of children with special needs

- personal assistant
- professional communication mediator
- extended professional treatment
- rehabilitation



# Education of children with special needs

Temporary forms of education:

- education at home or
- in healthcare facility
- children with major motor impairments
- or chronic/progressive illnesses
- longer period of time in hospital



## Education of children with special needs

- vocational guidance
- secondary education
- state graduation exam
  - individualization of exam technology
- guidelines for equalizing the opportunities in higher education for students with disabilities

# Education of children in Croatia

NUMBER OF REGULAR SCHOOLS & STUDENTS				
SCHOOL YEAR	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS		SECONDARY SCHOOLS	
	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
2011/12	2072	339 383	682	179 497
2012/13	2064	331 691	687	181 384
2013/14	2060	325 310	699	179 513
2014/15	2055	321 310	707	175 512
2015/16	2049	317 312	701	167 273



# Education of children with special needs

NUMBER OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS & STUDENTS				
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS			SECONDARY SCHOOLS	
SCHOOL YEAR	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
2011/12	73	1993	38	1613
2012/13	75	1884	40	1655
2013/14	75	1817	41	1626
2014/15	76	1688	44	1590
2015/16	79	1648	44	1513

# Disabled children

## CROATIAN REGISTER OF PERSON WITH DISABILITY

AGE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	%
0-4	499	341	840	2.6
5-9	2798	1697	4495	14
10-14	9335	5634	14969	46.6
15-18	7329	4468	11797	36.8
TOTAL	19961	12140	32101	100

At January 26<sup>th</sup> 2017:

- 511910 person with disability
- 32101 children (6.2%) - *born in period 26.1.1999.-26.1.2017.*

# Disabled children

TYPE OF PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY		
TYPE	NUMBER	%
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT	969	3.0
HEARING IMPAIRMENT	1069	3.3
<b>SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DISORDERS</b>	<b>12078</b>	<b>37.6</b>
MUSCOLOSCELETAL DISORDERS	1746	5.4
<b>CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS</b>	<b>6035</b>	<b>18.8</b>
PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS	363	1.1
OTHER ORGANS AND ORGAN SYSTEMS DISORDERS	2847	8.9
<b>INTELLECTUAL DISORDERS</b>	<b>5246</b>	<b>16.3</b>
BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL DISORDERS	3221	10.0
PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS (AUTISM)	1257	3.9
GENETIC DISORDERS AND CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES	4679	14.6
<b>MULTIPLE DISORDERS</b>	<b>13829</b>	<b>43.1</b>

\* *Total number of **diagnosis** is higher than number of persons because of multiple disorders*

<https://www.hzjz.hr/periodicne-publikacije/izvjesce-o-osobama-s-invaliditetom-u-hrvatskoj-2015/>



# Education of children with special needs

## Report on Disabled Persons in the Republic of Croatia 2017

- 21 555 children with suitable educational program
- complete inclusion - regular program with individualization
- speech & language disorders
- learning difficulties

# Socio-economic indicators

## Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy

- 14789 children with disability and severe developmental difficulties
- 2793 (19%) with full work ability
- 3135 (21%) without work ability
- 6044 (41%) need assistance (Barthel index<60)
- 97.5% in family
- 0.6% with guardians
- 2% in special institutions
- 7% live in poor living conditions
- 22% receive disability benefit

# Education of children with special needs – school health service

## **Delayed enrollment in first grade of elementary school**

### *Early development:*

- risk pregnancy, oxygen deprivation during birth, basal ganglia damage

### *Pre-school period:*

- dystonia, speech, attention, regulation of emotions difficulties, problem of adaptation & socialization in kindergarten

### *Preschool assessment*

- attention deficit & hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), immature socio-emotional reactions, language and speech disorder, lack of knowledge for school requirements
- positive impact on child's psycho-physical development
- favored maturity and readiness to overcome difficulties
- attendance of preschool institution and further psychologist's and speech-language therapist treatment

# Education of children with special needs – school health service

## **Regular program with individualization**

### *School period*

- at age of 7 years (1st class) Diabetes mellitus type 1
- at age of 9 years (3rd class) Transient ischemic attack (TIA)
- at age of 13 years (7th class) ADHD
- frequent absences due to exacerbations and complications of basic illness
- difficulties in learning and frequent bad grades
- encourage positive behavior whenever possible
- enable student's engagement in activities split into smaller units
- predict longer period of time for student to adopt topics, solve tasks, give answers, adopt instructions ...
- evaluate content instead of writing
- provide learning material to student
- prefer oral exams instead of written tests through smaller units...

# Education of children with special needs – school health service

## **Adjusted program with individualization**

### *Early development and pre-school period*

- without difficulties

### *School period*

- multidisciplinary assessment made by school medicine specialist, psychiatrist, psychologist, neurologist and speech-language pathologist
- below-average verbal and marginal non-verbal intellectual efficacy
- specific learning difficulties - dyslexia
- adjustment of school program, reduction of contents, individualization according to student's psychophysical abilities



# Education of children with special needs – school health service

**Regular program with individualization and with help of personal assistant**

*Early development and pre-school period*

- late walker, difficulties in speech development
- myoclonic epilepsy with generalization
- hyperactivity, stereotypes, different from other children, less communicative
- speech therapist, psychologist

*School period*

- **Asperger syndrome**
- difficulties in communication and socialization
- social isolation and lack of dependence
- disengagement in social environment

# Education of children with special needs – school health service

## **Adjusted exam technology at state graduation**

### *School period*

- end of the primary school - emotional disturbances
- treatment of psychologists and psychiatrists
- findings of psychological testing demonstrated:
  - intellectually functioning in the lower average category
  - noticeable attention / concentration problems
  - elevated scale of anxiety, insecurity, low self-confidence, obsession, marginal depression, emotional lability, impulsiveness with self-destructive tendencies
  - suspicious identity formation
- hospital and ambulatory treatment by psychiatrist (pharmacy and psychotherapy)
- extended time for written state graduation exams



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



EUROPEAN AGENCY  
for Special Needs and Inclusive Education

Centar za odgoj i obrazovanje "Goljak" Zagreb



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
Ministarstvo za demografiju,  
obitelj, mlade i socijalnu politiku

The Ministry of Demographics, Family, Youth  
and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia



Centar za odgoj i obrazovanje "Slava Raškaj" Zagreb ustanova je u sustavu Ministarstva za demografiju, obitelj, mlade i socijalnu politiku, a bavi se pružanjem usluga djeci oštećena sluha, djeci uredna sluha s poremećajem govorno-jezične komunikacije, djeci s komunikacijskim teškoćama iz spektra autizma i pervazivnog razvojnog poremećaja te djeci s višestrukim teškoćama, od rođenja do 30. godine života.



Centar za odgoj i obrazovanje Vinko Bek

Podružnica Slobodština



Djelatnost

Podružnica Slobodština - dnevni centar za djecu s teškoćama u razvoju pruža kompleksnu rehabilitaciju djeci s intelektualnim teškoćama (IT)\* predškolske i osnovnoškolske dobi kroz **socijalne usluge rane intervencije**, psihosocijalne podrške, pomoći pri uključivanju u programe odgoja i redovitog obrazovanja (integracije) i usluge boravka, a **kroz programe stručnog poticanja** razvoja kognitivnih, funkcionalnih, komunikacijskih i socijalnih vještina, psihosocijalne rehabilitacije i komplementarno suportivnih terapija, programa odgoja i edukacijske rehabilitacije i odgojnog obrazovnog rada u predškolskom, osnovnoškolskom programu za djecu s većim teškoćama u razvoju.

Stručni tim podružnice pruža i uslugu savjetovanja i podršku obitelji djeteta s teškoćama u razvoju kroz Savjetovalište za roditelje/udomitelje.

Slijepi



Videći



Slabovidni





# Sveučilište u Zagrebu Ured za studente s invaliditetom



PRAVOBRANITELJ ZA  
OSOBE S INVALIDITETOM

10 GODINA



Republika Hrvatska  
Pravobranitelj za djecu

Pravobranitelj za djecu  
Republika Hrvatska



## HRVATSKI SAVEZ UDRUGA OSOBA S INTELEKTUALNIM TEŠKOĆAMA

CROATIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES  
OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES