

Program: **“WE READ TOGETHER WITH YOU:  
HOW TO RECOGNIZE READING DIFFICULTIES AND DYSLEXIA”**

Public Library „Fran Galovic“ in Koprivnica, Croatia launched a program called “We read together with you: how to recognize reading difficulties and dyslexia” . At that time Croatian Library Association - Section for Public Libraries and Commission for Library Services to People with Special Needs in cooperation with Croatian Dyslexia Association started to spread awareness on dyslexia in the Croatian society. The Koprivnica library was the first one in Croatia that quickly reacted to the need to introduce such service and set up a place for people with dyslexia. Target groups were and still are children and youth with dyslexia, their parents, teachers and other professionals who work with children. Aim is to help children and teenagers with dyslexia to face with problems and improve their reading skills, as well as to raise awareness of the local community on reading problems.



Picture 1. Easy book reading corner

Service has been established by creating a book corner in the Children's department containing of: (i) *collection of handbooks* in which the learning mechanism of reading and writing is explained in an easy and understandable way; (ii) *easy to read books*; (iii) *audio books* for kids and youth; (iv) *e-books* available on the Croatian Library for the Blind website; (v) *computer educational programs* for spelling and counting; (vi) *leaflets* - about recognizing the difficulties of reading and writing, improving of reading abilities with the help of friends, parents and librarians, information on rights of children with dyslexia, as well as lists of available literature and information.

Specific reading materials are borrowed approximately 70 times per year. At the beginning of 2016 librarians re-organized book corner with new signalization guidebook due to a checklist from extended and revised IFLA Guidelines for Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia. Besides creating book corner, since 2002 other activities have been also included into service for persons with dyslexia, for example campaign *“Read in a different way - listen to audio*

books", as well as lectures, panel discussions and workshops for parents, educators, teachers and others who work with children. Topics during *The European Week of Social Awareness on Dyslexia*. Topics were: *In the skin of a child with dyslexia* - instructions for kindergarten and school, what can parents do, *Difficulties in reading and writing / dyslexia and dysgraphia* - the causes and specific difficulties in teaching, *Self-confidence of a child with dyslexia*, *Unusual plays with usual materials* – How through play prepare child for reading and writing. Koprivnica Public Library continuously produces *newsletter* with list of new *audio books* for



**Picture 2. Interactive exhibition of didactic materials to encourage early literacy**

schools in local community. It also prepares *interactive exhibition* of didactic materials to encourage early literacy, reading and writing skills in cooperation with local kindergarten. It offers *training* for children and parents how to use e-books available in the Croatia Library for the Blind in Zagreb and organizes *exhibitions* with the aim of

informing and raising awareness of wide public on need of personf with dislexia. A

*list of useful links* for the persons with dyslexia can be retrieved from the website of the Koprivnica Public Library.