



AGENCY FOR  
MOBILITY AND  
EU PROGRAMMES



# Handbook 4 RSP readers



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## The Handbook for Reluctant, Struggling and Poor Readers

### Project information:

Millions of children throughout Europe enter secondary education able to read, but not well enough to do well in school. Their reading is hindered by obstacles they cannot overcome by themselves. They need the help of competent others, especially professional teachers. With specialized support, these young people can develop good, even excellent literacy skills. By identifying the need for explicit instruction and educational support on reading strategies together with psychological support to build up motivation and self-confidence, individual readers' needs will be carefully identified. Through methodology of metacognitive approach that gives students tools for comprehending and studying written texts, through motivational activities, best practices and methods will be implemented in order to define efficient ways to successfully promote reading to RSPs. These activities will allow students to interact, be creative and ultimately grasp key concepts from the motivational texts.

**Project data:**

Duration: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Target group: students aged 15–18

Project coordinator: Jelena Crnek, X. gimnazija "Ivan Supek"

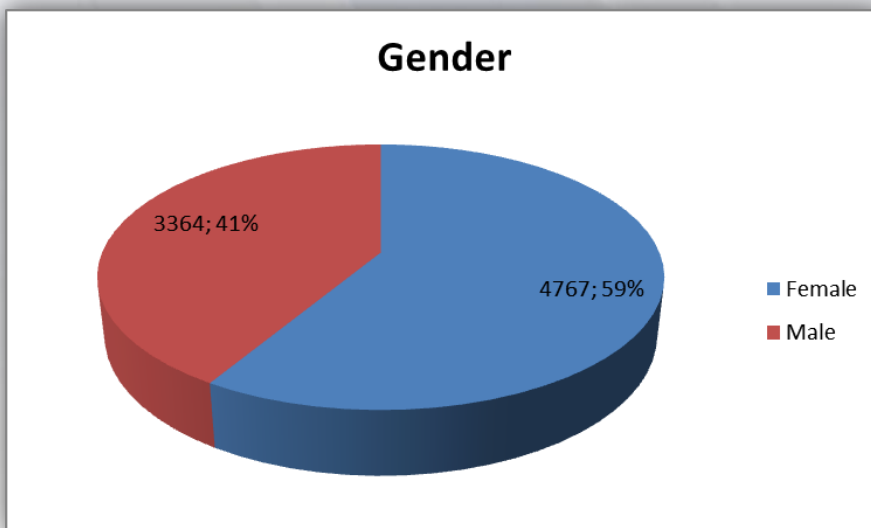
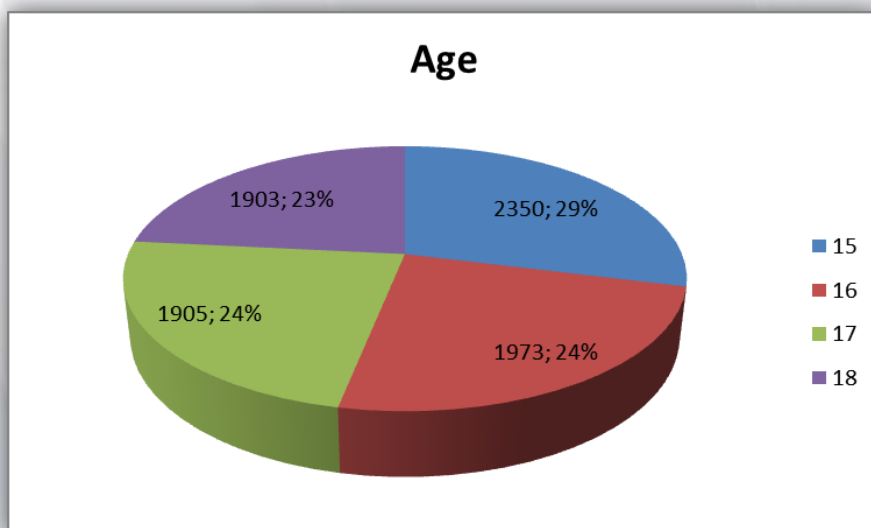
Partners: Liceo Scientifico Statale Seguenza (Messina, Italy), Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika (**Rožňava**, Slovakia), Střední škola Náhorní (Prague, Czech Republic), Education and Teacher Training Agency (Zagreb, Croatia), Aquilonis (Zagreb, Croatia), X. gimnazija "Ivan Supek" (Zagreb, Croatia)

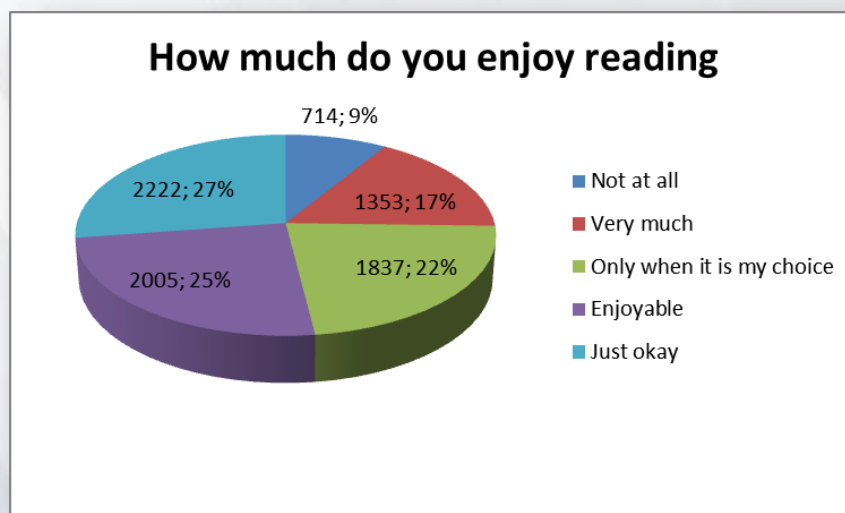
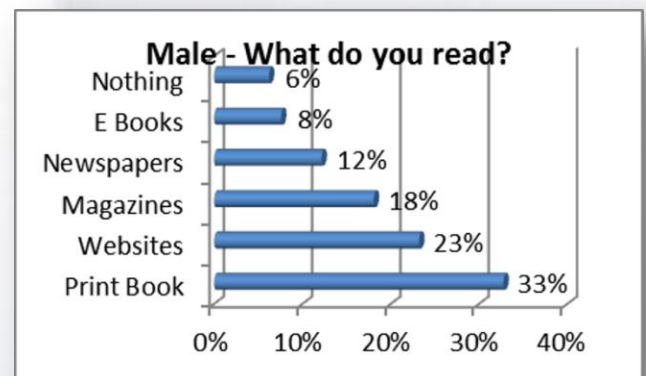
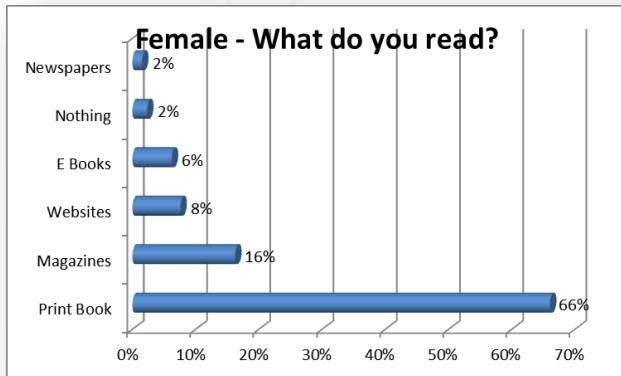
Internet: <http://handbook4rspreaders.org/>

## Activities

We started our project with a Kick-off meeting in Zagreb, where we discussed and planned all forthcoming activities and outputs. After the meeting, all partners fulfilled their administrative requirements, and we started working on our first activity. We reviewed the methods, objectives, policies and strategies carried out in our countries in order to establish the current situation when it comes to literacy issues and reading for targeted population of reluctant, struggling and poor readers. After that, each partner established a working group to conduct a survey containing targeted questions focusing on RSP readers, their interests, habits, intrinsic and extrinsic reading motivation, their competence and efficacy beliefs and their social interaction.

Our study included **8131** participants from various secondary schools in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Italia and Croatia. The survey was conducted during November and December 2016. We are in the process of finalizing the results in a joint report, but here's a preview:





Right after the survey, each country's project team started working on the selection of 10 engaging stories selected both from the contemporary and traditional literature corpus. They will cultivate a variety of themes, like teenager issues, problems of young people growing up in different societies and cultures, science fiction and fantasy themes, multiculturalism, inclusiveness, migrant situation. Those stories will be used to investigate students' motivation, understanding along with many other factors influencing individual attitude towards reading. In our next step, these stories will be used to investigate how different motivational activities, engagement strategies, genres, graphic and digital aids influence students' willingness to read. We will then prepare for the Prague mobility, where we will test our methodologies, developed on all previous research and conclusions. We will go through a series of workshops with students from all participating countries, after which we will derive the best practices and guidelines and start to prepare our Handbook.

## Kick-off meeting (Zagreb)

The project partners first met at the Kick-off Meeting in X. gimnazija “Ivan Supek” (10<sup>th</sup> Gymnasium “Ivan Supek”) in Zagreb on October 24, 2016. In addition to introducing the partners to each other, the meeting served as the *de facto* beginning of the project and was a chance to get all the project coordinators on the same page.



The meeting started with a warm welcoming speech by Željka Frković, headmistress of X. gimnazija, and project coordinator Jelena Crnek continued with a presentation of the project. Afterwards, project coordinators presented their institutions. After lunch break, Mrs. Crnek gave a long and detailed explanation of the project plan for the following three months. Helena Kusturin from

Aquilonis then talked about IT support, communication channels and dissemination. The last part of the meeting was a work session reserved for Q&A and resolving any issues.

## Project presentation at the Tesol seminar (Italy)

Italian school Liceo Scientifico “G. Seguenza” has been the official venue of the TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) teaching sessions for many years and has always held training courses for English teachers. A seminar was held on November 30th in order to spread and share the importance of the European projects envisaged by the Erasmus+ programme. The school's teachers, Maria Cristina Lento and Maria



Landi, focused their speech on a detailed presentation of the ongoing KA2 project “Handbook for RSP readers”, which was granted with the help of the EU funding. Teachers accentuated the important role of strategic partnership and cooperation of four European countries (Croatia, The Czech Republic, Italy, Slovakia) in order to achieve the greater goal, promote the exchange of good practices, intellectual outputs and internationalization.



## "Wall reading" competition in Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika (Slovakia)



In December 2016, Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika launched a three-round reading comprehension competition called "Wall Reading" which will last until June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The corridors of the school have been adorned with posters containing excerpts from various works in Slovak and English. Those who have no interest in participating get a great way to spend time between classes.

The participants have to read the excerpts and answer questions posted on the school's website. The competition aims to involve both avid readers and those who lack the time, the will or the skills to read – the RSP readers. If nothing else, students can pass the time between classes. And the winner can look forward to a great prize: an e-reader!



## Tearoom in Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika (Slovakia)



On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the students of the Gymnázium had an opportunity to experience a so-called Tearoom Day, organized by Mrs Szanyiová and Mrs Kalinová. This special, bilingual literary day was dedicated to a special book: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. At the beginning of the day the book was introduced by reading a part of it out loud in

Slovak and

another in English, followed by a discussion and the introduction of the author and the period in which the book was set. The students had to read two excerpts from the book – one in English and one in Slovak – and then work with the tasks prepared. The activity concluded with a lively discussion between teachers and students. In the end, the students had an opportunity to compare the excerpts with the film version. Of course, tea and biscuits were served as well!



## Croatian author Boris Škifić enthusiastically agreed to participate in the project (Croatia)



Boris Škifić is an author of warm Mediterranean stories depicting the process of growing up in difficult and isolated island conditions. He is one of the authors chosen for the Croatian selection of 10 literary works this project will address. As a professor at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gymnasium in Split, aware of the difficulties young readers meet, he enthusiastically agreed to participate in the project.

Meeting the author Boris Škifić (*The Story of Two Pines; The Flight of the Butterfly*)

## Meeting the principal of the County registry offices for public and school libraries in Split-Dalmatia County (Croatia)

Tomislav Stančić, Head of the County Civil Registry for public and school libraries in Split-Dalmatia County welcomed the project coordinator at the library. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and resulted in clear guidelines for further cooperation. As an inevitable entry point for young readers, libraries of this format will use targeted actions to promote reading and thus strengthen our project.



## Project coordinator held a lecture at the Expert meeting of the Croatian language professors (Croatia)



A professional meeting of the Croatian language professors "Contemporary literature text between context and learning" was held on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the Natural Sciences School "Vladimir Prelog" in Zagreb.

In addition to lectures by Majda Bekić Vejzović, Lydia Farkas and Krešimir Bagić, RSP project

manager Jelena Crnek spoke about RSP readers and gave an overview of the anticipated project results in the next two years. Built on the guidelines set by the EU (HGHL, 2012), the project's initiative will help secondary school teachers, librarians, professional services – in short, educators and school staff – in developing skills necessary to support RSP readers.



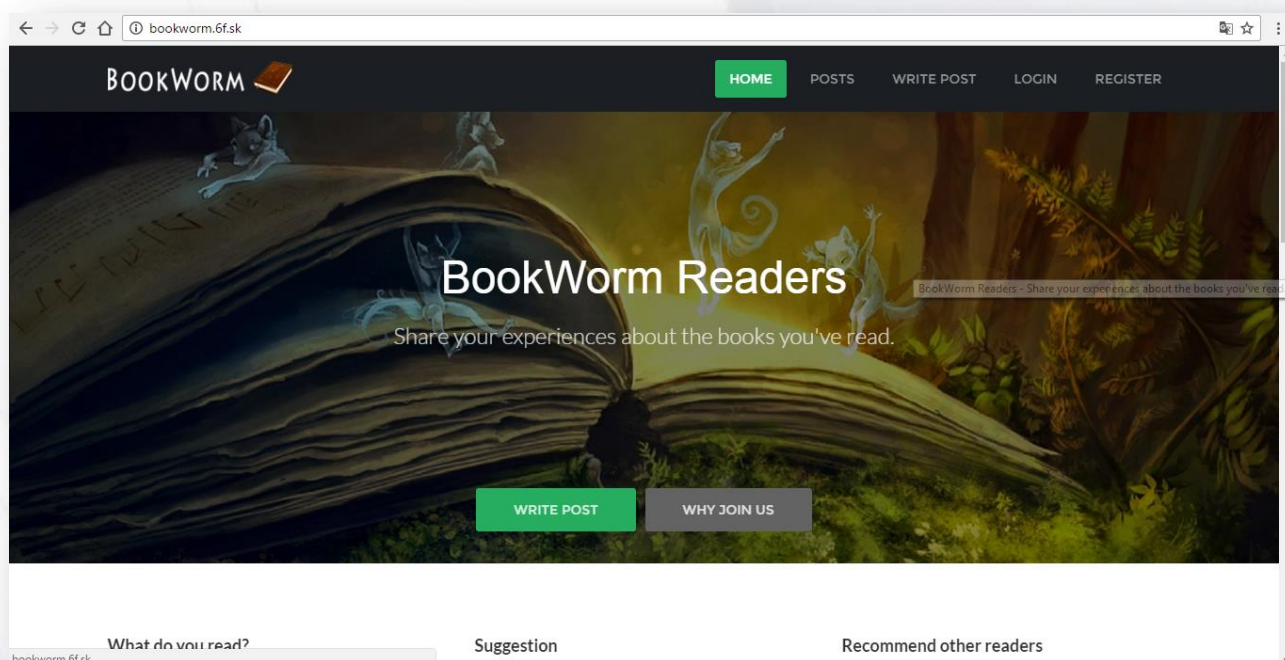
## Střední škola Náhorní from Czech Republic started a new school competition!



Střední škola Náhorní from Czech Republic started a new school competition for the rest of the school year named *Sing that song! ... in Czech!!!* Every month, teachers choose an English song after which students are supposed to find the lyrics online and interpret them in Czech following the published criteria. At the end of the month, the best interpretations are awarded and displayed in the school.



## BOOKWORM READERS (Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika, Slovakia)



Teachers and students of Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika created a blog called Bookworm Readers (<http://bookworm.6f.sk/>). The students from the school can use it to upload articles about the books they have read; the students from the partner schools can post too.

It will provide them with a great opportunity to share their feelings and ideas from the books they have just read and recommend books they have liked to their schoolmates. They can give short hints of the plot, but are encouraged not reveal the whole story. They should try to attract and motivate new bloggers with the feelings that arose while reading the books.

## Liceo “Seguenza” gets students hooked on reading (Italy)

With the purpose of arousing their students' eagerness to read, Italian project partner Liceo "Seguenza" devised some activities that could contribute to the project goals:

READING FOR FUN - a team competition based on questions about selected stories and authors

THE BOOKWORM CLUB - students discuss or analyze the reasons for liking or disliking the stories, providing examples and putting forward their different opinions, exchanging points of view with the audience

Furthermore, following Slovak partner's suggestions, Liceo decided to join their blog so that their students too could write articles, impressions and comments. Liceo also decided to set up a permanent book stall to enable students to exchange their spare books.

## Liceo Seguenza showcases its Erasmus+ projects (Italy)



In mid-December 2016 and late January 2017, Liceo organised three meetings with the families of prospective students in order to sponsor school activities and courses. Each event was attended by nearly three hundred people interested in the educational offer. On these occasions, informative talks were devoted to the presentation of the Erasmus+ projects granted to the school. Liceo had the opportunity to outline the main features and aims of “Handbook for RSP readers”, thus arousing great enthusiasm among the audience.

Likewise, the project drew the attention of the local press and several newspaper articles were published. They stressed the importance of the school's Erasmus+ projects while highlighting the Liceo Seguenza's international dimension.

Schools promotional video also included the presentation of two ongoing Erasmus+ projects: “Handbook for RSP readers” and “Embrace”. It was shown during the three meetings and broadcast by local TVs.





## X. gimnazija (Croatia) publishes an article about the project in the school magazine



napisati otkad i ona je namijenjena odgojnim. Poučavamo ovu literaturu ne zato što je ona sama po sebi prikladna za tinejdžere, već zato jer im u tom procesu težimo ponuditi kulturnu edukaciju" (Miličević, 2007).

U svjetlu svega navedenoga, X. gimnazija „Ivan Supek“ je u obliku 2017. godine prijavila Erasmus+ projekt naziva Priručnik za neodlučne, posrnule i loše čitatelje (Handbook for reluctant, struggling and poor readers). Projekt je prepoznala i odobrila Agencija za mobilnost i programe EU dodijeliti mu bespovratna sredstva i odobrenje za provođenje u razdoblju od dvije godine.

„Priručnik za neodlučne, posrnule i loše čitatelje“ definiše čitateljsku pismenost kao bilan između ljudskog prava na obrazovanje, prava na čitateljsku pismenost učenika i polazaca u dobi od 15. do 18. godine, pretpostavljeno ovim projektom, prevodi se u pravo na preporuku učenika čitateljske pismenosti. Nikada tko se bori s pismenošću, ne treba pustiti da se bori sam.

Obrađujući se konkretnim potrebama neodlučnih, posrnutih i loših čitatelja, ovaj projekt ima za cilj poboljšati vještine čitanja ove učenike populacije nudeći im pomoć u prevladavanju nedostataka povjerenja u vlastite sposobnosti i osobnu motiviranost. Izgrađen na empirijskim koje je postala EU, projekt nudi inovativne, inovativne i cjelovite pristup problemu kroz svoje konačne rezultate: u studiju slučaja, 3. Priručnik za neodlučne, posrnule i loše čitatelje (loših) motivacijske testove te empirijske i aktivnosti za promicanje čitanja; 3. Nastavni plan i program; 4. Digitalnu učionicu s priručnikom za nastavnika.

Inicijativa pokrenuta ovim projektom pomoći će i srednjoškolskim nastavnicima, knjižničarima, stručnim službama kao i edukatorima školskoga osoblja u razvoju ovih vještina potrebnih za podršku pri rješavanju čitateljskih nedlaka ove ciljne skupine.

Hrvatski i međunarodni partneri koji djeluju na ovom projektu treni šezest osoba iz razlika govornih i njihovom dugom preokupiranosti problemima pismenosti, adolescentnim čitateljima i promjenama novih tehnologija u okviru nastavnih procesa.

Partneri predstavljaju četiri europske zemlje: Slovačku, Republiku Češku, Italiju i Hrvatsku.

Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika, Slovačka

Liceo Scientifico Statale Segusina, Italija

Študentski škola Náhoni, Republika Češka

Agencija za odgoj i obrazovanje

Aquilonis d.o.o.

Kolektivnim naporom partnera, Vlada partnerskih zemalja, članove šire zajednice, sudjelujući u svih relevantnih dionika, projekt će se usredotočiti na stvaranje učinkovite strategije pismenosti u praksi. Slanjem snažne poruke u uho jer nemoj se otići mu je privući pozornost onih koji stvaraju obrazovne strategije i politike u zemljama sudionicima, ali i šire, na razini Europske unije.

Iskreno smo uvjereni da će, s knjižničarima, materijal proizveden u okviru ovog projekta pomoći ovim dionicima obrazovnih procesa, a poglavito onima kojima su oni istinski i namijenjeni, neodlučnim, posrnutim i lošim čitateljima.

### ERASMUS+

#### PRVA DISEMINACIJA PROJEKTA

### PRIRUČNIK ZA NEODLUČNE, POSRNULE I LOŠE ČITATELJE

Promocija romana Kristian Novak „Ciganin, ali najljepši“ (OceanMore). Učenicima prvih razreda X. gimnazije Ivan Supek na svojoj prvoj promociji. Predstavili smo i projekt Erasmus+ za poticanje čitanja, Handbook for reluctant, struggling and poor readers. Kristian je naš prvi odabrani autor. Urednik Bruno Lokar, kritičarka Katarina Luketić, prof. Neel Mindoljević, organizatorica posjeta i članica projektnih radnih skupina, i prof. Jelena Crnek, voditeljica projekta. Izvršne glumačke interpretacije. Lijepa večer, uz glazbu i druženje.



Promocija Erasmus+ projekta

Učenicima puni dojmova.

Evo njihovih prvih sms-ova :)

Profesorice, bilo nam je zadovoljstvo sudjelovati jer nismo ranije imali priliku vidjeti tako nešto uživo

Hvala vam na pozivu i laku noc

Jaj, profesorice, zaista je bilo divno, i poruka knjige i njegova misao i sve. Tematika nam nije bila tesko, pametniji smo mi nego sto izgledamo, razumijemo mi te stvari haha, hvala vam puno na pozivu

Lp

## Liceo Scientifico Statale Seguenza – Meet the author! (Italy)



On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, students of the Liceo Seguenza met writer Silvana La Spina to discuss her latest novel *L'uomo che veniva da Messina*. They had the opportunity to interview the author and hear her views on reading, the process of writing and the creative process in general.

Silvana La Spina has published a collection of tales entitled *Scirocco* and several novels: *Morte a Palermo* (1987), *L'ultimo treno da Catania* (1992), *Quando Marte è in Capricorno* (1994), *Un inganno dei sensi malizioso* (1995), *L'amante del paradiso* (1997), *Penelope* (1998), *La creata Antonia* (2001), *La continentale* (2014).

Her latest novel, *L'uomo che veniva da Messina*, is set in Messina in

1479. A man is dying in his home, after months of wandering around with a coffin containing a young woman. He is Antonello da Messina, the famous Sicilian painter, who has just come back from Venice, hit by the plague. He is well-known, but Sicily doesn't acknowledge his most-gifted offsprings and Antonello knows that. For this reason, he beseeches his old master Colantonio in his last frantic moments. That delirium makes him recall his miserable childhood and his acquaintance with the mysterious artists of Trionfo della Morte; he starts remembering his stay in Mantua, in Bruges, where he falls in love and learns the tricks of oil-painting, and, later, in Venice, where he finally finds fame and glory. However throughout his travels, only Grief, Van Eyck's bastard daughter will be his light and oil-painting will be his obsession.

The novel is a portrait of that age, marked by the thirst for glory and dominated by the Angel of Death.

