

The Handbook for Reluctant, Struggling and Poor Readers



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Last six months of the project were devoted to building a solid foundation for the project closure. Project partners worked on an international meeting that took place in Messina, finishing curriculum proposals, piloting methodologies and designing the structure and the final content of the manual.

The following pages will show you our teams in action, and we'll end this semi-annual newsletter with a brief overview of the piloting results. Enjoy the content and contact us with comments and suggestions on the project e-mail: partners@handbook4rspreaders.org

TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING

Project meeting was held in Messina in Italy, from 2nd to 4th of October. On the first day project coordinator



reviewed the project's current state and Interim report, followed by technical and administration issues and instructions by Aquilonis. Afternoon

was dedicated to individual partner's reports on methodologies developed for stories students and professors have previously selected.



Each partner school representative had a chance to share his motivation, ideas, workflow, difficulties and observations. Participants exchanged thoughts on the possibility of implementing these methodologies in their schools and national curriculums. Majority of teachers noticed resistance to change at some level so possible solutions to these obstacles were thoroughly discussed.

On the second day each partner presented the current curriculum and their personal proposal of a new curriculum, proposal which derived from all research and conclusions made during the project lifetime. In the discussion that followed, partners came to a mutual conclusion to do piloting of each methodology in each country. Following the plan developed on the third day, partners would test each other's methodologies in order to constructively criticize them, get feedback from students, determine

weak spots and areas of necessary improvement. Before the closure on the third day, when partners discussed and developed the handbook's structure, second day also dealt with plans for the following six months and possible solutions for the final project outputs.



[Take a look](#) at our meeting memories!

THE MOST INTERESTING SCHOOL LIBRARY ACTIVITY!

Slovak RSP project teachers participated in a Slovak national competition in the school library. The theme of the competition was: “The most interesting school library activity focused on the Day of Milan Rastislav Štefánik.” The whole competition was focused on the improvement of reading literacy and development of their reading skills. The teachers tried to motivate the 58 participating students towards reading and for that purpose they created 4 different competition checkpoints. In each of them the students learned about Slovak and world literary works. The atmosphere was relaxing so the

students were not afraid to express their opinion and were really keen from the beginning to the end. The activity lasted throughout the day and the students had an opportunity to look at the books from a different point of view. They were working hard all day long, but on the other hand it was a great day full of emotions and fun.



CZECH SCHOOL UNION PUBLISHED ABOUT OUR PROJECT

ŠKOLSTVÍ magazine published by the Czech School Unions presented our project in an article written by Pavlína Vočková. The article can be found on the page 7 of the [ŠKOLSTVÍ magazine](#).

zkušenosti nápady inspirace projekty záměry lekce příklady

Žádná cesta, jak přivést žáky ke knížkám, není špatná

Klesající zájem žáků o literaturu je problém, se kterým se setkáváme ve všech humanitně zaměřených předmětech. Na čarovnou moc povinné četby už nikdo nevěří, a tak mnozí učitelé hledají účinnější způsoby, jak žáky ke knížkám přivést.

Pokoušíme se o to i u nás ve Střední škole Náhorní v Praze. Do koncepce naší školy patří podpora vztahu k psanému i mluvenému slovu. Bereme si za cíl, aby se naši absolventi dokázali orientovat v tom, co čtou, a zároveň dokázali slovně vyjádřit své myšlenky, postoje a pocity. Jinak řečeno, je pro nás důležité připravit je na roli konzumenta i tvůrce textů.

Tvůrčí psaní povinné

Jedním z prvních kroků, které jsme učinili, bylo zavedení

považuje za natolik důležitou, že se rozhodl zapojit naši školu do dvouletého mezinárodního projektu na její podporu. Koordinátorem tohoto projektu je chorvatská škola X. gymnázia Ivan Supek a další partneři jsou ze Slovenska a Itálie.

V září loňského roku začaly zúčastněné školy pracovat na obsahu příručky pro učitele žáků se slábným vztahem ke čtenářství, která je určena pro použití v hodinách anglického jazyka. Nejdivně byly vybrány vhodné povídky a romány



pětiminutový workshop, jehož aktivity pak ostatní prostřednictvím dotazníků hodnotili.

Cím kratší, tím lepší

„Už z bezprostředních reakcí

zážitek přímo s tvůrcem textu a zároveň nahlédnout do spisovatelovy práce. Předvedl jsem jim svůj svět fantazie a oni se nadšeně vydali na literární cestu smyšlenými kraji. Po malé chvíli



One week long programme was mainly focused on language development and readership, which is a mutual interest for both the Czech and Slovakian participants. All the activities were creative which resulted in really high student engagement.

CROATIAN TEACHERS MAGAZINE TOLD A STORY OF OUR PROJECT

SECOND MEETING OF SLOVAKIAN AND CZECH STUDENTS

At the end of November there was the second meeting of Czech and Slovakian students who are part of the project. Unlike May, the roles of host and guest were reversed, so the Czech students, during the long train ride, could only wonder what is waiting for them in Rožňava.

Lektira na novi

način

Především podstatou projektu je vytvoření prostředí, které by umožnilo žákům se seznámit s literaturou a zároveň se zapojit do tvorby. Projekt je zaměřen na rozvoj čtenářských dovedností a na podporu literárního zájmu. V rámci projektu budou žáci číst a diskutovat o různých literárních dílech. Projekt je financován z prostředků Evropské unie a Ministerstva školství, mládeže a tělesné výchovy ČR.

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Croatian publisher Školska knjiga devoted two pages to our project in the autumn edition of the 5+ Magazine for teachers, especially emphasizing the last completed activity - field research. They highlighted the results of the research conducted by Mirela Barbaroša-Šikić for the project on behalf of AZOO, stating the key information

received from the participants. Review the review by clicking on the [link](#)!

PROJECT AS THE MAIN THEME OF X. GYMNASYUM'S NEWSPAPER



Student newspaper group from the X. Gymnasium in Zagreb decided to dedicate their January newspaper edition to our project. They approached the subject analytically and covered project's main concerns and goals through 16 pages of highly engaging content. The article starts [at page 38](#)!

PROJECT PRESENTED AT CROATIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION

Jelena Crnek, Project Coordinator from the X. Grammar School Zagreb and Mirela Barbaroša-Šikić from the Croatian Education Agency have presented a project on the fourth channel of Croatian Radio-Television in a television show called Guide through EU funds. They were joined by the students of the X. gymnasium who were proudly presenting the impressions of the project activities

in which they participated and reflected at the effects that the project had on them and their classmates so far.



HOW INTERNET INFLUENCES YOUNG READERS

Ph.D. Predrag Pale, director of Aquilonis, talked about the introduction of the Internet into Croatia in the town library in Pregrada. He recalled the events of the early 90s and the persistence needed to introduce major changes in society that still do not understand their usefulness. The lecture ended with a talk about our project, emphasizing the importance of reading for children and



young people who are growing up in time dominated by technologies and the Internet. He highlighted the

positive and negative impacts of the internet on the high school population and encouraged participants to communicate in this everyday life on this subject and work with young people by using the methods our project participants designed to encourage reading in young people using new technologies.

PROJECT PRESENTATION DURING STATE EXPERT CONFERENCE



State Expert Conference - European Year of Cultural Heritage Director of Aquilonis, Predrag Pale, Ph.D., participated in a State Expert Conference "European Year of Cultural Heritage". conference gathered around 200 participants in Croatian State Archives, mainly teachers of all general subjects, professional associates, educators and principals of elementary and secondary schools of the Republic of Croatia. The conference covered various fields of art (literature, architecture, film, music, art history, theatre ...) and new technologies. Lecturers were distinguished

experts from particular areas whose insights are relevant from a theoretical and practical perspective.



While giving a talk on different ways cultural heritage is being perceived (Is cultural heritage expense or an investment?), professor Pale also talked about the current problems of young readers and their reluctance to read classical literary works. He presented the Handbook for RSP readers and offered all participants to join our cause.

WHY READING REALLY CAN'T BE BORING!

Aquilonis represented Handbook for RSP readers during 'Days of Free Teaching' in the Economy and Administration School in Bjelovar. Days of Free Teaching are a series of lectures and workshops led by respected experts from the economy, science and culture. Workshop prepared for the 'Days of Free Teaching' was named "Myths and fairytales workshop – why reading really can't be boring!". It was held for 50 attendees and aimed at

bringing students closer to reading, developing their imagination and a sense of self-development achievable by conclusions and new knowledge derived from literary works.



Students confirmed overall low motivation for reading but are attracted to the idea of interpreting a few books by their own choice, besides their obligatory literature.

INSPIRE YOURSELF!

Ph.D. Predrag Pale held a lecture at the conference "Methodology of teaching in Informatics", organized by Croatian Education Agency. He devoted the last part of his lecture to our project, directing present



teachers of primary and secondary schools in development of their teaching methods, to look for inspiration among the teaching methodologies offered on the project web site. We're sure you already know where to look, but here's [a link](#) just in case!

THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES HAPPENED BELOW THE RADAR!

Project teachers really have their hands full of work. Piloting is just finished, curriculum proposals must be delivered in its final form, the last project meeting is closer, and the organization of final conferences has started. Pilot activity, i.e. mutual methodology testing, was one of the most important project activities to the partners. It was conducted with the aim of refining the previously produced methodologies and measuring their impact on the students. Methodologies have been developed for each teacher who wants to improve their teaching methods, raise student activity and read excitement, to have detailed instructions and useful tools to encourage and motivate their students, especially RSP readers. With preparation, language adaptation, mutual consultation and implementation, evaluation and self-evaluation, this activity lasted for two months and we present parts of its results from the comprehensive report of the Croatian Education and Training Agency. A full report is available on our web site.



[Website](#)



[Facebook page](#)



[Youtube channel](#)

Project partners:

X. gimnazija "Ivan Supek" (Zagreb, Croatia)

Agencija za odgoj i obrazovanje (Zagreb, Croatia)

Aquilonis (Zagreb, Croatia)

Liceo Scientifico Statale Seguenza (Messina, Italy)

Gymnázium Pavla Jozefa Šafárika (Rožňava, Slovakia)

Střední škola Náhorní (Prag, Czech Republic)

Newsletter created by project partner: [Aquilonis](#)