

# Language: mine, yours, ours; intercultural coexistence.



The intercultural library collection  
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## Location

The Municipality of Kamnik

## Country

Slovenia

## Short summarizing description

The project was created due to the need to ensure equal accessibility to book collections and material in the mother tongue for members of nations of the former Yugoslavia. In order to heighten language awareness and migrant inclusion into the society, we decided to jointly implement a project for the promotion of intercultural dialogue, language awareness and reading literacy. In the library we arranged an intercultural book collection, and a mobile book collection in the kindergarten. Together we carried out various events for the promotion of collections, learning about different cultures, exchanging good practices, consulting on the involvement of migrants in education, and also conducting the Slovene language courses to foreigners. In addition to the staff in the library and kindergarten, the migrants who actively participate and represent themselves are included in the events. With the project we participated in the project Public Libraries 2020: Libraries Connect.

## Key Terms

Equal opportunities in culture

## Context and background, Which problems/challenges does your measure try to solve/cope with?

The project was created in cooperation with Zasebni vrtec Zarja (The Zarja Private Kindergarten) and Knjižnica Franceta Balantiča Kamnik (The Library France Balantič Kamnik). For the purposes of library collection policy, a demographic analysis was made that showed the re-immigration of non-Slovenes, especially from the former Yugoslavia. Many children of migrants were included in the Zarja Private Kindergarten. The library and the kindergarten have already cooperated in the area of mobile collection. Together we wanted to create conditions and opportunities for integrating migrants into a society through our events, to create programs for acquiring linguistic skills for social participation and to strengthen the cultural awareness of migrants.

## Which are the key objectives of your measure?

1. Access to the collection of material in Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian, Macedonian, and Albanian languages 2. Increasing the social and cultural inclusion of non-Slovenes 3. Learning and accepting migrant cultures in the environment of The Zarja Private Kindergarten and the Library France Balantič Kamnik 4. Providing free learning of the Slovenian language for the empowerment of migrants 5. Transfer of knowledge and good practice to other stakeholders in the field of education and culture

## Who are the main target groups and beneficiaries of your measure?

Target groups: - non-Slovenes, especially families with young children - young migrants, who are involved in education, and who need additional help in conquering the language - residents of Kamnik: intercultural dialogue

## Which actions have already been implemented and which results have been achieved so far?

Intercultural library collection: 1315 units of which 315 units of materials for children and 232 units of technical material. Slovene language courses for migrants: 123 participants at 390 meetings. 2016: cooperation in the international project Public Libraries 2020: libraries connect. Within the framework of the project a promotional film entitled Learning the Slovene Language for Foreigners was created about personal story of one of the participants. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnUP1mpwzCY&t=15s> Events: 5 intercultural events with tales, music and cuisine of the migrants and their performances in the public. There were 500 participants and 20 performers. November 2015: conference Interculturality in kindergartens, schools and libraries. 15 performers, 87 participants from schools, kindergartens and libraries. Organizers: the Library France Balantič Kamnik and the Zarja kindergarten. Lectures and presentations for teachers and librarians.

## Which were the main problems and challenges you were/are facing when implementing the project and how did/do you (try to) overcome them?

The main problem were the regular use of the library collection, i.e. reading. The events were always well attended, as well as free language courses, while regular reading has not yet become a daily lifestyle. We notice that materials are borrowed by users, who were already previously members of the library. Given that the formation of a positive attitude towards reading is a long-term process, we continue to insist on the free Slovene language courses and the events with which we promote intercultural dialogue, learning about other cultures.

## Link to website

<http://www.kam.sik.si/Dejavnosti-in-projekti/Jezik-moj-tvoj-na%C5%A1>

## Starting date

2013-03-10

## Duration

48

## Regional scale

1 - local (one municipality)

## Other involved partners

Zasebni vrtec Zarja, Perovo 28, 1241 Kamnik

## Contact person

Library France Balantič Kamnik

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## Category 1, Managing social change

Migrants are involved in the performing of the cultural programme, which affects their acceptance into society, thus raising the level of social and cultural integration of migrants. This enables us to learn about and respect other cultures and to engage in dialogue with other cultures brought with them by migrants and thus enriching our culture with their culture. All activities strengthen the offer of local services for the empowerment of vulnerable target groups and contribute in the long-term to their better economic position, empowering them access to the labor market and reducing their dependence on social transfers, while facilitating the integration of migrants into local life and promoting tolerance of the local population.

## Category 2: Integrating migrants into the local/,regional labour market

By learning the Slovene language, participants gain knowledge and opportunities for social participation and inclusion in work processes. Often participants begin their education without prior knowledge, they learn the basics in courses, which is a prerequisite for inclusion in the labor market.

## Category 3: Improving land use, nature ,protection and regional development

All activities are aimed at improving the competences of the target groups and contributing to better knowledge of the host language, greater visibility, better communication skills and literacy, which indirectly contributes to their ability to adopt mature, even sustainable (in terms of nature protection and regional development) decisions.

## Category 4: Supporting change in the local / ,regional dual education system

Young migrants, who are involved in education, and who need additional help in conquering the language are included in the Slovene language courses. The courses include young parents who can then provide their children with learning assistance. Through these activities, migrants are guaranteed a smooth entry into the existing education system and local life. Access to material and reading while nurturing language awareness are the basis for a successful learning path.

## Category 5, PR impact and awareness raising

The effects of the activity Learning Slovene for foreigners were measured. Participants are able to handle practical issues (administrative affairs, at the doctor's, parental meetings, shopping, etc.). These effects were measured for Albanian women, as part of the Public Libraries 2020 project: libraries connect. The project was presented to the Slovenian public on the Day of the Libraries at the round table on November 2015 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnUP1mpwzCY>). The project was presented in a television programme for migrants. The media broadcasted a lot about the project and it was attended by distinguished representatives of local authorities and the Minister of Culture. We also informed the expert public about the project. The project was stressed as the argument of the IBBY award for Matična knjižnica Kamnik (now the Library France Balantič Kamnik). For the purpose of promotion and public communication there were public and ceremonial donations of books by embassies.

## Category 6, Innovative dimension

The project is innovative, as there are no special collections and related events in other libraries and local communities, and especially no cooperation with the kindergarten and the library. The innovation is demonstrated primarily through intersectoral connectivity in order to implement various forms (events, consultations, courses) for the same targets.

## Category 7, Transferability

The project was implemented according to the following basis and methods: responsiveness of actors (library and kindergarten) to the needs of the local community; connection of actors at the time when needs of the local community residents are identified; involvement of representatives of local and national authorities; involvement of the target population in a broad sense: children and adults; active participation of all participants (actors and target population); constant multi-faceted cooperation of all stakeholders in the project; continuous evaluation of the process by actors. Sustainability and portability of the project are simple and useful for various environments. The collection can be created by each public library, thus ensuring public access to materials in different languages. For intersectoral cooperation, it is possible to attract the cooperation of decision-makers at local and national levels.

## Further Information



Learning of Slovene language with group of albanian woman from Kosovo.  
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[770-odprtje-medkulturne-knjizne-zbirke.jpg — 365Kb](#)

An invitation to open an intercultural collection

[Program\\_dop.pdf — 128Kb](#)

a conference on the language integration of immigrants in kindergartens and schools - presentation of project (Jelka Golob, Breda Podbrežnik)