



Croatian Down Syndrome Association

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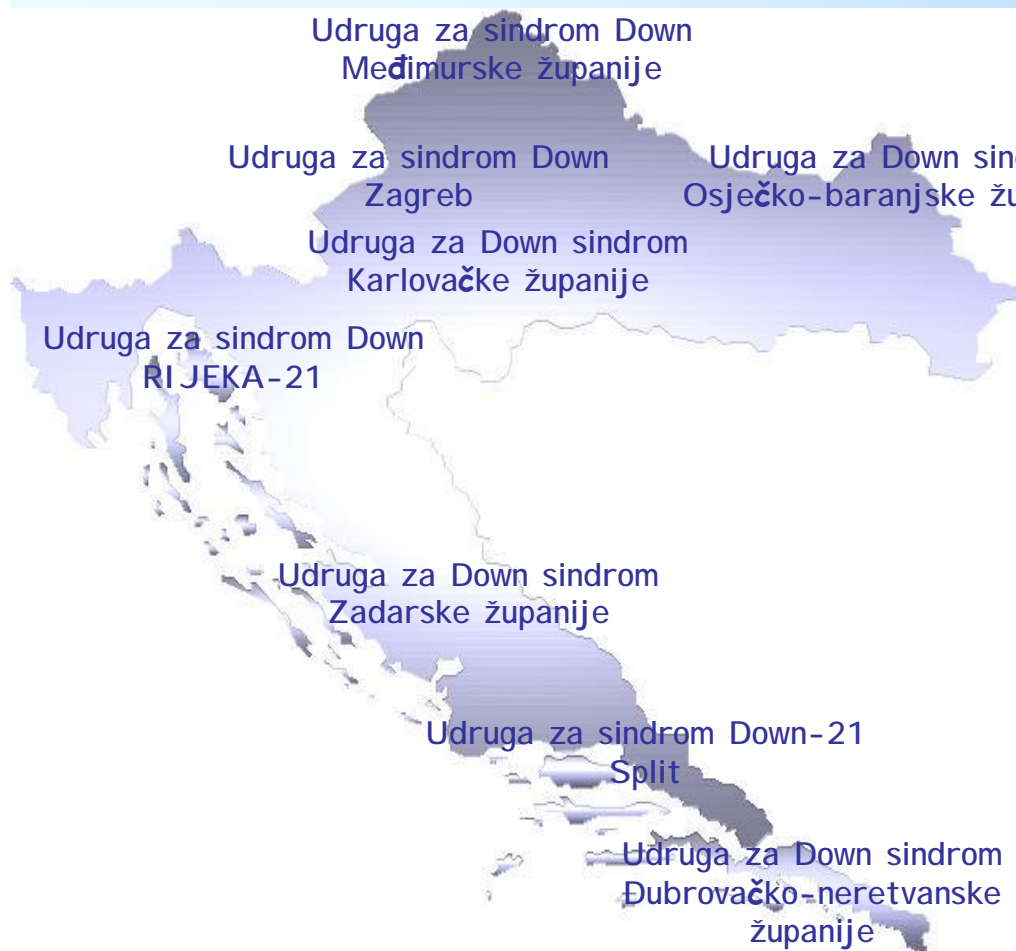
Croatia

Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Čakovec,
Karlovac, Zadar, Osijek, Dubrovnik



www.zajednica-down.hr

Information about people with Down syndrome in Croatia



- around 1450 persons with Down Syndrome in Croatia
- eight (8) local Down Syndrome Associations in HZDS
- around 440 persons in local associations



Information about people with Down syndrome in Croatia

Years - range	M or F		Total	%
	M	F		
0-4	89	93	182	12,6
5-9	118	122	240	16,6
10-14	141	101	242	16,7
15-19	93	85	178	12,3
20-24	70	66	136	9,4
25-29	48	56	104	7,2
30-34	52	51	103	7,2
35-39	42	45	87	6
40-44	27	30	57	3,9
45-49	22	32	54	3,7
50-54	13	12	25	1,7
55-59	10	14	24	1,7
60-64	2	6	8	0,6
65+	2	4	6	0,4
Ukupno	729	717	1446	100

- there are around 1450 persons with DS in Croatia (status on 20.4.2010. from HZJZ)
- around 60% are 0-20 years old



Information about people with Down syndrome in Croatia

Diagnoses	Number of persons with DS
Mental retardation (IQ 35-50)	512
Heart problems	380
Speech development problems	335
Eyes difficulties	251
Mental retardation (IQ 20-35)	243
Mental retardation (IQ 50-70)	237
Ear difficulties	74
Epilepsy	48
Mental retardation (IQ 0-20)	49

- diagnoses
- impact on the education



Information about people with Down syndrome in Croatia

Education of children and young adults with Down syndrome -1/5

- kindergarten – in most places inclusion is going on right way and children with Down syndrome are very welcome
- early intervention is partly implemented



Information about people with Down syndrome in Croatia Education of children and young adults with Down syndrome -2/5

- inclusion in primary school – big change since 2008. year - new education standard open possibility to have learning support assistant in the class for children with learning difficulty
- inclusion in secondary school – just few children



Information about people with Down syndrome in Croatia Education of children and young adults with Down syndrome - 3/5

- primary schools in Croatia could have:
 - full inclusion
 - partly inclusion
- most children still in special schools



Information about people with Down syndrome in Croatia Education of children and young adults with Down syndrome -2/5

∅ full inclusion

∅ 2008. – 7 children (1st - 4th class)

∅ 2009. – 16 children (1st - 5th class)

∅ 2010. – 30 children (1st - 6th class)



Information about people with
Down syndrome in Croatia
Education of children and young adults
with Down syndrome - 5/5

∅ open issues

- ∅ full regulation still not in place**
- ∅ local authorities not enough opened and not enough supportive (financial part specially)**
- ∅ learning support assistant is not fully recognized (like job/like full time job)**
- ∅ education of teachers and learning support assistants is not in place**

Information about people with Down syndrome in Croatia Job possibilities

- Split – DM (1)
- Zadar – Baumax (1)
- Zagreb – private company (2), still discussion with DM and Baumax (1)



Information about people with Down syndrome in Croatia Independency, Political rights

- for most people with DS – their life is not independent (in institution mostly, some with parents, some in inclusion)
- they don't have political rights
- with 18 years they are loosing work ability
- they have monthly some amount of money according to the government social financial support



WHO AND WHERE WE ARE

- Croatian Down Syndrome Association (Hrvatska zajednica za Down sindrom, HZDS) was founded 2005 in order to align and integrate the operation of several local Down Syndrome Associations in the Republic of Croatia.
- local associations established from 1999-2008
- CDSA association of higher level – work of CDSA in connection with three ministries (health and social, education, family)
- no employees yet (in plan), just volunteers
- Nationwide organizational structure – 8 local associations
- Annual budget and main funding sources – 2008 and 2009 - 23.000,00 EUR (projects with Government 2/3, donation 1/3), this year will be around 10.000,00 EUR



WHO AND WHERE WE ARE

- Mission:
 - improve the health and social care of people with Down syndrome,
 - improve education of children and young adults with Down syndrome,
 - ensure their proper integration into the society,
 - provide people with Down syndrome with job opportunities,
 - initiate and support scientific and other research related to the Down syndrome.



OUR ACTIVITIES

- Target groups (disability and age)
 - from birth – support to the families
 - from birth till 7 years – early intervention, support for the kindergarten
 - from 7 - 15 years – school preparation and integration
 - from 12 – 20 years – adolescent age
- Target groups
 - experts in hospitals, kindergarten, schools



OUR ACTIVITIES

- prompt the introduction of the legislative provisions in the interest of persons with Down syndrome and to act on their behalf;
- cooperation with organizations that can and will act on behalf of persons with the Down syndrome, their parents or legal guardians;
- cooperation with authorities, production and service companies and in particular with health care and welfare institutions, the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations in the Republic of Croatia and abroad;
- cooperation with any other organizations that take care of the sick or disabled persons in the Republic of Croatia and abroad;
- cooperation with universities and counseling centers;
- development and improvement expert's competencies regarding Down syndrome;
- establishment and maintain direct contacts with persons with Down syndrome;
- establishment and maintain direct contacts with families of the persons with Down syndrome, people who take care of them, medical experts, etc.
- provide relevant information to all interested parties via printed and/or audio-visual media, lectures and other media;
- organizing courses, educational and recreational programs for children and adults with Down syndrome.



OUR ACTIVITIES

- preparation of book (parents and experts)
 - „Down sindrom – vodič za roditelje i stručnjake” (Down syndrome - guide for parents and experts) – 8500 copies
- preparation and translation of books from Down syndrome Education International
 - „Obrazovanje osoba s Down sindromom - Pregled” (Education of individuals with Down syndrome – Overview) – 1700 copies
 - „Razvoj govora i jezika kod djece s Down sindromom (5-11 godina)” (Speech and language development for children with Down syndrome (5-11 years)) – 1000 copies
 - plan for translation five more books
- DVD production with Croatia Radio and Television – „Djeca ljubavi” – inclusion of children in kindergarten and primary school – 3000 copies
- presentation for the teachers, local authorities, families
- education for teachers and learning support assistants
- financial support through project (work payment for learning support assistant)



OUR ACTIVITIES

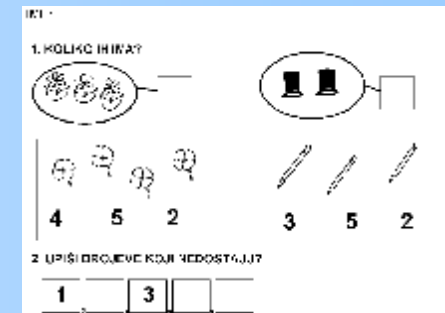
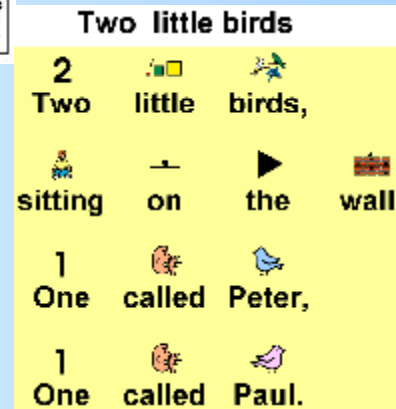
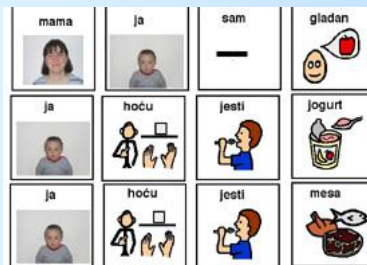
- Innovation policy (pilot projects developed, strong points)
 - **early intervention** (Functional Learning, listening program, step by step, teaching reading,... speech and other therapists)





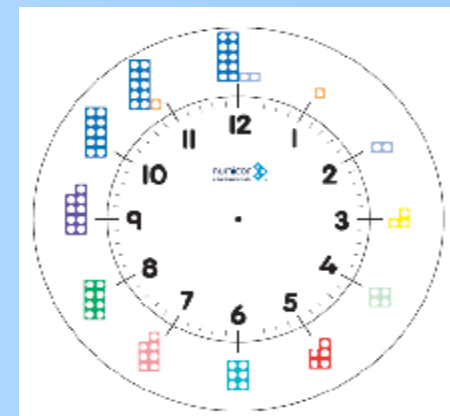
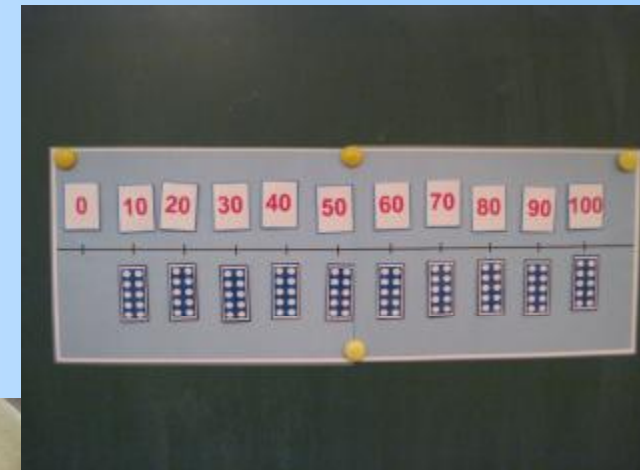
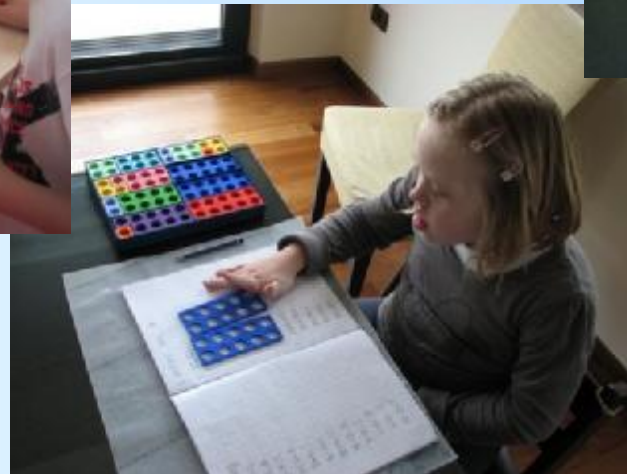
OUR ACTIVITIES

- Innovation policy (pilot projects developed, strong points)
 - **Boardmaker with Speaking Dynamically** (Picture Communication Symbols) – we have 30 pieces (one piece – 800 EUR) – families and associations are using for vocabulary development, speech development support, preparation of materials for the school



OUR ACTIVITIES

- Innovation policy (pilot projects developed, strong points)
 - **Numicon** (mathematic) – very much used for the school preparation and in the school



OUR ACTIVITIES

- Past and present activities funded by the European Commission as promoter and as partner
- Not yet, but we are very interesting specially in area of:
 - education of teachers, learning support assistants, parents,
 - improving conditions and possibilities during period of formal education
 - support for local activities (early intervention, etc.),
 - development and translations of materials and books,
 - improving conditions and possibilities for persons with Down syndrome after formal education

Count on us!

