



# **Education centre of the City of Ljubljana and Centre Janez Levec**

***AIM: Teacher training and ongoing education, professional and personal development of teachers, service providers and qualified personnel for children with special education needs and their families.***

## **The forms of education:**

**Programs of professional training that is practice based and meant for practice.**

- The intensive training programme for 20 special education teachers – graduates of special education for children with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, behavioral disorders - as well as graduate pedagogues; duration: 2 years, 12 teaching hours per week (4+4+4) – 840 hours all together**
- Seminars for 2000 teachers and educators in Ljubljana in mainstream schools and kindergartens, 2 - 8 hour lectures**
- Consultant services. Individual consultations for teachers and families of children with special needs, direct or indirect services for individual children together with support for families and teachers as a part of the intensive training programme for 20 participants**
- School for parents – practical and emotional support for families. Individual consulting, seminars, e-consulting (online) and telephone consulting for 1000 parents**
- E-consulting and telephone consulting for teachers**
- Publications. Handbooks and other learning materials**

## *The reasons for setting up the educational centre*

**There are two main reasons for setting up the centre:**

**-first, the government has not established any institution to help teachers in new circumstances yet although it was foreseen in its documents and**

**-second, the new trends in the development of special education that reflect in:**

- the inclusion of children with special needs into mainstream school settings;**
- the inclusion of parents into education and schooling of their children with SEN;**
- the development of new strategies of teaching and methods of work with children with special needs that is scientifically and professionally supported;**
- learning that collaboration with parents and families is one of the key challenges of each kindergarten or school;**
- Educational professionals are faced with new tasks that demand different skills; competences and knowledge. The knowledge transfer to parents and other professionals includes different methods of work that demand a wide conceptual knowledge and the ability to transmit it in accordance with special needs of an individual child.**

## *The need for ongoing education and support is reflected in legislation and other national documents*

**- The White Paper on Education in the Republic of Slovenia** (Krek, Metljak, 2011, p. 279)

„Different educational professionals were not given enough options of adequate education or continuing education. In consequence all the conditions for each child with special needs to be taught by a teacher with adequate knowledge who would adjust the teaching according to the child ‘s individual needs were not created.“

**- The Placement of Children with Special Needs Act (2011)**

Article 20 (institutions that carry out professional tasks)

- organising and realizing continuing professional education and training of professional workers,
- organising and realizing seminars for parents of children with special educational needs (SEN).



Photo: Nada Žgan