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, intelectual 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).