



THE WORK ON THE STAIRS PROJECT WAS PRESENTED IN PRIMOSTEN

At the beginning of April, project STAIRS - "Stakeholders Together Adapting Ideas to Readjust Local Systems to Promote Inclusive Education" was presented at a scientific conference of Croatian educational rehabilitators in Primosten, Croatia.

The abbreviated name of the project - acronym STAIRS represents the actual steps in to the innovative approach to inclusive education. It is finance from Erasmus+ K3 programme and Varaždin County (Administrative Department for Education, Culture and Sports) participates as a partner.

The objectives of the project include promoting inclusive education and improving the education of vulnerable social groups, supporting teachers, principals and other employees in educational institutions. Beneficiaries of this project are also students who face daily problems of inequality in their school environment due to various social reasons.

In the framework of three years of the project (February 1, 2019 - January 31, 2022, plus 4 months of extension due to the COVID pandemic), partners where propose recommendations for a new innovative approach to inclusive education in schools in partner regions and countries. That will promote and support education and upgrading training for teachers who work with students with special needs. In addition, it will help other students with disadvantages, which makes their learning and progress results weaker, to better adapt to the obstacles, be better understand, and accept by the whole community.

During the work on the project, experts working group prepared an analysis of the existing education system and identified some problems of inclusion in the Croatian education system. Some of the identified problems in Croatia are still inadequate legislation and lack of social empathy for students with various difficulties, insufficient lifelong education of teaching staff to work with children with disabilities and lack of parental participation in the educational process. Parents are not involved in activities for a number of reasons (time, insufficient financial support or insufficient education). Work with gifted children, who very often go unnoticed through the education system, is also highlight.

Members of national experts groups also had the opportunity to participate in two study visits organized by the Irish and Portuguese partners. During the visit (online), participants have been introduce to the most important elements of inclusion in Irish and Portuguese schools.

The members of our expert group are: Zlatko Bukvić ("Tomislav Špoljar" - Center for Education), Marijana Dodigović and Irma Dračić (Varaždin School of Mechanical and Traffic Engineering), Silvija Ladić Fischer (Varaždin County), Nikolina Žajdela Hrustek and Valenina Kirinić (Faculty of Organization and of Informatics, Varaždin).