



Effects of Prevention Programs based on the Results of Research that Examines Risk and Protective Factors for Behavioral Problems in Town of Velika Gorica, Croatia

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Identity Card of the Town of Velika Gorica
Status: Child Friendly Town
70 000 inhabitants – 60 settlements
700 newborns annually – positive natural increase
4 kindergartens – 2300 children
7 primary schools – 6000 pupils
1 art school – 350 pupils
4 secondary schools – 2000 pupils

Planning prevention behaviour disorders children and youth (2010.) based on results of research Risk and protective factors assessment to plan children's and youth activities in order to propose priorities for preventive actions in Town of Velika Gorica. Project leader: Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Research Zagreb (ph. D. Valentina Kranželić, ph. D. Martina Ferić Šlehan).
Questionnaire: **Questionnaire for assessment risk and protection in community** (Hawkins, Catalano, 2003).
Key area for intervention: violence, drinking and access to alcohol among youth, low level of social skills, family as strong protection factor.

Prevention programs for adults and children and the number of beneficiaries in town

2011.

Working with Adults	Number	Working with Children	Number
Education for Kindergarten teachers	60	CAP program – the prevention of violence among children for 8 year olds	700
		The prevention of violence program for 11 – 12 year olds	200
Education for Parents	200	Nonviolent resolving of conflicts for 15 – 17 year olds	100
Education for School Teachers	20	The prevention of alcohol abuse for 15 – 17 year olds	1000
		The prevention of juvenile pregnancy for 14 – 16 year olds	1000



2012.

Working with Adults	Number	Working with Children	Number
Education for Kindergarten teachers	60	CAP program – the prevention of violence among children for 8 year olds	700
		The prevention of violence program for 11 – 12 year olds	200
Education for Parents	200	Nonviolent resolving of conflicts for 15 – 17 year olds	100
Education for School Teachers	40	The prevention of alcohol abuse for 15 – 16 year olds	1000
		The prevention of juvenile pregnancy for 14 – 16 year olds	1000
		The prevention of violence in adolescent relationships	1000
		The program of positive development for children in risk	20

2013.

Working with Adults	Number	Working with Children	Number
Education for Kindergarten teachers	60	CAP program – the prevention of violence among children for 8 year olds	700
		A school of social skills for youth in risk situations	200
Education for Parents	200	The program of positive development for children risk situations	35
Education for School Teachers	40	The program for prevention of the gambling and betting for 15 – 16 year olds	100
		The prevention of juvenile pregnancy for 14 – 16 year olds	1000
		The prevention of cyberbullying for 10 – 13 year olds	20

Outcomes

In schools of Velika Gorica are about 8000 7-18 years old pupils.
Every year about 2000 pupils of that age are included in preventive programs in the schools – programs aimed at different age groups of children.



The Centre's Identity Card
Initiation: February 2003
Founder: The Town of Velika Gorica
Activities: Implementation of psycho-social programs for children, youth, parents and family members, support and training for experts and publishing.
Number of employees: 6
Number of associates and volunteers: 48
Number of programs: 41 programs implemented in 61 groups counselling programs
Number of beneficiaries: about 2000 a year
Specific quality of the Centre: It is the first and the only institution for children, youth and family in Croatia founded by the local community.
The programs are free of charge and developed by the Centre's expert team.

Prevention programs on selective and indicate level for children:
Warm Nest, Happy Classroom, New Learning Tips and Tricks, I Can Do It Differently, Psychodrama for Children, Choose How to React and the Program of individual counselling. Most of that programs are directed on social skills learning, and some of them are for learning techniques and strategies of learning.
Programs for adults – parents and experts:
Parenting in a Different Way, Club 3, Shake off Stress, Creative Parenting Club, Let's Grow up Together, topic based panel discussions and lectures.
All of the programs are designed for children and youth between the age of 7 – 18. Beneficiaries are registered in the entrance interview by categories: age, gender, which school they attend, how they learned about Centre's programs and the reason for coming. Afore mentioned programs are based on the needs assessment and the results of that research. Some of them are based exactly on that results, and the other programs are adapted.

The preventive programs for adults and children and the number of beneficiaries in the Centre

2011.

Working with Adults	Number	Working with Children	Number
The programs for parents - learning parental skills	87	The programs for children - learning and improving social skills	43
Panel discussions and lectures for parents and experts	103	Programs on learning techniques and strategies of learning	47
Lectures for experts	119	Individual counselling and counseling for families	189

2012.

Working with Adults	Number	Working with Children	Number
The programs for parents - learning parental skills	93	The programs for children - learning and improving social skills	48
Panel discussions and lectures for parents and experts	156	Programs on learning techniques and strategies of learning	44
Lectures for experts	127	Individual counselling and counseling for families	135

2013.

Working with Adults	Number	Working with Children	Number
The programs for parents - learning parental skills	67	The programs for children - learning and improving social skills	80
Panel discussions and lectures for parents and experts	100	Programs on learning techniques and strategies of learning	40
Lectures for experts	126	Individual counselling and counseling for families	119

Total of number of beneficiaries in programs mentioned was 588 in 2011, 603 in 2012, 532 in 2013 so far.

Conclusion:

- The prevention in local community is planned based on research results:
 1. level – aimed at population between the age of 7 and 18 in the schools
 2. level – institution programs for beneficiaries who are sent by their school because of extra risk
- besides programs for children there are also programs for adults – parents and experts

