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ESIPP

EQUITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH
POSITIVE PARENTING

ESIPP in Croatia



European
University Cyprus

LAUREATE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES



University of Zagreb
Faculty of Education and
Rehabilitation Sciences



Croatia

- Capital: Zagreb
- Official language: Croatian
- Area: 56.594 km² (21,851 square miles)
- Population: 4,284,889 (2011.)
- Ethnic groups: 90.4% Croats, 4.4% Serbs, 5.2% others (Bosniaks, Hungarians, Italians, Slovenes, Germans, Czechs, Romani and others)
- Density: 75,8 /km²
- Currency: Kuna (HRK)
- Government: Unitary parliamentary constitutional republic



Partners from Croatia



University of Zagreb
Faculty of Education and
Rehabilitation Sciences

Associated
partner



Association for
care for
persons with
autism Rijeka

Why does parent education in autism matter in Croatia?

- **Early intervention services**
 - not embedded in the system of support,
 - mainly project based
 - not available for all children
 - Expensive – organized through private sector, promoting one approach
- **Support for families**
 - Not developed
 - Focus is on improving skills of the child not empowering parents

Why does parent education in autism matter in Croatia?

- Lack of support groups for parents and families (siblings)
- Parents often rely on information from the internet and promises of the cure
- **Professionals**
- Some professionals still don't have enough knowledge about ASD
- Lack of professionals of education and rehabilitation profiles in distant areas
- **Education can lead to empowering parents, increasing their confidence – they are the experts for their child**

A photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, sitting on the floor and playing with toys. The girl, on the left, has blonde hair with a bow and is wearing a striped shirt. The boy, on the right, has curly hair and is wearing a dark shirt. They are surrounded by various toys, including a large wooden arch and some blocks. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

ESIPP in Croatia what happened so far

3 groups of parents attended „Positive approaches to Autism” education

City	Modules	Trainers
Zagreb	Core modules (17 parents) Non core modules (64 parents)	External trainers
Zagreb	Core modules (24 parents)	External and local trainers
Rijeka	Core modules (7 parents)	Local trainers



Some feedback from parents from Croatia

- „I wish I had the opportunity to attend this education when my child was diagnosed with ASD”
- „Educators were great! There were very good examples, examples from life, each of us can recognize ourselves in those examples”
- „I realized that visual support is very important...we are using it now and it really helps him to understand...”
- „I really liked when we had opportunity to ask about our children and about specific problem so they showed us how to communicate with them...”
- „Spending time with other parents was really valuable for me, we can understand and help each other with our experiences”
- „I would definitely recommend this education to other parents and family members.”

Suggestions for ESIPP

Different delivery – not in one weekend, but across several weeks,

Workshops - specific individualized support for the family and a child

Talking about the future

„Parents don't know what to do with their children, maybe for someone to takes care of the children during the training, and not to last long, just few hours at a time”

” It would be great to add some workshops that can help us in different situations with our kids concretelly...”

„Maybe to talk more about what is ahead, about puberty and growing up till their old age, to have some experience in advance, to see what could happen”

Future trainings ↓



1st stakeholder conference - Zagreb

- Presentation about ESIPP and sustainability – **round table** with representatives of ministries and local authorities

Conference

- 110 participants – parents and professionals
- Presentation of goals of the project and content of sessions
- Sample sessions
 - Sensory sensitivities
 - Understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- Opportunity to receive feedback from diverse audience



Feedback of participants

- **Participants agree and strongly agree that:**
 - ESIPP project has valuable goals – 95%
 - This kind of parent education is needed in their country – 95%
 - All important areas are covered within education – 78%
 - Extra modules are very useful – 95%



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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