



# RESEARCH TOPICS OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES FROM 2019 TO 2023

Appendix to the Strategic Development Plan of the Faculty of Education and  
Rehabilitation Sciences from 2019 to 2023

# RESEARCH TOPICS OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES FROM 2019 TO 2023

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## DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNICATION CHARACTERISTICS AND EARLY EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE ABILITIES OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To research the characteristics of early expressive language abilities of children with autism spectrum disorder and to explain the role of communication characteristics in language achievements of children with autism spectrum disorder.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	A contribution will be made at the level of understanding the nature of language difficulties in autism spectrum disorder. The research of developmental cascades and the dynamic interaction of developmental domains will contribute to understanding the phenotypic developmental heterogeneity of children with autism spectrum disorder. A contribution will also be made at the level of research methodology through the use of protocols for recording natural protocols of interactions between a child and an adult in order to collect communication and language samples.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Jasmina Ivšac Pavliša, Klara Popčević, Monika Rosandić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>LEXICAL-PRAGMATIC FLEXIBILITY IN LANGUAGE OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To investigate and compare the relationship between early communication and language development in the context of regular development and autism spectrum disorder. By comparing two such groups of children matched in terms of the size of their expressive vocabulary, lexical-pragmatic flexibility will be explored and compared based on two measures: the number of communication functions realized by the same word (lexical unit) and, vice versa, the difference of language forms (lexical units) expressing the same function.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	To explain the developmental perspective of language characteristics of children with autism spectrum disorder and the role of pragmatic development as a driving mechanism of early language acquisition.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Jasmina Ivšac Pavliša, Klara Popčević, Monika Rosandić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>A SYNERGY BETWEEN A HUMANOID ROBOT AND A PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICE AS A NOVEL INTERVENTION TOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To examine the preference and focus of children with autism spectrum disorder for robots in different contexts, in comparison to children with regular development. To determine the abilities of children with autism spectrum disorder to imitate a model when it is robot or a person To determine the effects of teaching different skills (combined attention, language comprehension, everyday life skills, etc.) to children with autism spectrum disorder when the model is a robot or a person

<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Social-assistive robotics (SAR) brings new possibilities to the diagnosis and therapy of autism spectrum disorder, and so far, robots have been shown to possess many characteristics that resonate with children who have difficulty acquiring social skills. By using robots in autism spectrum disorder therapy, children gain more motivation and are encouraged to engage in interactions. However, despite all the above, the fact remains that there is room for improvement given that SAR technology is still in development and that this area of research is still relatively young. Therefore this project will make a contribution to the few data that exist in this area.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Sanja Šimleša, Maja Ceganec, Monika Rosandić, Ivana Jandroković, Klara Popčević
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF EARLY DETERMINANTS OF DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES IN CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>To develop and prepare research instruments. To determine developmental profiles of children with typical development with an emphasis on the standardization of specific communication characteristics and characteristics of spontaneous behavior.</p> <p>To determine developmental profiles and pathways (cognitive, communication and language skills, and behavioral characteristics) of children with autism spectrum disorder and compare them with developmental profiles and trajectories of children with typical development.</p> <p>To determine the predictors of deviations in early language development in children with autism spectrum disorder:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) determine the relationship between communication functions and early language development</li> <li>b) determine the relationship of the components of combined attention with linguistic understanding and production</li> </ol> <p>To determine early cognitive and communication predictors of stereotypical behavioral characteristics in children with autism spectrum disorder.</p>

<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Even as the goals and methods of research change with the advancement of technology and application of new knowledge, the reliability of any research on children and adults with autism spectrum disorder depends on valid, standardized selection of respondents who have been accurately diagnosed. In Croatia, there is no uniform diagnostic protocol for autism spectrum disorder, so its diagnosis is very uneven, subjective and unreliable. This poses a challenge to modern, internationally recognized research activity involving this population, regardless of respondent age and research methods applied. This problem affects a number of scientific fields and prevents the development of research on any aspect of the development and/or characteristics of persons with autism spectrum disorder in such fields as neurogenomics, neuroanatomy, pediatric neuroradiology and behavioral research. A better understanding of developmental milestones in children with autism spectrum disorder as well as the existence of instruments for their assessment would enable the publication of Croatian scientific papers in international journals and comparisons between their results and those of studies from other parts of the world. The development of clinical and experimental research would lead to a faster and more efficient formation of new multidisciplinary research groups, and, consequently, an increase in the number and quality of scientific publications related to autism spectrum disorder in the Republic of Croatia. In practice, this would lead to the creation of scientific data-based differential diagnostic criteria to distinguish autism spectrum disorder from other developmental disorders, and it would provide a scientific basis for planning intervention procedures and evaluating existing programs.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Sanja Šimleša, Maja Capanec, Ajana Iov, Jasmina Ivšac Pavliša, Klara Popčević, Monika Rosandić, Jasmina Stošić, Ana Marija Bohaček
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER (DLD) RESEARCH (PUBLIC AWARENESS, CLINICAL PRACTICE, EFFECTIVENESS OF THERAPY)</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To gain insight into public awareness of developmental language disorder (DLD) and to place the data in an interlingual context through contrastive analysis of Croatian, Slovenian and Italian data. To examine the effectiveness of pragmatic therapies in working with children with DLD.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Verification of the effectiveness of pragmatic therapies in working with children with DLD and conduct of a systematic analysis and meta-analysis Publication of a paper on public awareness
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Members of the COST project (approx. 50 countries) From the Department of Speech and Language Pathology: J. Kuvač Kraljević and Ana Matic

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER (DLD) IN CROATIAN AND SLOVENIAN CONTEXTS: PARENTAL PERSPECTIVE AND THE ROLE OF OTHER DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS ON EARLY LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To describe language profiles of children under the age of four from a parental perspective and compare them with expert assessment in order to examine the validity of parental assessment of early language development. To define the role of different internal and external factors in language development from an interlingual perspective. To examine the theoretical frameworks that speech therapists use in working with this population "in need" and to gain insight into how experts interpret and implement them according to the language typology.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	A language scale for parents (PLS) developed in Croatian and Slovenian. Determination of the validity of parental assessment of language abilities of children with DLD.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Jelena Kuvač Kraljević Damjana Kogovšek, Jerneja Novšak Brce
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>THE ROLE OF ATTRIBUTION IN SELF-STIGMATIZATION BY PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To verify the attribution model of self-stigmatization in parents of children with developmental language disorder. To examine whether the attributions of the cause of the child's disorder mediate the relationship between the perceived stigma towards parents and internalized parental stigma, and whether the internalization of stigma contributes to the development of negative emotional states in parents.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Improvement of the model of self-stigmatization and better understanding of the mechanisms through which parental stigma is internalized. Knowledge of the consequences of developmental language disorder for the family.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Matea Kramarić PhD research; mentor: Asst.Prof. Gordana Hržica, PhD
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DISCOURSE OF CHILDREN WITH REGULAR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND CHILDREN WITH SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DISORDERS (STUTTERING AND DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER)</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To examine how children with regular language development and children with speech and language disorders produce and understand higher language units (discourse)
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Knowledge about how children with regular language development and children with speech and language disorders produce and understand higher language units (discourse)

<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Gordana Hržica, Jelena Kuvač Kraljević, Ana Leko, Sara Košutar, Matea Kramarić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DISCOURSE OF ADULT SPEAKERS WITH OR WITHOUT LANGUAGE DISORDERS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To examine how adult speakers with or without language disorders produce and understand higher language units (discourse)
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Knowledge about how adult speakers with or without language disorders produce and understand higher language units (discourse)
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Gordana Hržica, Jelena Kuvač Kraljević, Tatjana Prizl Jakovac, Ana Leko, Sara Košutar, Matea Kramarić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE DIAGNOSTIC INSTRUMENTS FOR EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this project is to develop the first diagnostic tools for early recognition and monitoring of children with reading and writing disorders in Croatian in order to help identify such children as early as possible and ensure that they acquire a range of academic skills. At present, there is no single measuring instrument for comprehensive and reliable assessment of language skills, reading and writing in the Croatian language for school-age children. Therefore, speech therapists, when describing the performance of children and young people with reading and writing disorders, most often rely on subjective assessment, which has poor reliability and low validity because it depends on therapists' competence and experience.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Development of reading and writing assessment instruments Rethinking of language-based theoretical frameworks of reading and writing
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Jelena Kuvač Kraljević Mirjana Lenček  Naklada Slap
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>FONT PROCESSING AS A MITIGATING OR AGGRAVATING FACTOR FOR PERSONS WITH DYSLEXIA</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To identify and define patterns of font processing using online data collection methods, with the aim of adapting fonts in visual media for people with dyslexia
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Acquisition of data on the type of font that is optimal for processing and that facilitates the reading process, which should enable further development of computer applications as aids for people with dyslexia

<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Melita Kovačević, Marijan Palmović, Ana Matić, students
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DYSCALCULIA – THE BASIC ISSUES OF ASSESSMENT</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The research includes examining the characteristics of children's acquisition of mathematics in elementary school and observing the determinants for diagnosing dyscalculia.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Gain in knowledge about deviations in mathematics, especially mathematical language, in our country
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Mirjana Lenček, PhD Members of the Department of Speech and Language Pathology
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>FEEDING-SUCKING-SWALLOWING DISORDERS IN NEWBORNS AND INFANTS: RISK FACTORS AND EARLY INTERVENTION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To investigate the influence of various neurodevelopmental risk factors in the development of early feeding, sucking and swallowing disorders in newborns and infants.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Early recognition of the risk of developing disorders and early recognition of deviations to enable early involvement in targeted speech therapy intervention.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Blaženka Brozović, PhD, prof. Emica Farago, PhD Collaborating institutions: University Hospital Center Zagreb, Sveti Duh General Hospital, Special Hospital for the Protection of Children with Neurodevelopmental and Motor Disorders.
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>CORRELATION BETWEEN STRESS AND VOCAL FATIGUE IN VOCAL PROFESSIONALS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	Educators and teachers belong to the group of vocal professionals at the highest risk of developing voice disorders. Since voice is their primary means of work, frequent vocal problems lead to frequent sick leave and they are forced to change professions or choose the option of early retirement. Dietrich, Verdolini Abbott, Gartner-Schmidt and Rosen (2008) state that stress is recognized as one of the causes of MTD and benign lesions on the vocal cords, but that additional factors besides stress contribute to their occurrence. This information supports the importance of recognizing stress in educators and teachers as an additional negative element in the development of voice disorders. Therefore, the objective of this paper is to determine the correlation between stress levels and the severity of voice disorders in these groups of vocal professionals in the Republic of Croatia.



<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Recent research has linked stress caused by public speaking to functional voice disorders. Further research of the correlation between voice disorders in different types of vocal professions, personality traits and neurological reactions to stress will contribute to the further development of the theory of correlation between stress and vocal control, and provide insight into the prerequisites for prevention and treatment of functional vocal disorders in vocal professionals.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Ana Bonetti, PhD; Asst. Prof. Maša Tončetić Bogović, PhD (Center for Croatian Studies); graduates
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>LANGUAGE AND MOTOR ASPECTS OF CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To identify the main features of childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) as well as differences that discriminate CAS from other disorders, i.e. examine whether the CAS subgroup shows statistically significant differences from other subgroups defined by cluster analysis and from a control group of respondents in motor non-speech tasks, motor speech performance, motor speech planning, suprasegmental level, phonological skills and receptive language abilities. To determine the relative contribution of certain aspects of motor speech performance and motor speech planning in children with CAS to phonological skills (phonological representations, phonological awareness, phonological memory).
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	There have been no systematic studies of CAS in Croatian-speaking areas so far, so the scientific contribution of this doctoral thesis would be to redefine the discriminatory factors of CAS in preschool age and gain better insight into the correlation between motor performance and language processes in children with CAS, about which there is not enough scientific research. Also, the new findings gained from this research will contribute to the differential diagnosis of CAS from other speech and language disorders and more successful design of therapeutic goals for children with CAS.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Dora Knežević, assistant Prof. Draženka Blaži, PhD
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT OF AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION USERS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To examine how the use of augmentative and alternative communication affects the development of communication and language
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Contribution to the scientific grounding of augmentative and alternative communication
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Jasmina Ivšac Pavliša, Klara Popčević, Monika Rosandić

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DISCOURSE OF BILINGUAL SPEAKERS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To examine how bilingual speakers with regular language development produce and understand higher language units (discourse).
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Knowledge about how bilingual speakers with regular language development produce and understand higher language units (discourse).
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Gordana Hržica, Sara Košutar, Matea Kramarić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANGUAGE OF CHILDREN AGED FROM 3 TO 5</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To examine the morphological characteristics of children aged from 3 to 5.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	An understanding of how morphology develops in monolingual speakers aged from 3 to 5.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Gordana Hržica, Sara Košutar, Matea Kramarić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSING IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To gain new insights into the rules of phonological processing of the Croatian language in respondents with regular or impaired language development of different ages.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Contribution to knowledge about the processes of processing the phonological system in the Croatian language in order to better understand the adoption and functioning of the phonological system in persons with regular or impaired language skills.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Marijan Palmović, Melita Kovačević, external members
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>NARRATIVE ABILITIES IN CHILDREN – ANALYSES OF STORIES ABOUT PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The research includes an examination of the characteristics of storytelling about a personal event and the analysis of children's language skills in elementary school at several levels (micro and macro structures) + comparison with other languages

<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	International collaboration, gain in knowledge about the narrative abilities of school-age children + interlingual comparison; writing of papers
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Members of the <i>International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics</i> (IALP) From the Department of Speech and Language Pathology: J. Kuvač Kraljević (official Croatian representative) and Ana Matic
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EARLY LITERACY IN THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To gain insight into the parameters of early literacy development in the Croatian language and compare them with features in other languages (especially from the aspect of observing the influence of e-picture books) To develop/refine the protocol for assessment of early literacy and develop a flow chart of early literacy
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Early literacy flow chart, protocol
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Mirjana Lenček, PhD Associates from kindergartens in the City of Zagreb; PhD student Marta Filić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>PSYCHOLINGUISTIC APPROACH TO STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC FACTORS IN PROCESSING RELATIVE CLAUSES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective is to examine the factors that affect the processing of relevant clauses in Croatian
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Expansion of knowledge about language processing in the Croatian language with contribution to a broader psycholinguistic context and to the language-specific context + expansion of knowledge about keys that facilitate processing in Croatian + application of sophisticated methodology (monitoring eye movements + glossary development) In addition to the published thesis, the results will also be disseminated in another publication
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	PhD research Ana Matic; mentor prof. M. Kovačević, PhD, and prof. I. Raffaelli, PhD (Research began as part of the Croatian Science Foundation project entitled <i>Adult Language Processing</i> , managed by Assoc. Prof. J. Kuvač Kraljević, PhD).

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>THE ROLE OF SYNTACTIC AND SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF COHERENT RELATIONS IN RESOLVING THE ANAPHORIC PRONOUN IN CHILDREN AND ADULT SPEAKERS OF CROATIAN</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The role of syntactic and semantic structure of coherent relations in resolving the anaphoric pronoun will be examined in children and adult speakers of the Croatian language. Then, potential differences between children and adults in relying on semantic and syntactic pointers in resolving the pronoun will be analyzed. The research will include the analysis of the components of the syntactic structure such as the grammatical role of the antecedent, the form of the anaphoric pronoun (pro-drop pronoun) and word order, while the semantic structure will include the analysis of semantic roles of verbs and the establishment of coherence. The participants in the research will be 10-year-old children and adult monolingual Croatian speakers. Preferences in resolving the pronoun will be examined using delayed time methods (antecedent selection task) and real-time methods (measurement of reading time and reaction time).
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Improvement of the theoretical model with knowledge about the roles of different language pointers in resolving the pronoun that have not been examined within the model so far. In addition, knowledge about the role of different language pointers will be supported by results on the preferences of different age groups, primarily from a developmental perspective. In addition, insight will be provided into the preferences of Croatian speakers for resolving the anaphoric pronoun in terms of language-specific characteristics and interlingual differences.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	PhD research Sara Košutar (mentor: Asst. Prof. Gordana Hržica, PhD)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>PHONOTACTICS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To examine how learning mechanisms affect the adoption of phonotactic rules.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Examination of how learning mechanisms affect the adoption of phonotactic rules.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Marijan Plamović, Ana Matić, Maja Kelić, Melita Kovačević
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>NEUROLINGUISTIC STUDY OF SIGN LANGUAGE</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To measure potentials evoked by sign language stimuli.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Definition of the components of potentials evoked by sign language.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Marijan Palmović, Tomislav Radošević, Marina Milković

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>MEASURES OF LANGUAGE SAMPLE ANALYSIS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To take over and adapt language development measures for the analysis of Croatian texts or transcripts of spoken language at different language levels (dictionary, morphology, syntax) of the Croatian language, and to facilitate their calculation and data comparison.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Existing corpus linguistics tools for the Croatian language will be applied in order to facilitate, automate or enable the application of certain language measures for the analysis of Croatian texts or transcripts of spoken language. The development of computer tools for transcription and for calculation and comparison of measures will be one of the project's contributions.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Gordana Hržica, Sara Košutar, Matea Kramarić  Research is conducted within the project <i>Multilevel Approach to Spoken Discourse in Language Development</i> (HRZZ-UIP-2017-05-6603) and the international project <i>European Network for Web-centered Linguistic Data Science</i> (COST Action CA18209), with the participation of other members of those project teams.
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>RESEARCHERS' MENTAL HEALTH</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To gain new knowledge about the mental health of researchers in the European Research Area, and identify indicators of impaired mental health and the possibility of intervention in order to provide positive support (institutional, individual) in the higher education system.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Contribution to knowledge about the role and importance of researchers' mental health.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Melita Kovačević, external members, international project

## DEPARTMENT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EVALUATION OF SUPPORT MODELS OF THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER UNIT – DEVELOPMENT OF EVALUATION MODELS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this research is to develop models according to which the clinical practice and services at the Autism Spectrum Disorder Unit of ERF Rehabilitation Centre can be evaluated. The focus will be on the three services currently offered within the Department: Practicing social skills, Communication by exchanging images, and Individual work in early intervention.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Development of a service evaluation model - are the services provided based on evidence?
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Jasmina Stošić, Sanja Aguila Munoz, Ivana Jandroković, Damir Miholić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EVALUATION OF EDUCATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER – COMPARISON OF GROUP AND SINGLE-SUBJECT RESEARCH DESIGNS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this research is to evaluate the effects of education using single-subject and group research designs. The purpose is to present and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of group designs over single-subject research designs when evaluating interventions for parents of children with autism spectrum disorder and, more generally, in research including this population.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Creation of a model for evaluating methods in clinical practice and a basis for verifying the scientific grounding of various intervention programs in the field of autism spectrum disorder.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Jasmina Stošić Matea Begić Ivana Jandroković Sanja Aguila Munoz
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>QUALITY OF INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this research is to examine the quality of inclusion of children with autism spectrum disorder who attend regular schools, from the perspectives of all inclusion stakeholders: children with autism spectrum disorder, their parents, teachers, professional associates and teaching assistants.

<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	So far, no research has been conducted in the field of inclusion of children with autism spectrum disorder in Croatia. The inclusion model has remained the same for many years, and its effectiveness in improving the upbringing, education, and inclusion of children with autism spectrum disorder has not been examined. Situational analysis of the current state of inclusion of children with autism spectrum disorder will identify difficulties, but also enable the search for solutions to improve the quality of inclusion and create new forms of support in the upbringing and education of children with autism spectrum disorder.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Jasmina Stošić, Matea Begić, Rea Vuksan, Sanja Aguila Munoz
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EARLY SUPPORT SERVICE SYSTEM FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this research is to determine the information, expectations and satisfaction of parents and professionals in the counties of Brod-Posavina and Istria in regard to early support services for children with developmental disabilities and their families.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The data obtained in the research are expected to document the quantity and quality of existing support services for children with developmental disabilities, from birth to school age, the satisfaction of families and professionals with support services, and provide guidelines for further improvement of services. The results will be presented through scientific papers and a doctoral thesis.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Ana Wagner Jakab, PhD Prof. Lelia Kiš Glavaš, PhD Katarina Šarčević Ivić-Hofman, mag.rehab.educ.(PhD student)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>STRESS AND RESILIENCE IN FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To investigate the level of family stress and resilience factors in families of children with developmental disabilities. The correlation of family stress and family resilience factors with various factors will be examined: the age of the child with developmental disabilities, the passage of time since diagnosis, the child's level of functioning, and parental involvement in family support programs.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The research will provide insight into the protective and risk factors of resilience in families of children with developmental disabilities, the level of family stress, and the adequacy of the formal and informal support the families receive.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Anamarija Žić Ralić, PhD Students: Ivana Matišić, ERF and Antonela Šarović, FPMOZ (Mostar)

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>THE WELLBEING OF SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to examine the predictors and determinants of the well-being of siblings of children with disabilities. The siblings will be children of adolescent age. The siblings will assess their level of autonomy, relationships with children with disabilities and with parents, as well as the functioning of the family as a community.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The implementation of this research, which will examine the well-being of the typically developing siblings of children with disabilities, is expected to create new knowledge about well-being itself, the challenges that potentially hinder it, and predictors of it. The research findings could contribute to planning support for siblings of children with disabilities. Results will be disseminated through presentations at conferences, scientific papers and a doctoral thesis.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Ana Wagner Jakab, PhD Asst. Prof. Ajana Low, PhD Lorena Koštić, mag.rehab.educ. (PhD student)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>THE QUALITY OF PARTNERSHIPS OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to examine the predictors and determinants of the quality of partnerships in which the partners are parents of children with disabilities.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	This research will give us an introduction to the quality of relationships between partners who are also parents of children with disabilities. The determinants and predictors of the relationship will be examined and practical guidelines will be given that will contribute to the planning of support to partners and indirectly to children with disabilities as well as the entire family. Results will be disseminated through presentations at conferences, scientific papers and graduate theses.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Ajana Low, PhD Assoc. Prof. Ana Wagner Jakab, PhD 3 or 4 educational rehabilitation students (graduate students)



<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>PERCEIVED QUALITY OF LIFE, LEISURE AND RECREATION OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFICULTIES - MENTAL HEALTH FACTORS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>Through the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, the World Health Organization drew attention to the concept of "Participation" as an indicator of "inclusion in life situations", which includes leisure activities (WHO, 2001). This concept, derived from a change in the perception of disability from purely medical to socially conditioned, emphasizes the importance of participating in daily activities for the development of self-determination and overall social inclusion of children with disabilities (King et al., 2009; Lee, 2011).</p> <p>Leisure and recreation offer the possibility of interaction in the processes of individualization and socialization, i.e. a space for self-actualization and realization of personality, and they provide an opportunity to participate in activities of choice that arise from intrinsic motivation, which distinguishes them from the obligations and roles that an individual fulfills during other daily activities. (Coleman and Iso-Ahola, 1993; Neistadt and Crepeau, 1998)</p> <p>Research objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the importance of leisure time and examine the ways in which children with developmental disabilities and their parents spend it</li> <li>• Identify the factors that determine how leisure time is spent</li> <li>• Define and explore perceived quality of life as one of the determinants of mental health</li> </ul>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>The research will provide clearer insight into the current situation and the possibility of developing strategies and programs for inclusion in various activities and contents, in order to maximize the quality of leisure time and further promote social inclusion and prevention in mental health.</p> <p>The research will result in the following theses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Leisure time as a determinant of social inclusion of children with developmental disabilities" (PhD student, Saša Uzelac; topic and thesis defended and approved by the Senate)</li> <li>"The impact of poverty on leisure time and recreation of children and youth with developmental disabilities" (PhD student, Zrinka Dumančić Bakavić; working title, topic and thesis in progress)</li> <li>• Potentially another doctoral thesis</li> </ul>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Snježana Sekušak Galešev, PhD; Asst. Prof. Ljiljana Pintarić Mlinar, PhD; Lea Masnjak Šušković, mag.psych.

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>MENTAL HEALTH ASPECTS AND LEISURE OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>According to the definition of the World Health Organization, mental health is described as a state of well-being in which a person realizes his/her abilities, can cope with the stress of everyday life, work productively and contribute to the community in which he/she lives. Mental health is a part of general health, which does not refer merely to the absence of disease. It enables an individual to participate in community activities, and gives him/her a sense of satisfaction, purpose, and enjoyment of life (World Health Organization, 2011). Research on quality of life in the field of disability was initially focused on the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities; in the last two decades, it has been extended to include families of children with developmental disabilities. The birth of a child with a disability affects every family member, especially parents and siblings, each of whom reacts in his or her own way (Cvitković et al., 2013). With the birth of a child with developmental disabilities, parents face a new life situation that includes new challenges and requirements, including balancing work and roles of parent and partner (Milić-Babić et al., 2013). The challenges related to caring for a child with disabilities can lead to significant levels of stress. Research conducted by Azeem et al. (2013) points to a high level of anxiety and depression in parents of children with intellectual disabilities, which is associated with the degree of intellectual disabilities in the child. Specific problems facing families of children with intellectual disabilities include emotional crises, disrupted family interactions, and additional financial costs (Azeem et al., 2013). Challenges related to providing care to a child with disabilities can lead to significant consequences for the mental health of parents (Hastings and Beck, 2004). Since there is a lack of data on the mental health of parents of children with disabilities in Croatia and little attention is paid to prevention strategies, the objective of this research is to assess their mental health and emphasize the importance of prevention programs and interventions, as well as the importance of the parents' leisure time as an aspect of mental health protection. Quantitative and qualitative methods will be applied in the research.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>The analyses will emphasize the importance of mental health and leisure time of parents of children with disabilities, as well as intervention and prevention procedures that contribute to the preservation of mental health.</p>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Lea Masnjak Šušković, mag.psych. Assoc. Prof. Snježana Sekušak-Galešev, PhD</p>

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EXPLORING THE CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS NEEDED FOR SUCCESSFUL INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FORMAL EDUCATION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>In Croatia, there is a lack of recent instruments for assessing academic and adaptive skills in preschool and elementary school children; the most recent ones were developed in the 1990s: <i>Assessment scales in Croatian language and mathematics teaching (Landsman, Igrić, 1990)</i>, <i>Objective type tasks in Croatian language teaching (Igrić, Levandovski, 1990)</i>, <i>ACADIA test of ability development (adaptation by Novosel, 1978)</i>, and <i>AAMD scale of adaptive behavior (Igrić, Fulgosi Masnjak, 1992)</i>.</p> <p>The translation and adaptation of the Kaufman test for assessing the level of acquisition of academic skills of children and young people will be performed (<i>The Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, Third Edition Brief Form (KTEA-3 Brief)</i>).</p> <p><b>The purpose of the instrument</b> is to determine the level of acquisition of academic skills important for success in formal education, and to monitor the progress of children and youth.</p> <p>The contribution of the first part of the research is the <b>preparation of the instrument</b> (<i>translation</i> of the instrument, application manual) for practical use in preschool and school institutions. During <b>the continuation of the research</b>, emphasis will be placed on the following research goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conceptualization of areas of academic skills important for success in formal education</li> <li>2. Development of materials for assessing and monitoring the progress of children and youth in formal education</li> <li>3. Development of materials for educational and rehabilitation assessment when enrolling children in school</li> </ol>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p><b>Standardization of instruments</b> and development of materials for educational rehabilitators employed in preschool and school institutions (<i>for example, for enrolling children in school, assessment of skills important for schooling, assessment of skills important in transition periods, monitoring students' progress in school</i>).</p> <p><b>Involvement of graduate and doctoral students</b> from several courses (<i>Educational-rehabilitation assessment II, Strategies for teaching students with intellectual disabilities 1, Individualized educational programs, Empowerment through education</i>) in different phases of research (<i>application of Kaufman test, achievement analysis, creating an educational intervention plan in the curriculum, monitoring progress</i>).</p> <p>Finally, verification and application of tasks in the assessment of children's readiness for school, as well as adaptation of composites for the needs of educational and rehabilitation assessment.</p> <p>Dissertations N=2 Graduation theses of students N=2</p>

<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Zrinjka Stančić, PhD Prof. Rea Fulgosi Masnjak, PhD Asst. Prof. Ljiljana Pintarić Mlinar, PhD Ana Radoš, mag.educ.rehab., PhD student Ana-Marija Bohaček, assistant (up to 20%)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>COLLABORATION IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The experiences of educational rehabilitators, teachers and educators in collaborating with one another and with parents to achieve inclusive education will be researched.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The research will provide insight into the characteristics of the collaboration achieved, obstacles identified by stakeholders and the possibility of improving existing collaboration in order to raise the quality of inclusive education of children with developmental disabilities.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Anamarija Žic Ralić, PhD  Students: Lana Agejev, Lucija Očasić, Petra Plastić, Jelena Beneš
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN REGULAR SCHOOLS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this research is to determine the support needs of students with learning disabilities and ADHD in regular elementary schools
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Identification of support needs for students with learning disabilities and ADHD in Croatia will help to create guidelines for planning support for students with disabilities. Another contribution will be a Croatian adaptation of the Conners Scale.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Daniela Cvitković Educational rehabilitation students
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>SUPPORT FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS FOR STUDENTS IN REGULAR SCHOOLS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this research is to assess the quality of the support provided by teaching assistants to students in regular schools and to identify factors behind that support
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	So far, the quality of support and factors behind it have been insufficiently researched in Croatia or other European countries. The present research would provide insight into the quality of the support provided by teaching assistants to students, from the perspectives of teachers and parents. It would also provide insight into some of the factors behind the quality of the support provided by teaching assistants to students. Based on the results, guidelines will be formulated for defining the role and tasks of teaching assistants for students.

<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Daniela Cvitković Aleksandra Gvozdanić (PhD student)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>ATTITUDES OF STUDENTS WITH TYPICAL DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS PEERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To research the attitudes of secondary school students towards peers with developmental disabilities, their experiences in interaction and the possibility of joint activities.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Based on the results, it will be possible to create activities and work programs in secondary schools that may improve social inclusion of students with developmental disabilities.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Anamarija Žic Ralić, PhD Ana Medić, FPMOZ (Mostar) (student)

RESEARCH PROJECT	EXPERIENCES OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE DIGITAL WORLD
<p><b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b></p>	<p>In a real, off-line environment, many children with disabilities show significant deficits in social competence (Guralnik, 1990), they are more often rejected among peers (Overton and Rausch, 2002) and lonely (Pavri, 2001; Margalit and Levin-Alyagon, 1994), they find it difficult to form and maintain friendships (Guralnick, 1990; Tur-Kaspa, Margalit, Most, 1999), and they are more frequent victims of bullying (Kaukiainen, Salmivalli, Lagerspetz, Tamminen, Vauras, Maki and Poskiparta, 2002; Mishna, 2003). Due to these insufficient social skills, it stands to reason that children and young people with disabilities may be at increased risk of abuse, harassment and deception by both peers and adults in the online environment. On the other hand, research shows that the use of social networks enables young people to improve friendships, i.e. that social networks provide a new way to promote social inclusion (Chadwick, 2014). Thus, social networks can help many young people who, for various reasons, are marginalized and isolated to connect with others through technology. This can have a positive impact on their well-being (Chadwick, 2014). However, social skills are crucial for appropriate and secure online communication, and such skills are generally less developed in children and young people with disabilities. Consequently, children and young people with underdeveloped social skills or difficulties in social interactions are at increased risk of dangers in the online environment.</p> <p><i>Research objectives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gain insight into the experiences of students with disabilities of elementary school age related to access, frequency, manner and purpose of using digital technologies or the Internet and social networks, perceived parental supervision when using digital technologies, recognizing/ perceiving risks on the Internet, experience of electronic bullying (e.g. hate speech), involvement in risky behaviors on the Internet, availability of help and support, students' willingness to seek help, etc.</li> <li>- Gain insight into the development of students' social and emotional competencies, a sense of acceptance and satisfaction in relationships with peers</li> <li>- Gain insight into the correlation between the use of digital media and aspects of socio-emotional development, i.e. the development of social and emotional competencies of students with disabilities</li> <li>- Gain insight into the ways and frequency of school support in the development of social and emotional competencies of students, especially students with disabilities</li> <li>- Gain insight into how schools educate teachers and students in the safe use of the Internet, the dangers that students may encounter on the Internet, and ways to prevent possible problems (cyberbullying, Internet addiction, etc.), with special emphasis on informing and educating students with disabilities</li> </ul>

<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The research will provide insight into the experience of students with disabilities in the use of digital technologies, support they receive for safe online communication and interaction with others, difficulties they encounter, and the special risks and problems that students with disabilities face in online environments. The acquired knowledge can serve as a basis for creating programs for learning social and emotional skills or prevention programs for safe and effective use of the Internet, aimed at building social and emotional resilience of students with disabilities, all with the purpose of successful inclusion in the digital world and improving quality of life in general.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Anamarija Žic Ralić, PhD Ena Šifner Vukomanović, PhD student
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>MEASURES FOR INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	Quantitative research will examine the attitudes of scientific and teaching staff and students with disabilities at the University of Zagreb on various measures implemented to include people with disabilities in higher education. The objective is to examine opinions on the effectiveness of various concepts and measures used within the support system for students with disabilities in higher education in the Republic of Croatia, such as enrollment priority if students are officially recognized as having a physical disability of 60% or more, exemption of students with disabilities from taking physical education and health culture classes, flexible forms of studying (class attendance and exams), transportation fee reimbursement for students with disabilities (including for those who can use transportation independently), etc. In order to gain a deeper insight into the attitudes of the respondents, qualitative methods (focus groups) will be used, in which participants will have the opportunity to describe their experiences, as well as suggest improvements to the support system.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The Republic of Croatia follows international frameworks and standards by making great efforts to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities in higher education, which is most evident in the legislative framework and various support systems for students with disabilities. In efforts to ensure access to higher education, a number of different measures have been adopted with the aim of equalizing opportunities for students with or without disabilities. However, although measures for the protection of human rights and inclusive education are theoretically and legally promoted, in practice measures typical of the medical model are often adopted, which reduce the motivation and activation of persons with disabilities. The effectiveness of certain measures, primarily positive discrimination measures that put students with disabilities in a more favorable position than others, has been questioned. Based on scientific analysis, the research will provide deeper insight into doubts about certain concepts and measures, and it will lead to a concrete contribution in the form of proposals for reasonable adjustments and improvement of the support system based on the experiences of scientific and teaching university staff as well as students with disabilities.

<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Lelia Kiš-Glavaš, PhD Valentina Novak Žižić, student of the doctoral study program Prevention Science and Disability Study
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>THE IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS OF STUDENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The objective of this research is to show the impact of COVID 19 on the education of students with developmental disabilities; the readiness of teachers, parents and professional associates for the organization and implementation of distance learning; and collaboration of student-teacher-parent, teacher-professional associate, and parent-professional associate.</p> <p>For the purposes of the research, a survey questionnaire would be developed to examine the satisfaction of students, teachers, parents, and professional associates with the implementation of distance learning, availability and adaptation of teaching materials, availability and use of digital technologies, Internet connection availability and use of social networks as a form of communication and transmission of information, tasks, planned teaching contents and the procedure of evaluation and self-evaluation by students. To increase the value of the analysis, focus groups will be conducted involving teachers, parents and professional associates from both countries, and data will be processed qualitatively to summarize the views and thoughts of the respondents.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	It is important to know how much, in what way and to what extent the forcibly introduced distance learning project has taken root in students with developmental disabilities and which of its components need to be refined, adapted and improved in order to be better prepared and maintain continuous quality of the planned educational process in the next possible situation.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Anamarija Žic Ralić, PhD Maja Smolić, PhD student
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DISTANCE LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION IN CROATIAN PRE-TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL EFFECTS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF STUDENTS, PARENTS AND EDUCATIONAL WORKERS (DISCOVID)</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The proposed project aspires to provide a comprehensive scientific exploration of the sudden and profound changes in education caused by the pandemic, and to assess educational and psychosocial effects of these changes on students, parents and educational workers.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The proposed research has the potential to provide valuable insight that could inform educational policy and practice at various levels and in various circumstances. At the level of the educational system, data regarding teaching and learning practices during crisis-induced distance education will highlight the necessary prerequisites for the successful organization and execution of hybrid and alternative models of teaching, learning and assessment in future pandemics and other crisis situations.



<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Zrinka Ristić Dedić (Institute for Social Research), Leader Daniela Cvitković (Department of Inclusive Education and Rehabilitation), Associate
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRANSITION INTO ADULTHOOD IN YOUNG PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To examine the characteristics of the transition to adulthood in young people with intellectual disabilities, from their own perspective and that of their parents and homeroom teachers in the education system. The study will assess acquisition of self-determination and self-advocacy skills, level of social inclusion and community involvement.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Expansion of knowledge about key aspects of the transition from adolescence to adulthood in people with intellectual disabilities, as well as about similarities and differences in perspectives on this transition among the individuals with intellectual disabilities, their parents and homeroom teachers. The results may help improve existing transition programs and create new ones.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Daniela Bratković Andrea Gašpar-Čičak (PhD student)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EXPERIENCES AND ATTITUDES OF PARENTS TOWARDS SEXUALITY OF THEIR CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	To examine parental attitudes towards sexuality of young people and adults with intellectual disabilities, as well as the immediate experiences and engagement of parents related to sex education and other challenges they face.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Expansion of knowledge about the attitudes and experiences of parents towards the sexuality of their children with intellectual disabilities. Development of guidelines for improving their information and knowledge and creating appropriate forms of support in this area.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Daniela Bratković, Lea Masnjak-Šušković, Mirjana Jakovčev (PhD student), Darja Damjanić (student)

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EFFECTS OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM ON EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	Quantitative research on a representative sample of employers in Zagreb would investigate the effect of quota-based positive discrimination that leads firms to give an advantage to persons with disabilities during hiring. The study would examine the experiences and satisfaction of employers with this model of employment of persons with disabilities, incentive measures and support to employers during and after the hiring of persons with disabilities, and other legal solutions in the system of employment of persons with disabilities in the Republic of Croatia. A focus group comprising a group of employers and people with disabilities would be interviewed to gain more detailed insight into the research topic and learn about the perspective of people with disabilities and their views on the effects of the employment quota system. The funding collected and spent by the Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities would be analyzed within the context of the employment quota system.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Although the employment quota system in the Republic of Croatia has been in force for several years, its effects have not been analyzed. Despite expectations, this model of employment of people with disabilities has not resulted in a significant increase in their employment. At the same, employers who are unable or unwilling to employ people with disabilities pay substantial sums into the Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, which are not spent on the intended goals of improving professional rehabilitation and employment of people with disabilities. Therefore, it seems that this model is not the best solution for promoting employment of people with disabilities, and that employers alone bear the burden of this system. The present research will verify this. This study will make a contribution in the form of clear guidelines for the improvement of the employment system of persons with disabilities, primarily on the basis of the experiences of those who ultimately decide on such employment, namely the employers.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Lelia Kiš-Glavaš, PhD Prof. Daniela Bratković, PhD Luka Femec, student of the doctoral study program Prevention Science and Disability Study

## DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>TESTING OF THE 5C MODEL OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL MOBILE MEASUREMENT (P.R.O.T.E.C.T.) - Research topic - POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF ADOLESCENTS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The specific research problems of the proposed research are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Examine the relationships among (a) aspects of positive development of adolescents (developmental benefits and 5C characteristics), (b) adolescent development outcomes (mental health and risky behaviors), (c) characteristics of important adults (parents and teachers), and (d) environmental characteristics;</li> <li>2. Examine the role of environmental characteristics and the characteristics of important adults in explaining the positive development of adolescents;</li> <li>3. Examine the role of positive development of adolescents in explaining adolescent developmental outcomes;</li> <li>4. Examine the additive and interaction effects of aspects of positive development (developmental benefits and 5C characteristics of adolescents), characteristics of important adults, and environmental characteristics in explaining adolescent developmental outcomes.</li> </ol> <p>Through a prospective, multilevel, longitudinal design in three/four waves, adolescents, their parents and homeroom teachers in five Croatian cities will be surveyed: Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, Osijek and Varaždin. A representative sample of students enrolled in the first grade of secondary school in each of these cities will make up a total of approximately 6,100 adolescents and 20% of their parents (n = 1,200). A traditional survey will be conducted in groups using the paper-pencil method in the school environment during the autumn of 2021, while approximately 210 homeroom teachers will participate in the research via the project's web portal. After the first measurements, data collection will be repeated once a year until the end of the secondary education of the selected sample. In addition to traditional longitudinal measurement, an innovative study will be conducted using intensive mobile monitoring on a suitable subsample composed of 10% of respondents, approximately 610 adolescents, to test the 5C model of positive development in a digital environment and through real-time measurements. The use of a mobile data collection application is a research novelty, and it has been selected to examine the dynamic nature and interaction of the contribution of individual and environmental factors in predicting positive outcomes of adolescents. Also, such data can be processed using machine learning, which is new in the literature.</p>

<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The proposed project will contribute to the methodology, testing instruments and the global corpus of knowledge about positive youth development and the 5C model of positive development. It also promotes international collaboration, as one team member is a project associate from the University of Oregon, USA. The data collected in this research will meet an important national need: it will provide representative national data on Croatian adolescents, positive development and the factors that surround them. The availability of epidemiological and longitudinal data is a crucial basis for grounded planning of health policy and strategies for children and adolescents. The findings and results of the research can be used for a science-based needs assessment, as well as for developing recommendations for future investments in preventive interventions in schools.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Miranda Novak, PhD, proposed leader, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Laboratory for Preventive Research Assoc. Prof. Josipa Mihić, PhD; Asst. Prof. Miranda Novak, PhD, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Laboratory for Preventive Research Dr. Nicholas J. Parr, University of Oregon Asst. Prof. Gabrijela Vrdoljak, PhD, University of Osijek, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Toni Maglica, PhD, University of Split, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Darko Roviš, PhD, Teaching Institute of Public Health of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and University of Rijeka, School of Medicine (PhD student)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>ANALYSIS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	Research objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the perception of mental health policy by key people/policy makers</li> <li>• Identify key mental health policy makers</li> </ul> Compare Croatian mental health policy with the Irish and Norwegian models
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The research will contribute to the development of mental health policy in Croatia, to the corpus of literature on mental health and to the recognition of the topic in the scientific and public space.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Miranda Novak, PhD, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Laboratory for Preventive Research Assoc. Prof. Ana Petek, PhD, Faculty of Political Science

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN PROMOTION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>Research objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the attitudes of three populations (youth, parents and educators) towards technology-mediated preventive interventions</li> <li>• Examine the benefits of providing preventive interventions through technology, compared to “standard” implementation</li> <li>• Examine how users see the use of technology in promotion of mental health and prevention of behavioral problems</li> </ul>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>The research will contribute to the development of e-mental health in Croatia and examine the possibilities of using technology in prevention science in the Croatian context.</p> <p>The results of the research will have practical application and will be incorporated into the development of a web platform for young people, parents and educators in Croatia.</p>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Asst. Prof. Miranda Novak, PhD  Assoc. Prof. Josipa Mihić, PhD  Prof. Martina Ferić, PhD  Associates: Mihael Kozina, psychotherapist; Dušanka Kosanović, psychotherapist; BoliMe Association</p>
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>QUALITY OF LEISURE TIME AS A PROTECTIVE FACTOR AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT OF BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>This pilot research will investigate the quality of adolescents' leisure time in Croatia and its impact on the positive development of adolescents.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>According to the authors' knowledge, a broader perspective and understanding of leisure time are missing in prevention research, which has so far most often equated leisure time with the type of activities and the amount of time spent engaged in them. Given the above, this research focuses on the role of leisure time as a protective factor against the development of behavioral problems, and it will seek to explore the types of activities in which adolescents participate during leisure time, the amount of time they spend doing these activities, the context in which leisure activities take place and the individuals' personal experiences, motivation and interest. At the same time, it is necessary to consider achieving balance in how adolescents spend their leisure time. Adolescents need a balanced repertoire of activities in which they can engage and which can provide them with various benefits. Relying solely on just one type of activity or changing activities frequently is assumed to be less desirable for positive adolescent development, and the proposed research aims to verify this.</p>

<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Martina Ferić, PhD Matea Belošević Ivana Mitrić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND USE OF EUROPEAN QUALITY STANDARDS IN PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>Quality standards to reduce demand for addictive substances are available and various efforts have attempted to expand their application. However, such standards have not been widely applied, and frequently cited barriers include de-individualization of service provision, lack of discretion for service providers and funding based on performance in regard to specific standards/indicators. The present project will focus on good practices in the application of quality standards for the prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug abuse, as well as for the reduction of harms to alcohol and drug users, across the EU. The project will also focus on how implementation can be improved. Project objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the application of quality standards in various EU countries and identification of examples of good practice in the areas of prevention, treatment and harm reduction</li> <li>• Critical assessment of applied standards, especially in terms of their compliance with minimum EU quality standards</li> <li>• Analysis of the application of quality standards</li> </ul>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Identification and dissemination of recommended models/strategies to improve the application of quality standards in the field of substance abuse prevention.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Martina Ferić Valentina Kranželić Matea Belošević Ivana Mitrić

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>INTERNET ADDICTION AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ZAGREB</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>Given that there is still no systematic, comprehensive research in our region about Internet addiction among young people or its characteristics, the basic objectives of this project are to gain insight into the characteristics and habits of using social networks and online video games among young people, the severity of Internet addiction and possible differences in usage characteristics and addiction severity as a function of key personal and socio-demographic characteristics.</p> <p>The research is planned to encompass students from the first to the final grades of Zagreb secondary schools (gymnasiums, three-year and four-year vocational schools). The planned sample is about N = 1100 students.</p> <p>The research includes a range of instruments that measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic sociodemographic characteristics (age, gender, type of school, grade);</li> <li>• Frequency of use of social networks and online video games;</li> <li>• Internet addiction;</li> <li>• Socio-emotional competencies (self-esteem, self-efficacy, emotional competence);</li> <li>• Mental health (depression, anxiety, stress, hyperactivity, impulsiveness);</li> <li>• Motivation to use the Internet;</li> <li>• Relationships with others (loneliness, comparison with others).</li> </ul>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>This research will be the first comprehensive study of Internet addiction in this region and will contribute to the dissemination of scientific knowledge about this relatively new phenomenon. By researching risk factors and gaining knowledge about which of them are key for the development of Internet addiction, the work may improve the detection of problems and establish the basic assumptions for effective, scientifically based interventions for prevention and treatment.</p>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Asst. Prof. Dora Dodig Hundrić, PhD  Assoc. Prof. Neven Ricijaš, PhD  Assistant Sabina Mandić, mag.soc.ped.</p>

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>RESEARCH ON THE PRESENCE OF HATE SPEECH ON SOCIAL NETWORKS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>A cross-cultural project that examines the rhetoric of hate speech and reactions to it on social networks targeting three groups - Jews, Muslims and Roma people from three European countries (Germany, Serbia and Croatia).</p> <p>Project content:  Needs assessment focused on media content  Needs assessment focused on media users  Training development and implementation  Dissemination and sustainability  Quality control</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The project increases awareness and ability to respond to Internet hatred towards Jews, Muslims and Roma people through three partner countries - Croatia, Germany and Serbia. A pan-European approach to the project increases democratic awareness and active citizenship to protect Jews, Muslims and Roma people in the heart of Europe.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Martina Ferić Matea Belošević Ivana Mitrić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF DAY HOSPITAL TREATMENT ON GAMBLING ADDICTION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>Since April 2015, the Psychiatric Hospital "Sv. Ivan" in Zagreb has been providing treatment in the Day Hospital for Gambling Addiction. An interdisciplinary team of experts conducts treatment, and the present scientific research project evaluates the success of treatment at two measurement points - before and after several months of treatment.</p> <p>The research includes a complex range of instruments that measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General socio-demographic data on patients</li> <li>- Multiple constructs related to gambling (gambling habits, symptoms of gambling addiction, attitudes towards gambling, cognitive distortions related to gambling, knowledge of games of chance, beliefs related to the importance of knowledge and skills in games of chance)</li> <li>- Mental health of patients (depression, anxiety, stress, strategies of coping with stressful situations)</li> <li>- Social functioning of patients (family, business and friendly relations)</li> <li>- Subjective perception of well-being and satisfaction with treatment.</li> </ul>



<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The obtained results will, in addition to the general effect of treatment, provide information on factors that may influence success, such as patient characteristics and levels of risk for symptoms of gambling addiction. Data are continuously collected in the natural sequence as patients enter treatment and complete it. The expected sample is about N = 300 patients by the end of 2022.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Neven Ricijaš, PhD Asst. Prof. Dora Dodig Hundrić, PhD Sabina Mandić, assistant Sanja Radić Bursać, professional associate in science and higher education Davor Bodor, PhD Ana Rakić, Soc.Ped.Prof.
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE YOUTH GAMBLING PREVENTION PROGRAM "WHO ACTUALLY WINS?"</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The youth gambling prevention program "Who actually wins?" was developed at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences within the scientific project "Youth Gambling in Croatia", which has been conducted at the Faculty since 2010. After the trainings held in the ERF's Centre for Lifelong Learning, the Program has been implemented in a number of secondary schools and student dormitories in the Republic of Croatia, and evaluation of outcomes is an integral part of the program package.</p> <p>Outcomes evaluation is conducted at two measurement points, T1 and T2, before and after the program. In order to determine the effects of the program on the intervention group, it measures the frequency of gambling, harmful psychosocial consequences associated with gambling, knowledge of gambling and games of chance, as well as socio-emotional skills.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The results of the evaluation are continuously collected and analyzed, in order to identify all the effects of the Program in preventing this risk behavior.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Neven Ricijaš, PhD Asst. Prof. Dora Dodig Hundrić, PhD Assistant Sabina Mandić, mag.soc.ped. Sanja Radić Bursać, professional associate in science and higher education

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE PREVENTION PROGRAM "I HAVE AN OPINION" 2020-2023</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	Research of the effects of the prevention program "I have an opinion" and evaluation of its implementation.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Verification of the effectiveness of the program "I have an opinion" in the Croatian context and entry of the program into the Xchange database of effective programs (EMCCDA)
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Martina Ferić Valentina Kranželić Matea Belošević Ivana Mitrić Sanja Radić Bursać
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECT OF THE MINDFULNESS PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	Research on the implementation and effects of a program based on mindfulness for prevention of behavioral problems and promotion of mental health among elementary school students in Croatia.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Understanding of quality indicators of implementation of a mindfulness program in children and insight into the effects of the intervention on the prevention of behavioral problems and the promotion of children's mental health.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Josipa Mihić, PhD
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTS OF A SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the project is to develop, apply and evaluate the effects of a curriculum for the development of social and emotional skills of teachers. A total of 120 teachers from 4 countries will participate in the project activities (20 in Northern Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia, 60 in Croatia). Within the project, the preparation of online educational materials/curriculum for teachers is planned, as well as the organization of 4 international scientific and professional meetings on the importance of social and emotional skills of teachers. The project also aims to connect organizations in the region that have common objectives in their work with teachers, children and youth, and who have the expertise to design and develop educational, preventive interventions for teachers. The curriculum for the development of social and emotional skills of teachers will focus on 4 components: self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, and quality relationships. Recent knowledge will be used, and the effect of applying the newly created program on teachers will be evaluated in terms of these constructs.

<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Development and testing of a social-emotional learning intervention model for employees in the education system.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Josipa Mihić, PhD
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>RESILIENCE OF EXPERTS IN DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The research seeks to test the theoretical concept of the "wounded healer" (Jung, 1951), or the concept of resilience in helpers. The concept of a "wounded healer" refers to a professional helper whose interest in helping other people is based on an interest in helping oneself, due to one's own wounds caused by difficult life experiences. Given that helping others can be an expression of a successfully resolved crisis/trauma (Lietz, 2007), helping may be viewed as the expression of the resilience of people who have previously experienced trauma. This thesis will be examined by analyzing differences between "helpers" and "non-helpers" in dealing with adverse childhood events and in coping with the current stressful situation caused by COVID-19 and the earthquake.</p> <p>The objective of the research is to determine differences in resilience (risk factors, protective factors and good outcomes) among people in helping and non-helping professions, and to investigate the differences between "resilient" and "non-resilient" helpers in terms of years of service, additional training, type of employment, protective factors, and coping with stress caused by COVID 19 and the earthquake.</p> <p>The research will be conducted longitudinally, online, via LimeSurvey, at three time points: T1, 15 May - 15 July 2020; T2, 15 September - 15 November 2020; and T3, 15 January - 15 March 2020. A total of N = 1000 participants are planned in T1, including N1 = 500 participants from helping professions (social pedagogues, social workers and psychologists, psychiatrists, pedagogues) and N2 = 500 participants from other social professions (lawyers, economists, journalists, and professors). At points T2 and T3, there will certainly be some dropout of respondents.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>This research is relevant because it deals with a topic that has not been sufficiently researched in the Republic of Croatia. The results of the research can provide insight into different types of motivation for choosing a helping profession, and thus help students of helping professions to become aware of their own motivation. Awareness of the motivation to choose a helping profession as a life job/vocation is extremely important so that the helper could control his/her own experience in working with others. Also, the results of the research can provide insight into the specifics of how professionals from helping and non-helping professions deal with recent stressful events (COVID-19 and earthquake). This will allow for a better understanding of the factors that are key to coping successfully and fostering resilience. This can be the basis for creating scientifically based strategies to strengthen the resilience and well-being of different types of professionals.</p>

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>BIOGRAPHICAL WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ALTERNATIVE CARE</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>This is an international project led by the organization Stitching a Lifebook for Youth (Tweevoren, Nuenen, Netherlands), in which partners from Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia participate. The purpose of the project is to improve the implementation of the Lifebook method as a way to strengthen the resources of children and youth in alternative care. The objectives of the project are to evaluate the application of the biographical method of work "Lifebook for youth" with children and youth in alternative care, and to improve the competencies of trainers for the implementation of biographical methods of working with children and youth in alternative care. In order to achieve the objectives of the project, an international camp will be organized in which 10 children and young people from five countries and two trainers from each country will participate. In addition to the participation of young people in the Lifebook modules during the international camp, an evaluation of the implementation will be made in order to improve the content of the "Lifebook for youth" workbook for young people. Program implementation and outcomes will be evaluated, as well as continuous professional work, at an international professional conference with the aim of improving the competencies of trainers in the further implementation of biographical methods of work.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>The implementation of project activities will contribute to the improvement of the "Lifebook for youth" workbook for young people, increase the competencies of trainers applying biographical methods of working with children and youth in alternative care, and provide insight into direct benefits of biographical activities for young people.</p>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Asst. Prof. Gabrijela Ratkajec Gašević, PhD Asst. Prof. Ivana Maurović, PhD</p>

RESEARCH PROJECT	EXERCISING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN ALTERNATIVE CARE
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The findings and conclusions of a series of research studies conducted in Croatia in the last 20 years on educational institutions (and institutional treatment) (Žižak, Koller-Trbović, 1999; Ratkajec, Jeđud, 2009; Jeđud, 2010; Miroslavljević, Koller-Trbović, 2011; Žižak, Koller-Trbović, 2013, Ombudsperson for Children, 2018) indicate inappropriate conditions and insufficient treatment and professional work with children. More specifically, it has been shown that treatment is not sufficiently adapted to the individual needs of the child, and that individual treatment programs are too general and formal and do not contain descriptions of implemented or planned professional interventions. Accordingly, institutions provide insufficient targeted individual and group professional work or activities aimed at protecting children from bullying and specific behavioral problems. Under such conditions, the rights of children with behavioral problems to adequate intervention are not realized.</p> <p>Given that in the last 10 years no comprehensive research has been conducted about the intervention needs of children or their satisfaction with educational institutions, there is a need for new research. Therefore, the general objective of the research is to determine the intervention needs of children in alternative care and the capacities of the system (experts and institutions) for providing those interventions.</p> <p>Specific objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the level and type of children's behavioral problems, their resources, willingness to change, and subjective well-being as factors when assessing intervention needs;</li> <li>• Determine the readiness of professionals to introduce innovations, the stance and attitudes of professionals towards children and towards their own work and the interventions they apply to children;</li> <li>• Determine correlations of the level and type of behavioral problems, children's resources and their willingness to change with the interventions of educators;</li> <li>• Determine the contribution of the child's characteristics (socio-demographic characteristics, behavioral problems, resources, willingness to change) and the professionals' characteristics (socio-demographic characteristics, readiness to introduce innovations in work, attitudes towards children, relationship towards children) to the interventions undertaken (warmth, supervision, encouragement of autonomy);</li> <li>• Gain insight into the perspective of children and educators on the capacities of the system to respond to children's intervention needs.</li> </ul> <p>A mixed research approach will be applied. The research will include educational institutions in which children with behavioral problems are placed (educational homes, community service centers). The quantitative part of the research is expected to include about 200 children and 200 professionals. At least 50 children and 50 professionals are expected to participate in the qualitative part of the research.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>Monitoring of the intervention needs of children and young people as well as monitoring of the exercise of children's rights in alternative care, especially in educational institutions.</p>

<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Ivana Borić, PhD (leader) Asst. Prof. Ivana Maurović, PhD Asst. Prof. Gabrijela Ratkajec Gašević, PhD Asst. Prof. Anja Mirosavljević, PhD Andrea Ćosić
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS CHILDREN'S RIGHTS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>Since 1989, one year after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a number of studies have been conducted dealing with children's rights in general, including the right to participation (Žižak and Koller-Trbović, 1999; Žižak, Nikolić, Koller-Trbović, 2001; Žižak, Vizek Vidović, 2004; Koller-Trbović and Žižak, 2005; Miharija and Kuridža, 2011, Brajša Žganec et al., 2012; Koller-Trbović, Jeđud Borić and Žižak, 2012, Žižak et al., 2012). Data from 1999 (Žižak and Koller-Trbović) have shown that children generally believe that adults do not listen to them and that they do not have the opportunity to express their opinion. Subsequent research has shown that there have been no significant developments in this regard: research on children's opinions and attitudes in Croatia (Miharija and Kuridža, 2011) has shown that children can mostly participate within their own families, but very little in their local communities. Children stated that adults do not consult them nor involve them in decision-making. In addition to research papers, several theoretical papers have been published in our country that touch on the topic of children's participation, as well as views on children and childhood (e.g. Pećnik, 2008, Markovinović, 2010, Kušević, 2010, Jeđud, 2011, Koller-Trbović, 2012, Babić, 2014).</p> <p>We find only rare research in the literature (e.g. Kuterovac-Jagodić et al., 2000) in which the attitudes of students about children's rights have been examined, especially students of helping and teaching professions who will focus on children in their future professional work.</p> <p>Therefore, the aim of this research is to examine students' attitudes and opinions about children's rights and children's participation. The research will analyze final-year undergraduate and graduate students of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences. A mixed research approach will be applied: attitudes and opinions will be quantitatively examined, and focus groups will be conducted with students on the topic of reasoning about children's rights and understanding violations of children's rights.</p> <p>The following instruments/scales will be used in the research: <i>Definition of a child; Knowledge of legal documents on children's rights; Stance on the position of children in the Republic of Croatia; Degree of realization of children's rights; Picture of a child; Opinions on children's ability to participate; Opinions on participation of children from vulnerable groups; General attitude towards respecting the rights of the child; Attitude towards the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.</i></p>

<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>In Croatia, research was conducted on the extent to which study programs that educate preschool teachers, teachers, pedagogues, psychologists and social workers contain contents related to human rights, children's rights, children's participation and active citizenship (<a href="https://mehr.azvo.hr/images/dokumenti/MEHR%20Croatian%20Report.pdf9">https://mehr.azvo.hr/images/dokumenti/MEHR%20Croatian%20Report.pdf9</a>). The conclusions of that research showed that teachers and students recognize the importance of these contents in the education of future professionals and believe that these contents must be an integral part of the compulsory courses. Furthermore, it has been shown that study outcomes need to more explicitly define learning outcomes related to children's rights, children's participation and active citizenship. Since these are future professionals who will work directly with children, it is important to have an insight into their views on children's rights, so that curricula (contents, learning outcomes and teaching methods) can be planned.</p>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Assoc. Prof. Ivana Borić, PhD, leader  Prof. Marija Lebedina-Manzoni, PhD  Andrea Ćosić  Sonja Biglbauer</p>

RESEARCH PROJECT	PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN FROM VULNERABLE GROUPS
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The purpose of the research is to gain comprehensive insight into the participation of children from vulnerable groups in Croatia (Roma children, children without adequate parental care, children with developmental disabilities, children in the health care system, children in the justice system, child refugees and migrants, children affected by poverty and children from isolated areas), including gaining information about existing attitudes, opportunities, barriers and incentives for children’s participation. Furthermore, the study is expected to provide concrete recommendations for future activities of the UNICEF Office and its strategic partners in or to strengthen the participation of children from vulnerable groups in all aspects of their lives.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conceptualize and describe the vulnerability of children in regards to their rights of participation;</li> <li>5. Examine the attitudes of citizens and professionals (employees in the fields of education, health, justice and social care) on the rights of participation of children from vulnerable groups;</li> <li>6. Examine the attitudes of citizens and professionals (employees in the fields of education, health, justice and social care) on the opportunities for children from vulnerable groups to participate in the family, school and community;</li> <li>7. Gain insight into the participation of children from vulnerable groups and identify factors that facilitate/hinder participation (through 8 targeted case studies);</li> <li>8. Identify and describe good practices of participation of children from vulnerable groups;</li> <li>9. Identify and describe the consequences of insufficient participation of children from vulnerable groups;</li> <li>10. Prepare a comprehensive report with recommendations for increasing the participation of children from vulnerable groups, with the participation of children.</li> </ol> <p>This study will use primary (direct) data sources (children, parents, professionals, citizens) and indirect/secondary sources (relevant literature, public documents, photographs, websites, etc.).</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>The findings of the study will contribute to a better understanding of the concept of child vulnerability and support the active role of children in research studies. The results and conclusions of the study will be used to encourage further research, models and/or practices of participation for children from vulnerable groups. Furthermore, in the long run, the outcomes of this research should improve the participation of children from vulnerable groups and thus increase their visibility and decision-making ability on issues that are directly related to their lives.</p>



<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Assoc. Prof. Ivana Borić, PhD, leader (ERF)</p> <p>Asst. Prof. Sonja Alimović, PhD (ERF)</p> <p>Andrea Ćosić (ERF)</p> <p>Assoc. Prof. Olja Družić-Ljubotina, PhD (Faculty of Law, Social Work Study Center)</p> <p>Assoc. Prof. Marijana Majdak, PhD (Faculty of Law, Social Work Study Center)</p> <p>Asst. Prof. Marijana Kletečki Radović, PhD (Faculty of Law, Social Work Study Center)</p> <p>Asst. Prof. Ana Opačić, PhD (Faculty of Law, Social Work Study Center)</p> <p>Asst. Prof. Aleksandra Huić, PhD (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)</p> <p>Asst. Prof. Marija Bartulović, PhD (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)</p> <p>Asst. Prof. Ana Širanović, PhD (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)</p> <p>Gordana Šimunković (University of Rijeka, School of Medicine)</p> <p>Marina Grubić (University Hospital Center Zagreb)</p>
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## DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>CRIMINAL CAREER PATTERNS OF SEX OFFENDERS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The main objective of the research is to gain a detailed insight into the criminal career of perpetrators of crimes against sexual freedom and perpetrators of sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the Republic of Croatia, as well as insight into the experiences and perspectives of professionals in the field of sexual offenses in Croatia.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The purpose of this research, in addition to contributing to the overall body of knowledge in the field of criminal careers, is to gain a multidimensional picture of the criminal career of perpetrators of crimes against sexual freedom and perpetrators of sexual abuse and exploitation of children through analysis of a sample of perpetrators of these crimes in the Republic of Croatia, as well as through analysis of the perspectives of professionals working with sex offenders. Research in the field of criminal careers is important because it can be very practically applied in determining the length of a sentence, parole, and work with prisoners in areas that are risky for them but are known to influence the duration of a criminal career.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Dalibor Doležal, PhD Ena Jovanović, prof.soc.pedag.
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>PREDICTORS OF PENAL RECIDIVISM IN THE CROATIAN PENAL SYSTEM</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this research is to determine the factors among the data collected on prisoners that contribute the most to explaining penal recidivism in the Croatian prison system. Data collection and aggregation for this research has been carried out since 2014, and the goal during the period from 2019 to 2023 is to conduct analyzes of the collected data and publish scientific papers.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The results of this research will make it possible to direct experts to those predictors that have proven to be important for penal recidivism and for weighting various personal, social, criminological and other factors in predicting the commission of a crime and repeated imprisonment.

<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Martina Lotar Rihtarić, PhD Đulijana Badurina Sertić (Directorate for the Prison System and Probation, Diagnostic Center in Zagreb)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>CRITERIA OF COURTS IN IMPOSING SENTENCES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>In the light of the movement for the deinstitutionalization of perpetrators of criminal offenses, the current issue is when it is justified to impose a prison sentence, and when the purpose of the sanction can be achieved outside prison, especially in the case of a short prison sentence. In addition to the general criteria for imposing sentences specified by law, courts receive non-systematic, often very deficient, documentation to help them make an appropriate ruling or judgment. This has already been described in numerous papers and analyses, but they have not resulted in a scientific approach or recommendations. This problem is present in the Republic of Croatia and in some other countries in the world, but there are also countries where this area is well regulated, so their experiences will be models for generating recommendations adapted to Croatian practice.</p> <p>The project has two research objectives: (1) qualitative analysis of documentation that serves as the basis for courts to make decisions and impose sanctions; and (2) quantification of elements of documentation (in accordance with legal and professional standards) and data processing.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	After processing, the obtained data will be compared with expert recommendations on their quantity and type, and put in relation to the gravity of the crime and recidivism in committing crimes, in order to make a recommendation on the procedures of systematic data collection and how to link the data with argumentative and justifiable imposition of a specific sentence. Systematically collected data from courts should also be part of the documentation provided to sentence enforcement institutions, as they represent the starting point for planning the treatment of perpetrators of crimes. The results will be the basis for the development of a guide on the amount, type and manner of collecting relevant data for the needs of the court and the initial phase of treatment.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Ljiljana Mikšaj - Todorović, PhD (leader) Prof. Petar Veić, PhD Assoc. Prof. Anita Jandrić Nišević, PhD Asst. Prof. Dalibor Doležal, PhD Asst. Prof. Tihana Novak, PhD Ivca Luketić, PhD student Vučić Blažić Maja, univ.spec.krim.istr.

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>POST-PENAL PROTECTION - PROTECTION OF PRISONERS AND THE COMMUNITY</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Better mutual information among institutions about their work</li> <li>2. More comprehensive insight into the needs of prisoners before release, during parole and after the full expiration of the prison sentence; as well as insight into the protection needs of the community</li> <li>3. Improvement in cooperation among institutions for post-penal protection</li> <li>4. Improvement of post-penal protection in general</li> </ol>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Improvement in cooperation among state institutions within the framework of the post-penal protection of prisoners to meet their needs, in order to avoid recurrence.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Snježana Maloić (leader) and Goran Brkić (Department of Probation of the Ministry of Justice), Prof. Irma Kovčo Vukadin, PhD</p> <p>Representatives of the Prison System Department</p> <p>Representatives of the court</p> <p>Representatives of the police</p> <p>Implementation judge</p> <p>Representatives of the social care system</p>

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>MONITORING AND EVALUATING OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT "SUPPORT TO PRISON SYSTEM AND PROBATION OFFICIALS THROUGH SUPERVISION"</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The objective of the project is to construct instruments for the selection of prison system and probation officers (the project participants), and to evaluate project activities and outcomes. Monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes and results will take place in three stages. The first stage will be an assessment of current satisfaction with the job, autonomy, organizational stress, and burnout of penal institution professionals, and the results will be the starting point.</p> <p>The following instruments will be used in the assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Job Satisfaction Survey - Spector, 1985</li> <li>2) Factual Autonomy Scale - Spector, Fox, 2003</li> <li>3) Maslach Burnout Inventory - Maslach, Jackson, 1981</li> <li>4) Organizational Police Stress Questionnaire - McCreary, Thompson, M.M., 2006</li> </ol> <p>These instruments will be used in the first and third stages of evaluating project outcomes and results, and they will answer questions about whether project activities have increased job satisfaction and perceived autonomy and reduced levels of organizational stress and burnout of professionals involved in the project.</p> <p>The second stage of evaluation will take place in the middle of project activities (halfway), and will differ methodologically and conceptually because it will ensure the participation of professionals in modifying the supervision process during implementation itself, thus creating a suitable environment for strengthening motivation and directing support. Semi-structured group interviews (focus groups) will be conducted with each group, in which beneficiaries will have the opportunity to assess previous work, leaders, processes, possible changes in the experience of their work and express their expectations and needs in the second half of project activities.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>The project "Support to prison system and probation officers through supervision" contributes to the realization of professional support in the implementation of an individual program of treatment/serving of a prison sentence.</p> <p>By forming supervision groups and holding supervision meetings, the project will improve the capacities of the prison system and probation officers for the implementation of individual prison treatment/prison sentence execution programs, and it will improve the quality of work and provision of services to users (criminal offenders/convicts). Supervision meetings provide participants with support in challenging and demanding professional situations, creating solutions for professional challenges that prevent burnout, increase job satisfaction and motivation to work, and maintain mental health.</p> <p>This research evaluates project outcomes, gives recommendations and thus improves professional help and support for treatment staff in penal institutions and the probation system.</p>

<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Tihana Novak, PhD, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences Assoc. Prof. Anita Jandrić Nišević, PhD, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences Danijela Đurak, president of the Association for Creative Social Work Asst. Prof. Davorka Stipić Topić, PhD, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Mostar Mirjana Šimunović Škunca, prof. of psychology and pedagogy, psychotherapist and supervisor Zdravko Bokulić, prof. sociology, psychotherapist and supervisor Marija Pongrac, student
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>POSSIBILITIES OF APPLYING VIRTUAL REALITY TO THE TREATMENT OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this paper is to explore the possibilities of applying virtual reality to the treatment of criminal offenders, its advantages and disadvantages, and the possibility of implementation in existing penal institutions.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The research should show the possibilities for the implementation and application of virtual reality to the treatment of criminal offenders in the Republic of Croatia.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Anita Jandrić Nišević, PhD Asst. Prof. Dalibor Doležal, PhD
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>PSYCHOSOCIAL TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND ASSESSMENT OF CRIMINOGENIC FACTORS OF CONVICTED DRUG ADDICTS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to evaluate the Croatian model of psychosocial treatment of convicted drug addicts.  The project will present early models of rehabilitation of convicted drug addicts and their efficiency, dynamics of development of the specifics of addiction problems in penal institutions, modern models of psychosocial rehabilitation of convicted drug addicts in the US and Europe, as well as the origin and course of the PORTOs program in Croatia, with experiences of implementation and effectiveness.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The expected contribution is the creation of guidelines for the improvement of psychosocial treatment/rehabilitation of convicted drug addicts in the Republic of Croatia.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Tihana Novak, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Anita Jandrić Nišević, PhD - Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences Martina Barić - Central office of the Prison System Department Saša Rajić, PhD - prison in Karlovac Danijela Đurak, president of the Association for Creative Social Work Paula Rajković, Lucija Šaško, Anita Cestarić - students Toni Jandrić, Vida Vasilj - PhD students

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONVICTED PERSONS AND REHABILITATION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to examine the attitudes of the general population towards convicted persons and rehabilitation in the Republic of Croatia and the surrounding countries (Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia) with whom we share a tradition of penal system development and sentencing. This research will provide answers about how the public is informed about the rehabilitation approach, attitudes about alternative sentencing, warnings, educational sentencing for juveniles, postponement of criminal prosecution and probation with protective supervision, as well as attitudes towards convicted persons who have served their sentences and returned to society.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The contribution of the research is data needed to influence society's post-penal reception of convicted persons in order to reduce criminal recurrence.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Anita Jandrić Nišević, PhD and Asst. Prof. Tihana Novak, PhD - Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences Danijela Đurak, president of the Association for Creative Social Work Asst. Prof. Davorka Stipičić Topić, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Ilija Musa, PhD - Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University in Mostar Colleagues from Slovenia and Serbia
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>CLUBS OF TREATED ALCOHOLICS (CTA): CHARACTERISTICS OF FUNCTIONING AND PERCEPTION OF EFFECTIVENESS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to gain insight into the functioning of CTAs and their effectiveness from the perspectives of various stakeholders (treated alcoholics, their companions and professional associates).
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The purpose of the planned research is to contribute to scientifically based knowledge about the perception of the effectiveness of CTAs from three different perspectives - the perspective of a treated alcoholic, his/her companion and the professional club leader.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Irma Kovčo Vukadin, PhD (leader) Prof. Zoran Zoričić, PhD (Sisters of Charity Hospital, president of the Croatian Association of Clubs of Treated Alcoholics) Helena Jakičić (student of the Graduate study program Social Pedagogy 2018/19)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>PEER INFLUENCE ON RISKY BEHAVIORS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CONTEXT OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES</b>

<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to examine the motives for the use of different digital technologies, and to examine whether the frequent use of digital technologies predicts desirable and/or undesirable psychosocial outcomes (e.g. aggressive behavior, shyness, social anxiety, school attachment, etc.). In addition, the objective is to explore the role of peer pressure in motivating people to play video games, use social networks and other digital technologies, as well as to understand the characteristics of behaviors related to the use of digital technologies and their outcomes.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The scientific contribution of this paper will be data on patterns in the use of digital technologies and motives for it among Croatian adolescents, as well as the connection of this behavior with different outcomes, undesirable and desirable. The value of this research lies in its equal emphasis on positive and negative outcomes. This research emphasizes the role of peer influence on adolescent behaviors in the context of digital technologies, which has so far been neglected in scientific research, especially in Croatia.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Martina Lotar Rihtarić, PhD Asst. Prof. Ajana Low, PhD Asst. Prof. Ivana Vrselja, PhD (Department of Psychology, Catholic University of Croatia)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to gain insight into students' attitudes towards domestic violence, specifically towards three types of domestic violence - marital violence, violence against children and violence against the elderly. Insight will also be gained into the impact of coronavirus control measures on the incidence of domestic violence and the current social reaction to the problem of domestic violence.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The purpose of the research is to obtain scientifically based data on attitudes towards domestic violence, the impact of coronavirus control measures on the incidence of domestic violence and opinions on the current social response to domestic violence that could serve to design activities for students that would be focused on raising awareness and preventing all forms of domestic violence analyzed.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Irma Kovčo Vukadin, PhD (leader) Students of the Graduate study program Social Pedagogy (2019/20): Antonella Kossi Mia Jakelić Tamara Starčević Dora Škarica Ivana Strmečki



<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>QUALITY OF LIFE AND STUDYING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to determine the characteristics of important aspects of students' lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as their interconnectedness, and to determine the predictors of good outcomes.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	This research will provide valuable information on the relationship between different domains of student life, both nationally and internationally, which can be used to develop scientifically based guidelines for dealing with crisis situations.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Irma Kovčo Vukadin, PhD (leader) Students of the Graduate study program Social Pedagogy (2019/20): Ema Grubišić Magdalena Miler Antonija Klemenčič Lora Rebrek Ana Marić Klara Ereš Ivona Lazarević

## DEPARTMENT OF HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

RESEARCH PROJECT	LANGUAGE SKILLS OF EARLY COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN AND STUDENTS AND PREDICTORS OF THEIR RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The objective of this research is to longitudinally assess receptive vocabulary and the level of grammar comprehension in early implanted children and primary school students. Although cochlear implantation has enabled many children to attend regular kindergarten, elementary and secondary school, scientific research continues to document a significant number of children whose level of language perception and production as well as overall social and academic skills differ from those of children with regular development: they are significantly behind in development of vocabulary and grammar. Insights into these and other features of language and speech development of Croatian children with cochlear implants, as well as knowledge about the reasons for their occurrence, are necessary to optimize training in language and speech communication for these children, which can be an even better foundation for inclusion than the existing one.</p> <p>Participants in the research will be preschool children (5 to 7 years old) and regular elementary school students from 3rd to 8th grade who received implants by the age of 3. The control sample will consist of a group of hearing children/students matched in age with the implanted children/students.</p> <p>The research will use NRDLs-HR (New Reynell Developmental Language Scales), the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test - PPVT-III-HR and the Test for Reception of Grammar - TROG-2:HR. A questionnaire for parents will also be used to collect anamnestic and demographic data on students. The data will be analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>Insight into the specifics of language and speech development of children with cochlear implants will provide a basis for the creation of modern guidelines for clinical work with this population. Also, this research will verify the effectiveness of the abovementioned measuring instruments in the population of children with cochlear implants and potentially identify specifics about the assessment of language skills of children/students with cochlear implants.</p>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Asst. Prof. Iva Hrastinski, PhD            Asst. Prof. Marina Milković, PhD            Asst. Prof. Luka Bonetti, PhD            Tomislav Radošević, mag. speech therapist, assistant</p>

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUDITORY PROCESSING AND HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN THE ELDERLY AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON HEARING REHABILITATION OUTCOMES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The objective of this research is to examine the ability of auditory processing in people with senile deafness and to examine the role of auditory processing in rehabilitation outcomes in that population. Previous research has identified individual otological, technical, personal, and demographic factors that may affect the rehabilitation outcomes of adults and elderly with acquired hearing impairment (e.g. satisfaction with the hearing aid, improved communication skills, reduced hearing impairment, or improved quality of life). However, research into the role of central hearing processes in hearing rehabilitation in adults and the elderly has only just begun, so any new report on how hearing processing difficulties coexist with hearing loss during aging, and how sensory or cognitive components affect clinical performance, may be important for improving rehabilitation services for this population, especially in terms of allocation of hearing aids.</p> <p>Participants in the research will be adults (50+) with or without audiometrically confirmed hearing impairment, who will be tested for hearing processing ability (PSP-1 hearing processing ability test), hearing sensitivity (by tone and speech audiometry), as well as communication and socio-emotional consequences of hearing loss (Hearing Rehabilitation Outcome Profile and Hearing Handicap Inventory). Anamnestic and demographic characteristics will be recorded. The collected data will be analyzed quantitatively and using an appropriate regression method.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>Given the incidence of acquired hearing impairment of 30% in the population aged 60+ and the investment in rehabilitation by state-level hearing aid subsidies, insight into the specific impact of central processes on hearing quality after hearing aid allocation, as well as the impact of other factors (personal or demographic), can provide valuable information about the best candidates for the allocation of hearing aids, as well as about the best multidisciplinary combination of various rehabilitation options (technological, speech therapy, psychological).</p>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Asst. Prof. Luka Bonetti, PhD Asst. Prof. Iva Hrastinski, PhD</p>

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>LINGUISTICS OF CROATIAN SIGN LANGUAGE</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The objective is to describe the rich and complex grammar of Croatian sign language. In the light of contemporary social trends, Croatian sign language, like many other (sign) languages, is endangered and becoming extinct. Therefore, it is necessary to help in its preservation, as well as transmission to new generations, through research.</p> <p>The research will include or includes the following contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resultatives in Croatian sign language</li> <li>Verb tenses in Croatian sign language</li> <li>Modality in Croatian sign language</li> <li>Imperative in Croatian sign language</li> <li>Space and spatial relations in Croatian sign language</li> <li>Sociolinguistics of Croatian sign language</li> <li>Iconicity in Croatian sign language</li> <li>Onomastics in Croatian sign language</li> <li>Adoption vs. learning of Croatian sign language</li> <li>Croatian sign language assessment tests</li> <li>Visuospatial abilities in learning Croatian sign language as L2</li> </ul>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>Research on Croatian sign language linguistics contributes to the description of its grammar, and thus to its status as a true natural language, as well as to the methods of learning and teaching Croatian sign language as L1 and L2.</p> <p>It also contributes to the preservation of the language and cultural heritage of deaf people in Croatia.</p>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Asst. Prof. Marina Milković, PhD  Asst. Prof. Iva Hrastinski, PhD  Tomislav Radošević, mag. speech therapist, assistant</p>
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>SOCIOPEDAGOGICAL AND (RE)HABILITATION ASPECTS OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The objective of this research is to raise the level of quality of the provision of (re)habilitation services based on scientifically based facts, first of all in the Hearing Impairments Cabinet at the Rehabilitation Center, and then more widely in the speech therapy and education-rehabilitation profession when it comes to children and people with hearing impairment.</p> <p>The research will include or includes the following contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parental perspective on diagnosis and intervention procedures</li> <li>Bimodal bilingual intervention - case reports</li> <li>Bilingualism, developmental language disorders and learning difficulties - case reports</li> <li>Parenting challenges</li> <li>Siblings</li> </ul>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>The contribution of the research is to raise the quality of the provision of (re)habilitation services, as well as the quality of life of families of children and adults with hearing impairment.</p>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Asst. Prof. Marina Milković, PhD  Asst. Prof. Iva Hrastinski, PhD  Asst. Prof. Luka Bonetti, PhD  Tomislav Radošević, mag. speech therapist, assistant</p>

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>CROATIAN SIGN LANGUAGE PROCESSING</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective is to investigate the features of linguistic processing of Croatian sign language. A special focus will be on examining whether there is predictive processing during Croatian sign language processing, i.e. whether sentence-level constraints affect predictions that are created as the sentence unfolds over time.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The research would be the first neurolinguistic study of the processing of Croatian sign language. The existence of the phenomenon of predictive language processing, which has already been established in a number of spoken languages, will be examined.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Tomislav Radošević, mag. speech therapist, assistant Asst. Prof. Marina Milković, PhD Prof. Marijan Palmović, PhD
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM OF TEACHING CROATIAN AS A SECOND LANGUAGE FOR DEAF PERSONS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	Language is acquired by listening, so it is a great, and most often lifelong, challenge for prelingually deaf people to master and communicate in Croatian. This research aims to examine the extent to which the teaching and use of metalingual knowledge can contribute to better mastery of the Croatian language in deaf people who are fluent in Croatian sign language. The object of the research is to develop, apply and evaluate, a program for teaching the Croatian language to deaf people, based on the principles of teaching a foreign language. Sources and experiences from the field of teaching Croatian as a foreign language will be used in the development of the program, elaboration of language progression and methodological procedures.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The existence of such a program would enable the learning and mastering of the Croatian language for interested deaf people through courses at clubs of deaf people. Such a program would also be a key element and necessary prerequisite in bilingual education programs for deaf children.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Sandra Bradarić-Jončić, PhD Prof. Jasminka Pajtak
<b>VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS</b>	

## DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>QUALITY OF LIFE RELATED TO THE VISION OF THE ELDERLY WITH IMPAIRED VISION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The objective of the research is to determine how some factors related to vision affect the quality of life of the elderly with impaired vision. Differences will be examined in visual functioning, incidence of depression, frequency and intensity of physical activity, and degree of religiosity between respondents who were involved in rehabilitation or not, and between respondents of different genders or ages (65 to 74 years old vs 75 to 84 years old vs 85 years of age and older).</p> <p>The impact of the selected predictor set (sociodemographic characteristics, characteristics of visual impairment, existence of additional difficulties and/or disabilities, participation in rehabilitation, physical activity, depression and religiosity) on the vision-associated quality of life will also be determined.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	<p>The expected scientific contribution will be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scientific insight into the characteristics of the visually impaired elderly population in the City of Zagreb and Zagreb County</li> <li>- Scientific insight into differences in visual functioning, the incidence of depression, frequency and intensity of physical activity and the level of religiosity between groups of respondents that differ in terms of gender, age and participation in rehabilitation</li> <li>- Scientific insight into the significance of selected quality of life predictors associated with the vision of the elderly with impaired vision</li> <li>- The first research in Croatia aimed at studying the quality of life associated with vision in the elderly with impaired vision</li> <li>- Adaptation and psychometric evaluation of the Visual Function Questionnaire, the Geriatric Depression Scale, the Physical Activity Questionnaire for the Elderly and the Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire</li> </ul>
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Vlatka Anić, mag.rehab.educ.

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>FACTORS HINDERING ACCESS OF PERSONS WITH IMPAIRED VISION TO REHABILITATION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>The focus of the research is the process through which visually impaired adults go from the onset of the impairment to the exercise of their right to rehabilitation. The obtained data will be discussed in the form of basic models or theories of disability that have largely shaped the legislative, but also the social context of contemporary discussions about people with disabilities.</p> <p>The research will be conducted on a sample divided into three groups. The first group will consist of a criterion sample that includes visually impaired adults (blindness and low vision) who have acquired impairment at a later age and at least two years have passed from their last diagnosis to rehabilitation or they have not initiated the process of inclusion in rehabilitation at all. The second group will consist of experts involved in the process of referring visually impaired people to rehabilitation. These include social workers and educational rehabilitators of institutions involved in receiving applications, conducting assessments, and providing information and rehabilitation, as well as the ophthalmologists of the Sisters of Charity Hospital and University Hospital Sveti Duh. The third group consists of policy creators and makers in the field of persons with disabilities at the state level, given that the institutions that provide rehabilitation services covered by this research operate at the level of state social policy.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	As an original scientific contribution, the research will provide insight into the factors that hinder access to rehabilitation services and programs for the visually impaired in the social policy system, and insight into how relationships among the factors can be interpreted within key theoretical models of public policy making. The identification of these factors will set the basic guidelines for the formulation of social policy aimed at better integration of support systems for visually impaired adults. The results of this research will form the basis for concrete interventions in Croatian social policy in order to improve the quality of services intended for the population of visually impaired people.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Dominik Sikirić, mag.rehab.educ.
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>CEREBRAL VISUAL IMPAIRMENT IN CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	Problems in the visual functioning of children with intellectual disabilities will be examined, with an emphasis on cerebral visual impairment. Examinations of children of typical development and screening for cerebral visual impairment (CVI) will be conducted for the purpose of better detection and adaptation of schooling for children with CVI.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The obtained results will improve detection of children with CVI and adaptation of schooling to this impairment.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Sonja Alimović, PhD

## DEPARTMENT OF MOTORIC DISORDERS, CHRONIC DISEASES AND ART THERAPIES

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN THE SYSTEM OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to design a protocol for the implementation of assistive technology in the system of elementary and secondary education to meet the individual needs of students.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The research will contribute to improvement of the inclusive quality of the school and be a contribution to the creation of a unique protocol in the application of assistive technology in the education system.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Renata Pinjatela, PhD; Romana Cvjetković
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DESIGN OF ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT FOR SELECTION OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR PERSONS WITH MOTOR DISORDERS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to conceptualize two areas (gross and fine motor skills) of the assessment instrument for the selection of assistive technology for people with motor disorders. The research would conceptualize particles for the areas of gross motor skills (position, ability to move, upper extremity motor skills) and fine motor skills (ability to achieve targeted movement, finger differentiation). The purpose of the instrument, in addition to the initial assessment and monitoring of progress, is also the choice of the type of aids that will allow the respondent to maximize his/her potential and improve the quality of his/her life.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The research will contribute to the development of a new, comprehensive assessment instrument for selecting appropriate assistive technology for a person with motor disorders.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Renata Pinjatela, PhD; Assoc. Prof. Renata Martinec, PhD; Asst. Prof. Damir Miholić; Vesna Matijević Knez, dipl.rehab.educ.
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>CORRELATION BETWEEN MOTOR SKILLS AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to examine the correlation between motor skills and quality of life of children with developmental disabilities.



<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The obtained results will contribute to a better understanding of the features of motor and functional abilities of children with disabilities and will contribute to the conceptualization of optimal educational and rehabilitation programs and strategies aimed at improving the quality of life of children with developmental disabilities and their families.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Renata Pinjatela, PhD; Patricija Karaman, mag.rehab.edu.
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>INFLUENCE OF CHILD-DIRECTED BEHAVIOR ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF IMITATION OF TODDLERS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of this research, which is conducted for the purpose of writing a doctoral thesis, is to determine whether child-directed behaviors (child-directed speech and child-directed movement) affect the success of imitation in children aged 18 months.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The proposed research will shed light on the impact of child-directed behavior (speech and movement) on the success of imitation in children of 18 months of age. Given the modality of stimuli (child-directed movement, child-directed speech, synchronized appearance of speech and movement, or neutral presentation), it will be possible to observe whether there are differences in imitation with new objects. These findings will explain in more detail the mechanisms that motivate young children to imitate adults and the success in imitation, which is one of the most effective ways of acquiring culturally specific knowledge. The combination of child-directed behavior that has the greatest impact on the child's success and level of spontaneous imitation can guide future efforts to teach imitation skills to children with various developmental disabilities.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Ana-Marija Bohaček, mag.rehab.educ., PhD student Assoc. Prof. Maja Ceganec, PhD, mentor
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT OF THE EVALUATION SYSTEM FOR ARTISTIC/EXPRESSIVE METHODS IN EDUCATION, REHABILITATION AND THERAPY</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to re-evaluate some existing systems, and develop new ones, for scientific evaluation of artistic/expressive media-based programs (music, movement and dance, art, drama) in educational, rehabilitation and therapeutic work with children and adults with disabilities. It would encompass quantitative, qualitative and combined methodology.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The research should provide new possibilities (different assessment instruments) for evaluating the effects of programs focused on different development areas (sensory, motor, emotional, socialization, etc.), as well as on different levels of support systems in equalizing opportunities and quality of life of children and adults with disabilities (family, community, inclusion).
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Asst. Prof. Damir Miholić, PhD; Assoc. Prof. Renata Martinec, PhD; Asst. Prof. Ana Katušić, PhD; Margareta Vidmar, mag.rehab.educ.; Assoc. Prof. Renata Pinjatela, PhD

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>SPECIFICS OF BODY IMAGE IN PERSONS WITH MOTOR DISORDERS AND CHRONIC DISEASES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to create a model of multidimensional assessment of body image in people with motor disorders and chronic diseases based on various categories such as functionality, appearance, health, fitness level, social impact, attractiveness, appearance improvement, emotional relationships, coping mechanisms, etc. Based on the obtained results, the design of appropriate therapeutic models is envisaged in order to adopt a positive body image and more completely accept one's own physicality.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Design of a model of multidimensional assessment of body image. Insights into the specifics of body image. Selection of the most common determinants that lead to a negative body image. Design of a therapeutic model (approach and techniques) that can contribute to the development and preservation of positive body image in people with motor disorders and chronic diseases.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Renata Martinec, PhD Assoc. Prof. Renata Pinjatela, PhD Asst. Prof. Damir Miholić, PhD Anamarija Bohaček, dipl. rehab. educ.
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>EFFECT OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE THERAPY ON BODY IMAGE IN PERSONS WITH MOTOR DISORDERS AND CHRONIC DISEASES</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	The objective of the research is to examine the possible effects of specific movement and dance therapy techniques (imitation, mirroring, body symbolization, authentic movement, exploring by movement) on the stimulation of motor functions, physical experience, emotional expression and social interaction in people with motor disorders and chronic diseases.
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	Design of a specific program (techniques and implementation methodologies) of movement and dance therapy to people with motor disorders and chronic diseases.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Assoc. Prof. Renata Martinec, PhD Assoc. Prof. Renata Pinjatela, PhD Asst. Prof. Damir Miholić, PhD Anamarija Bohaček, dipl. rehab. educ.

## SUB-DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, INFORMATICS AND TECHNOLOGY

<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIPS IN THE CONTEXT OF STRESS</b>
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT</b>	<p>Studies suggest that stress is an important contextual factor of quality and satisfaction with partnerships (Finkel, Simpson, &amp; Eastwick, 2017). Stress affects partnerships through the “spillover effect”, when stressors outside the partnership itself (outside the dyad) affect the interactions between partners (Neff and Karney, 2009). The process of stress spillover is best described through the theoretical framework of the stress-divorce model (Bodenmann, 1995). Previous research on the stress-divorce model indicates the need for more detailed research of individual types of stressors and the relationship between variables in the model, as well as the use of more advanced methodological procedures. Therefore, the objective of this project is a longitudinal examination of the relationship between stress and partnerships in couples exposed to stressors due to their own physical and/or mental health, parenting of children with developmental disabilities and/or children with behavioral problems, and socio-economic vulnerability.</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION</b>	The results of the research will contribute to guidelines for future interventions at the individual, dyad, family, and social level.
<b>RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<p>Leader: Asst. Prof. Ajana Low, PhD  Collaborators: Assoc. Prof. Martina Lotar Rihtarić, PhD; Assoc. Prof. Ana Wagner Jakab, PhD</p>