



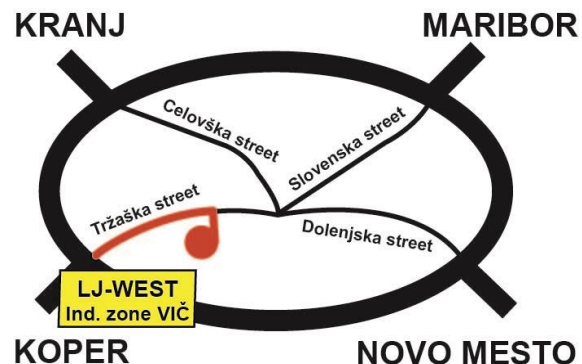
## Who for?

The project includes: partially sighted children and youth and their families, children and youth with multiple disorders and their families, children and youth with special educational needs and their families, professional workers in kindergartens, schools and other institutions, potential employers, and the wider community.

## Sustainability of the results

The project is implemented to provide the basis for a systematic regulation of a centre of expertise for holistic approach to children and youth with visual impairment, as well as to children and adolescents with special educational needs. It enables the sustainability of the results after the project is completed.

## Where we are?



### Centre IRIS

Centre for Education, Rehabilitation, Inclusion  
and Counselling for the Blind and  
Partially Sighted  
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### Additional information:

<http://center-iris.si/projekti/strokovni-center/>

Facebook: Center IRIS

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**Centre of Expertise for holistic approach  
to blind and partially sighted children  
and youth, and children and youth with  
special educational needs**



### Centre IRIS

Centre for Education, Rehabilitation,  
Inclusion and Counselling for the Blind and  
Partially Sighted

**Activities planned at the Centre of  
Expertise  
from 2017 to 2020**

Centre IRIS – Centre for Education, Rehabilitation, Inclusion and Counselling for the Blind and Partially Sighted will run a project (from 2017 to 2020) titled Centre of Expertise for holistic approach to blind and partially sighted children and youth, and children and youth with special educational needs.

The project contains some additional activities that are required to enhance the activities already provided at the Centre. The activities will have a positive effect on the independence, social integration, and physical health of blind and partially sighted children and youth and will provide a better understanding of blindness in the wider environment.

The activities of the project include: overall assessment, extended curriculum, consulting and education and the Centre of Expertise activities.

The activities are planned precisely and will be ongoing from the early intervention to the entrance into the labour market.

### Reasons to implement the project

People with visual impairment need comprehensive support throughout their lifetime. Blindness and visual impairment are sensory disorders that affect the development of communication, movement and socialization skills etc.). For children and youth with visual impairment as well as their families, a systematic and constant support system is

necessary from the birth on to enhance the overall development of the child and to empower the family. Teachers, experts, employers and a wider social environment also need help and support.

### Services at the Centre of Expertise

Within the project, various activities will be carried out such as:

- professional counselling for children, adolescents and parents
- preparation of multidisciplinary special pedagogical assessments and individualized programmes
- activities to help the individual person and the family face visual impairment
- counselling on the adaptation of the environment (school, home, work, wider environment etc.)
- developing compensatory skills to overcome barriers
- developing communication skills of children and adolescents
- advising on the selection and use of personalized equipment and on planning and participation in leisure time activities as well as on providing practical trainings at work
- additional technical assistance for children and adolescents with special educational needs (computer courses, courses for developing reading skills)
- organization of various courses and camps
- school for parents
- preparing expert opinions, assessments and reports

- trainings for experts, parents and wider environment.



### Activities at the Centre of Expertise

The scope of work of the Centre of Expertise will cover the following areas of activities:

- helping and supporting parents of visually impaired children at the maternity ward, development clinics and kindergartens
- additional support of special rehabilitation treatment in kindergartens, schools, professional centres or at home
- counselling and trainings for parents, professional staff and other interested public on the organization of lessons, preparation of teaching materials, social inclusion, choice of tools and equipment and planning of activities
- development, production and rental of teaching aids, tactile books, maps
- rental of available computer and optical equipment
- providing adapted materials and other teaching resources
- informing the public about the special needs of people with visual impairment.