



# PSI WELL NEWSLETTER

Erasmus+

## Meet our UNIZG Research Team



Sveučilište u  
Zagrebu

*University of Zagreb*

**The University of Zagreb** (1669) is the oldest and biggest university in South-Eastern Europe. Ever since its foundation, the University has been continually growing and developing and now consists 29 faculties, three art academies and the Centre for Croatian Studies.

With its comprehensive programmes and over 50,000 full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students the University is the strongest teaching institution in Croatia. It offers a wide range of academic degree courses leading to Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees in the following fields: Arts, Biomedicine, Biotechnology, Engineering, Humanities, Natural and Social Sciences. It is also a strongly research-oriented institution, contributing with over 50 percent to the total research output of the country.

The core activities of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb, are scientific and educational, including scientific-research and professional training, defined in line with the obligation of organizing and implementing the university studies - undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate doctor's degree and specialized studies, as well as scientific-research; organization and implementation of the lifelong learning programme; organization and management of scientific and professional conferences and symposiums, professional counselling and other types of events; publishing activities; development of expert studies, expert opinions, professional programmes, to provide research and development services in the institutions and commercial businesses; implementation of the programme of prevention, diagnosis and rehabilitation or treatment of the persons experiencing social integration difficulties and language-speech communication difficulties. <http://www.erf.unizg.hr/en/>

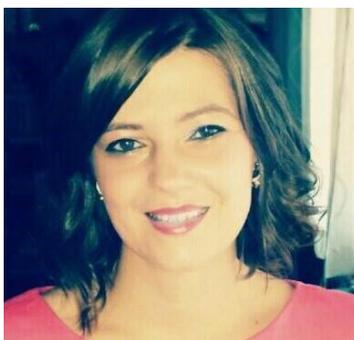
## Meet our UNIZG Research Team



**Sonja Alimović**, assistant professor, coordinator for research team in Croatia, has 20 years of work experience as an early intervention therapist and special education and rehabilitation teacher designing child and family support programs. She also has 10 years of teaching experience in social inclusion, communication, assessment and rehabilitation of people with multiple

disabilities and visual impairment. She has BA in Special Education and Rehabilitation, MA in Childhood and Adolescent Psychiatry and PhD in Biomedicine and Health, area of early development. Her specific scientific interests are in: socio-emotional development of children with special needs, development of early emotional interaction and communication of children with special needs and their parents, ecological approach in rehabilitation of children with multiple disabilities with visual impairment. She works as a Vision Rehabilitation Specialist in the Department for Visual impairment of the Rehabilitation Centre, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Educator and trainer of teachers and professionals working with children and adolescents with multiple disabilities and as an early intervention therapist.

**Natalija Lisak**, assistant professor, researcher, teaching students in Inclusive Educational Rehabilitation, Qualitative research methods, Quantitative research methods, Statistics. She works as an Educator in the field of equalization of opportunities in higher education for students with disabilities in the



Republic of Croatia, Education process for teaching staff, professionals and administrative staff. She participated in the evaluation process of the support model for educational inclusion of children with disabilities (mobile expert team and teaching assistance). Her specific scientific interests are in: Family Quality of Life; The Rights of People with Disabilities; Social Inclusion; Education Inclusion; Social Policy for Persons with Disabilities; Qualitative Methodology - Narrative Approach, Life Story Research.



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**Ana Wagner Jakob**, assistant professor, researcher, Ph.D. in Education and Rehabilitation with 20 years of experience in teaching students in learning disabilities, multiple disabilities, practical work with families, practicum of academic skills. She works as a Counsellor for children and their parents in the Department for Psychotherapy of the Rehabilitation Centre, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Educator and trainer of teachers and professionals working with children and adolescents with disabilities and as a Leader and supervisor of professional projects that support siblings of children with disabilities. Her special scientific interests are in: social inclusion of children with disabilities, quality of life of the family of children with disabilities (with special interest in siblings' relationships).



**Anamarija Žic Ralić**, associate professor, researcher, participated in creation and evaluation of teacher training for inclusive education, which was adopted by the Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency after successful scientific evaluation and it was recognized as a form of professional training of full-time teachers and educators. She leaded/participated in several projects focused on social inclusion of children with disability in peer/school context. She created and evaluated activities that encourage the development of social-emotional competence of children with disabilities and their typical

peers in school. She has been engaged in the child psychotherapy and family counselling in the Cabinet for Psychotherapy of the Rehabilitation Centre, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb where she was supported children with disability /SEN and their parents. She initiated the research on quality of life of families that have children with disability in Croatia and established cooperation with researchers interested in this problem all over the world through IASSIDD (International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) special interest research group Quality of life. She participated in the several projects oriented to educational-experience and support groups for parents of children with disabilities /SEN. Her scientific interests are in: social inclusion of children with disabilities; peer relationships of children with disabilities; social-emotional competence of children with disability; bullying experience of children with disability; cooperation between experts and cooperation with parents in the process of providing support to children with developmental difficulties and their families; quality of life of the family of children with disabilities.

**Daniela Cvitković**, assistant professor, researcher, involved in teaching students and trainers in area of development of children with learning disabilities, cognitive learning strategies, yoga for children with ADHD, introduction in scientific methodology. She also works as a Clinical psychologist and counsellor for children and their parents in the Department for Developmental Assessment and Support of the Rehabilitation Centre, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, as an Educator and trainer of teachers, psychologists and other professionals working with children and adolescents with learning disabilities and ADHD. She participated in creation, implementation and evaluation of the support model of educational inclusion of children with disabilities in the form of mobile expert team and teaching assistance. She was engaged in the research on quality of life of families that have children with disability in Croatia and established cooperation with researchers interested in this problem all over the world through IASSIDD (International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) special interest research group Quality of life. She participated in the several projects oriented to educational-experience and support groups for parents of children with disabilities /SEN. Her special scientific interests are in: characteristics of children, adolescents and adults with disabilities, inclusion of children with disabilities; peer relationships of children with disabilities; quality of life of the family of children with disabilities.





**Jasmina Stošić**, assistant professor, researcher, teaches graduate and postgraduate courses on the assessment and intervention for persons with ASD and their families. She works in the Department for autism spectrum disorders within the Centre for Rehabilitation, the clinical unit of the FERS, University of Zagreb. Her clinical work is focused on providing assessment and support for children with ASD and their families. As one of the representatives of Croatia in SEAN network (South Eastern European Autism Network) she conducted survey created by Autism Speaks foundation about the need for support and quality of life of families of children with ASD. She currently participates

in ERASMUS+ project, supported by European Commission Equity and social Inclusion through positive parenting (ESIPP, <http://esipp.eu/> ). The goal of the project is to develop and evaluate ecologically valid education for parents and other family members of children with ASD. Her specific scientific interests are in: social inclusion of children with ASD; development and evaluation of intervention programs for children with ASD; development and evaluation of models of education and support to families of children with ASD; developmental profiles of children with ASD; use of ICT and robotics in intervention and diagnostic evaluation for children with ASD.

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*Building Bridges: Promoting  
Social Inclusion and Wellbeing  
for Families*

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