

Slovenia is a relatively young country with a rather **rich history of support for the gifted**, although it is not yet systematically and strategically organised at the national level. Since 2000, **most schools offer horizontal support** for gifted students through enrichment activities or/and **vertical support** through acceleration programmes in various academic areas as well as in sports and arts. These **provisions are optional** and are **accompanied by an identification procedure** to determine the outstanding potential of students. The Institute of Education of the Republic of Slovenia is responsible for quality assurance under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports. In addition, activities are offered by **various cultural institutions and non-governmental organisations**. Among the best known are **competitions and research projects** for gifted youth organised by the Association for Technical Culture of Slovenia, the Society of Mathematicians, Physicists and Astronomers of Slovenia and Slovenian Music Schools Association. **The Zois Scholarships for Gifted Students** have been the main financial support for gifted students at the national level since 1986.

Over the past decade, the **Centre for Research and Promotion of Giftedness at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana (CRSN)** has built a **national network supporting teacher professionalism in gifted education and advocating for gifted students and their appropriate support in preschool and school**. **Research findings and evidence-based practises** from the Slovenian educational context form the core of CRSN resources for activities. CRSN is also active at the international level, **collaborating with scholars from around the world on research, advocacy, and education policy** related to the education of gifted students. The CRSN **publishes original manuscripts and translations** on the topic of gifted education and provides sustained **support for the quality of the faculty's study programmes**. It is an active member of **European Talent Support Network (ETSN)**.

In 2014, the CRSN co-organised an international conference on gifted education under the auspices of European Council for High Ability. In 2015, CRSN received an international certificate of excellence in high ability education and became one of the first fourteen Talent Centres, which established European Talent Support Network. In 2020/21 CRSN collaborated with the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children to produce a statement of Professional Teacher Development in Gifted Education. In the last ten years, CRSN has organised many professional and scientific events attended by more than 3000 participants from Slovenia and abroad.

Finally, the CRSN **actively advocates for a national strategy for gifted education**. The conceptual idea was first presented in 2011 in the document *White Paper on Education in the Republic of Slovenia*. Against the background of the proposed strategy, the document

discusses three main goals of gifted education in Slovenia. First, to enable healthy psychosocial and appropriate academic development of children and adolescents with outstanding learning potential. Second, to provide gifted students with an appropriate career path to cultivate their potential beyond compulsory schooling. Third, to educate gifted children and youth to become responsible citizens in civic, cultural, economic, political, and social spheres of life.

The professional intent of CRSN is therefore to promote, within a given framework, the integrative fulfilment of all three goals, reflecting a belief in human dignity and science. Furthermore, CRSN strongly believe that open collaboration in a national and international context can qualitatively enhance the path to excellence in (gifted) education.

Prof dr. Mojca Juriševič, Chair of the CRSN