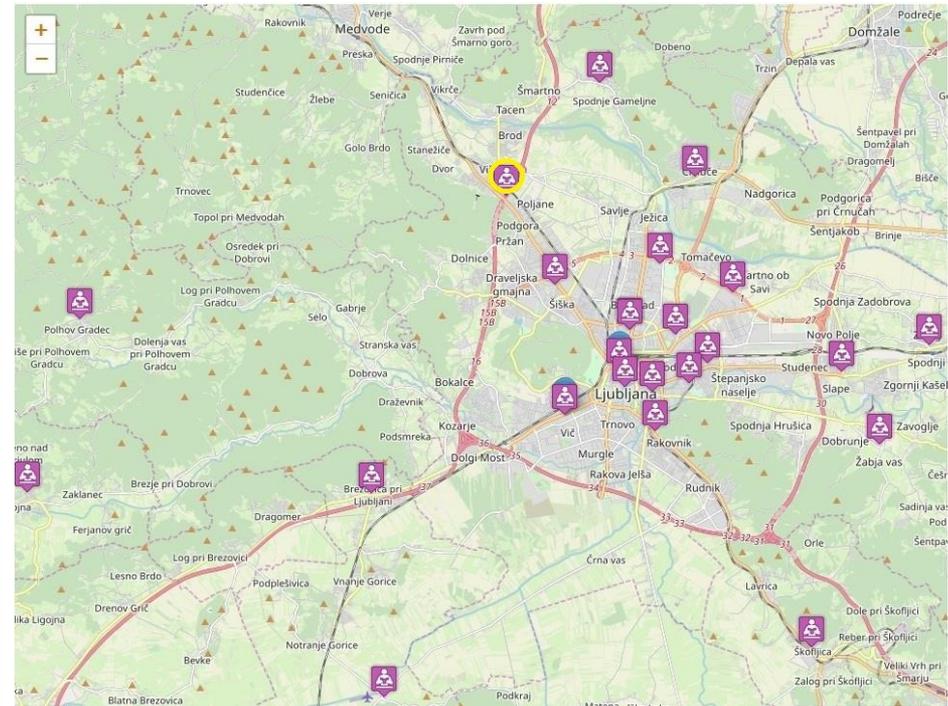




# Šentvid Library – the Green Library (Ljubljana City Library)

- Ljubljana City Library (LCL, Slovenian: Mestna knjižnica Ljubljana, MKL) is the largest public library in Slovenia and with 35 branches the most diverse public institute in Ljubljana.



# Šentvid Library – the Green Library (Ljubljana City Library)

- The Ljubljana City Library plans and develops services that originate in its vision: “To understand the changes and to prepare the path to the services of the future”. By cooperating in various projects the LCL upgrades the existing services and develops new ones for its users.
- The LCL is present and has its branches “all around the city”. The branches are being systematically renovated according to possibilities. The future conceptual design of the branch libraries is based on the needs of the inhabitants of their respective local communities as well as the needs of other inhabitants in the area of the library network.
- Each library is at the centre of its local community and therefore its active participant.
- Libraries cooperate with other organizations and groups in the activities of their local communities.
- By doing so the libraries assist in the development of the local communities and take active care for the development of future library functions for the local community.

# Šentvid Library – the successor of the oldest reading-room in Ljubljana

- Ljubljana is a city of culture with a long-standing tradition of reading-rooms and libraries. In 1866, the longest-lasting reading-room in the city was established in Šentvid.
- The Šentvid library therefore has an over 150-year-old tradition and is an important institution in the local community.



# The Renovation Concept for the Šentvid Library

- In October 2013, the LCL initiated a six-month renovation of its branch library in Šentvid, located on the **green outskirts** of Ljubljana, where almost half of the local community's surface is **covered** with **forest**.
- In 2014, during the renovation of the existing library premises, the formation of a proper library collection and the selection of events, **the concept of a green library** has been formed.
- Its mission is "**We live in harmony with nature**".
- It plays an important role in educating, informing, and raising awareness on the significance of protection and preservation of natural resources and healthy life-style.
- It also functions as an information centre and a connecting point for various organizations, groups, and individuals of the local community - two kindergartens, three elementary schools, two high schools, a musical-school, and a health-care center.

# Environmentally friendly Šentvid Library

The environmentally friendly Šentvid Library covers:

- Architectural renovation of space and equipment according to the concept of a green library.
- Activities on the subject of natural cohabitation and environmental protection.

# Architectural renovation of space and equipment according to the concept of the green library

- A green library begins with the concept of a sustainable building that satisfies the needs of its users, doesn't jeopardize health and natural resources, and takes into account national and international recommendations for the choice of construction materials.
- The public tender for the construction and joinery work was prepared in accordance with the ecological standards and demanded from the contractors the supply of ecological and environment-friendly materials such as rubber for the flooring, wooden shelves for the books, leather chairs for the users, and LED lighting with changeable intensity for the entire library.



The old metal book shelves were replaced by new wooden shelves and boxes which are also mobile.

# Architectural renovation of space and equipment according to the concept of the green library

- The equipment has been designed into open multifunctional spaces that can be adjusted to various events taking place in the library.
- In front of the main entrance painted green is a flower bed with evergreen herbs such as rosemary, thyme, and lavender.
- We use ecological cleaning products, recycled paper towels and toilet paper, paper coffee cups, we reuse used paper for paper note cubes, separate our waste, and our water dispenser is connected to the local water supply network.



# Activities of the library on the subject of natural cohabitation and environmental protection

Activities of the eco-library include a properly managed library collection:

- selection, arrangement, and layout of the material, specialist literature, eco-corner, material labelled with pictograms
- corresponding events for adults and children (lectures, workshops, exhibitions, fairytale hours, eco-reading badge, literary riddles)
- in accordance with our analysis of the local community and in accordance with our strategic plan we have developed a project for families, called »Šentvid Library – green library: eco-week, each third week of the month«.



# Eco-week each third week in a month

## Programme

Eco-week is organized each third week in specific/ selected months (February, March, April, October, November). Within it we carry out the following events:

- on Tuesday evenings, at 19:30, an eco-event for adults (lecture, workshop, a round table with guests for adults or youths)
- on Wednesdays, at 16:00, eco-workshop for adults, carried out by outside contractors
- within fairytale hours on Thursdays, at 17:00, our fairytale tellers carry out an eco-fairytale hour
- on Fridays, at 17:00, an eco-workshop for children or youths, organized alternately by our colleagues, by students, or by outside contractors.

# Eco-week each third week in a month



Dario Cortese, an expert on wild food and diet, presents the spring selection.



Our colleague Maša Uran explains to the children the process of planting seedlings.

# Results of the eco-week project

So far we have implemented:

- 30 lectures and workshops for adults,
- 24 fairytale hours (where parents also participate and so learn indirectly),
- 24 workshops for children and youths.

The perception of the users has been followed through conversation and observation: They have been very satisfied with the events, the lecturers have been praised and a desire to invite them again has been noticed. Events had large audiences. Through observation of the users we noticed their progress. However, we intend to measure the influence not merely with quantitative, but also with qualitative indicators of successfulness, which is now standard practice by the new professional recommendations as well.

The Project could undoubtedly be easily implemented in other libraries and can become a national project in Slovenian libraries, especially as similar contents are already being carried out elsewhere. As far as the content is concerned – additional planning is needed since good leadership of any activity and control over it depend on proper planning.

# Goals in our sustainable development

- Our permanent partner is the Šentvid local community government that regularly promotes our activities through its homepage and publishes our events in its newsletter.
- In the library, we promote those local activities organized by the local community that encourage sustainable agriculture and improved nutrition – like the local marketplace, and those that encourage well-being for all of all ages – like the yearly cleanup day.
- We take great care to include as many people from different backgrounds as possible.
- We are accessible to people with financial restrictions – all our activities are free, and there are several free membership options: for children under 18 years, unemployed, disabled, asylum seekers, and for everyone through several reading projects.
- The entrance to our library is adapted for wheelchairs and strollers. The LCL also brings books to those who are physically unable to come to the library and has a Mobile Unit that drives around areas where a library is not easily accessible/ library services are not available.
- The library is a UNICEF safe point for children where they can read, study, write homework, hang out (quietly), play videogames (very quietly), or just relax.

# Goals in our sustainable development

- All our members can use our computers for free for up to three hours per day.
- We search for and encourage local residents to give lectures or workshops, or lend us their art for exhibitions. We also encourage them to participate in our literary projects.
- Occasionally our partners are the elementary schools from Šentvid. Together with the Franc Rozman Stane Elementary School we have collected food and other supplies for the abandoned animals. People have responded and participated generously. Many boxes of supplies have been carried by children and teachers to the asylum of Gmajnice.
- In the library, we have a permanent box where we collect food for local stray cats.
- We participated in the programme of the Ljubljana Green capital of Europe 2016. In specific months we included a few selected/chosen subjects (such as »responsible water handling« or »wood – the precious gift of nature«) into our programmes.
- On the basis of the cooperation in the eco-week, the cooperation in other fields grew even stronger (communication, sharing of knowledge, connecting between people) and so new collaborations and successful projects have been accomplished.

- Thank you for your attention.  
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