

# FRANC KSAVER MEŠKO ORMOŽ LIBRARY – GREEN LIBRARY



## IFLA GREEN LIBRARY AWARD 2021

Green Library - Uniting the Local Community on its Road to Sustainability



# Slovenia is known around the world as a true green destination

Slovenia ranks among the most environmentally friendly countries in the world. As early as 2016, the Green Destinations international organization declared it the first Certified Green country in the world.

It was also among the winners of the 2020 Sustainable Top 100 Destination Awards - it was ranked first in the Best of Europe's category of sustainable destinations.

Slovenia is aware that sustainable development is the only way to preserve the beauty of our planet for future generations. Sustainable approach is our priority in different development fields, from energy, transport and waste to water resource management, biodiversity and climate change adaptation.

As much as 13 % of Slovenia's territory is protected areas. More than 22,000 animal and plant species rank it among the most biotically rich areas in Europe. 60 % of its territory is forest area, which makes it the third most forested country in Europe.

37 % of Slovenia's area is included in the Natura 2000 network. It has a national park, three regional parks and 46 landscape parks. Among them are also the landscape parks of the area where the Franc Ksaver Meško Ormož Library is located:

- Jeruzalemsko – Ormoške gorice landscape park, vineyard landscape of winding terraced hills, land of good cuisine, top quality wines, rich cultural, natural and ethnological heritage;
- Središče ob Dravi landscape park, which covers the Drava river with its gravels, side branches, inlets and oxbow lakes, and the floodplain forest;
- Nature Reserve Ormož Lagoons, a wetland of exceptional national and international importance and safe haven for many endangered bird species.



# Jeruzalemsko-ormoške gorice

<https://www.jeruzalem-slovenija.si/>





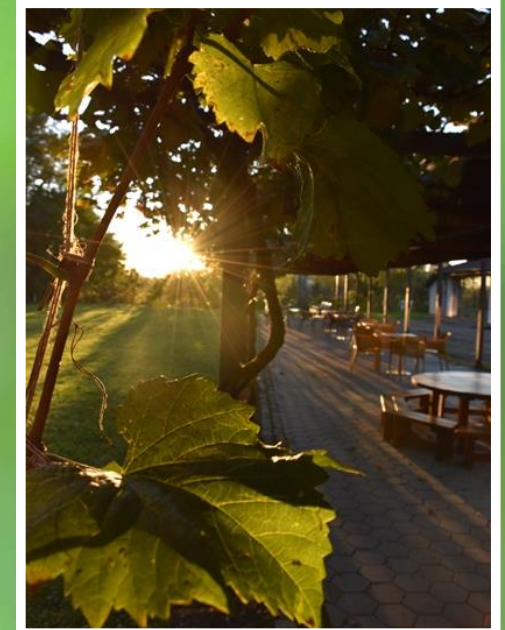
# Library's business card

Public library in Ormož is providing its services to almost 16,000 inhabitants of three municipalities: the municipality of Ormož, the municipality of Središče ob Dravi and the municipality of Sveti Tomaž.

More than 126,000 units of library material are available to users in four library units.

10 full-time employees work on development of library activities and projects.

Website: <http://orm.sik.si>





# History of the Franc Ksaver Meško Ormož Library

The beginnings of the public library date back to 1868, when a national reading room was established on the premises of the Ormož savings bank.

In 1906 it became a public library.

In 1963, the Main Library of the Municipality of Ormož was entered in the national register of libraries. With the employment of a professional librarian, continuous librarianship began.

In 1974, the institution was merged with the Workers' University of Ormož.

In 2015 the library needed to move to its current location, where it finally embarked on the path of a green library.

**1868**

**1963**

**2015**

**1504 -1786**

**1906 -1945**

**1994**

**2013, 2015,  
2017**

The library stands on the site where a Franciscan monastery, which also had the first known library in the city with a herb garden, stood between 1504 and 1786.

A period of which we have very little information followed, but the library certainly functioned until the end of World War II, when the OF municipal committee established the People's Library.

In 1994 the independent public institution Franc Ksaver Meško Library Ormož was established, and a year later the library moved to its new home, Ormož castle.

Opening of three more library units, in Središče ob Dravi, Sveti Tomaž and Ivanjkovci.



# Franc Ksaver Meško Ormož Library - Green Library





The background of the slide is a vibrant green with a soft, out-of-focus texture. At the top, there are several dark green pine branches with fine needles, hanging down into the frame. The main content area is a light green rounded rectangle with a white header bar on the left side.

## Library as a factor in raising awareness

**After moving to energy-renovated premises with extensive green areas, that belonged to the building, the library in Ormož became an environmentally and population-friendly green library.**

The library provides quality and attractive **events and non-formal and lifelong learning with green content** that benefits both users and the local environment. The activities are accessible to all visitors and have a significant impact on the perception of the library not only as a cultural institution, but also as a factor in raising awareness and acquiring new knowledge.

Through its programs, the library makes a significant **contribution to adult lifelong learning, raising the quality of life, preserving the intangible cultural heritage, improving ecological awareness, ensuring social inclusion and a sense of belonging to the community.** It connects local experts and users of library services of all ages, who share many diverse skills, learn about different aspects of a healthy lifestyle and familiarize themselves about the importance of nature conservation and the role of cooperation in the local community, where not only the library is green; the whole community is slowly joining the green movement. The library indirectly also **contributes to the economic development of the local community** through its activities and their effects.





# The beginnings of the green path

**The Franc Ksaver Meško Ormož Library became "green" after moving from the castle premises to the premises of the renovated kindergarden.**

Until 2015, the library resided in Ormož castle, but the weight of the ever-expanding book collection exceeded the load-bearing capacity of the old castle foundations, so relocation was necessary.

It was decided that the library would be moved to the empty and dilapidated premises of the former kindergarden, to the highly energy consuming ground floor building built in the 1970s.

The renovation was carried out thoughtfully, with an emphasis on minimizing the negative impact of the building on the environment.

Energy remodelling of the building included the implementation of thermal insulation of the entire building envelope with a new facade, replacement of building's furniture and roofing.

As part of the investment, the interior, electrical and partly mechanical installations were renovated, which also included arranging damp proofing and drainage of the building.

After the renovation, CO2 emissions into the atmosphere and heating costs were reduced by half on an annual basis.







# Renovated library premises

All existing library equipment was moved to new premises. No piece of equipment was discarded. The worn-out ones were renovated by the local craftsmen.

The corresponding uncultivated green areas became a challenge - the first ideas about the green library in Ormož were born.







# We are part of the solution, rather than the problem

## NATURAL LIGHT

The south facing building enable the efficient use of natural light and thus reduces the need for artificial lighting.

Large glass surfaces on the south side of the building enable heating with solar energy in winter. Motion sensors reduce energy consumption and costs.

## NATURAL VENTILATION AND SHADING

Planted deciduous trees on the southwest side provide natural shading.

Early morning summer ventilation enables infrequent use of air conditioners.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

In accordance with the legislation in Slovenia, the library separates waste, which is then recycled.

The library saves paper - used paper is reused for paper note cubes, which are intended for both employees and visitors.

Recycled paper towels are used.

## USE OF NATURAL MATERIALS

Natural materials (wood) are used with increasing frequency for display shelves and interiors.

Toys for children, bags intended for carrying books or promotional gifts are made of organic materials, paper or fabric.







# We are part of the solution, rather than the problem

## GREENERY

Various corners of the library are filled with ornamental plants.

Library employees provide fresh bouquets from library's flower beds, which contribute to the well-being of visitors, users of our services and the employees.



## REUSE OF SCRAPPED BOOKS

Scrapped books that are no longer suitable for borrowing are placed in Little Free Library or reused in various imaginative ways. One of them is the use of books to make Christmas trees.



## BIBLIOBIKE - MOBILE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

For the needs of transporting library material from the library to the archive and occasionally used as a traveling library, a donated used postal bicycle is used.



## UPGRADING OLD COMPUTERS

The library also contributes to the preservation of the environment by not always buying new computers and discarding old ones; the computers remain in use by upgrading the hardware whenever that's possible.

The PCs are turned off into stand-by mode when idle.







# Green environment



By moving to a new location the acquired grassland became part of the library's mission.

Library visitors are not only able to access the library's green areas, but also participate in their arrangement and thereby learn about sustainable development and a sustainable way of life.

## HERBAL AND FLOWER GARDEN

With the help of local experts and library visitors, flower and herb beds were arranged. They are designed and planted sustainably, so that they do not require additional care, watering in the summer drought or weeding. We find a flowering plant on them every day of the year.

## PATIO

The patio is used as an outdoor reading room where users can read and enjoy the fresh air. In case of favorable weather conditions, events for adults and children take place on the patio. With the placement of a table tennis table, recreation, which attracts users of all ages, is also provided.

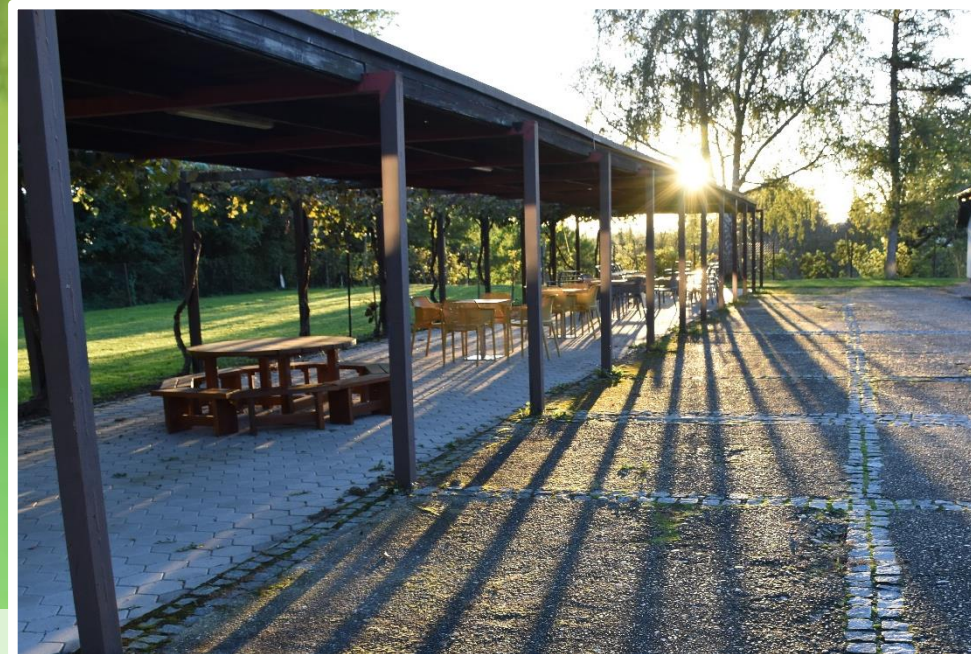
## VINE TRELLIS

Ormož is located in an area rich with planted vine. Vine is also planted on the library's patio and gives readers and visitors a pleasant shade. Every year it bears rich fruit.

## BEEHIVE

The library has a long tradition of collaboration with the local beekeeping association. In 2020 the collaboration was deepened by placing a beehive with twelve hives on library's meadow.









# Herb and flower garden

## PLANTING PLANTS

With the help of local experts and the donation of herbs and flowers, the flowerbeds were planted by the participants of the Green Library project and the librarians themselves.

## HERBS

In the herb garden we grow: mint, lavender, lemon balm, thyme, elderberry, fennel, hyssop, coneflower, sage, winter savory, rosemary, calendula, chives ...

## HARVESTING HERBS

Herbs are picked and dried by library staff. This way they gain the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

## TEA BLENDS

Every year, a local certified herbalist prepares tea blends from herbs from the library garden. A water dispenser with hot water is available to users, where they can prepare herbal tea.

## PROMOTIONAL GIFTS

Tea blends are used for promotional gifts for literary guests and lecturers. The tea bags contain information about local authors, encouraging reading and promoting domestic literary creativity.











# Patio

## SPACE FOR EVENTS

On the patio the library organizes: literary evenings, lectures, fairy tale hours, various workshops, quizzes, the international festival Days of Poetry and Wine, activities for children and other events. The most recognizable activities every summer are Thursday's green afternoons, which took place for the fifth year in a row in 2020. The importance of the outdoor event space for well-being and maintaining health is even more recognized during the COVID-19 epidemic. .

## OUTDOOR READING ROOM

It is possible for readers to read in quality fresh air, in silence and accompanied by birds chirping. The library is located in a quiet part of town, away from the busy roads, just above the river Drava.

## RECREATION SPACE

The patio is also a space for recreation. Visitors can play table tennis. Every morning, in all seasons, physical exercise called 1000 movements is performed by the School of Health association.

## SHELTER FOR ANIMALS

Regular visitors to the library garden are: a variety of birds, woodpeckers, squirrels, hedgehogs, and even endangered species such as storks, nesting not far from the library.











# School of Health – Book

## MORNING EXERCISE

The School of Health association promotes daily outdoor workout in the vicinity of people's residences, under the guidance of qualified volunteers. The exercise takes place in groups in the morning hours and lasts for 30 minutes. The exercises follow the 1000 moves method developed by dr. Nikolay Grishin and aim to loosen up the joints in the entire body, improve mobility and have a positive impact on the balance and general well-being. Since it is applied in any weather, people develop a better resistance to colds and again begin to sense the rhythm of seasons lost in the modern lifestyle.

## POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY

Regular and persistent morning exercise strengthens the body and self-esteem, expands the social circle and helps us gain new friends. The goal of the School of Health association is to bring healthy exercise to every place - village and city, and to encourage people to take better care of their health and their social connections which are the best medicine against loneliness and depression.

The School of Health association in Ormož has been visiting the library's patio for more than 5 years. In 2019 alone, the library recorded 3,969 visits due to morning exercise.







# Vine trellis

## SHADOW FOR READING IN THE SUMMER

The dense shade of the trellis is an ideal place for outdoor reading in the summer.

## GRAPE JUICE

Vintage is an important event in the wine-growing region in which the municipality of Ormož lies. The local winemaker squeezes the grape juice from the harvested grapes. The juice that is produced is used as a promotional gift or as a treat for visitors of library events.

Since the Green Library is committed to raising awareness of the harmfulness of excessive wine drinking, wine is not produced from grapes grown on library premises.

## JAM

Grapes are also used to make jam, which, like juice, is used for promotional purposes.







# Beehive

## PLACEMENT OF THE BEEHIVE

As there is a lot of bee pasture and water in the vicinity of the library, the library, in cooperation with the Beekeepers' Association Ormož, set up a beehive in a remote corner of the library garden.

## MOST BEE-FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITY

Within the framework of the United Nations (UN), Slovenia has achieved that May 20 has been declared World Bee Day. The Municipality of Ormož is also aware of the exceptional importance of bees for maintaining balance in nature.

The library supported the efforts of the Municipality of Ormož, participated in writing the application and helped the municipality to obtain the certificate of the most bee-friendly municipality in 2020.

## COOPERATION WITH THE BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

Good beekeepers need a lot of knowledge, which they also acquire with the help of professional literature in the field of beekeeping, which the library is constantly updating.

It also gladly offers its premises for education and lectures of the association.

## LIBRARY HONEY

Organically produced honey is equipped with stickers and, like tea blends, is distributed for promotional purposes, thus promoting the reading and works of local authors.







# Green content

## Green Library project 2016-2020

The library has been developing the Green Library project since 2016, when it ran the Thursday Green Afternoon cycle of activities. The intention of the project is lifelong and non-formal education of adult users, raising awareness of the importance of nature protection, healthy lifestyles and sustainable development of the environment.

Every year during the summer, from the beginning of July to the end of August, Thursday Green afternoons are organized every Thursday at 5 p.m. The library cooperates with organizations, institutions, associations, individual experts from the local community as well as regional and national experts and authors.

Different methods of imparting knowledge are used: lectures, conversations, very popular among users are cooking and creative workshops, guided observation of nature, learning about good practices that affect ecological awareness and a healthy lifestyle.

As part of the project, as many as 43 events for adults were held in five years. In 2020, the project was further upgraded with content for younger users and the Green Library for Children project was launched, within which 4 more events were carried out.

The project also included numerous lectures, presentations and promotions of books with green content, a series of lectures "Wine Stories" and the library entered into many collaborations and projects in the local community with the aim of spreading green literacy.





# Thursday Green Afternoon activities

**2016**

## 8 activities

- Presentation of herbs, spices and medicinal plants and a workshop on the use of lavender and sweet anise.
- Spreading knowledge on the medicinal tree ginkgo biloba and herb thyme.
- Herb garden planting workshop in the library garden with a local expert and participants.
- Workshop for preparing tea blends with a licensed herbalist.
- Lecture on the use of herbs in folk medicine over time.
- Lecture on energy approaches in gardening and farming.
- Introduction of the use of herbs and Bach essences in a home pharmacy.
- Visit to the herbalist's shop and a workshop on herbalism at the Eco Farm Korenika.

**2017**

## 9 activities

- Hike with a botanist and getting to know the medicinal plants found in unspoiled nature and herbs that can be grown at home.
- Cooking workshop with a lecture on the value of herbs and medicinal plants in the diet.
- Workshop of mixing and making homemade cosmetic, care and health products.
- Cooking chocolate with lavender from the library garden.
- Lecture on the preventive power of medicinal plants in many health problems.
- Presentation of the advantages of using homeopathy with plants that can compete with phytopharmacy.
- Learning about permaculture and organic gardening.
- Workshop with a lecture on maceration and the usefulness of herbs in spirits.
- Visit to the self-sustainable learning site Dole pri Poljčanah.

**2018**

## 9 activities

- A creative workshop with clay and herbs and the aesthetic value of herbs along with their role in art.
- Experimental cooking workshop on new approaches to the use of herbs and spices.
- Lecture on the power of medicinal plants and the preparation of aromatic and massage oils, tinctures, water-alcohol extracts.
- Lecture on bioenergy, healing touches and the positive effect of massage on the body and mind.
- Getting to know honey plants, planting them in the library garden and setting up a hotel for insects.
- Lecture on herbal preparations to support a healthy life (advantages, pitfalls and tricky sales approaches to dietary supplements).
- Presentation of a book on the power of free will, functions of the mind and spiritual forces, guided meditation with sonic crystal instruments.
- Lecture on herbalism and witchcraft - on the pagan healing of wise women.
- Guided tour of the Botanical Garden of the University of Maribor and getting to know endangered, rare or almost extinct plants in Slovenia and beyond.





# Thursday Green Afternoon activities

**2019**

## 8 activities

- Presentation of a book on healthy eating, hormonal balance and personal growth.
- Visiting the ecological field with herbs, learning about the cultivation of herbs, their usefulness and medicinal value, and learning about the work of herbalists in the natural environment.
- Lecture on the ethical responsibility of the individual for a better future of nature and the planet.
- Lecture and presentation of the book on wisdom and medicine of St. Hildegard.
- Lecture by an expert from the local nature reserve on the global ecological problem, the decline of biodiversity as a consequence of human negligence.
- Workshop on daily use of essential oils for well-being, natural cosmetics, cleansers and in cooking.
- Lecture on the versatility of growing mulberries and silkworms in Slovenia, also as a natural and cultural heritage.
- A visit to the herb garden, a lecture on picking and drying herbs and a visit to the herb dugout.

**2020**

## 9 activities

- Lecture on the importance and value of organic farming.
- Usefulness of bee products for healthy living.
- Lecture on the psychological significance of colors and sounds from nature and their impact on mental health.
- Lecture on the history of plant names.
- An experienced beekeeper and a leading Slovenian apitherapist lecture on the healing effects of bees and their diverse products.
- Conversation with a psychiatrist at a local psychiatric hospital about mental balance in present uncertain times.
- Vegan kitchen workshop with a touch of herbs and spices.
- Walking through the streets and the city park and getting to know and observing different species of birds.
- Visit to Otter's classroom in nature, in the Goričko Landscape Park. Lecture on the importance of biodiversity and the role of otters and beavers in aquatic ecosystems and the fight against climate change.





# Green content - free lectures, book presentations and workshops

Renowned Slovenian ecologist, Anton Komat



During the year, the library organizes free lectures and presentations of books by experts on nature protection, ecology, horticulture, healthy lifestyle, maintenance and preservation of psychophysical health and quality of life.

Popular horticultural lectures



At these events, users get to know quality professional and popular science literature, acquire new, up-to-date knowledge, meet experts and get to know new forms of a healthy lifestyle. The library also regularly carries out various workshops where visitors learn, raise their awareness, socialize and acquire a variety of practical skills.



Sheep wool felting workshop



Occasional exhibitions



# Green content - free lectures, book presentations and workshops

Pleasant and healthy event environment



Experienced and professional locals



Intergenerational traditional making of Advent wreaths  
(Sveti Tomaž)



Lecture by a renowned gardener, Miša Pušenjak  
(Središče ob Dravi)





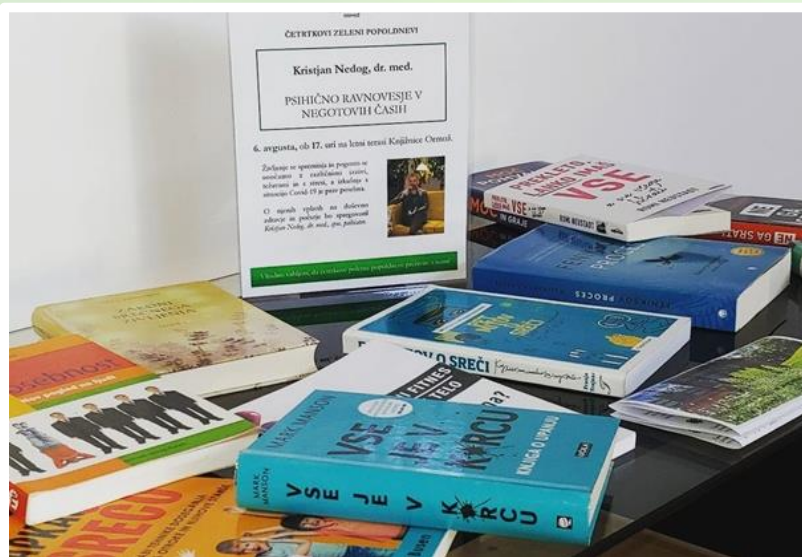
# Raising green literacy

In addition to the programs presented so far, the library encourages reading professional and popular science literature on ecology, nature conservation, health, nutrition, physical exercise.

Because of its location in a rural area where almost everyone cultivates their own piece of land, very popular topics are sustainable, organic, biodynamic, permaculture plant cultivation, conservation of indigenous varieties and seeds, and organic food processing.

The library regularly exhibits quality books and magazines, acquaints users with new books and encourages them to read.

The library publishes news from bookshelves and interesting facts from the field of the book market on its website and social networks.







# Wine stories

Prlekija with the Ljutomer-Ormož hills is one of the most famous Slovenian wine-growing regions. In the wine-growing environment, problems related to alcohol abuse, alcoholism and an inappropriate drinking culture are often encountered, so the library pays special attention to awareness-raising and education on this field. Lectures were held on viticulture and winemaking, the importance and achievements of local winegrowers and the beneficial effects of moderate and cultural consumption of wines. Through lectures and guided tastings by oenologists, including internationally renowned Slovenian experts, it educates and makes users aware of the culture of wine drinking and thus helps reduce risk factors and the negative consequences of inappropriate wine consumption on health, family and social relations. In recent years, 10 such lectures have been given.

Growing vines and wine production is also extremely important in local tourism, where the municipality of Ormož, Sveti Tomaž and Središče ob Dravi are represented under the common name Destination Jeruzalem Slovenija, which includes many local providers, from winemakers, tourist farms, beekeepers, pumpkin seed oil producers and artisans/craftsmen.

For the successful development of a green tourist brand, not only natural resources or a preserved environment are enough, it is also necessary to be aware of how these resources are preserved and taken care of, and the library also greatly contributes to this.

In this way, visitors to the "wine stories" are introduced to domestic and foreign natural heritage, traditions and ways of working to preserve it.







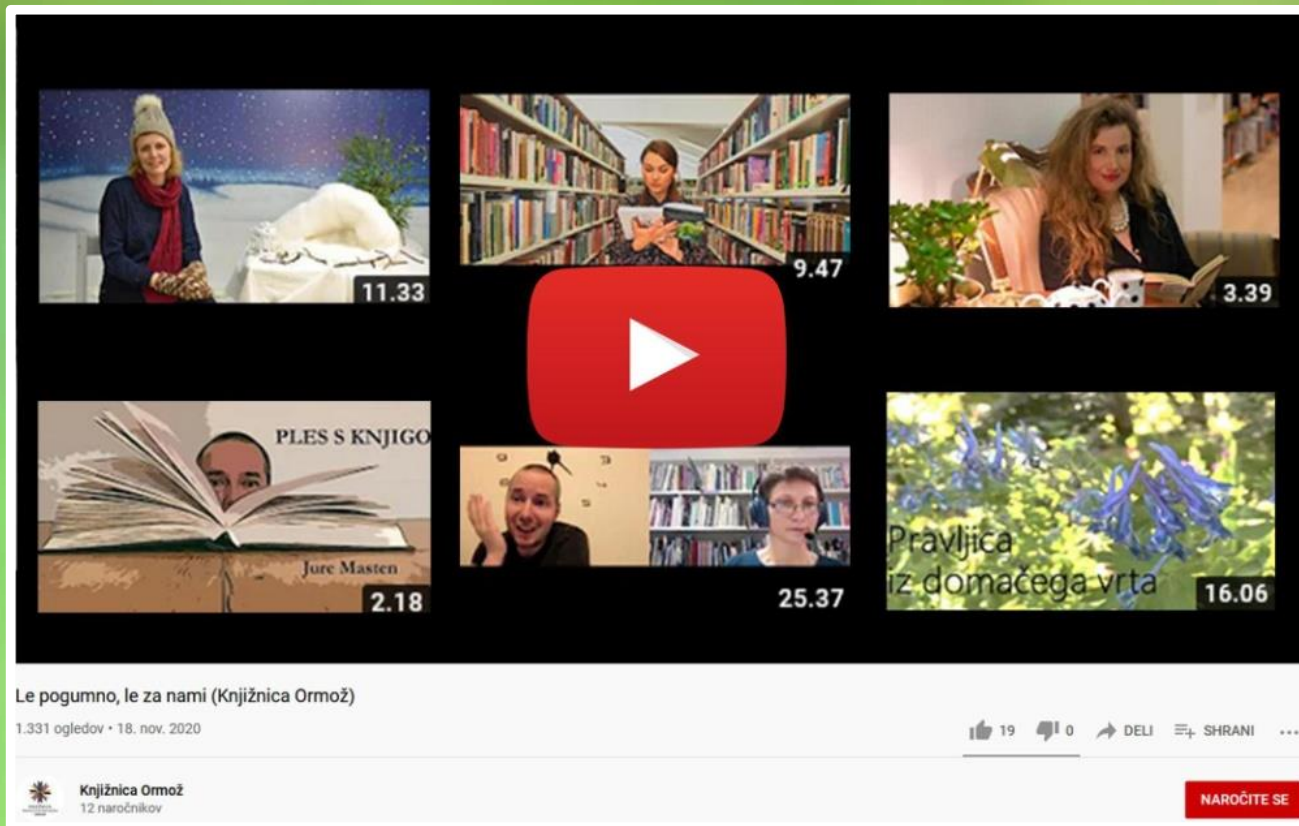
# Green Library and COVID-19

The COVID-19 epidemic, which began to shape the lives of the entire population of the world in 2020, also had a strong impact on the functioning of the library.

Due to the ban on socializing, for the first time in six years, members of the School of Health association were not allowed to exercise on the patio. After a few ban, which lasted a few months, they returned to visiting the library and exercising, even in the low January temperatures.

The patio made it possible to maintain the obligatory distance between visitors, so the library managed to carry out all 8 Thursday Green afternoons and other library activities that took place in summer and autumn.

At a time when event activities cannot be carried out and the gathering of large groups is prohibited, the library encourages users, especially children who have had to visit school online, to lead a healthy lifestyle through various projects. At the time of closing, the library prepared 5 virtual fairytale lessons for children. Between December 2020 and March 2021, library connected children's creativity with dance, writing and books - it ran the Dance with a Book competition and invited youngsters to practice dance steps through a video which was called One, Two, Three and Four... hip hop with Špela.







# Green Library for Children and Youth

## Working with children and youth

Special care is taken to raise awareness of children and their parents about the importance of preserving nature and a healthy lifestyle, especially about the importance of quality leisure time, physical exercise and creativity.

- As part of the Green Library for Children project, in January 2020, fairy tale lessons with a herbalist were held in all units. Through the story and with the explanation, the children learned about herbs and tasted herbal teas.
- Regular fairy tale lessons are always complemented by creative workshops and exercises, dancing, yoga, games and the development of fine motor skills is emphasized.
- A guided film screening of the documentary film The True Cost, which talks about the problem of the fashion industry, clothing and fair trade, was organized for young people.
- The project Indigenous Plants in Local Area was implemented with the Ormož Primary School and the Šibenik City Library from Croatia.
- Several fairy-tale hours were held on the topic of getting to know and preserving nature: getting to know plants, trees and insects in the library garden.
- Virtual fairy tales were also filmed outdoor in natural environment.







# Green Library for Children and Youth

Spring fairy deepens children's relationship with nature



Planting seeds



Learning about environmental topics through fairy tales



Vehicles from recycled materials





# Green Library for Children and Youth

Painting of bags made of fabric



Motion-sensory workshop



Dance workshop



Preparing a healthy snack





# Activities for youth

## TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The library has also attracted young readers by setting up a table tennis table where children, young people and the elderly can recreate.

A tournament was held and the best competitors were rewarded with book prizes.



## THE SECRETS OF CASTLE PARK

On the European Parks Day and as part of the Lifelong Learning Week, the library prepared a presentation of the booklet Secrets of the Castle Park with an exhibition.

The booklet was written and designed by young students at a research camp of a local Red Cross organization that runs prevention programs for adolescents.



## INDIGENOUS PLANTS IN LOCAL AREA

The library cooperated with the Juraj Šižgorič Library in Šibenik and the Ormož Primary School in the project Indigenous Plants in Local Area. The aim of the project was to develop ecological awareness, to learn about the importance of preserving local biodiversity, to intertwine knowledge in the fields of ecology, biology, librarianship, literary expression and fine arts.

Pupils studied the indigenous plants of the city park and made a poster.



## PRESENTATION OF THE GREEN LIBRARY

The library often cooperates with primary schools that implement the Ecoschool as a way of life program, an internationally recognized program of integrated environmental education, designed to promote and increase awareness of sustainable development among children, pupils and students through their educational program and through active participation in local community and beyond.





# The responsibilities of the Green Library for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage

The task of the Franc Ksaver Meško Ormož Library is not only to collect and preserve movable cultural heritage, such as book material. It also plays an important role in preserving the intangible cultural heritage, which in Slovenia also includes "green" content, promoting its importance and at the same time bringing this kind of heritage closer to the general public through the implementation of library's basic activities.



**Beekeeping**

The herb garden and flowerbeds with honey plants, greenery in front of and behind the library, the proximity of the Drava River and trees (linden, acacia, and elderberry) in the immediate vicinity of the library in Ormož brought beekeeping to library.

Soon after the start of the project, library started producing honey with the help of Ormož beekeepers. They set up a beehive and the library started to cooperate with the Ormož Beekeepers' Association in Thursday's Green afternoons.



**Apitherapy**

Apitherapy comprises traditional knowledge, experience of individuals and clinical research-based methods of treating humans and animals with the active ingredients of bee products and bees. As part of Thursday Green Afternoons, the experienced beekeeper and apitherapist shared with the library visitors the knowledge and experience of using apitherapy in everyday life and presented his new book.



**Reading Badge Movement**

One of the most common forms of promoting reading culture and reading literacy, two key factors of human development, creativity and quality leisure time in Slovenia, are various forms of reading badges. The library runs a reading badge for adults and children and works with kindergartens and schools in the local community that implement eco-reading badges.



# The responsibilities of the Green Library for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage



## Traditional pottery

In the study group The Art of Pottery, participants under the mentorship of a local potter learned about the ethnological value of pottery, tradition of pottery in our local environment and learned to shape clay into various useful and decorative objects.



## Weaving of baskets

Weaving of baskets is made by interweaving various natural materials such as reeds, vitreous, straw and corn husks. It is widespread as a domestic, handicraft, as well as supplementary activity, and is a craft activity with a long and rich tradition. Both older and slightly younger visitors were able to try how easy or difficult it is to learn this skill and how much patience and hours of work it takes.



## Slovenian bobbin lace making

Lacemaking is the hand-made making of lace by crossing, twisting and weaving threads wound on bobbins. The library conducted a study group The Art of Lacemaking. 8 workshops were held, in which the participants learned the basics of this handicraft heritage from the master of lacemaking. The participants also visited Idrija, the most recognizable Slovenian town with a lace tradition.



# The responsibilities of the Green Library for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage

We inevitably interfere with nature with our way of life. Development has also brought the need to protect nature and its resources. Natural values shape and enrich our living space, so they are essential for creating an identity of the nation and visibility in the world. By presenting the properties of natural values and their importance, the library strengthens awareness of the value of the environment, and by guiding visitors and drawing attention to suitable actions, it also helps to preserve the natural heritage, which depends on each individual.



**Exhibition of photographs of local natural heritage**

Often the events are combined with raising awareness of the importance of preserving local natural heritage. Visitors who respond in large numbers to the organized events were shown through stunning photographs the diversity of wildlife in the nearby Nature Reserve Ormož Lagoons, the biodiversity of nearby forests, wetlands, Ormož Park and the world-famous beauty of the wine-growing landscape.



**Cooperation with the Nature Reserve Ormož Lagoons**

The nature reserve is open to the public with a well-organized infrastructure for visits. A quality experience of nature is made possible by a learning path with observatories and a visitor center, which is also adapted for groups with special needs. The reserve also hosts an educational program for young people and other groups of visitors in the form of guided excursions. It is an important acquisition for the municipality as a part of the tourist offer and the locals are involved in both the management and development of local products related to the reserve. In its role of raising visitor awareness, the library regularly collaborates with the experts employed there, who participate in Thursday Green Afternoons and individual lectures throughout the year.

In 2019, the library prepared an exhibition in Šibenik about Ormož, the library and the natural beauties of Ormož. Special emphasis was placed on the presentation of the Ormož Lagoons, a wetland that is of exceptional national and international importance for many endangered bird species.





# Introduction of the Green Libraries movement and international cooperation

As part of the Erasmus + project, the library participated in the 1st Green Festival Let's turn green (6-8 September 2017, at NSK Zagreb). At the festival, librarians presented our own green library program at the stand. Ties were established with active librarians of the Croatia Green Library project.

In 2018, an educational visit was carried out at the workplace in the City Library "Juraj Šižgorič" Šibenik, one of the first participating libraries in the Croatian project Green Library.

After the educational visits, the library actively joined the Green Library project and spread the idea to Slovenia.

## Let's turn green

The library has invested a lot of effort in promoting events within the Green Library, there has been an increase in environmental awareness in both local community and Slovenia, it has appeared more often in the media in a very positive light, and the project was presented abroad at the 1st International Conference on Greens. libraries "Let's Go Green!", which took place from 8 to 10 November 2018 at the National and University Library in Zagreb.

## Participation in an international conference

At the online international symposium "The role of libraries in the promotion of a healthy lifestyle", organized in October 2019 by the City Library Juraj Šižgorič Šibenik, the library presented projects, programs and activities to promote a healthy lifestyle, maintaining physical and mental health and ways in which as a library it influences the improvement of the quality of life of individuals and communities.

## A green library for a healthy lifestyle

In November 2019, the library presented the project Green Library and a guest exhibition of NSK Zagreb and the Working Group for Green Libraries of the Croatian Library Association. The exhibition presented the 6 best green libraries awarded by the international library association IFLA in 2018. In addition to the Chinese, Hungarian, Romanian, Iranian and Kenyan libraries, the Croatian project Green Library for a Green Croatia was also awarded.

## Exhibits

A photographic exhibition the Beauty of Ormož was set up in the Šibenik library in Croatia. The library presented the natural heritage of the Središče ob Dravi Landscape Park, the Nature Reserve Ormož Lagoons and the diversity of animal and plant species.



# Introduction of the Green Libraries movement and international cooperation





# Participation in the local community

## Green library - uniting the local community on its road to sustainability

### COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS

The library cooperates with kindergartens, schools and grammar schools. In addition to promoting and raising reading culture, it also raises awareness of the importance of health in the physical, mental, social and environmental fields. The library runs fairy tale lessons, creative and research workshops, physical exercises and dance lessons for children, bibliopedagogical lessons for different age groups, conversation lessons, literary workshops, guided film screenings for young people, participates in various projects and calls for competitions.

### PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT ORMOŽ - A HEALTHY CITY

The Ormož Library is a member of the "Ormož - Healthy City" project council. The municipality of Ormož is associated with the network of Slovenian healthy cities. It seeks to create an environment that enhances health and increases the quality of life, protects the Earth from decay, and improves access to public goods and services.

### COOPERATION WITH EXPERTS, INSTITUTIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The library cooperates and strengthens ties with local experts, associations, institutions and companies that cultivate similar green values. Among them we highlight: the social enterprise Institute 100% Natural Botanik Ormož, My Bioland, the Nature Reserve Ormož Lagoons, the Society for the Observation and Study of Birds of Slovenia, Lutra, the Institute for the Preservation of Natural Heritage, Prlekija region garden, Horticulture Alt, the Beekeeping Association Ormož, the Regional Association of Red cross Ormož, Pharmacy Ormož, Psychiatric Hospital Ormož, Castle Repair Coffee shop Ormož, Center for Health Promotion, Health center Ormož.



# Participation in the local community

## Green library - uniting the local community on its road to sustainability

With the Center for Social Work, a humanitarian campaign was carried out to collect basic necessities for socially disadvantaged families and individuals.

In the library, all its activities and events are accessible to people in wheelchairs.

Cooperation has been concluded with the social enterprise Reuse Center in the implementation of the social activation project Castle Repair Coffee Shop Ormož.

Library cooperates with the Public Institute for Tourism, Culture and Sports of the Municipality of Ormož and the Tourist Information Center Ormož at the Rožmarinka Festival, a family festival held in the castle park, dedicated primarily to exercise, sport and a healthy lifestyle.



Library is cooperating with the Stanko Vraz Elementary School, which is intended for children with special needs, in the following projects: Journey to the fairy tale world for pupils of a special program, Inclusion in the work environment and the Project for additional training.

Library activities are aimed at all generations, from the youngest to the oldest, even those who cannot come to the library. Thus cooperation with the Ormož Center for the Elderly is being carried out, in which the library implements reading promotion projects along with the staff of the Center for the Elderly.

The library also cooperates with the Health Center. It carries out preventive activities to promote health and care for the reduction of health inequalities in the local community. The Health Promotion Center has prepared a lecture for users as well as training and workshops for library staff. The library presented its activities at the Doors Open Day of the Ormož Health Center.



# Knowledge transfer to other Slovenian libraries

**Modro ☺ zelenem - Wisely about green**

(play on words: modro = blue, wisely, o = about)

The Green Library program was presented in May 2019 in Koper at the annual meeting of Slovenian librarians on the topic of good practices and innovative projects, organized every year by the Section for Public Libraries at the Association of Library Associations of Slovenia. The library presented the project to the wider professional public as part of Green Fingers.

The response has been very positive. The presentation was followed by a visit from fellow librarians, who also visited green areas and got acquainted with the green program, experience and vision of project development.

Marijana Korotaj (Green Library Ormož) and Ana Zdravje (Green City Library of Ljubljana - Šentvid Library) published a joint article "The concept of green libraries and the first examples of its introduction in Slovenia" in the Slovenian professional journal Knjižnica, Journal of Librarianship and Information Science in October 2019.

The library is a member of the portal for sustainable development "Green Slovenia", which connects sustainable ideas, opportunities, challenges, projects and achievements. The influence and interest in the green movement, in which the Ormož library has one of the leading roles, is shown by the fact that as many as 24 Slovenian libraries are members of the Green Slovenia network.

The library also promotes the activities and program of the green library in local and regional media: RTV Maribor, Radio Prlek, Prlekija-on.net, Štajerski tednik and thus informs and sensitizes the general public.





# Promotion of health at workplace

The library management is aware of the importance of employee health, so it has prepared a plan of health promotion measures, which aims to reduce the risk of disease and in general to improve life and promote personal development of the employees.

Plants are installed around the library to promote better psychophysical well-being, employees take care of the herb garden and use some fresh herbs for snacks.

Employees are encouraged to cycle or walk to work.

Care for natural ventilation of workplaces, regular medical examinations, promotion of healthy eating (well-equipped kitchenette).

Lectures are organized on the topic of stress prevention, healthy eating and good climate in the workplace.

Employees also attend lectures and workshops with green content.





# Plans for the future of the Green Library



## **LIBRARY, HEART OF THE TOWN: GREEN LIBRARY**

On 20 May, the sixth international one-day conference dedicated to green libraries will take place in Slovenia. The Franc Ksaver Meško Ormož Library, which has been one of the leading libraries in Slovenia in the field of the green movement for many years, will also present the example of a green library in practice.



## **SEED LIBRARY**

In 2021, the introduction of a seed library is planned, where members will be able to borrow seeds that will be available. In this way, the seeds will remain publicly available to all, various domestic and indigenous varieties will be preserved, and the project will also contribute to greater food independence and greater involvement of library visitors in its work and the green library.



## **CURRENT AND CONTROVERSIAL ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS**

In the coming years the library will also focus on some current, polemical environmental issues for the people of Slovenia, such as the construction of hydro and wind power plants, which for many represent an inadmissible gross encroachment on the environment.



## **CONTINUATION OF SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES INTRODUCED SO FAR**

The Franc Ksaver Meško Ormož Library will continue its path as a Green Library with already introduced projects that have proven to be successful and popular among visitors in recent years. Thursday Green Afternoons will be upgraded, the library strives to gain a training apiary, more activities will be prepared for children and youth, and the library will continue to strive to remain one of the leading positive factors in the green movement in the local community.



# Results

- The general public is aware of green issues, ecology, environmental protection, sustainable development, healthy lifestyles and is aware of the Green Libraries movement.
- Improved green and reading literacy of the population is noticeable in the local environment.
- Individuals have the knowledge of how they can protect nature themselves, become as self-sufficient as possible, take care of their health and well-being.
- Close links have been built between the library, local associations, institutions, entrepreneurs and various experts.
- In five years, 43 meetings of green afternoons, 53 green lectures and workshops for adults, 10 wine stories and green workshops, after fairy tale hours for children, were held.
- The library has contributed to the quality and positive development of the local community, the empowerment of the population and the raising of the quality of life through implemented independent or partnership projects.



A top-down view of several people's hands and wrists arranged in a circle over a dense green leafy background. Each person is wearing a unique flower-themed bracelet. The bracelets include large purple daisy-like flowers, white daisies, yellow and orange flower clusters, and small white blossoms. Some wrists also have gold-colored bands or rings. A pink sneaker is partially visible on the right side.

Thank you very much!