



UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND
REHABILITATION SCIENCES

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FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

MISSION

The Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (ERF) of the University of Zagreb is the only higher education institution in Croatia that provides university studies in **educational rehabilitation, speech and language pathology, and social pedagogy**, and that carries out scientific and professional work in these fields. The Faculty is dedicated to the science-based education of future experts in the fields of educational rehabilitation, speech and language pathology and social pedagogy who work at the level of individuals and social environment towards inclusion of vulnerable and at-risk groups in the community, and who influence public policy and social welfare, while respecting the principles of professional ethics and responsibility.

VISION

The Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences aims to become a higher education institution internationally recognised for excellence in research and teaching as well as for influence in the communities in which it operates.

HISTORY

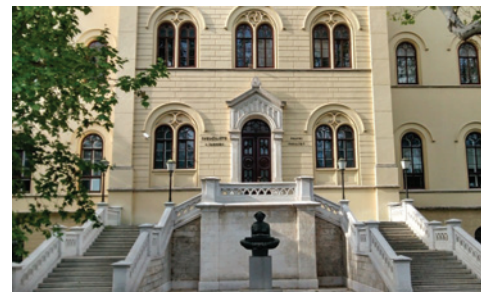
The Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences was founded in 1962 with the name College of Defectology. In 1965, it became part of the University of Zagreb. Since then, it has changed its name twice: in 1973 to the Faculty of Defectology and on **14 April 1998** to the name it bears today. That day is celebrated as the Day of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences. Since 2007, the Faculty has been located on the University Campus Borongaj.

STUDY PROGRAMMES

The Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences offers three **undergraduate** study programmes lasting three years: *Rehabilitation, Speech and Language Pathology* and *Social Pedagogy*. It also offers three **graduate** study programmes lasting two years: *Educational Rehabilitation, Speech*



Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences on the Borongaj Campus



University of Zagreb



Lecture: Peripathology (study programme **Rehabilitation**)



Lecture: Croatian Sign Language



Lecture

and Language Pathology and Social Pedagogy. It offers three **postgraduate** study programmes, comprising *two doctoral programmes* lasting three years (*Prevention Science and Disability Study*, and *Speech, Language, and Hearing Disorders*) and *one specialist programme* lasting three semesters (*Early Intervention in Educational Rehabilitation*). Numerous educational activities also take place within the framework of the **Centre for Lifelong Learning** at the Faculty, aimed at further developing the competencies of experts in the Faculty's core and related disciplines.

Undergraduate and graduate study programmes

Three departments of the Faculty deliver the undergraduate study programme **Rehabilitation** and the graduate programme **Educational Rehabilitation**: the *Department of Inclusive Education and Rehabilitation*, the *Department of Motor Disorders, Chronic Diseases and Art Therapy*, and the *Department of Visual Impairments*. These study programmes equip future experts with skills and knowledge necessary for the assessment and development of an intervention plan, its implementation and evaluation, and the development of strategies for inclusion of children, youth and adults with visual impairments, learning difficulties, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, multiple disabilities, motor disorders, chronic diseases, as well as interdisciplinary collaboration and art therapy.

Two departments participate in the undergraduate and graduate study programmes **Speech and Language Pathology**: the *Department of Speech and Language Pathology* and *Department of Hearing Impairments*. In these programmes, students gain knowledge and skills related to prevention, screening, diagnostics, therapy, counselling and research in difficulties/disorders in all areas of human communication, including areas related to speech, production and comprehension of oral and written language as well as nonverbal communication. This programme equips students with knowledge about communication disorders, speech and voice disorders, language disorders, specific learning disorders, hearing impairments, as well as feeding and swallowing disorders.

Two departments participate in the undergraduate and graduate programmes **Social Pedagogy**: the *Department of Behavioural Disorders* and *Department of Criminology*. These study programmes develop students' competencies for understanding of behaviour problems and criminal behaviour, assessment of key risks and needs of individuals and society, as well as development, implementation and evaluation of various prevention and intervention programmes for children and adults at risk, as well as for those with behaviour disorders and criminal behaviour.

Postgraduate study programmes

The **postgraduate doctoral study programme Prevention Science and Disability Study** is based on contemporary scientific concepts in promotion of health, prevention of risky behaviours and criminality, as well as in mental and behavioural disorders in children and youth. It is also based on a multidisciplinary approach to, and revised understanding of, disability. The interdisciplinary study programme involves international academic staff, and the goal is to provide future researchers with the skills and knowledge necessary for investigation, development and implementation of specific strategies of promotion, prevention, rehabilitation and support, rights advocacy and satisfaction of the needs of individuals with disabilities, based on a philosophy of inclusion, civil rights, social justice and international standards of human rights. The programme is currently enrolling its fourth generation of doctoral students. Each generation includes 20–25 students.

The **postgraduate doctoral study programme Speech, Language and Hearing Disorders** is the highest level of scientific training in speech and language pathology and is unique in the country. The programme prepares doctoral students for the most complex types of independent and team-based interdisciplinary research work in speech and language pathology. This doctoral study programme is comparable to similar European and American doctoral programmes in speech and language pathology, while taking into account the Croatian context of scientific and clinical work, economic development and needs. The programme enables further development of problem-solving knowledge and skills in students, as well as their practical application through a science-based curriculum that incorporates research, ethical solutions and examples of best practices. Every three years, 10–12 new doctoral students are enrolled in this programme.

The **postgraduate specialist study programme Early Intervention in Educational Rehabilitation** offers additional expert training to practitioners working with young children with diverse developmental disorders and their families. Through this study programme students develop understanding of the early intervention concept and acquire specific knowledge about particular segments of early intervention (for example, types of family support and specific interventions). Currently, the programme is running with its fifth generation. Each generation includes around 25 students.

Every year, approximately 50 new students enroll in each of three undergraduate study programmes, with altogether 150 students in each study year at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Few students leave their studies early. Each year the Faculty is home to approximately 450 students at the undergraduate level, 300 at the graduate level, 35 at the doctoral level, and 25 in specialist study, corresponding to a grand total of slightly



Students of the doctoral study programme **Prevention Science and Disability Study**



Students and professors in the **Speech, Language and Hearing Disorders** doctoral study programme



Specialist study programme students

more than 800. From the first generation of postgraduate students until 2019, 125 doctoral dissertations and 55 specialist theses have been defended at the Faculty. A total of 67 academic staff teach at all levels of study at the Faculty.

Lifelong learning

Besides teaching courses in undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate study programmes, academic staff also teach various types of short courses in prevention, assessment, and treatment/rehabilitation of different types of disorders, aimed at diverse professionals working with children and youth with developmental difficulties. These courses and training are organised through the **Centre for Lifelong Learning**. The Centre also organises programmes on research methodology in the social sciences. More than 1,800 individuals have attended courses and trainings at the Centre since its founding in 2008. Examples of these courses include "Expressive art therapy in education and rehabilitation", "Observation and stimulation of children with developmental disabilities", "Stimulation of communication and social skills in children with developmental disabilities", "Developmental assessment of children aged 0-6 years", "Developmental profiles of preschool children: observation and analysis", "Sensory integration", "Training for assistants in therapeutic communities", "Training in implementation of the 'Who is actually winning?' programme to prevent youth gambling", and "Working with parents of children and youth with behavioural problems".

Graduation ceremony



RESEARCH

The seven departments of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences participate in numerous national and international research projects in their areas of expertise. In 2018, altogether 52 scientific projects were conducted at the Faculty, of which 17 were international.

Some of the topics of recent scientific research, among others, were the following:

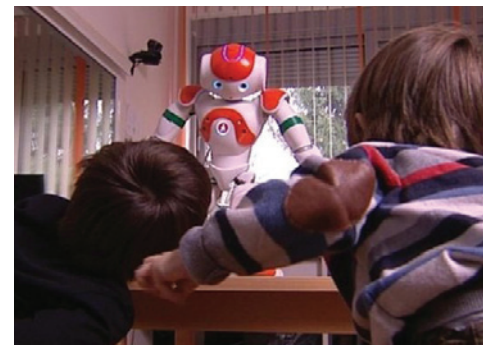
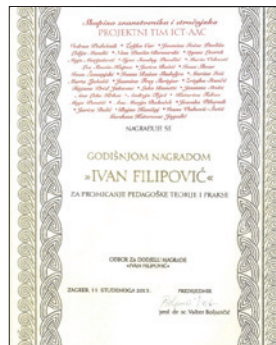
- Autism diagnostic observation with robot evaluator
- Interventions with children with ASD
- Support and empowerment of ASD children's parents and teachers
- Inclusion of students with disabilities
- Bullying, social and emotional competence in children with disabilities
- Sexual identity, experiences and attitudes of people with disabilities
- Visual functioning in children with intellectual disabilities
- Behavior disorders prevention
- Drugs abuse, gambling
- Missing persons
- Sexual victimization of children
- Public opinion toward immigrant criminality
- Aphasia treatment
- Adult language processing
- Assistive technologies for enhancing language skills
- Language development in children with cochlear implants
- Croatian Sign Language grammar
- Enhancing children's oral language skills
- Croatian language acquisition in children
- Bilingual language acquisition

▼ Research on Autism Diagnostic Observation with Robot Evaluator (ADORE)



◀ 2017 National Science Award winner – prof. Jelena Kuvač Kraljević, PhD

▶ Eight ERF staff members were among the winners of the 2014 Ivan Filipovic Award, the greatest recognition that educational workers in Croatia can receive

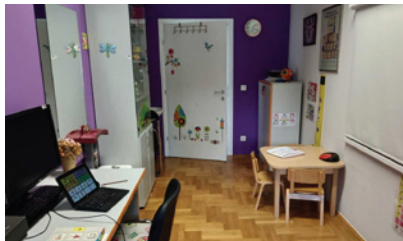


Some of these research projects are carried out by **research laboratories**, four of which lie within the Department of Speech and Language Pathology: *POLIN Laboratory for Psycholinguistic Research*, *Laboratory for Research in Child Communication*, *Laboratory for Research of Alternative and Augmentative Communication - ICT-AAC Experience Lab (ICT-AAC Lab)* and *Laboratory for Hearing and Speech Acoustics*. The Department of Hearing Impairments houses the *Laboratory for Sign Language and Deaf Culture Research*, while the Department of Behavioural Disorders has the *Laboratory for Prevention Research*.

► Laboratory for Hearing and Speech Acoustics



► Laboratory for Research of Alternative and Augmentative Communication - ICT-AAC Experience Lab (ICT-AAC Lab)





Laboratory for Research of Sign Language and Deaf Culture (HZJ Lab)



Laboratory for Research of Sign Language and Deaf Culture (HZJ Lab)



POLIN Laboratory for Psycholinguistic Research



POLIN Laboratory for Psycholinguistic Research



Child Communication Research Lab



◀ Laboratory for Prevention Research PREVLAB

▲ EUSPR Award to the Laboratory for Prevention Research

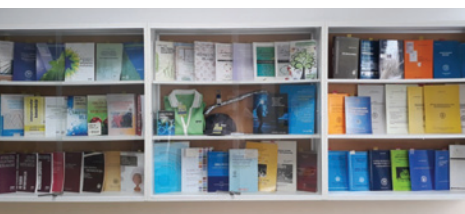


Child Communication Research Lab



The Faculty publishes **three open-access research journals**: *Croatian Review of Rehabilitation Research*, *Logopedics* (co-published by Croatian Logopedic Association) and *Criminology and Social Integration*. All three journals are published exclusively in electronic form.

►Scientific journals (co-)published by the ERF: *Croatian Review of Rehabilitation Research*, *Criminology & Social Integration*, and *Logopedics*



▲Books published or co-published by ERF

▼International scientific conference ERFCON



In addition to these journals, the Faculty also publishes original works, reprints and revised editions of (1) research works (*research series*), (2) professional works (*professional series*), (3) textbooks (*textbook series*), (4) works translated from foreign languages (*translation series*) and (5) *diagnostic/assessment instruments*. Currently approximately **80 publications are available at the Faculty, including 40 newer** editions of which the Faculty is publisher or co-publisher.

Every five years, the Faculty organises the **ERFCON International Conference**, at which experts in core and allied fields from Croatia and abroad present their research and exchange experiences. The ninth ERFCON was held in 2017 and was attended by 348 participants from 25 countries, who gave 280 presentations. Besides the main conference, 15 various satellite events were held, including pre-conferences, research-professional and professional meetings, workshops, methodology schools and panel discussions.



Rehabilitation Centre

REHABILITATION CENTRE

Next to numerous professional projects performed in collaboration with civil sector associations, educational institutions, local authorities and universities, as well as to professional conferences, publications and activities directed toward influencing public policies and social welfare, the Faculty is developing its own clinical practice as well.

The Rehabilitation Centre is a **clinical practice unit and teaching base** of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences since 1997. The Centre is also the site of scientific and professional research, professional projects, workshops, training, and supervision. The clinical work conducted at the Centre includes prevention, assessment and treatment/rehabilitation of difficulties in children with neurodevelopmental risk, visual or hearing impairments, intellectual disabilities, motor disorders, chronic diseases, autism spectrum disorder, language disorders, speech or voice disorders, reading and writing difficulties, math difficulties, dysphagia, ADHD, as well as behavioural and/or emotional problems. The Centre also provides support and counselling to parents anxious about their children's development, behaviour or learning. Around 900 clients a year use the services of the Centre, provided by 40 experts in educational rehabilitation, speech and language pathologists, social pedagogues and psychologists. Clients of the Centre span a broad range, including infants and children of preschool and school age with diverse types of difficulties; adolescents with behavioural problems; adults with traumatic brain injury, emotional problems, or ADHD; and elderly who suffered a stroke or who have Parkinson's disease. The Centre provides instruction in clinical practice settings for 41 undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate courses at the Faculty.



Rehabilitation Centre room and equipment



Rehabilitation Centre room and equipment



Clinical work in the Rehabilitation Centre



Rehabilitation Centre – room with one-way mirror



Students observing clinical work



▲ Social Pedagogy students at Indiana State University

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

International collaboration at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences continues to grow through research, teaching and professional activities. International research and professional projects are carried out, and each year sees greater incoming and outgoing mobility through Erasmus+ and other mobility programmes. The Faculty has agreements for Erasmus+ exchange of teachers and students with 16 universities in 10 European countries: Portugal, Poland, Finland, Bulgaria, Belgium, Slovenia, Macedonia, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Romania. Within the framework of an inter-university agreement, every two years since 2004, 15 students from the Faculty have attended courses in criminology and (since recently) educational rehabilitation at Indiana State University (USA), or Indiana State students have come to the Faculty. Collaborative research projects are also being conducted between the two institutions. Teaching and non-teaching staff spend periods at institutions abroad through the Erasmus+ programme, bilateral university exchange programmes, the Academic Mobility Programme of the University of Zagreb and individual agreements with institutions abroad.

QUALITY CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING

The Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences continuously invests to **improve the quality** of all its activities. To this end, the Faculty approved in 2013 its *Quality Policy* and *Regulations on the Quality Assurance System*. The Faculty has a Committee for Quality Management, tasked with planning, coordinating, implementing and assessing activities within the quality assurance system. The Committee acts as an advisory body to the Faculty Council and Dean. The Committee comprises seven members, who include research and teaching staff, associates, non-teaching staff, students and external stakeholders. Quality improvement efforts are continuously linked to all other processes and activities at the Faculty.

STUDENTS

Support to students with disabilities

In accordance with its mission, the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences makes efforts to provide current students and applicants with disabilities equal access to study programmes and equal opportunities for academic growth and development. Support to students is offered during the admission process as well as during studies at the Faculty. A teacher-coordinator for students with disabilities and a representative of students with disabilities make joint efforts to provide these students with support and to improve the conditions necessary for their independent participation in all academic activities. Professors from the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences teach the optional course *Peer Support for Students with Disabilities*, offered to students of all faculties and academies at the University of Zagreb.

Student Council and student societies

The Student Council of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences takes care of students' quality of life, standards, rights and other important questions. One of the Council's most important achievements is the organisation of the student congress ERFUSS, which has been held every two years since 2014. The congress allows students from all three study programmes to collaborate and share knowledge in an increasingly international atmosphere.

▼ERFUSS Student Congress





ERF women's handball team



ERF men's futsal team



An activity of the Association of Social Pedagogy Students (PUPOVCI)

The Council collaborates with the student councils from the University Department of Croatian Studies and the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences, both of which are located on the Borongaj campus, to organise the sporting event "Campusiad" and has financed for years the participation of the Faculty's students in the "Humaniad", the international educational-athletic meeting of students from biomedical faculties. Our students return from volleyball, handball, basketball and waterpolo competitions with numerous medals.

Students at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences actively participate in **student associations**:

- The **Student Sporting Society of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences** is represented at women's volleyball, handball, basketball, waterpolo and swimming events, as well as at men's basketball and futsal events, such as at the University Competition of the City of Zagreb, the Campusiad and the Humaniad. Since 2014, our students have come away from these sporting events with 9 First Place, 9 Second Place and 6 Third Place Medals.
- The **Association of Social Pedagogy Students (PUPOVCI)**, the **Association of Educational Rehabilitation Students (module: Rehabilitation of Visually Impaired Persons, REHOV)** and the **Association of Speech and Language Pathology Students (LOGOMOTIVA)** aim to bring students of certain study programme together; to enable them to exchange their knowledge and experience during their studies as well as after graduation; to organize different activities in order to raise public awareness of challenges faced by people with disabilities, communication, language and speech disorders, as well as of behaviour disorders prevention; and to promote their study programmes and future professions, as well as collaboration with other professions.

A capella student group Sorelo brings together young a capella enthusiasts from all parts of Croatia and from all study programmes at the Faculty, as reflected in its name: **S**ocial pedagogy, **RE**habilitation, **LO**gopedics. In 2018 at the 52nd Festival of Dalmatian *Klapa* in Omiš, a city on the Croatian coast, Sorelo was awarded First Place by the audience and Second Place by the expert jury.



◀ An activity of the Association of Educational Rehabilitation Students (module: Rehabilitation of Visually Impaired Persons, REHOV)

▼ An activity of the Association of Students of Speech and Language Pathology study programme („Logomotiva“)



▼ A capella student group Sorelo





A reunion of the alumni generations that graduated from ERF between 1965 and 1973

ALUMNI SOCIETY (AMCA-ERF)

Former students and friends of the Faculty are united in the **Croatian Association of Graduates of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences (AMCA-ERF)**, formed in 2010. The Association aims to preserve the tradition and reputation of the Faculty by linking former and current students of all three study programmes. Other goals and activities of the Association are to cultivate ethical behaviour among university students, create and strengthen relationships and collaboration among alumni, create links between the Faculty and related institutions in Croatia and around the world, engage in publishing activities in support of the Association's goals, organise member meetings (lectures, roundtables), regularly update members on the Association's work (e-newsletter, website), and celebrate significant anniversaries and successes of our students. Since 2013, the Association is a member of the Federation of Alumni Associations of the University of Zagreb.

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