

WHO WE ARE

The Centre IRIS is the only special public institution in Slovenia providing education for children and young people with visual impairment, including those with multiple disabilities, from pre-school age to the end of the secondary education level. In addition to this main task, it also performs a wide range of activities related to the field of education for the visually impaired. Some examples of these are:

- Services supporting inclusive forms of education/mainstream education
- Workshops for children and young people with visual impairment including their families, teachers, etc.
- Training of teachers and other professionals working with the visually impaired in mainstream schools
- Gatherings for professionals
- Counselling

The staff of the Centre IRIS pursue their professional development in different areas of work and they are involved in many different international projects.



WHAT WE OFFER

Education programmes

The Centre IRIS offers the following adapted education programmes for children and young people with visual impairment:

- Pre-school education (ages of 1–6)
- Compulsory basic education (ages of 6–15)
 - Equal educational standard
 - Lower educational standard
- Special programmes
- Secondary education (ages of 15+)
 - Short vocational programmes (care assistant, assistant in administration)
 - Vocational school (administration services)
 - Vocational technical upper-secondary school (economics)
- Boarding school for pupils/students with special needs



Early intervention

Training of special education activities

for blind and partially sighted pupils and students is interwoven in all school activities and programmes. Some of this training is performed individually.

The areas of special education training are:

- O&M (orientation and mobility)
- Communication skills (ICT skills, sensory activities)
- Social skills and socialization
- ADLs (Activities of daily living)
- Sport and leisure time activities

Functional vision assessment

Providing assistive technology, adapted materials and coursebooks, other teaching/education resources and toys. Adaptation and printing materials in braille and enlarge print.

Sensory garden: workshops raising awareness and informing the public about special needs of people with visual impairment.

Dinner in the dark: experience blindness (individuals/groups).

CENTRE OF EXPERTISE – supporting inclusive forms of education

Children and young people with visual impairment have the opportunity to choose between an education in mainstream (pre)schools or one in adapted programmes in a special institution.

The main characteristics of this service supporting inclusive forms of education are team work and its interdisciplinary approach with a team of QTVI (Qualified Teachers for the Visually Impaired), social workers, psychologists and teachers of different subjects.

BOARDING SCHOOL

The Centre IRIS provides accommodation including all meals for children and young people with visual impairment. The residents are assisted in their afternoon activities by teachers or other qualified members of the staff.

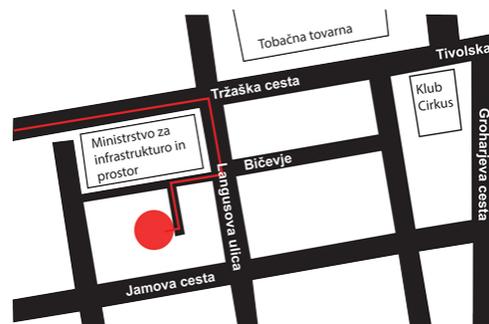
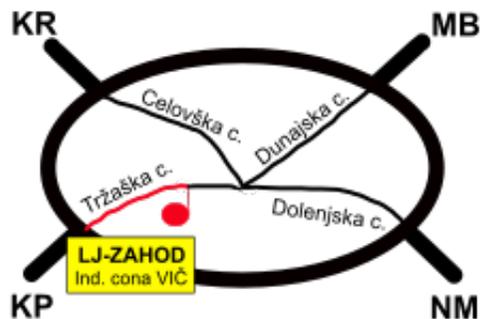
Who can be admitted to the boarding school of the Centre IRIS?

Pupils and students with visual impairment who attend adapted programmes at the Centre IRIS or those SEN children who attend schools in the vicinity of the Centre IRIS and have that option in their Decision of Placement.

What is life at the boarding school like?

One part of the afternoon is meant for studying and training of special education activities under the supervision of teachers. The Centre IRIS tends to build links in its immediate and wider environment in order to facilitate socialisation of children and young people with visual impairment. Thus, they have the opportunity to try out their social competences acquired at school in various situations. They can also join a wide range of free time activities, and are offered help and company by their peers who work as volunteers.

HOW YOU CAN REACH US



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Inclusion and Counselling for the Blind
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We help children,
young people,
and their parents overcome
the obstacles that arise on
their life journey.