



## THIRD CROATIAN SYMPOSIUM ON EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

Team around the family: myth or reality?

University of Zadar

26 - 28 September 2013

ORGANIZER: Croatian Association on Early Childhood Intervention  
in cooperation with the UNICEF Office for Croatia

Although the number of registered participants was 290, the number of attendees amounted to over 300. After the symposium, 73 evaluation forms (25,17 %) were collected, 14 of which were filled in by foreign participants.

### Participants structure

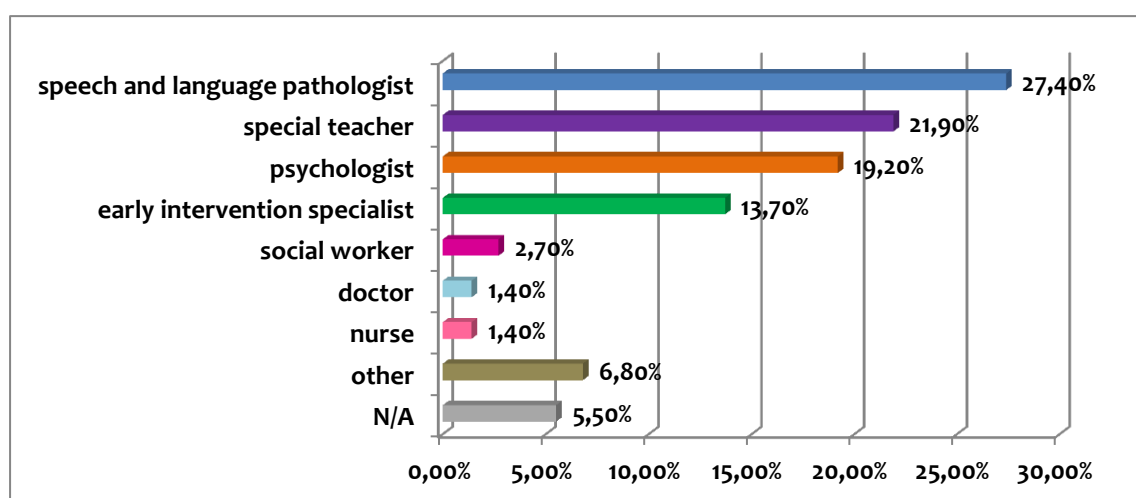
Participants structure, by their occupation, is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Participants structure by occupation

	early intervention specialist	rehabilitator / special teacher	speech and language pathologist	psychologist	social worker	doctor	nurse	other *	N/A	total
<b>N</b>	10	16	20	14	2	1	1	5	4	73
<b>%</b>	13,7	21,9	27,4	19,2	2,7	1,4	1,4	6,8	5,5	100

\*= neurophysiotherapist, kinesiotherapist, chair of the association, occupational therapist, TAC consultant

As you can see in Picture 1., more than 25 % of participants were speech and language pathologists, and about 20 % of participants were special teachers and psychologists. They were followed by early intervention specialists, and only a few social workers, doctors and nurses.



Picture 1. Participants structure by occupation



## Communication with participants

Most participants found out about the symposium by word of mouth (43,8 %), or by e-mail (41,1 %).

Different aspects of the symposium organization were rated on a 1-5 scale, where 1 indicated „poor“, 2 „acceptable“, 3 „good“, 4 „very good“ and 5 „excellent“ organisation.

In Table 2. you can see that the highest grade was given to symposium location and staff at the registration desk, while the lowest grade was given to symposium fees.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of statements regarding communication with participants

STATEMENT	N	min.	max.	M	SD
Clarity of registration form and abstract submission form.	72	2	5	4,49	,731
Communication with participants before the symposium.	72	1	5	4,26	,979
Useful and information rich website (www.hurid.hr).	70	1	5	4,41	,807
Staff at the registration desk.	71	3	5	4,76	,572
Symposium materials.	73	2	5	4,41	,779
Symposium location.	73	3	5	4,79	,470
Duration of the symposium.	72	3	5	4,58	,645
Symposium fees.	71	1	5	3,89	1,202

## Symposium content

Participants rated symposium content on 1-5 scale, where 1 was „poor“, 2 „acceptable“, 3 „good“, 4 „very good“, 5 „excellent“, and X (0) „didn't participate“.

As you can see in Table 3., participants were most satisfied with oral presentations and round tables, and least satisfied with plenary sessions.

Table 3. Descriptive statistics of statements regarding symposium content

STATEMENT	N	min.	max.	M	SD
Plenary sessions.	72	0	5	3,57	1,743
Other oral presentations and round tables.	70	0	5	4,06	1,284
Workshops.	71	0	5	3,93	1,726
Poster sessions.	69	0	5	3,84	1,530

There were various answers on the open-type questions about content and themes regarding organisation of future symposiums. Following themes were repeated several times: community involvement in early intervention and cooperation of different sectors, ADD/ADHD, and hearing impairment – examples and therapy practice. Some individual suggestions were: diagnostics (tests), materials used in early intervention practice, working with children integrated in preschool institutions, availability of early intervention services, and parental empowerment.



## Symposium feedback

Participants rated statements presented in Table 4. on 1-5 scale, where 1 indicated „not for sure“, 2 „probably not“, 3 „maybe“, 4 „probably yes“, and 5 „yes for sure“.

Participants were on average quite sure ( $M = 4,63$ ) on recommending attendance at the Fourth Croatian Symposium on Early Childhood Intervention to their colleagues. The statement „The symposium contents will help me in my daily work“ was rated with lowest grades, but with an average 4,21 grade which still means „probably yes“.

Table 4. Descriptive statistics regarding symposium feedback

STATEMENT	N	min.	max.	M	SD
Symposium fulfilled my expectations.	72	1	5	4,28	,859
The symposium contents will help me in my daily work.	73	1	5	4,21	,881
I plan to attend the 4th Croatian Symposium on Early Childhood Intervention (2015).	73	1	5	4,38	,922
I would recommend attending a future Symposium to my colleagues.	73	3	5	4,63	,677

## Additional comments

Most comments and suggestions were associated with translation – participants would like to have had simultaneous translation. A common comment was on the number of interesting sections held in parallel, which resulted in being hard to decide which one to attend. Participants expressed the need for longer workshops and comments sessions. Some individual comments were: less tolerance for lecturers who exceeded their lecture-time, unprepared moderators, and unclear excursion organisation.