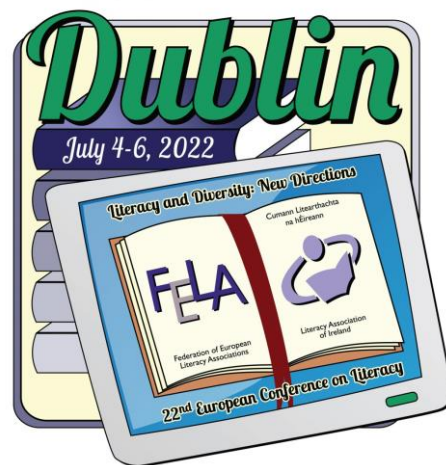


22nd European Conference on Literacy



Slovenian Reading Badge Society: With a Book into the World

Manca Perko, Društvo Bralna značka Slovenije – ZPMS (Slovenian Reading Badge Society), Slovenia





Slovenija

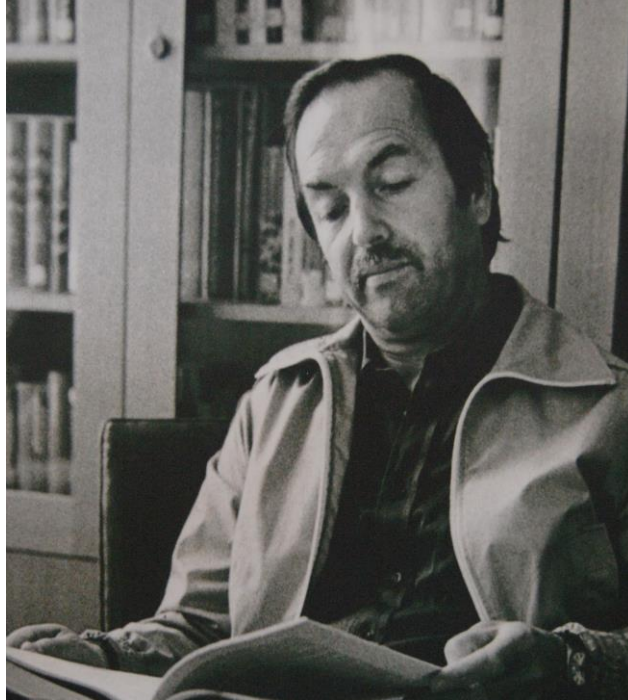
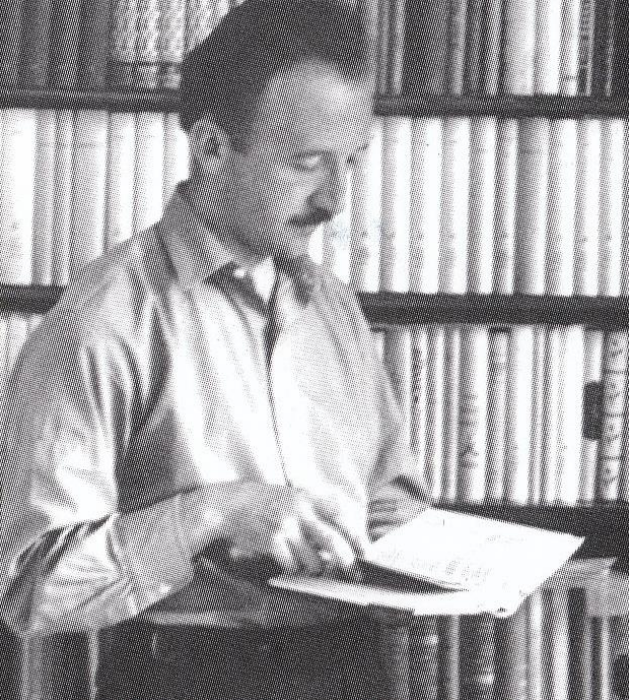
Slovenia

- 20,270 km²
- 2,108,977 people
- Slovenian language + 2 official languages (where the minorities live)
- 1991 independence
- 1992 recognition



Slovenian Reading Badge Society

- Slovenian Reading Badge Society is a non-governmental organisation that was established in 2002 to head the Reading Badge movement in terms of professional guidance and organization.
- The mission of the Reading Badge is to promote the lifelong development of reading culture and reading literacy.
- The society thus implements various programmes that encourage children and young people, as well as adults, to read.



A brief history of the Reading Badge movement

- The movement began in 1960/1961 at a primary school in Prevalje (a small city in the north of Slovenia) as a mentoring practice founded by Slovenian language teacher Stanko Kotnik and youth author Leopold Suhodolčan.
- It later developed into the Slovenian Association of Reading Badges, which worked within the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth, a non-governmental organisation in Slovenia.
- In 2002, the association was transformed into the Slovenian Reading Badge Society, which is headed by a programme committee that monitors the movement and takes care of the basic directives of its development. It is still a member of the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth.



The main objectives of the Reading Badge

- To develop reading habits and reading culture among children and young people (to help them and teach them how to get in touch with literature and how to find beauty and values in the rich world of literature),
- to develop family reading,
- to educate and inform mentors (teachers, librarians), parents and the whole community by organising lectures, workshops with innovative teachers, librarians, supervisors, and specialists in the field of youth literature,
- to help with organising meetings (cultural events) for young readers with Slovenian writers, illustrators and other cultural workers/artists in financial and other ways,
- to donate books since they play the most important role in this initiative: more than 627,000 books have been donated to young readers, teachers/mentors and libraries.

The Reading Badge Movement Today

Today the movement brings together:

- 140,000 readers each year (mostly preschool and primary school children but also a number of secondary school students and adults)
- around 70 % of the primary school population
- around 7,000 mentors in primary schools, many mentors in preschool and secondary schools
- many librarians and other experts
- many authors and publishers





The Reading Badge Movement Today

Some Reading Badge programmes go beyond Slovenian borders and reach Slovenian communities globally:

- in Slovenian minorities in neighbouring Italy, Austria, Hungary, Croatia and
- among Slovenian emigrants in the world.

We are proud that the Reading Badge also “works” in Italian and Hungarian minorities in Slovenia.

The Reading Badge Movement Today

- Another important target group of the movement are parents/families of young readers.
- The development of family reading is an especially important goal of the programmes for the youngest readers.





The Reading Badge Movement Today


- In the year 2014, the society started with **an intergenerational** project, trying to connect the younger and the older generations of readers.



The Reading Badge Movement Today

The Slovenian Reading Badge Society is one of the initiators and partners of the Slovenian national campaign ***National Month of Reading Together***, which is aimed at promoting reading and literacy across all age groups. Within this campaign, it leads a **public awareness campaign “Reading Together”**.



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- In 2011, the Reading Badge movement was awarded the Golden Order of Merit of the Republic of Slovenia on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.
 - In 2019, the Reading Badge Movement was listed in the Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

60 LET BRALNE ZNAČKE

2020/2021 60th anniversary

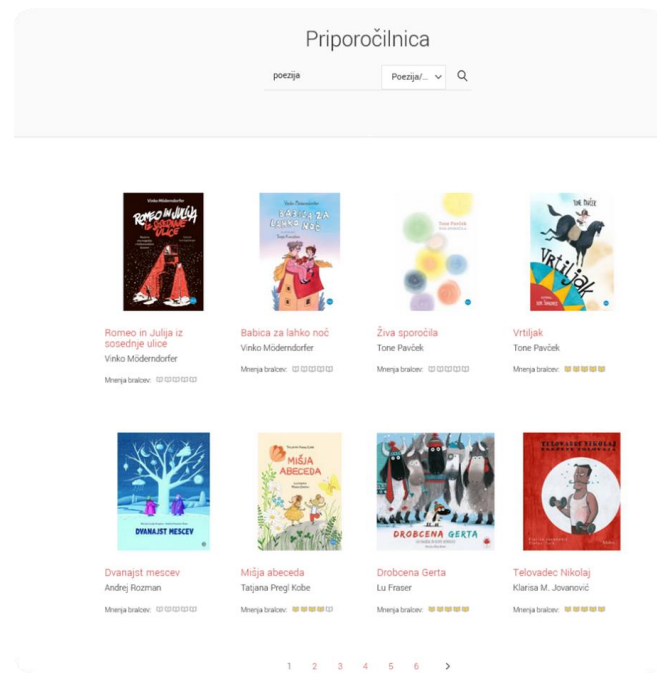


- In the school year 2020/2021, the Reading Badge movement celebrated its 60th anniversary.
- Slovenian Reading Badge Society organised many events and started some new programmes or initiatives, many of which were successfully transferred to or designed for the online environment due to the pandemic.

Ilustracija: Marjan Manček. Javna agencija za knjigo RS, projekt *Radi beremo*.

The intensive and special communication with our reading tutors/mentors

- ***A Missive in 12 Syllables:*** Marko Kravos, Slovenian poet and President of the Reading Badge wrote poetry to communicate with our mentors ... His verses were emailed to the mentors during the first two months of the pandemic to encourage them and show them human closeness. We **edited** the syllables and **published** them as a special edition for members/mentors and coworkers (July 2020).
- We have developed **recommendations for mentors** on how to adapt their work to reach their readers in special circumstances.
- **We have been available** for questions and have tried to offer professional assistance in various practical situations.



The adaptation and intense use of online forms that already existed

The Recommendation Room

(<https://www.bralnaznacka.si/sl/priporocene-knjige/>)

got an online book evaluation tool for children, parents and mentors;



The **MEGA** quiz 2020/2021, 2021/2022 “*With a Book into the World*” turned out to be an excellent online tool for combining fun, learning and competition.

The transformation of classical “live” forms for the online environment

- The field of education:
 - the annual **Symposium and other educational programmes** were successfully transferred online, on the Zoom platform,
 - we started with **Online Reading Tea Parties**, two-hour online events, organised once a month (5 pm-7 pm).
- The field of events:
 - **The main celebration of the 60th anniversary and The Reading Badge Festival** were transferred online, on the Zoom platform and the Facebook profile
 - **Meetings with Slovenian authors:** virtual meetings or meetings outside, in the open
- **Video contents:** short videos were made and published on the Society's YouTube channel.





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjUoT_vgSN4&t=14s



Sources

- Slovenia Loves Reading Publication: <https://app.groove.cm/groovemember/download/nsokg66993dbe8d80d31c48d02c42b0a14304>.
- Miha Mohor: The Reading Badge: <https://www.bralnaznacka.si/sl/english/>.
- Tilka Jamnik: Intergenerational Reading: <https://www.bralnaznacka.si/sl/medgeneracijsko-branje/>.
- City Library Ljubljana: <https://eng.mklj.si/index.php/projects/mega-quiz>.
- The Slovenian Reading Badge Society: <https://www.bralnaznacka.si/sl/o-nas/predstavitev/>.
- The Slovenian section of IBBY: <https://ibby-arhiv.grooveblog.com/post/nagrada-in-priznanja-slovenske-sekcije-ibby>.
- Photos: The Slovenian Reading Badge Society archives.