

Bilingual teenagers

(Dvojezično najstništvo)

The project **Bilingual teenagers** aims to contribute to the development of communicative competence (proficiency, fluency, and confidence) in the minority language among Slovenian-speaking teenagers in Italy. The project, co-financed by the Slovenian Language Service of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, foresees a series of activities to promote the use of the Slovenian language among the selected target group, as well as to encourage the use of digital language resources.

Studies have highlighted that the communicative ability of Slovenian speakers in Italy in this language is generally declining. The most significant breakthrough occurs at the transition between the so-called first and second cycle of schooling (i.e., between middle and high schools) when there is also a significant drop-out rate from the education system in Slovenian. The project hence addresses the early teenagers aged 10 to 13. A key factor in ensuring the continued use of the minority language is a high level of communicative competence, which nowadays includes skills and literacy in online, virtual, and digital environments. Therefore, the project promotes exposure to authentic usages of the Slovenian language in all communicative contexts.

The main project's activity is the online and printed publication of a handbook (authors: Matejka Grgič and Susanna Pertot) with ideas, insights, and suggestions for parents, teachers, and educators. On the web page www.smejse.it/najstniki, there can be also found a flyer for teenagers, materials for media, and some useful links to other resources and projects.