

Notice, EXPRESS, Change

INFORMAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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"I have **made** my own **world** and it is much **better** than anything I **saw** around me."

Louise Nevelson

Introduction

- Ten years ago, we formed a journalists working group and began editing the school magazine **Mihić**
- After the first few issues, we realised that our magazine was on the verge of becoming a **collection of school assignments** instead of a **framework for improving the school's social life**
- A research carried out by our magazine showed that 85% of students have a strong feeling that they cannot change anything either in their own lives or the school life **"because they have no right of speech"**, **"due to anxiety"**, **"because it is a privilege of adults..."**

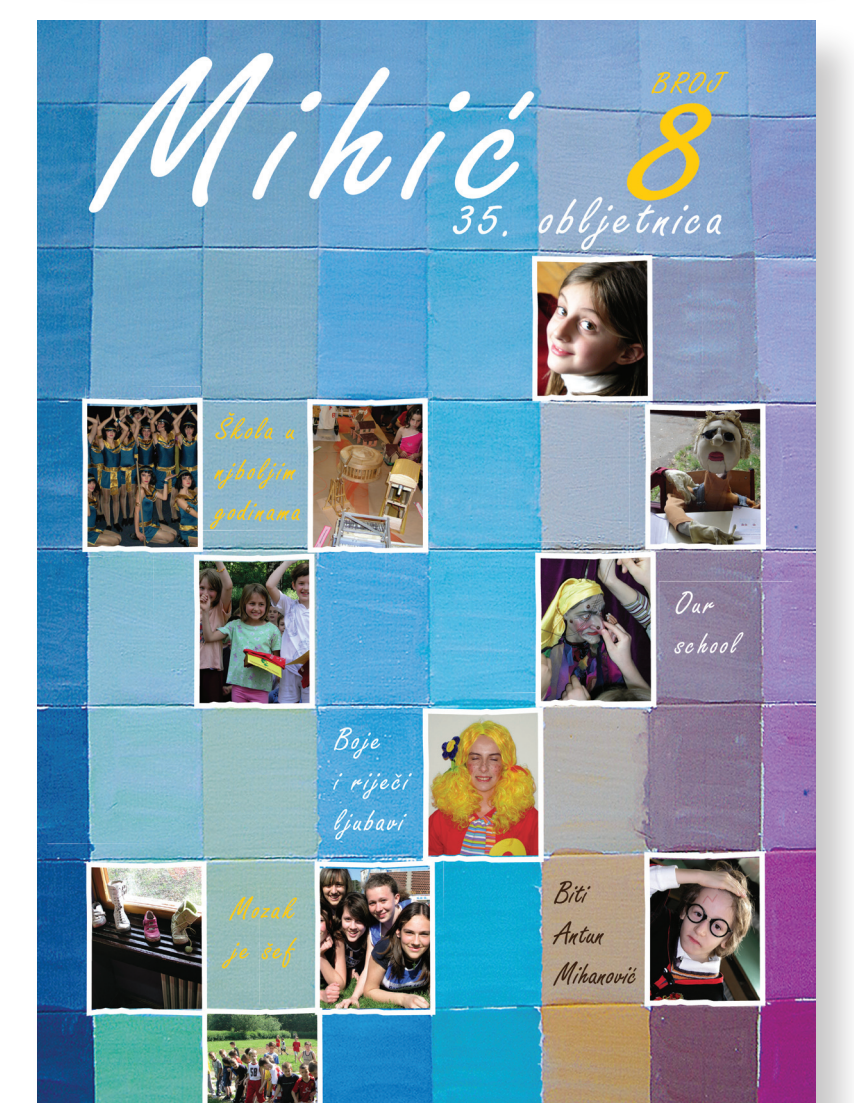
Means and goals

The **Notice, Express, Change** programme was launched to change that situation. Its initial idea was to **gather seemingly separate but connected activities within the school in order to engage students in promoting information sharing and freedom of speech**, at the same time encouraging a more proactive attitude towards participating in the school's social life.

In addition to developing journalistic skills and writing techniques, we organised a wide range of events and activities:

- **panel discussions, round tables** (on hot topics of our school life)
- **workshops** (e.g. Finding, selecting and using information)
- **encounters with writers, photographers, journalists, illustrators and other guests**
- **theatre and film performances**

All of these activities were covered by the staff of our magazine!



Results

- higher level of self-expression
- better cooperation with teachers, parents and even with business partners
- improved quality of the school's magazine
- more interesting and dynamic school's social life
- improved image of the school library and school as a whole, the librarian profession seen from a new perspective
- long-term project The School We Want has been accepted by the teacher's council and will be implemented with resources available to our school and last but not least
- we are having more fun!

In this programme, which has been implemented since the 2004/2005 school year, some 150 students participated directly and a much larger number of them participated indirectly – approximately 700 a year – as those who benefit from our programme's final product, the school magazine MIHIĆ.

Reception

We have received lots of favourable responses from our readers, professional journalists and newspaper editors. Our programme is financially supported by the City of Zagreb and several sponsors. And, finally, at the International round table on Young people and their right for access to the information our programme Notice, Express, Change received such attention that Mrs. Lourense H. Das suggested we present our experience at the IASL conference.

