



UNIT 2. EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE (E2U)

ELEMENT 2. LEGISLATION, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION TO THE SITUATION IN SLOVENIA

Video Lecture Transcript

Slide 1

Hello and welcome to this short video lecture. The lecture is taken from Unit 2- Easy to understand language, Element 2- Legislation, standards and guidelines. My name is Tatjana Knapp and I will introduce you to the situation in Slovenia.

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Slovene language is a slavic language, spoken by approximately 2,5 million people around the world, but mainly by inhabitants of Slovenia.

Official language in Slovenia is Slovene, however there are 2 additional official languages in municipalities bordering Hungary and Italy- Hungarian language and Italian language.



Slovene language is one of the languages that has a dual form, dualism, in addition to singular and plural, and many dialects which are divided into 8 dialect groups.

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Easy-to-read or Easy language is mentioned in our last 2 National Programmes for Language Policy. Plain language is not yet researched, spoken of or widely used.

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It is estimated that around 500.000 people with or without disabilities benefit from easy to understand Slovene language, for example people with cognitive disabilities such as intellectual disabilities, dementia, autism spectrum disorder, low literacy skills, migrants, Roma people, etc.

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Speaking of definitions of easy to understand language, we have a few definitions of Easy-to-read. We can summarize them by saying: Easy-to-read in Slovene language is Easy Slovene. Information is prepared following the guidelines, it must be easy to read and understand, accessible and useful. It can be an adaptation or original, text with or without pictures, and also standalone symbols or illustrations.

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However, there is no definition of the Plain language yet.



Slide 7

As for the milestones of the Easy-to-read language in Slovenia, the early 2000's brought a few publications, such as a booklet on introducing EURO as the new national currency or a book with pictures on education and employment of people with learning disabilities.

At the beginning of 2011, Zavod RISA was established, becoming the first organization in Slovenia to systematically produce and promote Easy-to-read, Easy language. Since the beginning, the free digital newspaper in Easy-to-read, 20 MINUTES, produced by volunteers, has been issued.

Year 2012 brought the first adaptations of literary fiction for Easy-to-read and adaptation of guidelines by Inclusion Europe.

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The following years were fruitful, with the 1st national conference on Easy-to-read marking the year 2013, first public tender for projects in Easy-to-read adaptations in 2015, followed by the first original novel in Slovene Easy-to-read a year later and foundation of Association for adapted communications LABRA in 2017.

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Years 2018 and 2019 were very important for easy to understand language in Slovenia. Project Lahko je brati, It is easy to read, brought new guidelines with 4-levels of Easy-to-read Slovene language. Easy-to-read that follows these guidelines is marked with a round purple sign containing a winking book, as seen in the picture. The levels are marked with different numbers and colours of books, from 1 blue book with a



hand on it marking the 1st level, to 2 green, 3 yellow and finally 4 red books marking the 4th level. The project results are available on the website: www.lahkojebrati.si.

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In 2019, first course on Easy-to-read for students of inclusive pedagogics was held at University of Maribor, Faculty of Pedagogics.

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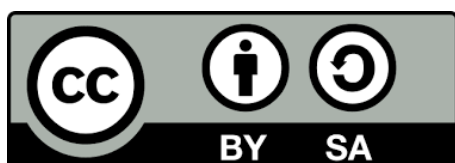
As regards plain language, RISA promoted it for the first time in "A proposal of systematization of accessible information in Republic of Slovenia". The initiative was also a part of the project Lahko je brati, It is easy to read.

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Thank you for joining me for this video lecture. If you have any questions or comments regarding the content, or you are interested in easy to understand slovene language in general, feel free to contact me through email. The email address is tatjana@risa.si.

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