



MARIBOR PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



# HOW WE STARTED A NEW VEHICLE IN MARIBOR

From the annual report

2016

Number of materials on the bibliobus at the same time:

10.000 items

New library material:

3.901 items

Number of stations:

44 (10 municipalities)

Library material (mobile library total):

107.709 items

Loans:

145.000 items

Visitors:

28.000

Number of kilometres:

15.858 km

Sources:

10 municipalities and Ministry of Culture

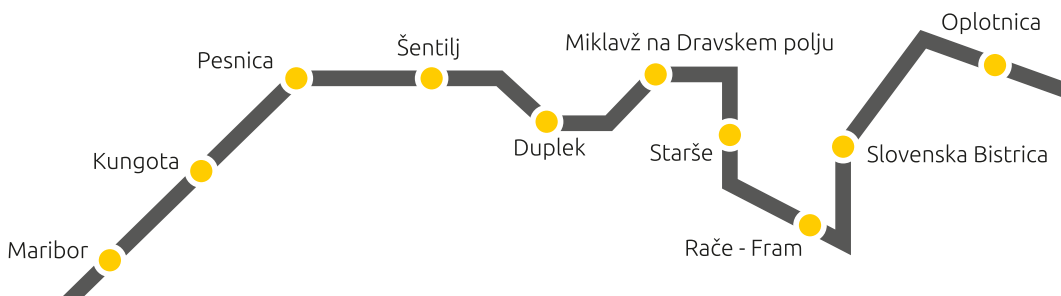
Total budget:

188.562 EUR

(stuff, material costs, books and other library material)

More information: <http://www.mb.sik.si/potujoca-knjiznica-bibliobus.html> 

Number of kilometres covered in 40 years: approximately 750.000.



# MARIBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Mobile library – how we started a new vehicle

Maribor is the second biggest town in Slovenia. It is located in the north-eastern part of the country, 15 km from the border with Austria and has 112,000 inhabitants. The Maribor Public Library is the second biggest public library in Slovenia. It was established in 1949.

**The Maribor Public Library** employs 93 people and it has a network of 19 library branches (the main library in the centre of Maribor, libraries in various districts of Maribor, suburbs and in the countryside), and the Mobile Library: bibliobus and mobile library material collections.

Potential users of the Maribor Public Library are the inhabitants of 12 municipalities - about 183,000 people in total.

Maribor Public Library is also the central regional library for Eastern Styria (North-Eastern part of Slovenia). In accordance with the Slovene Library Law it performs special tasks for public libraries in this region.



The library operations are financed by the municipalities in the area, as well as by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, other ministries (tenders) and from non-public sources, such as the Library's own funds, sponsorships and donations as well as funds obtained through the sale of goods and services.

The library is a part of the COBISS (Co-operative Online Bibliographic System and services) library information system, developed by Slovenian librarians and the Institute of Information Sciences (IZUM).

**The mobile library** is a branch of Maribor Public Library. It includes the bibliobus and the mobile library material collections that are setup in various institutions, public establishments, residential homes for people with special needs, and cultural associations. The mobile library offers approximately 110,000 items, which are regularly rotated and updated on the bibliobus and on locations of mobile library collections (literature and professional reading for kids, the youth and adults, newspapers and magazines, DVDs, CDs, CD-ROMs).

The mobile library is a **branch of special social significance**. Its librarians are very aware of this on their journeys which for some people represent a pleasant change in their routine or a rare contact with the external world. Librarians bring them news and are able to discuss different topics with their visitors. That is why it is important for librarians not only to have solid professional knowledge, but also good social and communication skills as well as some knowledge of psychology. With its regular visits the mobile library establishes precious ties between people.

Bibliobus regularly visits 44 destinations in 10 municipalities. It stops where there is no public library nearby. It operates from Monday to Friday throughout the day, and on Saturday mornings. It visits individual destinations periodically every fortnight. The duration of an individual stop depends on the number of visitors, and it can be from one hour to two and a half hours. With the bibliobus membership card readers can also borrow material from any other branches of the Maribor Public Library.

The librarians introduce individuals and groups into using the library, whereas the visits of first-year primary school and pre-school children are enhanced with a fairy tale session. We provide elementary schools and kindergartens with books for reading badges and home reading assignments, which fulfil the needs for professional literature with regard to curricula, topical events, seasons of the year, and holidays.

Bibliobus stops once a month also at the **Day-Care Centre Polž** in Maribor. The Centre employs people with special needs (functionally and intellectually disadvantaged). During visits at the Centre the bibliobus crew consists of four members; they are assisted by the Centre's staff. The librarians help visitors choose suitable library material, but they also chat with them, and for many inmates of the Centre bibliobus represents one of few contacts with the outside world. The Maribor Public Library also helped the Centre's staff and inmates establish their own library. A number of books were donated and processed with the help of the Maribor Public Library and the Centre's inmates were taught how to work in their library. This has become a form of work therapy and according to the experience of the Centre's staff, it has contributed significantly to a better atmosphere among inmates. They are also more confident since they are able to run their library themselves. Since we have a new vehicle with elevator the work is much easier.



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**The first Maribor bibliobus** started visiting readers in 1974. In 1987, it was replaced with a new vehicle since the previous one was already too run down after having served us for 11 years.



In May 1998, already the **third bibliobus**, modelled after mobile libraries of other European countries, began its journey in Maribor.

The library operations was fully automated and online access, and the bibliobus was included in the Cobiss bibliographic system as one of the library units.

In 2001, that vehicle participated in the meeting of European mobile libraries in the town of Tilburg in the Netherlands, where it received the first prize, thus being decorated with the title Bibliobus of the year 2001.

The week side of this vehicle was bad air conditioning and heating, so the highest temperature often takes even +50 degrees. In winter time the lowest temperature in the vehicle was – 14 degrees! But it could take 55 people in the same time, and it was something!



### **The new Maribor bibliobus – 2 years project in 2014 and 2015**

Since the 3rd bibliobus was rather dilapidated, in 2014 the library applied for financial help of the Ministry of Culture which every second year approved financial support for a one new vehicle. The ministry approved 50% of funds required for a two-year project. The rest of the expenses was covered by individual municipalities in 2015. After we selected the supplier through the European business registry we did some individual negotiations and we selected Maribor company Dualis. The major work on the modification of the vehicle made their coworker Fera avto.

## FOTOS: FROM EMPTY VEHICLE TO THE MODERN MOBILE LIBRARY



A special Iveco truck is modified to meet the requirements of a bibliobus and is equipped with modern furnishing, IT equipment, on-line loan, elevator for people on wheelchairs. It is included in the Cobiss bibliographic system as one of the library units, and its exterior is designed based on the updated corporate identity of the Maribor Public Library.



FOTO: THE NEW MOBILE:

DESIGNE AND ILLUSTRATION: MATIC BREZOVŠEK AND DOMEN RUPNIK

FOTO: TEAM GREAT CONCERN BEFORE THE OPENING: WILL WE MENAGE ON-LINE LOAN?



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The vehicle measures 10.8 m in length, 2.5 m in width, and weighs (including the library items) about 15 tonnes. Total prize was 284.506 EUR.



**FOTO: THE OPENING STOP IN THE DUPLEK MUNICIPALITY**

The new vehicle started its service, according to plans, in October 2015. The opening ceremony was something special – it was organized as an opening "giro" around municipalities. This way it activated the local mayors and introduced the project to the communities, but also gained more media attention.



**FOTOS: THE MAIN OPENING IN MARIBOR**

#### **THE BIBLIOBUS TEAM:**

**Mojca Gomboc** (leader),

**Ksenija Trs** (librarian),

**Jože Antolič** (driver – librarian),

**Ljudmila Podlesnik** (driver – librarian)

**Aleš Brodnik** (driver – librarian).

**It is the unique Slovene bibliobus with female driver.**



mag. Barbara Kovář, head of development department

Dragica Turjak, director

Design: Matic Brezovšek, 3ideje, d.o.o.