Next steps in educational evolution
What is this about?

• Presenting solutions
• Asking questions
• Sharing knowledge

• Finding common denominator
System in Slovenia

School books funds
(3rd – 9th grade)

1st and 2nd grade

Workbooks 3rd – 9th grade
School funds (3rd – 9th grade)

Zero cost for parents

1 student book out of 15 subjects

16 € per student

Renewed every 5–7 years

School books fund
1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} grade

School books fund

Zero cost for parents

2 books out of 4 subjects

Choose anything

30 € per student
Workbooks 3rd – 9th grade

Parents pay

Competition between schools for parents' fondness

Costs approved by parents association

Not approved by gov't (as are student books)
**System in Slovenia**

- Still a leftist government (even right wing is considered leftist by international standards)
- No official approvals of workbooks since 2006
- 2010 onwards parents need to confirm the total costs
2011 new product emerged to curb mentioned issues
2011 new product emerged to curb mentioned issues

- Workbook with theory
- More content
- More knowledge
- Bypassing school books fund (in certain cases)
Usage of workbooks continue to decrease

Number of workbooks per school

Grade

TOTAL
Why usage of workbooks continue to decrease?

- Populistic statements ("There are schools that use zero workbooks", "Why are there such vast differences between one school and another?", etc.)
- Parents association grew to intimidate teachers
- Parents association generates (their own) analysis of workbooks’ costs and differences and provides (their own) interpretation of results
- Parents association (contrary to publishers) gets a lot of media attention
- Teachers have less stress by decreasing workbooks than to negotiate with parents
- No monitoring on photocopying
- No monitoring on quality of additional material used in class
How to fight usage of workbooks that continues to decrease?

- We executed our own (unbiased) analysis of the market
Would you like to have more?

If government were to finance workbooks, do you feel more workbooks are needed?

How much more than what they have today (e.g. 1 = today)

In this case 71% more workbooks are desired.
Quality is not the issue.
What do you feel is lacking?

What workbooks your child does not have but you feel they should?

Change index

1 = currently have

> 1 = should have (but does not at the moment)

For kids with few workbooks, parents are feeling the pain.
Lost time copying?

65% Yes
25% No
10% I don’t know

Vir (možnih je več odgovorov)

- Textbook: 51%
- Exercises: 22%
- Reader: 19%
- Other: 20%
How to fight usage of workbooks that continues to decrease?

• We are differentiating between users – goodies for buddies
• Schools that use more get greater discounts
• We try to convince teachers
What we found out teachers want

• Less writing more hands on work.
• Didactic experiments and exercises.
What are our options?

- Subscription based model? Will school pay?
- Additional material for kids in the afternoon?
  - Without retail?
- Perishable material? Paid by who?
- Edutainment?
Questions for discussion.

• Will there be less workbooks?
  • If so, what will replace them?
• Populism in every country?
• Product of the future?