

06 Ulični zmaji - Street Dragons

Ulični zmaji (Street Dragons) is a **street-based outreach program** that brings **consistent support, connection, and visibility** to young people in public spaces. With weekly visits to key locations around Ljubljana, including marginalized and high-risk zones, the program provides **non-intrusive presence, casual interaction**, and access to activities and support, always on a **voluntary basis**.

Location Type: Small urban area
Target Group: Young people aged **12 to 29**, particularly those who spend time **on the streets, in schoolyards, or between apartment buildings**. One site is located at an **autonomous social and cultural centre** in Ljubljana's city centre, reaching **vulnerable youth** (e.g., homeless, drug users).

Goals and Benefits

- Meet **young people where they are**, including those at risk or on the margins
- Build **trust, familiarity, and visibility** in public spaces
- Offer **access to basic social interaction**, recreational tools, and a sense of community
- Support **emergency access and early intervention**
- Provide a **low-barrier point of contact** for vulnerable populations

Implementation tips

1. **Two workers** per outing, always clearly visible in bright attire
2. Weekly presence in **the same locations** builds predictability and trust
3. If no youth are present, workers **walk the neighborhood** to connect with others
4. Approach is **friendly and voluntary**: staff explain the project and offer casual conversation
5. If engagement occurs, time is spent **talking, playing games, or just being present**
6. Each session lasts **approximately 2 hours**
7. Afterward, the team conducts a **short reflection discussion**

Materials Used

- Workers wear **bright green jackets** with the organization's logo
- Items brought vary by location and needs, but may include:
 - **Sports equipment**
 - **Social and card games**
 - **Warm drinks and snacks**

Media & Consent

- **Instagram Stories** or photos are only shared **with verbal consent** from participants
- Otherwise, data is recorded **anonymously in Logbook**
- Any names shared in internal meetings remain **strictly confidential**

Reflection and Evaluation

- After each field session, youth workers **reflect together** on how the outing went, challenges, and successes
- A **monthly meeting** brings the whole team together to share updates and learn from each terrain
- Staff use **Logbook**, a digital system to document:
 - Number of workers and participants
 - Activities conducted
 - Observations and incidents