

VET & BUSINESS
PARTNERSHIP

CASE STUDY | Slovenia

An example of execution of the project week from the area of Mechatronics based on the topic of 'Electric Bicycle'

INTRODUCTION

How to motivate students in the process of education to become active to their maximum, and how to place them in a situation where they can develop their innovativeness, responsibility, creativity, interactivity, the ability to connect theory with practical work and to perform publicly, ...?

BACKGROUND

The last reform of secondary vocational and technical education aimed at the following: promoting the predominance of goal-based learning and problem-planned lessons in educational process, the connection between general and technical knowledge, teaching theory alongside practical work, and establishing the basis for innovative methods of teaching and learning. At the same time we want to encourage maximum activity and responsibility among the students, their personal development, which means their professional and key competences.

The above mentioned goals form a basis for a different, i.e. problem-oriented lessons with a teaching method called project days or a project week.

The gist of a Project week is that all the teaching is focused on one chosen topic. It encourages creative and critical thinking, and enables a wholesome view on the problem. The students need such education that gives them a general overview of science and at the same time ensures the durability of their knowledge, which proved as a positive side of project work.

CHALLENGES

The Project Week concept is a characteristic example of a problem-oriented teaching, i.e. student focused teaching. The students co-operate to solve problems and gain new knowledge, work on problems in small groups and are mainly responsible for the work. The teacher acts as a mentor and directs their work. The students organize all their work in their group while the teacher provides all the necessary support.

Obviously, there is always a problem of what kind of an example from real life to choose so that the task will still be interesting and, at the same time, not too challenging for their level of knowledge. There is also an organizational challenge, namely, how to carry out the project week for all the classes and teachers at the same time. Certain lessons have to take place in specialized classrooms with enough computers for the students to do their work. The companies which the students visited or whose representatives visited school to pass their professional knowledge to students also had to be contacted and invited.

SOLUTION

The above mentioned method has been tested at SC Kranj in the second year's Technician of Mechatronics and Mechatronic Operator programmes. The topic of the project week was Electric drive bicycle. Why this topic?

We are all familiar with a traditional bicycle but the electric drive bicycle is only just gaining ground. It is not so familiar to students so it presents a challenge – an unexplored area. So it is not a coincidence that we chose electric drive bicycle for the topic of the project week. We divided the main topic into 8 sectors, which were chosen according to the amount of interest and also enabled us to execute interdisciplinary teaching. The sectors were the following: Cycling, Bicycle Construction, Materials, Mechanical Transfer of Power, Electric Drives, Resistance and Loss, Sources of Voltage (locations, standard switches), Testing and Reversibility (charging when driving downhill).

Since we have good contacts with the General Representative of Electric drive bicycles for Slovenia, we could borrow one of their latest bicycles for testing and research. There were no problems with written specifications as the material was delivered together with the bicycle. We also invited their repairman to visit us at our school. The students were divided into 8 groups, taking special care of balancing the group according to their abilities and educational programme (STE and SVE, Secondary Technical and Secondary Vocational Education). Each group researched one of the above mentioned sectors.

The students also visited the Motorcycle Museum and the Safe Driving Centre in Vransko where they learnt about safe driving as they are going to be young drivers in a couple of years while the majority of them are already enthusiastic cyclists.

Macro preparation

Subject	Project week, Mechatronics
Programme	Tehnician of Mechatronics, Mechatronic Operator
Year	2nd year of Secondary Technical Education (2.Ma, 2.Mb) 2nd year of Secondary Vocational Education (2.Me)

- TIME OF EXECUTION: April 2014
- PLACE: SC Kranj – Secondary Technical School
 - ▶ Safe driving Centre Vransko
 - ▶ Vransko Motorcycle Museum
- OBJECTIVES: development of divergent thinking in students, creativity and gaining, strengthening, deepening and use of knowledge from the field of engineering, technology, work organization, economics, ergonomics, ecology, information technology, computer science, industrial design, etc.
- PROGRAMME/TOPIC: ELECTRIC DRIVE BICYCLE
- LEADERS mentors: 8 mentors for 8 groups
- NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 62
- STUDENTS' TASKS: according to the topics of individual groups:
 - ▶ to find electric and mechanical elements at mechatronic systems of an electric bicycle,
 - ▶ to study an actual mechatronic system from the point of view of functioning,
 - ▶ to get familiar with technical documentation,
 - ▶ to learn about safety and quality standards,
 - ▶ to get familiar with the history of invention and development of vehicles,
 - ▶ to study the meaning and role of individual mechatronic components in the system,
 - ▶ to establish the impact of vehicle production, their use and used vehicles on the environment,
 - ▶ to learn about the meaning of recycling or use of disused vehicles for other purposes,
 - ▶ to communicate in their mother tongue and foreign languages,
 - ▶ to be able to speak publicly with self-confidence,
 - ▶ to use ICT,
 - ▶ to find different information sources, separate what is important, and pass it on,
 - ▶ to behave appropriately and politely,
 - ▶ to react with tolerance and in accordance with etiquette,
 - ▶ to work independently and reliably,
 - ▶ to successfully co-operate in a team.
- ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HOURS: 33
- EQUIPMENT: electric drive bicycle, computers, technical literature, written materials, catalogues and technical specifications of the bicycle.
- STUDENT REQUIREMENTS: the material is provided by the mentors according to the topic of the group, they have access to ICT (the Internet).
- COSTS: the costs of the technical field trip.
- METHODS AND CRITERIA OF EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT:
 - ▶ the methods and criteria are defined in a detailed execution plan of the project week,
 - ▶ evaluation will be carried out on the level of students, teachers and organization of the project.
- AN IDEA FOR PRESENTATION AT PRESENTATIONS' DAY:
 - ▶ presentation of the Project Week for parents, students and teachers in the great lecture hall,
 - ▶ presentation on the school website.

Micro plan

<i>1st day</i>	<p>Assembly of all the participants of the project week in classroom 274 –presentation of the project week - introduction</p> <p>Classrooms required: 275, 278, 282, 274 (253, 341, 284, 347)</p> <p>forming groups of students with their mentors and classrooms; group work</p>
<i>2nd day</i>	<p>Assembly of all the participants of the project week in the car park in front of the school</p> <p>field trip - a visit to Safe Driving Centre in Vransko</p> <p>- a visit to Celje and their Regional Museum</p>
<i>3rd day</i>	<p>Assembly of all the participants of the project week in classroom 274 – a meeting and talk with a bicycle repairman, Mr Matjaž Bogataj; group work and preparation of the presentation</p>
<i>4th day</i>	<p>Group work as arranged by the mentor; preparation of the presentation</p>
<i>5th day</i>	<p>Group work as arranged by the mentor; preparation for the presentation rehearsal for the presentation of the project week; presentation of the project week for the students, parents, teachers and invited guests in the school lecture hall.</p>

Mentors have been selected for the students to direct and help them with their research work as well as co-mentors from teachers of other subjects to provide additional help.

The students were divided into groups while paying special attention to the balanced and mixed ability of each group (STE, SVE):

<i>1st group</i> Cycling	<i>2nd group</i> Bicycle Construction	<i>3rd group</i> Materials	<i>4th group</i> Mechanical Transfer of Power
mentor:	mentor:	mentor:	mentor:

<i>5th group</i> Electric Drives	<i>6th group</i> Resistance and Loss	<i>7th group</i> Voltage Sources	<i>8th group</i> Testing and Reversibility
mentor:	mentor:	mentor:	mentor:

Project Realization

The project week was carried out in one week. The majority of research work was done by students in the mornings in school and some at home. One day was spent in the field trip to the Motorcycle Museum and the Safe Driving Centre in Vransko. The final presentation took place in the afternoon to make possible for the parents to attend it. The students were active all the time and so were their mentors who were always prepared to help them.

Each group chose their leader whose task was to present their work at the final presentation. The teacher first presented the topic of their task, technical literature obtained in the company and a sample electric drive bicycle. The students were able to take a ride with it, measure it, test it, in short, do whatever they needed for their research work inside their groups. They also took advantage of the Internet and a computer program for defining the centre of gravity and the load of the bicycle.

Group work







A visit to the AMZS Safe Driving Centre and Motorcycle Museum in Vransko



Impact and Outcomes

The students were asked to write a report on their findings and prepare a PowerPoint presentation. Among themselves they chose the presenters of their work at the final presentation.

Attachments – the results of group work

1st group: Cycling		
<p>Prvo kolo</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leta 1791. Francois Comte de Sivrac izdelal prvo kolo Leta 1816 baron Karl Drais bon Sauerbronn doda sedež Škotski kovač, Kirkpatrick Macmillan l. 1839 doda pedala James Starley-kolo Ariel 1870 Henry Lawson- verižni pogon 1874 John Boyd Dunlop- kolo s pnevmatikami 1888  	<p>RAZVOJ KOLESARSTVA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KOLESA JE NAJPREJ UPORABLJAL BOGAJEJŠI SLOJ PREBIVALSTVA KOLESA SO BILA ZELO DRAGA KOLESA SO SI NEKATERI CELO ZAVAROVALI ZA KRAJO KOLESA SO BILE VISOKE KAZNI ŠIRJENJE MED VIRE DRUŽBENE SLOJE MANODIČNA UPORABA V REKREATIVNE IN ŠPORTNE NAMENE UTANAVLJANJE KOLESARSKIH DRUŠTV - TEKME UPORABA V VOJNO (1897 FRANCIA, POŠTI (1892 JAPONSKA))   	<p>KOLESARSTVO NA SLOVENSKEM</p>   <p>Puhovo kolo Sodobno električno kolo</p>
<p>ZAČETKI KOLESARSTVA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> V Ljubljani se je prvo kolo pojavilo leta 1869 Prvi kolesarji so bili bogatejši meščani (v Ljubljani, Kranju, Trstu, Mariboru, Celju in še kje) Cena kolesa je bila približno 200-300 kron (štiri plače učitelja) Težavo zaradi visokih cen koles so po svetu kot tudi pri nas reševali z izposojevalnicami koles Konec 19. stoletja je kolo postalo pomembno prevozno sredstvo 	<p>PRVA KOLESARSKA DRUŠTVA TER TEKMOVANJA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prvi kolesarski klub na Slovenskem so ustanovili Nemci leta 1885 (Der Laibacher Byciklisticher Club) Slovenci so ustanovili svoj klub leta 1887 - Klub slovenskih biciklistov Ljubljana   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prvo dirko je Klub slovenskih biciklistov Ljubljana organiziral leta 1888 (4 km, zmagal je Kranjčan Peter Majdič) 	<p>Janez Puh- inovator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leta 1889 je Janez Puh v Gradcu ustanovil delavnico, ki je že istega leta prerasla v tovarno Že v prvem letu delovanja je izdelal okoli 100.000 koles Kasneje se je Janez Puh začel ukvarjati z razvojem motorja in avtomobila Puhov učenec je leta 1905 v Gorici ustanovil tovarno koles Tribuna, njena naslednica pa je bila nekdanja tovarna Rog   <p>Rogovo kolo</p>

2nd group: Bicycle Construction

KONSTRUKCIJA KOLESA



VRSTE OKVIRJEV KOLESA

- Cestna
- Gorska
- BMX



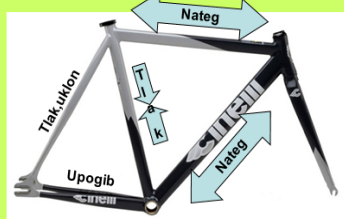
DIMENZIJE OKVIRJEV

Dimenzija okvirja kolesa se loči po velikosti zgornje nosilne cevi:

- majhna (small): 400 mm
- srednja (medium): 440 mm
- velika (large): 490 mm
- zelo velika (extra large): 520 mm



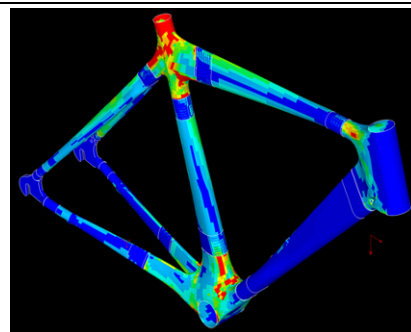
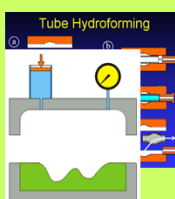
NAPETOSTI NA OKVIRJU



PROFILI CEVI

Poznamo več profilov za cevi kolesa:

- U - profil
- okrogle cevi
- kvadratne cevi
- hidroformirane cevi



3rd group: Materials

Materiali



Materiali na vzorčnem kolesu

Okvir:

- aluminij 6061
- majhna teža, prožnost

Vilice:

- aluminij 6061
- vzdržljivost

Zavore:

- aluminijeva zlitina
- trdnost, prožnost



Gonilka

- kvalitetna aluminijeva zlitina
- majhna obraba

Pedala:

- jeklene zlitine, plastika
- vzdržljivost

Prestave:

- aluminij
- vzdržljivost



Možnost menjave s kvalitetnejšimi elementi

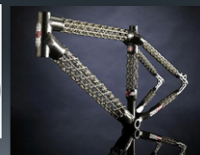


Okvir

obstoječi okvir



novi okvir



4th group: Mechanical Transfer of Power

Podatki o kolesu:

- Velikost kolesa: 28"
- Prestave: spredaj 1, zadaj 9 zobnikov
- Teža kolesa: 19,6 kg
- Veriga: Shimano HG CN-HG53 veriga z valčki
- Menjalnik: Zadnji Shimano deore XT
- Dolžina pedalke: 180 mm
- Dolžina verige: 1486,8 mm
- Premmer zavornega diska: 160 mm

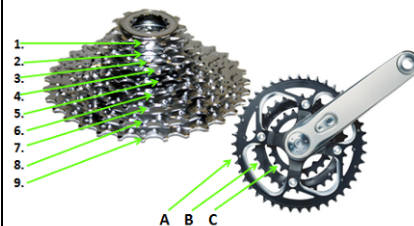
Verižniki in prestavna razmerja

Št.	Št. zob	Koeficient	Premmer	Prestavno razmerje
9	34	3,77	128,18	0,77
8	30	3,77	113,1	0,68
7	26	3,77	98	0,59
6	22	3,77	83	0,5
5	20	3,77	75,4	0,45
4	17	3,77	64,1	0,38
3	15	3,77	56,6	0,34
2	13	3,77	49,1	0,29
1	11	3,77	41,6	0,25

Prednji verižnik: 44 zob, premer verižnika: 165mm



Prestavna razmerja pri navadnem kolesu



Preračun navorov na prvi gredi



- Pedalka pod kotom: 90°
- Velikost ročice: 0mm
- Navor: M=0 Nm



- Pedalka pod kotom: 45°
- Velikost ročice: 0,707*0,18m
- Navor: M=89 Nm



- Pedalka pod kotom: 0°
- Velikost ročice: 0,18m
- Navor: M=126 Nm = MaxNavor

Podatki o elektro motorju:

Oznaka	0 275 007 000/ 0 275 007 001
Moč	250W
Navor	50 Nm

$$F_v = \frac{M}{r} = \frac{226}{0,082} = 2756 \text{ N} = 275 \text{ kg}$$

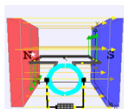
Izračun navorov, sil in pospeškov

M ₁ = 176 Nm	F ₃₁ = 495 N	a ₁ = 0,56 g
M ₂ = 156 Nm	F ₃₂ = 439 N	a ₂ = 0,49 g
M ₃ = 135 Nm	F ₃₃ = 380 N	a ₃ = 0,43 g
M ₄ = 114 Nm	F ₃₄ = 321 N	a ₄ = 0,36 g
M ₅ = 103 Nm	F ₃₅ = 290 N	a ₅ = 0,32 g
M ₆ = 88 Nm	F ₃₆ = 247 N	a ₆ = 0,28 g
M ₇ = 77 Nm	F ₃₇ = 216 N	a ₇ = 0,24 g
M ₈ = 67 Nm	F ₃₈ = 188 N	a ₈ = 0,21 g
M ₉ = 56 Nm	F ₃₉ = 157 N	a ₉ = 0,17 g

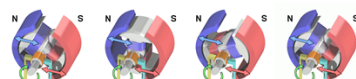
5th group: Electric Drives

1. DC motorji

- DC motor je električni motor, ki deluje na enosmerni tok (DC) električne energije.
- Enosmerni motorji lahko neposredno delujejo od baterij za ponovno polnjenje.



DC MOTOR ROTATION



- Delovanje: deluje na principu el. sile na tokovodnik. Skozi navitje na rotorju teče tok, stator je permanentni magnet z smerjo S – J.
- Rotor se zasuje zaradi delovanja el. magnetne sile.
- Rotor se obrne po pravilu leve roke: če silnice prebadajo dlani prsti in tokovodnik, se zasuje v smeri palca.

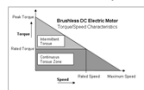
Brezkrtični motorji

- Brezkrtični motorji = elektronsko komutirani motorji
- Črpajo energijo iz enosmernega toka
- Dodan elektronski sistem za preklapljanje - elektronsko vezje pretvarja enosmerno obliko napetosti v impulzno obliko



ELEKTRO MOTORJI ZA POGON KOLES

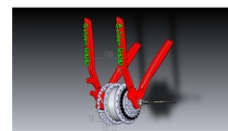
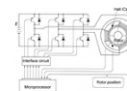
- Brezkrtični DC motor
- Motor je uporaben, zato ker ima močan navor in mu lahko spreminjamo vrtiljake



Tipi motorjev, ki so uporabljeni pri električnem kolesu ter njihovi osnovni podatki

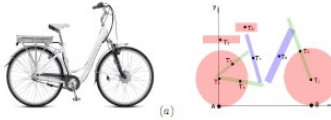
Model:	PM-12	PM-24	PM-36	PM-48
Zunanji premer(mm)	120	158	158	158
Širina(mm)	50	50	50	50
Moč(W)	75	180	300	500
Napetost(Vdc)	12/24	24	36	48
El. tok(A)	10,2	10,8	11,2	15,4
Hitrost(RPM)	1600	3300	3000	4200
Izkoristek (%)	68	76	80	82
Teža(kg)	0,7	1,5	1,8	2,0

Konstrukcija motorja



6th group: Resistance and Loss

Računanje težišče telesa



Elementi	A _i [m²]	x _i [m]	y _i [m]	A _i · x _i [m]	A _i · y _i [m]
1	0,01196	0,23	0,304	0,00275	0,00364
2	0,012	0,166	0,492	0,00199	0,0059
3	0,0205	0,47	0,56	0,00964	0,01271
4	0,03053	0,72	0,62	0,02198	0,01893
5	0,02952	0,95	0,72	0,02804	0,02125
6	0,3217	0	0,32	0	0,10294
7	0,3217	0,115	0,32	0,037	0,10294
Σ	0,74791	/	/	0,1014	0,26831

$$y_T = \frac{\sum A_i \cdot y_i}{A} = 0,35875 \text{ m} \quad x_T = \frac{\sum A_i \cdot x_i}{A} = 0,13558 \text{ m}$$

Izračun sil v kolesih

$$x_T = 0,14 \text{ m}$$

$$F_y = 204 \text{ N}$$

$$\Sigma M_A = 0$$

$$M_{F_g} + M_{F_{By}} = 0$$

$$-F_y \cdot x_T + F_{By} \cdot x_1 = 0$$

$$F_{By} \cdot x_1 = F_g \cdot x_T$$

$$F_{By} = 30,06 \text{ N}$$

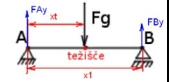
$$\Sigma F_y = 0$$

$$F_{By} + F_{Ay} - F_g = 0$$

$$F_{Ay} = F_g - F_{By}$$

$$F_{Ay} = 173,937$$

$$F_{Ay} = 174 \text{ N}$$

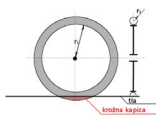


Kotalno trenje

- Nastane zaradi kotalenja kolesa, kar povzroči nakotaljevanje (prokljubovanje gume ko je v stiku z cestiščem).
- Formulo smo dobili v reviji Presek.

$$F_{ktr} = \frac{1}{p\pi} k_{tr} \frac{F_g^2}{p(r_1 r_2)}$$

sprednje kolo 0,0021 N
zadnje kolo 0,0048 N

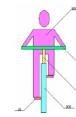
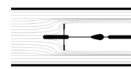


Zračni upor

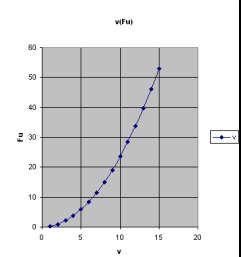
- Največji dejavnik pri izgubah
- Glede na hitrost se kvadratno povečuje

$$F_u = c_u \frac{1}{2} \rho v^2 S$$

Sila zračnega upora
Koefficient zračnega upora
površina
hitrost
gostota zraka



F _u [N]	v [m/s]
0,23513	1
0,94052	2
2,11617	3
3,76208	4
5,87825	5
8,46468	6
11,52137	7
15,04832	8
19,04553	9
23,513	10
28,45073	11
33,85872	12
39,73697	13
46,08584	14
52,90425	15



7th group: Voltage Sources and Charging

UPORABA KOLESA

- Polnjenje akumulatorja



UPORABA KOLESA

- Števec

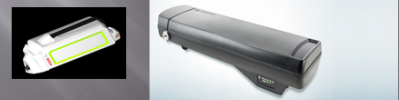
- Obstaja več načinov vožnje:
- ECO
- TOUR
- SPORT
- SPEED



AKUMULATOR NA KOLESU

BOSCH-ov Li-ionski akumulator:

- Z enim polnjenjem akumulatorja lahko prevozimo od 48 do 56 km.
- Akumulator ima približno 500 ciklov uporabe.



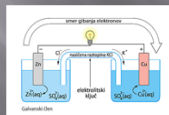
Lastnosti akumulatorja

- 36 V
- 8 Ah
- Ima 80 celic
- Teža akumulatorja je 2,3 kg



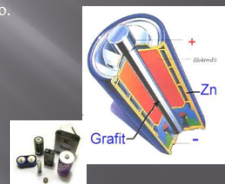
Delovanje akumulatorja

- Akumulator deluje na principu galvanskega člana
- Proizvajanje elektronov
- Pri praznjenju se tvori svinčev sulfat
- Žveplena kislina se pretvori v vodo









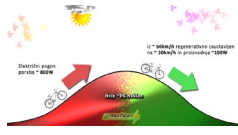
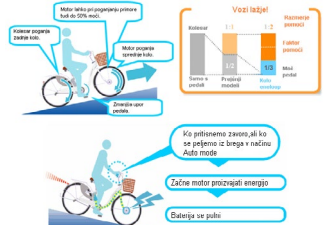
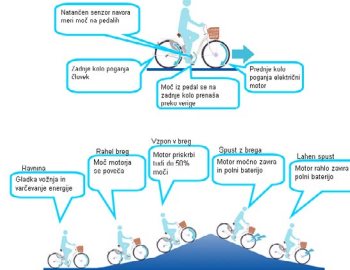



Baterije

- V baterijah je uskladiščena kemijska energija, ki se ob uporabi (priklučitvi) pretvaja v električno energijo.



8th group: Testing and Reversibility (charging while driving downhill)

<p>ZGODOVINA</p> <div> <div> <p>Comte de Sivrac - 1791</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nočni pogon - kolo središnje kolo - zavijanje z nagibanjem  </div> <div> <p>Kirkpatrick Macmillan - 1839</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pedala  </div> </div> <div> <div> <p>Karl Drais von Sauerbronn - 1816</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - usidben sedež - vodljivo sprednje kolo  </div> <div> <p>James Starley - 1870</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prestave  </div> </div> <div> <div> <p>Henry John Lawson - 1874</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - veržni pogon  </div> <div> <p>John Boyd Dunlop - 1888</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gumijasta zračnica  </div> </div>	<p>ELEKTRIČNI POGON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedelec - Pogon električnega motorja soodvisen od potiskanja pedal (brez potiskanja ni električnega pogona).  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebike - Pedala in motor neodvisna drug od drugega. 	<p>REGENERACIJA ENERGIJE</p> <p>Pri zaviranju se energija pretvori iz kinetične energije v električno in shranjuje preko kemične nazaj v baterijo oz. akumulator.</p> 
<p>POLNJEJE AKUMULATORJA MED VOŽNJO NAVZDOL</p> 		<p>PRIHODNOST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novi viri energije <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gorivne celice • sončne celice • ultrakondenzatorji • Zanimive oblike 

The project week was concluded with a final joint presentation by the students in the great lecture room for their parents, teachers and invited guests. The applause that followed the presentation was a proof of a good, enthusiastic and diligent professional work of the students as well as their mentors.

The presentation of the Project Week for teachers, students, their parents and invited guests.



In the end we carried out the evaluation of the Project Week among the students and teachers.

The evaluation of the Project Week- students

1. The work during the project week is different from regular classes. Did you like this kind of work?		
yes 58 %	partly 32%	no 10 %
2. Do you think the project week was connected with your regular work in a sensible way?		
yes 61 %	partly 30 %	no 9 %
3. Did you actively co-operate with your classmates in the group?		
yes 84%	partly 16 %	no 0 %
4. Were the materials easy to understand?		
yes 57%	partly 38 %	no 5 %
5. How would you grade the teacher's work?		
well-led 79 %	I would need more teacher's help 15 %	I did not know exactly what to do 6 %

The evaluation of the Project Week – participating teachers

Agreement

1. The topic of the project week was wide enough and enabled interdisciplinary teaching.	92%
2. The objectives we set ourselves for the project week are in accordance with the objectives in the National Curriculum	86%
3. Appropriate methods and work forms were chosen to reach our objectives.	82%
4. We had enough time to accomplish all our objectives.	78%
5. We were able to monitor and evaluate the work of the students all the time.	82%
6. Interdisciplinary linking with our colleagues in the project week preparation was successful.	78%
7. Interdisciplinary linking with our colleagues in the project week implementation was successful.	78%
8. The students achieved the expected learning objectives during the project week.	86%
9. The students developed their social skills and other ICC during the project week.	89%
10. The work followed the scheduled timetable.	96%
11. The classrooms met the requirements.	96%
12. All the necessary material was available.	96%

The responses in the survey show that the students like the discovery of new horizons in this way much more than in the traditional way, and the knowledge gained is longer lasting. The teachers, especially the mentors, on the other hand, have more preparation to do and put in more personal involvement for a successful implementation of this teaching method.

FUTURE STEPS

Additional value – cooperation between a student and a company

During the project week we were visited by a repairman from Proloco Trade d.o.o. company which lent us the electric drive bicycle in the first place. The repairman mentioned the problem of ventilating the hydraulic suspension forks when servicing classical bicycles.



One of the students found the problem interesting. He contacted the company and the repairman and, as a project assignment, constructed an automated device for ventilating the suspension forks which is now used in different bicycle repair shops. He used the method of project work and with the help of a mentor from SC Kranj and another from the company designed the device for ventilation. The device is now mass produced and used in bicycle repair shops.

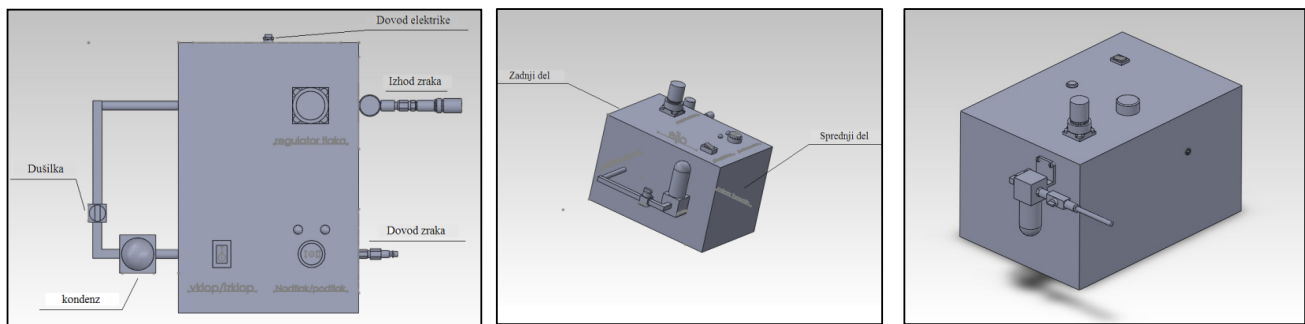
The forks of a bicycle work on the system of damper where oil is used to suppress the vibrations that are transferred from the road surface to the cyclist. During maintenance and oil change air bubbles enter the system so the effect of suspension and comfort is reduced. Consequently, all the air bubbles must be removed from the system. This can be achieved with a device that creates alternating overpressure and depression in the system. Overpressure pushes the air bubbles to the surface and depression removes them.

The previous device of an Italian producer was manually operated. Each valve had to be opened separately. The work was time-consuming due to numerous valves and high frequency of their opening and closing. There was a need for an automated device that can generate depression and overpressure just by pushing a button. This enables the operator to switch between the modes easily. The switch has three position modes, namely OFF, OVERPRESSURE and DEPRESSION.

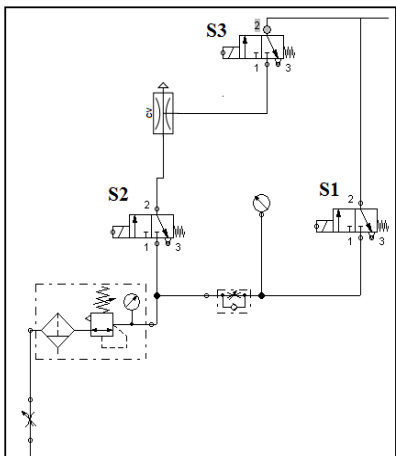
The project was realized by project work and carried out in the following steps:

- Defining the assignment/ describing the problem,
- Survey of the market, Pregled obstoječega stanja na tržišču.
- Designing the concept: at least three different designs,
- Setting the term plan of activities,
- Designing the preliminary study of the chosen model together with a mathematical model and basic calculations,
- Elaboration of the plan with the descriptions of operation, materials, etc.,
- Preparing a computer simulation,
- Testing the circuit operation,
- Manufacturing the device,
- Preparing technical documentation,
- Preparing marketing material,
- Marketing the device.

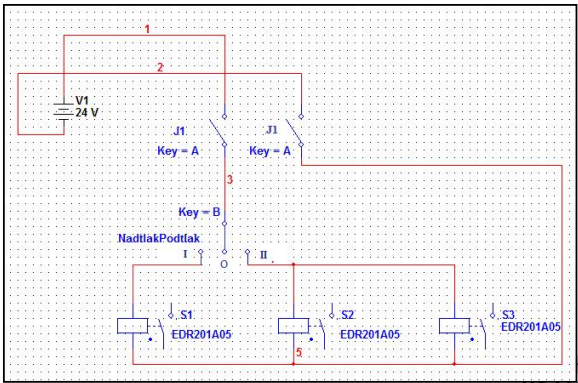
The device concept :



Pneumatic scheme



Electric circuit scheme



The assembly of individual elements



Final product

After the assembly it was necessary to check whether the device works in accordance with the expectations and task requirements. The testing was carried out in a classroom at SC Kranj. All those who contributed to the realization of the project were present. The testing was carried out by a representative of Proloco Trade d.o.o. company. The device performed in accordance with the requirements. Using the overpressure the oil gathered at the top of the bicycle forks and by means of depression the air bubbles were pressed out of the forks into the oil reservoir. At the same time, the device is very user-friendly: it is manageable and easy to use.

The device is used regularly by the repairman and 5 devices were sold to other repair shops in the first year of its marketing.

This quotation of the students is very interesting:

»I learned a lot from the project assignment because I made almost everything by myself. Some things were new to me but I figured them out eventually. I liked working with the industrial robot very much as it enabled me to learn some important things I hadn't known before. I gained a lot of good experience which will surely help me with my studies and finding a permanent employment.«

We are going to continue with such successful work in future.

An example of a commercial leaflet for marketing the device:



**Tehniški šolski center Kranj
v sodelovanju z
Proloco Trade d.o.o.**

PREDSTAVLJA

**Napravo za odzračevanje
vilic kolesa**

- inovativen način kako odzračiti olje na amortizerjih
- avtomatiziran proces uporabljen v kolesarstvu
- pnevmatsko-električna naprava
- zelo lahka in priročna naprava
- nadzoruje podtlak znotraj vilic
- nadzoruje tlak v olju

CONCLUSION

Problem-oriented lessons with a project-work method of teaching is one of the ways to motivate students to find relations between general and technical knowledge, to a maximum activity and responsibility, cooperation in groups and developing resourcefulness. The Project Week frame could be a good method to take advantage of the students' interests and to thoroughly study a given topic. The students like this approach better than traditional teaching method and the knowledge gained by the project-work method is longer-lasting. On the other hand, it requires more preparations and organization from all the participating teachers – mentors. Nevertheless, the satisfaction of students is more important than our efforts.