



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
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The second newsletter in the LINK project

Welcome to the second newsletter in the **Learning and Innovation Network (LINK)** project. In this newsletter, we will tell you a little bit about the ongoing work in the project in general and highlight two of the learning and innovation labs by our participating countries: Slovenia (Ljubljana) and Latvia (Zemgale).

Transnational meeting held in Ljubljana

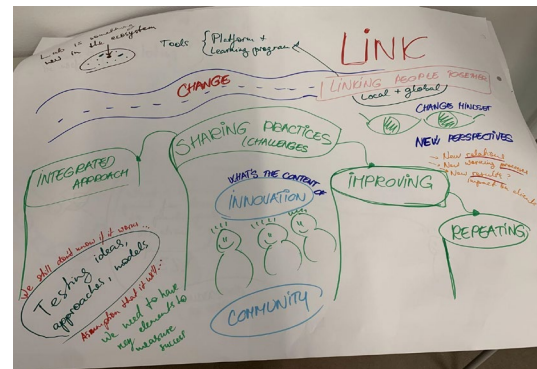
We are happy to tell you that, at the beginning of May, all partners met in Ljubljana, Slovenia. There, we had an intensive stay by workshopping the communication and dissemination of the LINK project, discussing the different lab processes in the various countries, and discussing the platform and the learning and innovation programme within the platform. We will now give you some updates about all these processes, before diving into the labs in Slovenia and Latvia.



Communication and dissemination

We all agreed that a significant amount of work is to be done to make our [platform](#) more user-friendly. If you would like to help us make it more interesting and user-friendly, please contact our [project manager](#).

If you are yet to log into the platform, please do so and give us some valuable feedback on what is good and what needs to be improved.



The above poster, created during our meeting, illustrates some of the key messages we shared about our project.

The learning and innovation programme

The learning and innovation programme is now under development and expected to be fully piloted in autumn 2024. It will consist of five different modules with the following content:

- Current and future challenges in welfare.
- Social innovation and the role of a learning and innovation lab.
- Setting up a learning and innovation lab.
- Making your learning and innovation lab work.
- Evaluation and follow-up of the lab.

The Slovenian lab

[Challenges of families and social work: with polyphonic community to desired outcomes](#)

The Slovenian team, focused on innovations to support families facing multiple challenges, follows the development of our lab through the defined process phases based on contextual and temporal frameworks. This way, we can systematically record important activities and milestones. We are currently in the fourth phase of the project:

- Researchers from the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Ljubljana successfully conducted a full day training with the core team from Social Work Centre (SWC) Spodnje Podravje.
- Our colleagues, social workers from SWC Ptuj, already conducted the second intervision group with a social worker from the mental health centre for children and adolescents in Ptuj and school counsellors from primary schools in Ptuj.
- The multidisciplinary intervision group is active and will meet for the third time at the end of May.
- The research team is also in full swing. Together, we are preparing content for the platform and the learning and innovation programme, whilst planning further activities.



The Latvian lab

[Building an inclusive and diverse community to support young people](#)

The Latvian team is developing a lab which focuses on youth in the context of community development. Why? Currently, in Latvia and specifically in Zemgale, various valuable programmes and services for the support of young people are being developed, but there is a lack of interconnection and continuity between them. Therefore, it is necessary to develop cooperation between specialists and institutions so that the work and resources invested bring the best results. At the same time, it is essential to involve young people and their community in decision-making. Our lab serves as a platform for the various parties involved in youth work to come together with a common goal of developing a more inclusive and diverse local community and service provision. A set of core values serves as the foundation for the lab: 1. Community-based needs which means that the lab started as a blank page and slowly translated into activities and goals through asking questions and listening to the members of the community. 2. Co-creation method: lab members, both local youth and specialists, work together to develop something for themselves. Using non formal education methods, we are creating a space where everyone is included and respected. 3. Systemic approach where each part in a community (system) serves a specific purpose and is equally important. 4. Solution-oriented approach: we focus on solutions of our individual and collective challenges rather than fixating on problems.



The LINK team wishes you all a wonderful summer! Meet us in ESN conference in Antwerpen, Belgium in the end of June!



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