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## The third LINK newsletter

Welcome to the third newsletter of the **Learning and Innovation Network (LINK)** project, where we will update you on the status of our activities, including the launch of our online platform, and highlight the learning and innovation labs in two of our participating countries: Serbia (Zemun) and Sweden (Kinda).

## Transnational meeting held in Jelgava

At the beginning of October, the project partners had the opportunity to meet in person in Jelgava, Latvia. There, we discussed the progress of the project as a whole and heard about the latest activities by the learning and innovation labs as well as their future plans.

We were very proud to learn that the Slovenian lab, [Challenges of families and social work: with polyphonic community to desired outcomes](#), was shortlisted for the 2024 [European Social Services Awards](#) under the 'workforce support' category.

At the meeting, we also finalised the latest content and format-related details of our learning programme and prepared ourselves for the upcoming testing phase.



## The launch of our online platform

We are excited to announce the launch of our [online platform](#). Here, you will find general information [about LINK](#), our partnership, and the learning and innovation lab model, as well as in-depth information about all six [learning and innovation labs](#). The platform is also home to our [learning programme](#).

## The piloting of our learning programme

After months of fine-tuning, we are thrilled to start the piloting process of our learning programme, scheduled to take place between December 2024 and February 2025.

This online course is designed for everyone who works or wishes to work in the health or social sector and wants to know how to creatively address societal challenges.

Comprising five learning units, the programme takes approximately 5 hours and covers:

- Which trends influence the delivery of welfare services and which challenges different target groups experience.
- What social innovations are and how learning and innovations labs can help find new solutions to 'wicked problems'.
- How to set up and run a lab, step-by-step, according to the LINK learning and innovation lab model and with practical examples from the LINK labs.

- How to better understand complex societal problems and find creative solutions to them, work with multidisciplinary teams, and involve stakeholders and users.
- How to evaluate and effectively disseminate impact and mainstream successful innovations.

To start your learning journey, please sign into our online platform at [linklearning.online](#) and register for the learning programme within it. Please note you can complete the learning programme in your preferred language; you can select this under 'Profile' → 'Personal data' → 'Translation'.

Once you have completed the learning programme and provided your invaluable feedback, you will receive a certificate as proof of your contribution to our project.

## The Serbian lab

### [Zemun Tad \(Zemun Little Child\)](#)

The Serbian team addresses the lack of support services for Roma families with children aged 0-6 in the field of parenting and early development. Through a multidisciplinary network, including the education, social, and health care sectors, our lab strives to ensure support services are not only available but adapted to the needs and contexts of the Roma community.

So far, through our activities, we have supported seven children in enrolling in kindergarten and 59 children in obtaining their vaccinations and pediatric examinations. We have also developed an action plan for the promotion among Roma families of the importance of early childhood development. This includes engaging with a Roma mother who is quite active on social media and can therefore, through her posts, support us in raising awareness about the importance of preschool education, vaccination, and regular medical check-ups.



## The Swedish lab

### [Community power to reduce involuntary loneliness for elderly people](#)

The Swedish team has developed an initiative focused on reducing involuntary loneliness among older people and challenging the current structural conditions for performing voluntary work. Through collaboration with public officials, the voluntary sector, churches, property owners, and libraries, our lab aims to create solutions that strengthen community ties and social networks, this way making it easier for older people to participate in activities and build new connections.

At present, we are planning a joint Senior Day to showcase all identified activities, regardless of which organisation is hosting them. We are also working on developing a coordinated activity calendar offering both an overview of available activities and the opportunity for volunteers to sign up and contribute. We believe this will simplify participation, encourage engagement, and foster meaningful interactions.



The LINK team wishes you all a merry festive season! See you all in 2025!



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