In September 2014 seven public libraries started the project LinkINjob within the frame of Erasmus+ (Strategic partnerships for adult education). Partners in the project are:
- Mestna knjižnica Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia – coordinator
- Regional Public Library “Petko Rachev Slaveikov”, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria
- Monaghan County Council Library Services, Monaghan, Ireland
- Volkshochschule-Stadtbibliothek, Linz, Austria
- Biblioteka judeeana"George Baritiu", Brasov, Romania
- Vantaan kaupunginkirjasto, Vantaa, Finland
- Kauno apskrities viesoji biblioteka, Kaunas, Lithuania

Contemporary public libraries as local centres for education, culture, information and social meeting points have become an important connection point for cooperation between vocational education and training and the world of work. The unemployed are informed about opportunities in lifelong learning: non-formal and informal learning.

One of the public libraries’ aims is to reduce through innovative learning practices the number of less educated unemployed and to promote using ICT with new and innovative learning methods.

It is essential for the unemployed to be kept informed, to receive new knowledge and develop social and civic competences as tools in preventing social exclusion. The unemployed are faced with many problems when looking for employment. Many of them have a lack of information literacy and skills for detecting own personal strengths, weaknesses and interest.

Through the use of innovative practice and methods the seven public libraries will try to raise the competences of unemployed to reduce the number of less educated unemployed (especially on the field of ICT) and to strengthen connection between education and labour market.

In public libraries learning activities are free of charge, which enables democratic access for marginalized people.

An e-manual of good practices in the organization and execution of educational activities for the unemployed shall result from the project. Within the project, an analysis of national employment policies and of good practices of educational activities for the unemployed in individual collaborating states, as well as an educational program for the librarians who will organize and lead the educational activities for the unemployed will be carried out. In the final phase 28 educational activities for the unemployed will be organized, at least seven of which will be based on the use of information and communication technology.
In the project two core activities have already been run:

1. Research of target group in partners’ environment in the field of unemployment, labour market and educational opportunities for unemployed
2. Library staff training course (Linz / Austria 19th – 25th of April 2015)

You can find more information on the project web page http://www.linkinjob.eu/


Ljubljana City Library and Kaunas County Public Library are NAPLE Sister Libraries and by participating in the project they also upgrade their mutual cooperation.

Simona Resman
Project coordinator