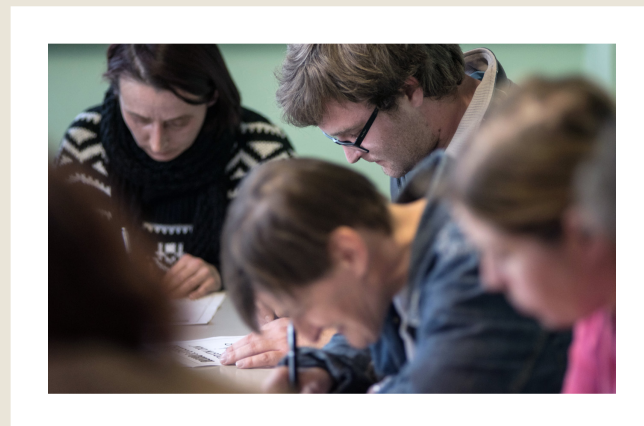


Several *guests* also participate in the programme, enriching the content of the meetings. They come from the sphere of the book creation (authors, translators, illustrators, publishers, critics and other book experts) as well as from various other fields brought up through the different book topics during sessions (Sociology, Philosophy, Journalism, Social and Cultural Studies, Politics, Psychiatry etc.). Guests additionally help to expand the general knowledge and participants' personal horizon.

Almanacs featuring literary texts (poems, short stories, essays, comic strips etc.) and illustrations conceived and composed during the course of the training programme are published at the end of each year. Participants become co-authors of a real book, which gives them space to be creative and be seen and heard publically.



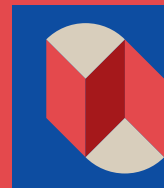
Creative writing process in a group of people with mental health disorders (photo Jana Jocif)



Literary workshop with mentor and writer Cvetka Bevc and guest writer Lenart Zajc in a group of people participating in drug rehabilitation (photo Jana Jocif)



Illustration workshop as part of the project programme (photo Jana Jocif)



**include
and activate!**

**Empower target groups to bring
them closer to the labour market**

The investment is co-financed
by the Republic of Slovenia and the European Union
under the European Social Fund

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INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Between 2016 and 2019, the Slovenian Book Agency is implementing the *"Include and Activate!"* project (co-financed by the ESF), the main goal of which is the social inclusion and activation of disadvantaged social groups, through participation in cultural components. Its purpose is to facilitate the development and implementation of interdisciplinary social activation programmes for the four target groups with the aims of supporting the participating individuals' transition to the labour market and to decrease unemployment. These groups are:

- **persons with mental health disorders**
- **persons with mental disabilities**
- **prisoners**
- **persons participating in drug rehabilitation**

The main thread of the programme and its activities is conveyed *through stories featured in books by acclaimed Slovenian authors*. Participants are introduced to these by a mentor (an established Slovene writer or poet).



Reading as an essential part of the project in Maribor prison (photo Jana Jocif)

The 90-hour-long programme is divided into the following modules:

- **literature**
- **illustration**
- **creative writing and expression**
- **digital literacy**
- **individual modules adapted with regard to the needs of individual groups (e.g. public speaking and self-presentation skills etc.)**

The programme is adapted to the specific problems faced by individual target groups, also the topics of books and discussions are based on the concrete interests and needs of the respective participants.



A group of people with mental health disorders in a workshop with mentor and illustrator Andreja Pekljar (photo Jana Jocif)



Theatrical performance of the group of people with mental disabilities at the end of the year-long programme (photo Iztok Sunčič)

"Include and Activate!" has proven to be a good example of alternative work with a cultural content in which the concerned social groups are able to engage. The number of participants has risen every year so far. With a *completion rate of over 80 %*, it is clear that the project is also a hit with participants – all of whom have gone from reader to writer, and all of whom have shown empowerment in the field of artistic expression, as well as the competences crucial for employment and social inclusion (the presentation of oneself and its work, self-esteem, self-confidence and other new capacities).

FACTS AND FIGURES:

- **over 300 participants**
- **more than 25 writers and poets**
- **more than 30 illustrators**
- **28 partner institutions all around Slovenia**

MORE INFORMATION:

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