

The European Union TEMPUS programme

Developing Information Literacy for lifelong learning and Knowledge economy in Western Balkan countries

10 questions for Padraig Kirby
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1. Are you satisfied with the international recognition and interest shown by the public, as well as with the number of lecturers and participants at the 12th Western Balkan Information Literacy Conference in Bihać?

This conference is inspired by the EU Tempus project led by Limerick Institute of Technology *Developing Information Literacy for*

1. Jeste li zadovoljni interesom međunarodne javnosti te odazivom predavača i sudionika na 12. Western Balkan Information Literacy Conference u Bihaću?

Ova je konferencija inspirirana projektom Europske unije Tempus koju je proveo Limerick Institute of Technology, pod nazivom Razvoj informacijske pismenosti za cjelozivotno učenje i znanje ekonomije

Lifelong Learning and Knowledge economy in Western Balkan countries. The Conference now attracts representatives not just from the Western Balkans and neighbouring countries but delegates from all over the World.

Tempus is the European Union's programme which supports the modernisation of higher education in the Partner Countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean region, mainly through university cooperation projects.

In a Region where prior to this Tempus project the term "Information Literacy" was almost unknown we consider the success of the Western Balkan Information Literacy Conference (WBIL) and its international recognition to be an important indicator of the impact and success of the project. WBIL

u zemljama zapadnog Balkana (*Developing Information Literacy for Lifelong Learning and Knowledge economy in Western Balkans*). Danas ta konferencija privlači ne samo predstavnike zapadnog Balkana i njihove susjede, već i delegate iz čitavog svijeta.

Tempus je program Europske Unije koji podržava modernizaciju visokog obrazovanja u partnerskim zemljama istočne Europe, srednje Azije, zapadnog Balkana i mediterranskih zemalja kroz sveučilišne suradničke projekte.

Uzevši u obzir da je pojam "informacijske pismenosti" bio gotovo nepoznat prije početka Tempus projekta smatramo da je uspjeh konferencije Western Balkans Information Literacy (WBIL) i njezinog prepoznavanje u međunarodnim okvirima važan pokazatelj utjecaja i uspjeha samog projekta.



will continue annually after the lifetime of the project acting as an important forum and champion for Information Literacy in the Western Balkan region. The conference will help facilitate a major aim of the project – sustainability of project results through a Western Balkan Network for Information Literacy (WBIL).

WBIL Conference is organized by The Cantonal and University Library, Bihać in conjunction with Limerick Institute of Technology. WBIL is supported by, inspired by and dedicated to the achievements of European Union Tempus project 517117 *Developing information Literacy for lifelong learning and knowledge economy in Western Balkan countries*. The Conference is one of the great success stories of the project with representation not only from Western Balkan pro-

WBIL će se nastaviti održavati sva-ke godine i kada sam projekt bude završen, a njegova uloga jest održavanja važnih foruma na temu informacijske pismenosti u regiji zapadnog Balkana. Konferencija će tako omogućiti širenje glavnog cilja projekta – održivost projektnih rezultata kroz izgrađenu mrežu za informacijsku pismenost na zapadnom Balkanu.

WBIL konferenciju organiziraju Kantonalna i univerzitetska biblioteka Bihać i Limerick Institute of Technology. WBIL podržava, potiče i posvećena je postignućima projekta Tempus 517117 Europske Unije *Developing information Literacy for lifelong learning and knowledge economy in Western Balkans countries*. Ova je konferencija uspješnica s predstavnicima ne samo projektnih partnera sa zapadnog Balkana iz Albanije, Bosne



ject partners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro but also from countries neighbouring the Western Balkans as well as internationally – from the United States, United Kingdom, many countries in Asia, Africa and right across Europe.

WBIL has achieved great international recognition and the Western Balkan region is now seen as an important centre for Information Literacy globally with many participants – both academic staff and of course librarians attending annually. The impact which the Conference has made on a worldwide scale is evidenced by the presence as Keynote speaker at WBIL 2015 of Dr Christine Bruce from Queensland University of Technology – perhaps the foremost name in Information Literacy today.

i Hercegovine, Kosova i Crne Gore, već i susjednih zemalja te Sjedinjenih Američkih Država, Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva, mnogih zemalja Azije, Afrike i čitave Europe.

WBIL je međunarodno priznata konferencija, a zapadni Balkan je postao važno središte globalnog širenja informacijske pismenosti, a sudionici su iz akademskih redova kao i knjižničari koji ju prate na godišnjoj razini. Međunarodna prepoznatost konferencije vidljiva je i sudjelovanjem važnih predavača. Tako je na WBIL konferenciji 2015 uvodni govornik skupa bila Dr Christine Bruce s Queensland University of Technology – jedno od najistaknutijih imena informacijske pismenosti današnjice.



2. Could you tell us about the start of the collaboration with Ratko Knežević? How and when did it all begin?

Our collaboration with Mr Knežević started almost 6 years when we first collaborated to design and submit an application under the European Union TEMPUS programme entitled *Developing Information Literacy for lifelong learning and knowledge economy in Western Balkan countries*. This is a €1.2m Tempus project which includes EU partners from Greece, Romania and the UK and partners in the Western Balkans. The project is implementing transformative Information literacy initiatives across Universities, libraries and communities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo under UNSC Resolution

2. Opišite nam početak suradnje s Ratkom Kneževićem, M.A., direktorom Kantonalne i univerzitske biblioteke Bihać. Kada i kako je sve počelo?

Naša je suradnja započela prije gotovo 6 godina kada smo aplicirali za program Europske Unije TEMPUS pod nazivom Razvoj informacijske pismenosti za cjeloživotno učenje i znanje ekonomije u zemljama zapadnog Balkana (*Developing Information Literacy for Lifelong Learning and Knowledge economy in Western Balkan countries*). Ovaj projekt vrijedan je 1,2 milijuna eura, uključuje partnera iz Grčke, Rumunjske i Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva te zapadnog Balkana. Projekt provodi inicijativu preobrazbe informacijske pismenosti na sveučilištima, u knjižnicama i zajednicama Albanije, Bosne i Herce-



1244/99. WBIL is one of the significant achievements of the project.

In his work in the project, we believe that Mr Knežević has shown great talent and enthusiasm for implementing the goals and objectives of the project and has been highly active in disseminating and marketing the project not just in the city of Bihać, the Una-Sana Canton and his country as a whole but across the Western Balkan region and Worldwide.

Each year since this Tempus project commenced in 2011, Mr Knežević has been both Conference Chair and Main Organiser of WBIL and in that time we have witnessed the Conference transform from a small Regional Seminar event to become one of the most important and largest Information Literacy Conference in the World.

govine, Crne Gore i Kosova. WBIL konferencija važno je postignuće samog projekta.

Vjerujemo da je radom na projektu, gospodin Knežević pokazao iznimian talent i entuzijazam za provođenje ciljeva samog projekta te je bio vrlo aktivan u širenju i promicanju njegovih ideja ne samo u gradu Bihaću, već u kantonu Una-Sana, svojoj zemlji, na zapadnom Balkanu i u svijetu.

Od samih početaka ovog TEMPUS projekta, 2011. godine, gospodin Knežević organizirao je i predsjedavao istom, a konferencija je od malog regionalnog seminara prerasla u jednu od najvećih i najvažnijih konferencija o informacijskoj pismenosti u svijetu.



3. Which project goals were set and which were achieved by this collaboration?

The specific objectives of this Tempus project were: development of Information Literacy (IL) programs for lifelong learning their use in curricula as appropriate; development of innovative online IL modules for lifelong learning; harmonisation of the IL programs with those currently active in Western Balkan countries; strengthen the capacities of higher education institutions for the strategic planning and implementation of IL programs to instil transferable skills for a competitive, dynamic, knowledge-based economy; develop IL policy, guidelines, goals and mission in Western Balkan universities and in communities; to disseminate about the approaches to IL development

3. Koji su ciljevi projekta postavljeni, a koji su ostvareni ovim načinom rada?

Ciljevi Tempus projekta bili su: razvitak IL programa (programa informacijske pismenosti) za cjeloživotno učenje i njihova uporaba u kurikulu; razvitak inovativnih *online* IL modula za cjeloživotno učenje; harmonizacija IL programa s onima koji su već u uporabi na zapadnom Balkanu; ojačavanje kapaciteta visoko-obrazovnih institucija za strateško planiranje i implementaciju IL programa kako bi se usadile prenosive vještine za kompetitivnu, dinamičnu i na znanju baziрану ekonomiju; razvitak IL politike, smjernica, ciljeva i misije na sveučilištima i u zajednicama zapadnog Balkana; diseminirati pristupe razvitu IL i osigurati njihovu održivost.



and ensure their sustainability.

There have been some impressive achievements in the project to date such as the publication and translation in 5 languages of the Western Balkans of an Information Literacy syllabus and curricula for Western Balkan countries and its integration into university structures in each partner in the project. The project has also published important harmonised didactic materials aimed at Librarians and Academic staff such as a Methodology for teaching Information Literacy and various guidelines aimed at Information literacy teachers and practitioners. A suite of online information literacy modules fully customised and translated to suit the needs of Western Balkan universities in the project has been implemented across the Western Balkans thereby facilitating important 24/7 access

Tijekom projekta došlo je do impresivnih postignuća poput objavljanja i prijevoda na 5 jezika nastavnog plana i programa i kurikula za informacijsku pismenost za sve zemlje zapadnog Balkana, kao i njegovu integraciju u sveučilišne strukture kod svih partnera u projektu. Izdani su također važni usklađeni didaktički materijali namjenjeni knjižničarima i članovima akademске zajednice poput Metodologije za poučavanje informacijske pismenosti te razni vodiči za učitelje i praktičare informacijske pismenosti. Širom zapadnog Balkana niz *online* modula o informacijskoj pismenosti, potpuno prilagođenih i prevedenih da odgovaraju potrebama sveučilišta uvedeno je kako bi pružali neograničen pristup i postali temeljno sredstvo poučavanja za učitelje informacijske pismenosti.



and are a vital teaching aid for Information Literacy practitioners.

As emphasised earlier we believe a significant achievement of the project has been the conference held in Bihać, Bosnia & Herzegovina which is inspired by our Tempus project and which now attracts representatives not just from the Western Balkans and neighbouring countries but delegates from all over the World.

4. Tell us about the joint projects that helped the embedding of the Information Literacy & Media Literacy service offered to library users?

Since 2011 we have been involved in many joint projects to help not only embedding of Information and Media Literacy but also to develop other areas of education provision such as improving library

I kao što sam već naglasio, uvjereni smo da je značajno postignuće projekta upravo konferencija koja se održava u Bihaću, a izrasla je iz našeg Tempus projekta, te i danas privlači predstavnike ne samo iz zapadnog Balkana, nego i iz susjednih zemalja te delegate iz čitavog svijeta.

4. Istaknite projekte koje ste zajednički realizirali, a koji su pridonijeli ugradnji usluge *Information Literacy & Media Literacy* koje se nude korisnicima knjižnica?

Od 2011. godine sudjelovali smo u mnogim zajedničkim projektima kako bismo pomogli razvoj medij-ske i informacijske pismenosti, ali ujedno i razvili ostala područja ob-



services generally and access to education for people with disabilities.

We are a partner in the ASPIRE project – another European Union funded TEMPUS project. ASPIRE (Access to Society for People with Individual Requirements) aims to develop access to inclusive education in Armenia and Georgia. This €800,000 project which is led by Ilia State University, Tbilisi Georgia also involves EU partners from UK, Germany and Slovakia as well as 5 institutions in Armenia and 4 institutions from Georgia. This project is promoting and developing access to inclusive education, to social integration and to non-discrimination treatment of those with special needs.

One of the modules in the newly developed ASPIRE Curriculum is called *Use the Library* which

razovanja poput knjižničnih usluga i mogućnosti obrazovanja za osobe s invaliditetom.

Partneri smo u projektu ASPIRE (Pristup društvu za osobe s individualnim/posebnim potrebama) koji je također TEMPUS projekt financiran od Europske Unije. Cilj projekta je omogućiti pristup inkluzivnom obrazovanju u Armeniji i Gruziji. Projekt vrijedan 800.000 eura vodi Državno sveučilište Ilia u Tbilisiju, Gruzija, a uključuje partnere iz Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva, Njemačke i Slovačke te 5 institucija iz Armenije i 4 institucije iz Gruzije. Sam projekt promiče inkluzivno obrazovanje, integraciju u društvo i nediskriminaciju osoba s posebnim potrebama.

Jedan od novijih modula u ASPIRE-ovom kurikulu, pod nazivom *Koristimo knjižnicu*, uključuje poticaje i strategije za unapređenje



incorporates initiatives and strategies for improving access to libraries for people with disabilities. The module also covers Information Literacy – how to find, use and evaluate information effectively.

In July this year we learned that Limerick Institute of Technology Library have been funded in two further major EU funding programmes winning a total grant of €1.6m from the European Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) to lead the modernization and development of quality library services across multiple countries in Europe.

As Lead Partner and Grant Holder, LIT will lead the Capacity Building ERASMUS+ project *Library Network Support Services: modernizing libraries in Western Balkan countries through staff development and reforming library services.*

pristupa knjižnicama za osobe s invaliditetom. U njemu je sadržana i informacijska pismenost – kako uspješno pronaći, koristiti i vrednovati informaciju.

U srpnju ove godine saznali smo da je Izvršna agencija za obrazovanje, audiovizualnu djelatnost i kulturu (EACEA) odobrila knjižnici Instituta za tehnologiju Limerick (LIT) naredna dva velika Europska programa čija ukupna dobivena sredstva iznose 1,6 milijuna eura, a kako bi se proveli modernizacija i razvoj knjižničnih usluga u mnogim europskim zemljama.

LIT će stoga kao glavni partner i nositelj projekta voditi ERASMUS+ projekt za jačanje kapaciteta pod nazivom Knjižnična mreža podrške: modernizacija knjižnica u zemljama zapadnog Balkana putem obrazovanja osoblja i poboljšanja knjižničnih usluga (Library Net-



LIT Library have also been funded as a partner in another ERASMUS+ Capacity Building project with a budget of €800, 000 entitled *Library Network Support Services: modernizing libraries in Armenia, Moldova and Belarus through library staff development and reforming libraries.*

The new projects will be managed by Jerald Cavanagh – Institute Librarian, LIT, on behalf of the Project Management Committee (PMC) and coordinated by Padraig Kirby – Senior Library Assistant, LIT.

The winning of these projects is a very significant development and will see LIT Library lead the process of reinforcing and modernizing all aspects of libraries in both the Western Balkan Region and in Armenia, Moldova and Belarus – improving the level of competencies

work Support Services: modernizing libraries in Western Balkan countries through staff development and reforming library services).

Knjižnica Instituta za tehnologiju Limerick je kao partner u ERASMUS+ projektu pod nazivom *Knjižnična mreža podrške: modernizacija knjižnica u Armeniji, Moldaviji i Bjelorusiji putem obrazovanja osoblja i poboljšanja knjižničnih usluga* dobila budžet od 800.000 eura.

Nove će projekte voditi Jerald Cavanagh, LIT (knjižničar) u ime povjerenstva za vođenje projekta (Project Management Committee – PMC), a koordinirat će ih Padraig Kirby, LIT (viši knjižničar).

Time što su ovi projekti odbreni postiže se značajan razvoj, LIT-ova knjižnica vodit će proces ojačavanja i modernizacije svih



and skills of library staff in the region.

This will see LIT Library take the lead role in the modernization of library standards & practices in seven countries in Europe. We are delighted and proud to have been selected by the EACEA to undertake these projects which will place LIT Library at the forefront of library modernisation in Europe.

In this year's ERASMUS+ Capacity Building funding call, apart from Dublin City University, LIT are the only Irish organization who have been selected as grant holder to lead an ERASMUS+ Capacity Building project and out of 515 applications submitted LIT are one out of 140 projects selected.

5. What exactly is your role in the organization of June on Una 2015, Western Balkan Information Literacy

knjižničnih čimbenika na zapadnom Balkanu, ali i u Armeniji, Moldaviji i Bjelorusiji, čime će se popraviti kompetencije i vještine knjižničara u cijeloj regiji.

LIT-ova knjižnica na taj način preuzima vodeću ulogu u osuvremenjivanju knjižničnih standarda u sedam Europskih zemalja. Izuzetno smo ponosni što je EACEA odabrala upravo nas kao voditelje procesa modernizacije knjižnica u Europi.

Na ovogodišnjem pozivu za ERASMUS+ projekte za jačanje kapaciteta, LIT i Sveučilište grada Dublina (DCU) bili su jedine irske organizacije odabrane za nositelje projekata, dok je od 515 pristiglih prijava LIT bio među 140 odabranih projekata.

5. Koja je vaša uloga u organizaciji June on Una 2015, Western Balkan Information Literacy



tion Literacy Conference: digital citizenship for a digital age?

Our role is to jointly organise and run the Conference in conjunction with The Cantonal and University Library, Bihać. We are also members of the Scientific Committee for the Conference.

6. How substantial was the financial support gained from the EU funds, and is the EU interested in supporting similar projects in the Balkan area? As one of the organizers could you give further advice on the important issues in projects financed by the EU?

In 2011, following an open competition we were selected by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in Brussels to lead a European Union

Conference: digital citizenship for a digital age?

Naša je uloga organizirati i voditi konferenciju u suradnji s Kantonalnom i sveučilišnom knjižnicom, Bihać te smo članovi Znanstvenog odbora konferencije.

6. Koliko je financijske potpore dobiveno iz fondova EU i je li EU zainteresirana podržavati ovakve projekte na Balkanu? Možete li ukratko dati savjet, s aspekta organizatora, na što treba posebno obratiti pažnju u projektima koje financira EU?

2011. godine Izvršna agencija za obrazovanje, audiovizualnu djelatnost i kulturu (EACEA) iz Bruxelles odabrala nas je da vodimo Tempus projekt Europske unije o informacijskoj pismenosti na za-



Tempus Project on Information Literacy in the Western Balkans. This is a €1.2m Tempus project with EU partners from Greece, Romania and the UK and Western Balkan partners Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo.

We believe that this project is an important development for the Western Balkan region. Through this project people in effect *learn how to learn* –how to find information and how to use information to better their careers and their lives. It is a great honour for us to lead this project as we are the first Irish higher education chosen to lead a Tempus project in the history of the Tempus programme which has been running since 1990. This project also represents the first time that an information literacy project has been funded under Tempus.

padnom Balkanu. Projekt je vrijedan 1,2 milijuna eura, a zemlje partneri su Grčka, Rumunjska i Ujedinjeno Kraljevstvo te Albanija, Bosna i Hercegovina, Crna Gora i Kosovo na zapadnom Balkanu.

Vjerujemo da je ovaj projekt važan za razvoj područja zapadnog Balkana. Kroz njega ljudi zaista *uče kako učiti* – kako pronaći informaciju te kako ju dobro iskoristiti u svojoj karijeri i životu. Velika je čast voditi projekt i biti prva irska institucija visokog obrazovanja odabrana za vođenje Tempus projekta, kada znamo da su Tempus programi krenuli 1990. godine. No, ovaj je projekt značajan jer je prvi na području informacijske pismenosti unutar Tempus programa.

Zadovoljstvo nam je reći da je Europska unija vrlo zainteresirana financirati slične projekte na području Balkana. Toga smo postali



We are pleased to confirm that the EU are very interested in supporting similar projects in the Balkan area. In fact we have only recently become aware following a similar open competition under the *ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in the Field of Higher education* programme that we will lead a project entitled *Library Network Support Services (L NSS): modernising libraries in the Western Balkans through staff development and reforming library services.*

The project aims to modernise and reform libraries in the Western Balkans focusing on the challenge of library development as a national issue requiring open and joint involvement of all affected parties, interaction and the readiness to strive for advanced library and information services in this Information Society. Information is a

svjesni i kada smo, prijavivši se na ERASMUS+ projekt za jačanje kapaciteta, doznali da ćemo upravo mi voditi projekt *Knjižnična mreža podrške: modernizacija knjižnica u zemljama zapadnog Balkana putem obrazovanja osoblja i poboljšanja knjižničnih usluga (Library Network Support Services (L NSS): modernising libraries in the Western Balkans through staff development and reforming library services).*

Cilj samog projekta je osuvremeniti i poboljšati knjižnice na zapadnom Balkanu koncentrirajući se na izazove razvitka knjižnica kao nacionalnog pitanja u kojem otvoreno i združeno sudjeluju svi čimbenici, dolazi do interakcije i spremnosti da se one unaprijede u skladu s današnjem informacijskim društvom. Informacija je ključni čimbenik koji se nadvija nad cjeloživotnim učenjem, a suvremene i



key overarching component of life-long learning and modern, effective libraries are vital to enable students and citizens develop transferable skills and be employment ready.

We believe that Tempus has been an important catalyst for change in the Western Balkan region and has achieved good progress in helping to develop curricula according to the Bologna principles and which has contributed greatly to the internationalisation of Western Balkan universities.

With regard to important issues in projects financed by the EU we cannot overemphasise the importance of cultivating strong partnerships and collaborations with Universities both in Member States of the European Union and in the Partner Countries in Regions such as the Western Balkans.

djelotvorne knjižnice neophodne su kako bi učenici i građani mogli izgraditi prenosive vještine i bili spremni za zapošljavanje.

Vjerujemo da je Tempus djelovao kao važan katalizator za promjene na zapadnom Balkanu ostvarujući znatan napredak u razvoju kurikula prema Bolonjskim principima i snažno doprinoseći internacionalizaciji zapadno-balkanskih sveučilišta.

S obzirom na važna pitanja u projektima koje financira Europska unija ne možemo ne prenaglasiti i važnost njegovanja snažnog partnerstva i suradnje među sveučilištima u zemljama članicama Europeiske unije i partnerskim zemljama poput onih na zapadnom Balkanu.

Praktičari smo informacijske pismenosti već niz godina, započeli smo jednostavno – dijeleći osnovne informacije na bazi jedan na jedan



We have been Information literacy practitioners for many years now and our journey has taken us from small beginnings – from basic information literacy delivered many years ago on a one to one basis at Library Issue Desks in our own institution, to being thrust into the heart of the Western Balkan region. In our work with Western Balkan universities in this Tempus project we design and deliver entire curricula for information literacy in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro.

At the beginning of our Information Literacy journey we tried to create small ripples of change in our own institution through championing information literacy to individuals at Issue Desk's. Inspired by this we went on to introduce IL policies and training to integrate IL across our entire institution. Be-

za knjižničnim pultom naše institucije, a dospjeli smo u srce zapadnog Balkana. Radeci sa sveučilišti ma zapadnog Balkana u Tempus projektu dizajnirali smo i iznijeli čitav kurikul za informacijsku pismenost u Albaniji, Bosni i Hercegovini, Kosovu i Crnoj Gori.

Na samom početku ovog putovanja pokušali smo ostvariti širenje promjena u vlastitoj instituciji braneci informacijsku pismenost pred pojedincima za knjižničnim pultom. Nastavili smo uvodeći smjernice i izobrazbu na području informacijske pismenosti u cijeloj instituciji. U razdoblju 2008. – 2011. izabrani smo da vodimo jedinstven pionirski projekt informacijske pismenosti kojeg je financirala irska vlada, *Library Network Support Services (LNSS)*, putem kojeg smo razvili inovativnu informacijsku pismenost i inicijativu knjižničnog



tween 2008-2011 we were selected to lead a unique and groundbreaking Irish Government funded information literacy project – Library Network Support Services (L NSS) where we developed innovative information literacy and library staff development initiatives across four higher education institutions in Ireland.

All of these initiatives led directly to our success in Tempus and winning of 1.2 million from the European Union. The winning of such funding would not have been possible without our strong efforts in previous years to develop Information Literacy both within our own institution – LIT and nationally as well as our commitment to developing links and collaborations with other universities throughout Europe and beyond.

osoblja na četiri irske institucije visokog obrazovanja.

Sve gore navedeno izravno je utjecalo na naš uspjeh u Tempusu i dobivanje 1,2 milijuna od Europske unije, što ne bi bilo moguće bez naših velikih napora u ranijim godinama i bez razvijka informacijske pismenosti u našoj instituciji, LIT, i u našoj zemlji, kao i predanom radu na jačanju veza i suradnje sa sveučilištima širom Europe i dalje.



7. Do you have any plans regarding the extension of the project to Croatia and in what way would it be possible for Croatian libraries to start the collaboration with your Institute?

We are very interested in collaborating with libraries in Croatia and already have many contacts in Croatia as a result of our Tempus project in the Western Balkans and from our involvement in various International Conferences both as Scientific and Organising Committee members.

We are aware also that collaboration already exists between partners in our Tempus project and Croatian libraries. An example of this is the EU project involving The Cantonal and University Library of Bihać to develop Mobile libraries for residents of border areas of Una-Sana

7. Imate li u planu širiti projekt u Hrvatskoj i na koji način se mogu knjižnice u Hrvatskoj uključiti u neki vid suradnje s vašim Institutom?

Vrlo smo zainteresirani za suradnju s knjižnicama u Hrvatskoj te već imamo mnoge kontakte u zemlji kao rezultat rada na projektu Tempus i našeg rada u znanstvenim i organizacijskim odborima na raznim međunarodnim konferencijama.

Svjesni smo i postojeće suradnje između partnera u našem Tempus projektu i hrvatskih knjižnica. Primjer toga je EU projekt za razvoj mobilnih knjižnica, u kojemu sudjeluje Kantonalna i univerzitetska biblioteka Bihać, na graničnim područjima kantona Una-Sana i Karlovačke županije koji uključuje Kantonalnu i univerzitetsku bib-



Canton and Karlovac County which has been established through the successful implementation of the EU funded project of Cross-border cooperation between BiH and Croatia. The project is implemented jointly by partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cantonal and University Library of Bihać and the City Library Karlovac from Croatia.

In a way our Tempus project has already been extended to involve Croatian libraries as there is strong representation of Croatian University and library delegates at the WBIL Conference for example and we expect this involvement to grow each year.

We would be delighted to collaborate with Croatian Universities and libraries. Such collaboration would be possible for example via the many EU funding programmes available to Croatian Universities

lioteku Bihać, a temelji se na uspješnom provođenju EU projekta za međugraničnu suradnju između BiH i Hrvatske. Projekt zajednički provode partneri iz Bosne i Hercegovine – Kantonalna i univerzitetska knjižnica Bihać, i Hrvatske – Gradska knjižnica Karlovac.

Naš Tempus projekt je na određeni način već proširen na hrvatske knjižnice, obzirom na prisutnost hrvatskih sveučilišnih i knjižničnih delegata na WBIL konferenciji, a očekujemo da njihova uključenost bude veća svake godine.

Suradnja s hrvatskim sveučilištima i knjižnicama pružila bi nam veliko zadovoljstvo, a moguće ju je ostvariti putem mnogih EU programa dostupnih hrvatskim sveučilištima i institucijama – kao na primjer *ERASMUS+ program za jačanje kapaciteta na području visokog obrazovanja*.



and institutions – taking as an example the *ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education funding programme*.

Erasmus+: Capacity-building projects build on the success of the former EU Alfa, Edu-link and Tempus programmes and aim to support the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education in the Partner Countries, promote cooperation between Programme Countries and eligible Partner Countries and promote people-to-people contacts, intercultural awareness and understanding.

8. Please give us some more detail on the inclusion of Information Literacy in Curriculum of the Institute of Technology Moylish Park, Limerick? Is any kind of research and evaluation of the efficiency of Information

ERASMUS+ projekti za jačanje kapaciteta nastavlju se na ranije uspješne programe: EU Alfa, Edu-link i Tempus, s ciljem osvremenjivanja, dostupnosti i internacionalizacije visokog obrazovanja u partnerskim zemljama, promovirajući suradnju među programskim i partnerskim zemljama te međunarodne kontakte, interkulturnu svijest i razumijevanje.

8. Opišite nam kako se *Information Literacy Conference Information & Media Literacy* uključuje u Kurikulum *Institute of Technology Moylish Park, Limerick?* Provodite li istraživanja ili vrednovanja o prihvaćenosti i



Literacy & Media Literacy being conducted? What are the results of evaluation between students, and between lecturers?

We monitor and evaluate our Information Literacy programmes closely for quality assurance and control, and many of our Information Literacy policies and procedures feature in the LIT Quality Assurance handbook published by the LIT Quality Office aimed at students and staff of LIT.

Our IL programmes embrace all learners at LIT and are offered in every academic programme in the Institute. Every student is given the opportunity to learn about Information Literacy covering such important Information Literacy topics as Referencing citation and Avoiding Plagiarism as well as Web Search Strategies and Tactics. Our

uspješnosti provođenja *Information Literacy & Media Literacy*? Koji su rezultati vrednovanja među studentima, a koji među predavačima?

Redovno nadziremo i vrednujemo programe informacijske pismenosti kako bismo osigurali i kontrolirali njihovu kvalitetu, stoga se mnoge smjernice i postupci za naše studente i osoblje nalaze u institutovom priručniku za osiguranje kvalitete u izdanju LIT Quality Office-a.

Naši se programi informacijske pismenosti nude svim studentima i dio su svakog programa na Institutu. Svakom je studentu pružena mogućnost učiti o informacijskoj pismenosti kroz važne teme poput Navođenje izvora, Izbjegavanje plagiranja ili Strategije pretraživanja internetske mreže. Naši su pro-



programmes are made available across all levels of study – undergraduate, postgraduate as well as to academic and administrative staff of the Institute.

In 2014 we were recognised by the European Projects Association for Distinguished effort in the Development of the European Union through European Projects and for efforts in building a better society for our Tempus project work in the Western Balkans Region. We received our award at the European Project Awards Ceremony which took place on October 8th 2014 in the European Parliament, Brussels.

9. What are your thoughts on further advancement of *Information Literacy & Media Literacy* and multiliteracy?

Information Literacy (IL) is the ability to efficiently locate, accurately

grami dostupni svim dodiplomskim i poslijediplomskim studen-tima, kao i akademskom i admini-strativnom osoblju Instituta.

2014. godine European Projects Association dodijelio nam je pri-znanje za Izrazite napore na po-dručju razvijatka Europske Unije kroz europske projekte i za napore u izgradnji boljeg društva putem projekta Tempus na zapadnom Balkanu. Nagradu smo primili 8. li-stopada 2014. godine u Europskom parlamentu u Bruxellesu na Euro-pean Project Awards Ceremony.

9. Koja su vaša razmišljanja o budućem razvoju *Information Literacy & Media Literacy* i mul-tipismenosti?

Informacijska pismenost sposo-bnost je kako uspješno locirati, to-



evaluate, effectively use and clearly communicate information in various formats. In this Information Age the rise of digital and social media tools has brought with it some amazing innovations and immense challenges. We believe that the challenge to achieve information literacy (IL) in this information rich society is vital for lifelong learning and allows us to capitalise on the diverse and often overwhelming range of information choices which we have been confronted with by the power of the Internet.

We believe that the great power of the Internet has forced all of us to develop strategies for confronting issues concerning accessibility, reliability, authenticity and validity as well as information overload. Information Literacy is a vital transferable skill for lifelong learning in both formal and informal learning envi-

čno procijeniti, djelotvorno koristiti i jasno prenijeti informaciju u različitim formatima. Informacijsko doba donijelo je uspon digitalnih i društvenih medija što je dovelo do čudesnih inovacija i ogromnih izazova. Vjerujemo da je ostvarivanje informacijske pismenosti u informacijski bogatom društvu temeljni preduvjet za cjeloživotno učenje i omogućava nam kapitaliziranje raznovrsne i bezgranične količine informacija s kojima smo suočeni zahvaljujući snazi i moći Interneta.

Također vjerujemo da je izuzetna moć Interneta prisilila sve nas da razvijemo strategije koje se tiču dostupnosti, pouzdanosti, autentičnosti i valjanosti te pretrpanosti informacija. Informacijska pismenost bazična je prijelazna vještina za cjeloživotno učenje u formalnom i neformalnom okruženju tijekom čitavog ljudskog života.



ronments throughout people's life-times. Information literacy facilitates active citizenship of individuals. Information literacy prepares people for lifelong learning because it enables them to find the information they need for any task or decision at hand.

In the words of Jesus Lau – a leading Information Literacy expert, Information Literacy is a vital skill for lifelong learning. Harnessed together, information literacy and lifelong learning substantially improve the set of personal choices and options opened up for, and offered to, an individual in the context of personal, family and societal matters; quality and utility of education and training in both formal school settings preceding entry into the workforce, and later in informal vocational or on-the-job training settings. Information Literacy improves the

Ona priprema osobu na cjeloživotno učenje jer joj omogućuje pronaći informaciju koja joj je potrebna za bilo koju zadaću ili buduću odluku s kojom će se suočiti.

Prema riječima Jesusa Laua, vođećeg stručnjaka informacijske pismenosti, informacijska je pismenost temeljna vještina cjeloživotnog učenja. Ukoliko djeluju zajedno, informacijska pismenost i cjeloživotno učenje znatno popravljaju mogućnosti osobnog izbora i mogućnosti na području osobnih, obiteljskih ili društvenih pitanja, kvalitetu i korisnost obrazovanja i izobrazbe u formalnom obrazovanju prije prelaska u radnu snagu, i kasnije u neformalnom strukovnom i poslovnom školovanju. Informacijska pismenost popravlja osobne izglede za pronašetak i za-državanje zadovoljavajućeg posla, brzo napredovanje u karijeri i eko-



prospects of finding and keeping a satisfying job and moving up the career ladder rapidly and with appropriate rewards, and making cost-effective and wise economic and business decisions.

10. What did the world leading experts conclude on the future development of Information Literacy & Media Literacy?

WBIL 2015 was attended by leading Information and Media Literacy experts from around the World most notably Dr Christine Bruce from Queensland University of Technology, Australia and Dr Tefko Saračević – Distinguished Professor Emeritus School of Communication & Information Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, United States who were the Keynote speakers for the Conference. IL experts from Greece, Romania, the United

nomično, poslovno mudro odlučivanje.

10. Koji su zaključci vodećih svjetskih stručnjaka s tog područja o budućem razvoju *Information Literacy & Media Literacy*?

Na WBIL-u 2015. sudjelovali su kao uvodni govornici vodeći stručnjaci s područja informacijske i medijske pismenosti – dr Christine Bruce, Queensland University of Technology, Australia; dr Tefko Saračević, prof. emeritus School of Communication & Information Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, SAD, koji su bili ključni predavači na konferenciji. Sudjelovali su i stručnjaci iz Grčke, Ru-



Kingdom and Ireland also attended among others.

The main conclusions from the conference were that firstly it was important for sustainability in the project and for the development of education generally in the Region that the WBILConference be continued and sustained into the future.

It was concluded also that continued embedding of Information Literacy programmes and initiatives into Western Balkans education systems and curricula is important for lifelong learning as well as continued development of libraries in the region.

Such programs are important for continued modernisation of higher education in the Western Balkan region and for the fostering of Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning in Society.

munjske, Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva i Irske.

Glavni zaključak konferencije bio je ponajprije rad na održivosti ovog projekta, te održanje same WBIL konferencije, u cilju održivosti projekta za razvoj i obrazovanje na zapadnom Balkanu.

Također, zaključeno je kako je potrebno širiti i ugrađivati programe i inicijative za informacijsku pismenost u obrazovne sustave i kurikule zapadnog Balkana, kao važnih čimbenika cjeloživotnog učenja i razvitka knjižnica u regiji.

Takvi su programi izuzetno važni za osvremenjivanje visokog obrazovanja na zapadnom Balkanu i za poticanje informacijske pismenosti i cjeloživotnog učenja u društvu.





Pictured from right to left are **Jerald Cavanagh**, BSc Econ, MSc, MA, Institute Librarian, Limerick Institute of Technology and **Padraig Kirby**, BA (Hons), HdipLIS, MSc (LIS), Senior Library Assistant, Limerick Institute of Technology, being recognised by the European Projects Association at their Awards Ceremony on October 8th 2014 in the European Parliament, Brussels for Distinguished effort in the Development of the European Union through European Projects and for efforts in building a better society for their EU Tempus project work in the Western Balkans Region.

Na slici su **Jerald Cavanagh**, BSc Econ, MSc, MA, Institute Librarian, Limerick Institute of Tehcnology, i **Padraig Kirby**, BA (Hons), HdipLIS, MSc (LIS), Senior Library Assistant, Limerick Institute of Technology, kako primaju nagradu European Project Association na ceremoniji dodjele nagrada 8. listopada 2014. godine u Europskom parlamentu u Bruxellesu, za istaknute napore u razvoju Europske unije kroz Europske projekte i za napore u izgradnji boljeg društva, za rad na EU Tempus projektu na području Zapadnog Balkana.

