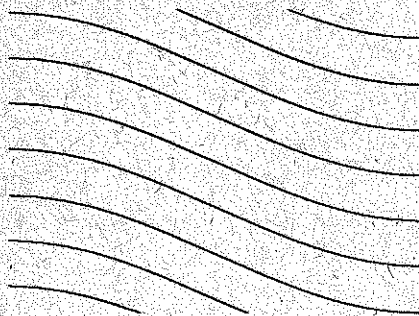


Andragoški center Republike Slovenije
Slovene Adult Education Centre

NOVIČKE



SUMMER / 1994

▲ **SLOVENIA - WHERE IS IT?** ● Economic Perspectives for Slovenia ▲ **SAEC EVENTS** ● Unemployment Can Be a Challenge ● Can You Advocate Your Rights? ● The Systemic Organization of Adult Education ▲ **SLOVENE ADULT EDUCATION SCENE** ● I am Glad to Offer my Knowledge to Others ● We Visited Study Circles I ● Slovene Education Days ● The Training for Life's Assurance Programmes in Slovenia ● Employee Education ▲ **CONFERENCES, SEMINARS** ● Research on Adult Education in the Former Socialist Countries ● ILSCAE the 8th Annual Conference ▲ **COMMENTS** ● Functional Illiterates are People Who Give Me a Hard Time ▲ **NEW BOOKS**

*God's blessing on all nations,
Who long and work for a bright day,
When o'er earth's habitations
No war, no strife shall hold its sway;
Who long to see
That all men free
No more shall foes, but neighbours be.*

F. Prešeren: THE TOAST

Slovene national anthem



PROGRAMME BASIS OF NOVIČKE

- **Novičke (The News)** is an information bulletin with which we wish to inform individuals and organisations abroad with adult education and learning in Slovenia.
- We plan to provide the following types of information:
 - description and presentation of events and activities in adult education;
 - development, research and other programmes and projects;
 - information on organisations, their needs, plans and activities;
 - information on policy and strategies of adult education;
 - the latest news in administration and legislation;
 - statistical data;
 - information on forthcoming events, workshops, seminars and conferences;
 - presentations of new books and articles.
- **Novičke** will provide brief, concise, objective and unbiased information.
- **Novičke** will be published three times a year in English language.
- Users will receive **Novičke** free of charge. This is a policy we intend to continue, provided we are able to cover the costs of publishing from the public funds allocated to adult education.
- **Novičke** is edited and published by the Information Centre at the SAEC. In charge of the publication are: **Vida A. Mohorčič Špolar** - head of the Information Centre and **Peter Monetti** - editor of **Novičke**.
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SLOVENIA - WHERE IS IT?



Economic Perspectives for Slovenia **Recent Trends in the Slovenian Economy**

A Challenge for Slovenia

For Slovenia - a new, two-year-old State in Central Europe - the question at hand is whether to regard it as the most developed part of the former, undeveloped Eastern Europe or, according to current and expectable indicators, as a slightly less developed country in a highly developed Europe - with the challenge of ascending the ladder of development as rapidly as possible. This would also require a rapid, successful integration into the new Europe - the Europe of unification and co-operation, the European integrations. Slovenia certainly perceives itself as part of such Europe, as much in spiritual, cultural and political sense as in an economic one.

With per capita GDP of USD 6,186 and per capita export (goods) of USD 3,350, with relatively large foreign trade, the lion's share of which is the EU and EFTA countries in both imports and exports, with a geographic location in the Alps-Adriatic region and, last but not least, with the beginning of the positive economic trends which have come about in a relatively short time (considering the economic and political circumstances of the last few years) Slovenia is convinced that the prospects are quite good.

The Last Two Years

After attaining monetary independence in the autumn 1991 and international recognition of Slovenia as a sovereign country by the EC countries in the beginning of 1992, Slovenia went through a period of harsh economic adjustment to the new market conditions - as much in this specific part of Europe as in a wider international sense. Individual companies had to adjust rapidly in order to make up for the loss of their markets in ex-Yugoslavia as well as in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Parallel to this ran a process of transition in economic system and adaptations to concepts as desired by Slovenia and as demanded by a developed market economy - including competition in all aspects, not only economic.

At the same time, Slovenia succeeded in cutting down the former Yugoslavian inflation, which, for example, reached a height of even 30 percent per month in 1989. The December 1993 inflation in Slovenia was down to 1.5 percent which still represented a relatively high annual inflation rate - compared to the European Union (approximately 20 percent), but disparities in prices as well the price - rise - expectation have been reduced and inflation is expected to fall further in 1994.

Sales within the Slovenian economy dropped most drastically in 1991 and 1992. Under this influence, the gross domestic product for 1992 fell in real terms by 6 percent - actually a success - whilst industrial production declined by as much as 13 percent. The 7 percent drop in consumer spending and 3 percent drop in real incomes indicated a fall in the standard of living in 1992. The greatest decline, however, was witnessed in investment. In the same year that the Slovenian economy concretely experienced a drastic contraction of 60 percent in sales in the former Yugoslavian market, exports to other countries rose by 5.8 percent and imports by 1 percent, thus achieving a trade surplus and positive balance of payments. The foreign currency reserves have been steadily accumulating. The Bank of Slovenia insisted on a very strict monetary policy whose only target was the pursuit of stabilization and strengthening of the new local currency, the Slovenian tolar (SIT), and the gradual establishment of its convertibility.

Drop in Inflation, Financial Problems, Unemployment

Whilst inflation was stabilizing, a number of previously quite successful companies began experiencing financial and liquidity difficulties. These conditions, beside other problems, forced companies in the industrial and service sectors to slash the number of employees in 1992 and 1993. Some of these, termed as "technological surpluses", resulted in plain unemployment. The rate of unemployment in Slovenia, measured by the number of those officially registered as unemployed opposed to the employed or the working population, which was in Slovenia practically nil in the past, risen rapidly to 14.9 percent by Autumn 1993 (less according to the ILO methodology). Retirement was also accelerated.

This fundamentally transformed the ratio between the working and the non-working population acutely increased the need for greater social transfers as well as more funds for this purpose. In 1993, every individual of the working population had to support 1.53 non-working individuals, compared to 1.44 in 1992 and 1.07 in 1987, when this situation in Slovenia was the most favourable in the last ten years. In 1993, the ratio between pensioners and the working population was 1:1.8, compared to 1:2.9 in 1987. Public spending in Slovenia increased because of other reasons as well - the establishment of a new country, for example. The proper elements of social welfare are only just being implemented.

A Relatively Balanced Economic Structure

According to current estimates, the gross domestic product for 1992 amounted to USD 12.3 thousand million. Industry accounts for 41 percent, services for 54 percent and farming (including fishing) for 5 percent of the structure of value added in Slovenia today. The most important manufacturing industries are food and beverages (at 4.7 percent of total value added), manufacture of textiles and textile products (at 4 percent), manufacture of metal products (at 3.6 percent), manufacture of electrical and optical equipment (at 3.5 percent), chemical products and man-made fibres, furniture and timber products, vehicles, paper products and printing and publishing. The most

