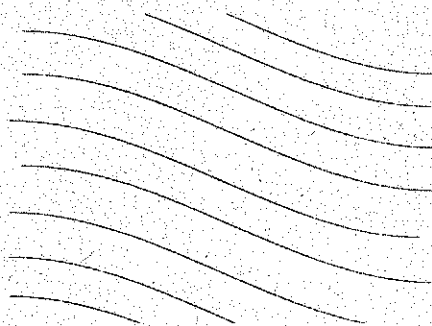


Andragoški center Republike Slovenije
Slovene Adult Education Centre

NOVIČKE



SPRING 1996

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*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

- o Novičke (The News) is an information bulletin with which we wish to inform individuals and organisations abroad with adult education and learning in Slovenia.
- o 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.
- o Novičke will provide brief, concise, objective and unbiased information.
- o Novičke will be published three times a year in English language.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o The publisher's address: Andragoški center Slovenije, Šmartinska 134a, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija; phone: + 386 61 446 482, fax: + 386 61 445 881; E-mail:

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DECnet: STENAR::LJACRS

Since 1st March 1996 Slovenia has had new postal codes.

The change is quite simple – the new postal codes no longer begin with 6 (as they used to), while special postal codes have been assigned to the biggest users (companies).



SLOVENIA FROM NOVIČKE TO NOVICKE



According to Economic Data Most of the Goals Set for 1995 Will Be Fulfilled

Lowering the inflation rate to under 10 per cent, increasing the gross domestic product by 4 to 5 per cent, reducing the unemployment rate and advancing exports and investments were this year's principal goals of Slovene economic policy. According to economic data most of the other goals set for 1995 will be fulfilled by the end of the year, a conclusion already stated by the International Monetary Fund delegation to Slovenia, as they pointed out to the government the necessity for the reform of the pensions system to be carried out at the shortest possible notice.

According to the analysis of economic trends made last autumn, the fatal exports of goods and services are to increase by around 4 per cent, while imports are to increase by about 10 per cent. The foreign trade deficit is expected to rise, but the balance of trade, including goods and services will nevertheless remain positive at the end of the year. Economists estimate that gross wages will go up by around 4 per cent, which exceeds the agreed upon rate, but remains within the limits of increased productivity.

Keeping in line with the IMF Statute's article 8, Slovenia declared foreign convertibility of its national currency, the tolar, on 1. September 1995, indicating the country was financially stable and holding sufficient amounts of foreign currency reserves, the latter having increased in 1995 from \$ 2.8 billion in the beginning of the year to \$ 3.5 billion at the end of the year. The decision to declare foreign convertibility was taken also due to considerable progress Slovenia made in resolving open issues with international financial institutions, in particular with the consortium of commercial banks and the Paris Club.

Much attention was focused on the issue of succession and the payment of the Slovene share of former Yugoslavia's international debts. An agreement in principle was reached with the consortium of commercial banks in June which stipulated that Slovenia pay 18 per cent of the \$ 4.4 billion former Yugoslavia's debts to the above institution. Slovenia is prepared to take over \$ 712 million of the entire debt.

A policy of a stable tolar was conducted by the Bank of Slovenia, which it did not relinquish in spite of persistence from the part of exporters who claimed that the tolar was overvalued, causing some to achieve lower profits than expected with others even operating at a loss. Their position improved to a certain extent in the second half of the year, when the law on subsidising social security payments to net exporters was endorsed, according to which the latter were to receive SIT 5 billion worth of aid.

The economy had to deal with a number of problems related to the rehabilitation and restructuring of companies. Rehabilitation of the automobile producer TAM from Maribor, employing over 3000 people, was also dealt with by the government and parliament, which even endorsed a special law on the rehabilitation of TAM.

Long-term projects, initiated in previous years continued in 1995. Among these, projects of the privatization of publicly owned companies, denationalization and motorway construction were in the forefront. During 1995 34 kilometers of motorway sections were opened for traffic, with a further 97.5 kilometers still being constructed. Denationalization, i.e. returning nationalized property to its original owners, faced some serious problems towards the end of the year, particularly with regard to the issue of returning forests to the Roman Catholic Church and foreigners (according to the 1991 Law on Denationalization the latter are to receive 180,000 hectares of forests).

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 2, January 13, 1996, p. 13)



Woman /Policy Equal Deputising of Women and Men in Politics - Condition for Democracy

Representatives of the political parties and the women's groups of the parties met last week, at the invitation of the Women Policy Office, to discuss the issue of deputising women in the processes of political decision-making. They formed their standpoints into a statement which was presented to a news conference on Monday by Director of the Office, Vera Kozmik.

The statement calls on various parts of the public, mainly society, the media and political parties to endeavour to improve the conditions for women to occupy decision-making posts, since the equal deputising of women and men is a pre-condition for democracy.

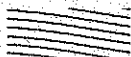
The statement was signed last week by over 30 representatives of the policy sphere, most of them from the Liberal Democracy of Slovenia (LDS) and the United List of Social Democrats (ZLSD). Besides the representatives of those two parties, the following also participated in the meeting: representatives of the Democratic Party of Slovenia (DS), the Democratic Party of Pensioners (DEUS), the Liberal Party (LS), the Provincial Party of Štajerska, the Slovene Peoples' Party (SLS), the Slovene Christian Democrats (SKD), and the Social Democratic Party of Slovenia (SDSS). The Office invited representatives of all 21 Slovene political parties to the meeting last week.

Equal status of women and men on paper is not enough; therefore, equal deputising is necessary, maintained Kozmik as she stressed that more women would bring different viewpoints into politics. Both men and women voters should also direct their voting decisions, according to the part women play on the party lists in this year's elections. Besides that, civil society should support endeavours to increase the political culture, while the parties should do as much as possible to abolish political inequality and to ensure balanced deputising of both sexes on the party lists.

The statement also suggests the National Assembly adopts an explanation of the stipulations of the Political Parties Law which would demand from the parties to include in their standing orders a certain mechanism for ensuring equal possibilities for both sexes. The National Election Commission should not accept those party lists of candidates which breach party's rules for ensuring equal possibilities.

Kozmik also told that she is certain the present 14 percent of women in the National Assembly will be joined by more women MPs after parliamentary elections this autumn.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 6, February 10, 1996, p. 10)



Tourism Slovenia on CD-ROM

A CD-ROM entitled "Welcome to Slovenia" was presented Thursday at the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Listing general information on Slovenia, it also features photographs of Slovene towns, video shots and recordings of folk music characteristic of individual Slovene regions. Also presented with maps, text and video are mountains and lakes, the Adriatic sea and the Karst as well as health resorts, towns and casinos. The first version of the "Welcome to Slovenia" CD-ROM contains 690 photographs, 38 videos, 57 sound recordings and 6000 addresses. The current version is available in Slovene, German and English, while the second is to be supplemented with an Italian translation. With a circulation of 2000, it will be sent to all tourist representatives abroad. Some of the data will be available on the Internet as well.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 7, February 17, 1996, p. 3)

Slovenia Will Apply for Full EU Membership This Year

Slovenia will apply for full EU membership this year, regardless of whether it signs the association membership agreement or not, Prime Minister Janez Drnovšek told a news conference Friday.

"The reason the association agreement has not yet been signed lies in Italy's internal situation, as the country is facing elections in April, rendering Slovenia devoid of a real negotiating partner in Rome", Prime Minister Drnovšek said. The December EU summit in Madrid assigned Italy to ensure the signing of the Spanish compromise proposal, which Slovenia will apply for full membership, prime Minister Drnovšek explained. He added that the Slovene goal is to become a full EU member during the next EU expansion round in the year 2001. In the meantime, the county will continue harmonizing its legislation with that of the EU.

Drnovšek refused to comment on the recent cancellation of a meeting between the Slovene Ambassador to Rome, Peter Bekeš and Italy's foreign Minister, Susanna Agnelli, but said the cancellation might have been caused by the political situation in Italy.

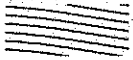
"Opening the issue of the "foibe" (Karst caves where mass killings were allegedly performed during and after WW2) is counterproductive, anachronistic and immature, as it involves a period in history, for which the world has already passed its judgement", Premier Drnovšek said. As the issue was raised by jurisdiction rather than the country, the Slovene government finds it sensible not to give any official response in this matter. However, if the need arise, Drnovšek added.

The Prime minister decidedly refused all allegations about silent diplomacy, which supposedly brought Slovenia to "Euroslavia", describing it as unreal, as Slovenia is currently oriented to the EU and NATO. A Bulgarian initiative for a meeting of Southeast European countries is indeed welcome, as it might contribute to stability in the region, but Slovene priorities lie elsewhere, Prime Minister Janez Drnovšek explained.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 11, March 16, 1996, p. 4)



SAEC EVENTS



Training for Study Circle Leaders and Mentors

Slavica Černoša, SAEC

Since 1992 a project titled Study Circles has been running within the framework of the Slovene Adult Education Centre. Our aim is to ensure that this new form of adult education gains a firm foothold in Slovenia. In 1993, 1994 and 1995 we trained over 200 study circle leaders and mentors in a special programme and these are now leading study circles in various Slovene municipalities. We would like to train a new group of study circle leaders and mentors in 1996 to develop study circles in new environments. Training, which will last 48 school-hours or 6 days, will take place in March 1996. The study circle leader assumes the role of coordinator of the mentors in a certain organisation, organiser, consultant, animator and promoter. He or she can also lead a study circle. On the other hand, the mentor cooperates in the realisation of individual study circles. Entrance into the project takes place in the following way:

- One study circle leader and three mentors are selected in a specific environment who then submit applications to the tender for training carried out by the Slovene Adult Education Centre.
- If the group satisfies the requirements of the tender, it is invited to participate in the training which lasts 48 academic hours. Participants are required to conduct an independent seminar assignment as part of the training programme. Participants who complete the programme's obligations are issued a training certificate qualifying them to carry out study circles independently.
- The Ministry of Education and Sport publishes a public tender for the co-financing of study circles. Advantage in the distribution of funds is given to groups with trained study circle leaders and mentors.

Candidates who successfully complete the training get three points for advancing if they work in the field of education.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants are:

- education organisations (public or private) that are already successfully developing study circles;
- education organisations (public or private) that have not yet developed study circles, but would like to;
- organisations (public or private) that are not education institutions, but are engaged in the field of culture, art, social work, catering and tourism, ecology, health care;

- societies, professional associations, voluntary organisations, trade unions.

Terms of cooperation:

All those who meet the requirements for cooperating in the tender must:

- guarantee a person to perform the role of study circle leader and three study circle mentors. The candidates should at minimum have a bachelor's degree, while knowledge in adult education and experience in teaching adults is desired. Candidates must be prepared to undergo training for leaders or mentors. In the 1996/97 academic year they must carry out at least three study circles corresponding to the instructions of the Slovene Adult Education Centre.

What does cooperation in the tender bring?

The Slovene Adult Education Centre, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sport, guarantees free training for selected candidates. An exception are people's universities which are required to pay a registration fee of 48,000 SIT out of the funds allocated to them by the Ministry of Education and Sport for general education, but they will be acknowledged 120 hours of training per participant.

Those selected will:

- train a specified number of study circle leaders and mentors free of charge (and are only expected to ensure funds for the transportation and accommodation costs, including breakfast and dinner);
- receive the study materials free of charge;
- fulfil conditions for entering a request for funds from the budget for operating a specific number of study circles;
- receive free advice on the realisation of study circles from the Slovene Adult Education Centre.

The deadline for the tender was 31 January 1996 and the response was tremendous: we received applications from 68 organisation, while there were 218 applicants altogether.

The committee for the selection of the candidates to receive training as study circle leaders and mentors held a meeting on 12th February 1996. It had an extremely difficult job, since it had to narrow its selection to 96 candidates. This meant that they had to reject more than half (66 per cent) of the applicants. The following criteria were applied in the selection:

- close fulfilment of the tender conditions;
- an advantage was given to environments in which study circles have not yet been developed;
- less developed environments were given an priority;
- equal distribution of the selection throughout Slovenia.

The candidates were well chosen and closely satisfy the terms of the tender, but this does not mean that those who were not selected were not suitable. The committee did not have an easy job as it had to reject a number of organisations and candidates who are already collaborating on the project and others who they would like to attract towards cooperating on the project, but cannot due to the limited funds allocated for training. We hope that they will apply for new tenders and that we will be able to welcome them into our big family of "study circles."

The training for new leaders and mentors has begun in March 1996.



Training APL Advisers and Assessors

Nataša E. Jelenc, SAEC

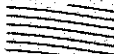
In the first half of December the SAEC carried out training for the first group of accreditation of prior learning (APL) advisers and assessors who will be pioneering work in this field in the first few months of 1996.

An APL test centre is scheduled to start operating in the third quarter of the year. Initially the APL process will be limited to candidate mentors in study circles and teachers on training for life's assurance (TLA) programmes.

Advisers will monitor candidates throughout the APL process, providing advice on a variety of levels. Candidates will receive expert advice and, where necessary, help in boosting self-assurance and motivation for further education. The advisers will help them to recognise knowledge, skills and training acquired informally, for example through work experience, independent study, informal group study and hobbies. Together with the candidate the advisers will put together a portfolio containing any evidence of prior qualification for particular work or tasks. The portfolio is used for verification of skills and is part of the assessment process. Where the level of knowledge is insufficient the advisers will recommend further training.

The advisers will verify the evidence and decide whether it is sufficient to justify the award of certificates for a certain area and level of competence. Where additional verification is deemed necessary they will draw up an appropriate verification plan encompassing up-to-date methods of verification and assessment.

Training of the advisers and assessors at the SAEC was carried out by the Royal Society of Art of London, which has been involved in such activity for some 150



years and is one of the three largest institutions in the United Kingdom for the accreditation of knowledge and the award of titles.

The participants were trained by Michael Sell and Kersten Schneider over the course of one week. In addition to SAEC workers leading or participating in study circles, TLA and APL projects, the participants in the training included lecturers leading mentor study groups and TLA teachers. Towards the end of the year or in early 1997 the SAEC plans to carry out training for all the organisations which will be the first members of the network of future APL centres.



Education for Democracy Meeting of the Programme Contractors

Branka Emeršič, Vida Mohorčič Špolar, SAEC

Nearly two years have now passed since the development of the "Education for Democracy" programme, which was created within the framework of the PHARE Democracy project in 1993 and 1994. The continuation of the programme is now being financially supported by the Ministry of Education and Sport. Several organisations have shown an interest in carrying out the programme, and thirteen have succeeded in this. Among these, people's and workers' universities prevailed. It is time to take a look at their achievements and on the basis of these to determine the benefits and weaknesses of the programme. Two organisations have completed and returned our questionnaire for seminar participants and providers (there were 29 returned questionnaires altogether). Once processed, the questionnaires revealed that participants were quite pleased with the programme, while the programme providers said that the programme should be adapted more closely to the participants' prior or existing knowledge and expanded to include other subjects (with more attention placed on human rights). Based on the responses, we were able to obtain a view into the programmes' success, but because there were so few programmes we also realised that this did not give us a complete picture of their realisation. We therefore decided to organise another working meeting of all contractor organisations on November 23rd, 1995 at the Slovene Adult Education Centre. Representatives of three organisations attended the meeting. In the introductory session, the representatives of the contractor organisations provided some essential information on the realised programmes:

The first organisation had carried out a programme titled "The Political Culture of Slovenes", which did not enjoy a large response. Although invitations had been sent out to 100 addresses, only 10 per cent attended the seminar.



In the other organisation, Education for Democracy was incorporated into the Social Sciences programme carried out in two groups, mostly for the unemployed and people without vocations. The first group comprised older participants who responded quite actively, while the participants of the other group who were not initially motivated later grew more serious, achieving good results the final examination.

The third organisation initially had very few participants in the Education for Democracy programme. They had invited people from the municipal councils, but the response was modest. Later they succeeded in carrying out 6 seminars titled "Is Slovenia a Democratic State?" and seminars with more specific themes (the Securities Market, Consumer Rights, Municipal Councils...etc).

We then sent representatives of the contractor organisations the results of the participants' questionnaires and invited them to send us their comments based on their experience. The processing of the questionnaires revealed that the participants in education were mostly (55 per cent) younger adults aged 20 and older and that none of them was older than 45. Almost two thirds of them were female. About a half of all participants were employed. Most of the participants saw the purpose of the seminar in becoming familiar with human rights and democracy. In response to the question of what they liked in the programme, the first response was the subject matter (the new subjects, getting to know human rights...), then how the seminar was carried out (good lecturer, explanations, group work, etc.). A similar response prevailed to the question about the good features of the programme: expanding their knowledge. We also received a few criticisms in response to the question concerning the poor aspects of the programme and what should be changed, and these were: that there were too few hours and participants, that lectures should be longer and include more discussion, and that it should be a graded subject. On the basis of cross-referencing the participants' sex, education and employment situation we found some differences. Younger, unemployed participants had only praise for the seminar, their replies are very general and almost identical. We saw a possible explanation for this in this group being rather non-critical and conformist, while other explanations are also possible (for example their feeling a sense of gratitude that somebody was even paying them attention).

Although only two programme providers returned the questionnaires to us, we nevertheless presented the results. The most frequent reply was that the programme should be adapted to the participants' low level of beforehand knowledge and that it should contain more topics on human rights. Based on these proposals, we invited the participants of the meeting to give us their opinions, in short, what changes they propose be made to the programme. We all agreed that much depends on the lecturer and how he or she adapts the programme to the participants. The programme is good and the lecturer must know how to carry it out satisfactorily and know which contents to lay emphasis on and which methods and techniques to employ. This is something the lecturer will be able to judge after talking to the participants.

