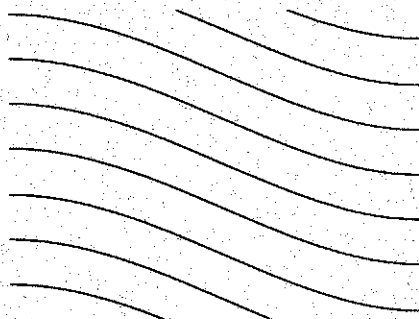




Andragoški center Republike Slovenije  
Slovene Adult Education Centre

# NOVIČKE



WINTER 1996

▲ SLOVENIA FROM NOVIČKE TO NOVIČKE ▲ SAEC EVENTS ● Speech given by the directress of the Slovene Adult Education Centre on the occasion of the Centre's fifth anniversary and the opening of the Week of Life-Long Learning ● Congratulations from the President of the Republic on the Occasion of SAEC's 5th Anniversary ● The following were among those who sent us their congratulations from abroad on our 5th Anniversary ● Address by Paul Belanger at SAEC's 5th Anniversary Celebration ▲ SLOVENE ADULT EDUCATION SCENE ● Adult Education Week in Slovenia ● Slovenia has overtaken Germany ● Education for the Unemployed in 1995 ● Preparations for Beginning Work in Study Circles ● Adult Education Summer School Gaining a Tradition ● The DOBA Centre for the Promotion of Learning Celebrates Its 1st Anniversary ● Language Education at Folk High Schools ● Distance Learning at Folk High Schools ● Self-study Centres at Folk High Schools ● Adult Education Expert Awarded

Publisher: Slovene Adult Education Center, Editor: Peter Monetti

*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

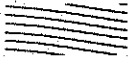


## PROGRAMME BASIS OF NOVIČKE

- 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: Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik - 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:

RFC-822: [tajnistvo.saec@infosol.mss.si](mailto:tajnistvo.saec@infosol.mss.si)

DECnet: STENAR::LJACRS



## Christmas Greetings

There is some truth in the saying that years do pass quickly. It seems only yesterday that we have been wishing each other good luck and all the best in the coming year - and look, we are doing it again.

1996 is coming to an end, and we are expecting what 1997 will bring us. In the 1996 Europe has been celebrating the year of Lifelong Learning, and Slovenia had its celebration as well. In October 1996, Slovene Adult Education Centre celebrated the fifth anniversary of its establishment, though the official opening was in January 1992. And we are proud to say that we are satisfied to have been able to develop some new projects which have found fertile soil in Slovenia and have established themselves firmly in our everyday life. We are referring to Study Circles, Learning Exchange, Open Learning Centres. We have rounded our research work concerning the system of adult education and are prepared for its further implementation. These are but a few projects which give us satisfaction and where we can draw our strength.

But we must also look forward. The coming year is the year, in many ways, of exceptional importance for adult education. It is true that the Year of Lifelong Learning has come to an end, though we believe it will continue in our minds and actions. But a new challenge lies ahead of us, and this challenge is called Adult Learning: a Key for the Twenty-first Century. Let's make the best of the Hamburg conference and an event which will be remembered long after.

Dear friends, allow us to thank you for being with us, some of you as long as five years. We wish everyone of you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. May the things you have wished for come true, and let's remain united in the joint effort of researching, improving, planning, proposing and promoting adult education.

*The very best to you all!*

Vida A. Mohorčič Špolar, directress

Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, head of Information centre

Peter Monetti, editor of *Novičke*

on behalf of our colleagues and your friends in the Slovene Adult Education Centre.



# SLOVENIA FROM NOVIČKE TO NOVICKE



## Slovenia '96 CD Rom

Slovenia '96 CD Rom was published by the end of August by the Vitrum Publishing. Basically it is divided by four main topics: General information, Macroeconomic overview, Doing Business, Useful Phonebook. Contents contributors: Vitrum Publishing, Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development and Arahconsulting. Some of chapters are being used from written materials published by Government Public Relations and Media Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RS, Ministry of Science and Technology of RS, Ministry of Defence of RS, Ministry of Internal Affairs of RS, Ministry of Education of RS, Ministry of Finance of RS. Music being used was contributed by Klemen Ramovš Management (Issac Posh: Harmonia Concertans) and by Jazz Club Gajo (Gajo Back Stage, Peter Mihelič: Blue Sue).

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 29, July 27, 1996, p. 9)



## Slovenia/CEEPUS Second National Conference Budapest, September 16, 1996

Slovene State Secretary for Education and Sport Pavel Zgaga was attending the second national CEEPUS conference in Budapest. Zgaga presented some proposals and activities of Slovenia, which is the 1996 CEEPUS president, in this field. The CEEPUS programme of education, founded by Central European countries in 1993, is similar to some European Union (EU) education programmes. In 1996, 1,000 students and professors studied on the exchange programmes, with 300 university departments taking part in them. Most of Slovene faculties from both Slovene universities (Ljubljana and Maribor) are participating in the project and many CEEPUS members are interested in cooperating with them. In 1996 the cooperation began between 21 Slovene and Hungarian university institutions. During his stay in Budapest, Slovene State Secretary for Education visited the Hungarian Ministry of Education, where a new agreement on university degrees was discussed, along with further cooperation in the field of university studies, particularly in the framework of the SOCRATES programme.

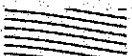
(Slovenia Weekly, No. 33, September 21, 1996, p. 8)



## Internet in Slovenia

The Internet fair in Slovenia, exhibiting products of 40 participants, opened in Ljubljana on September 24. The two-day event, organized by Infos, was opened by Slovene Minister of Education and Sport Slavko Gaber. One of the 50 events at the fair is the Ro/2 virtual congress which opened Thursday. The congress on education in information science was organized by Ministry of Education and Sport and the Slovene Education Institute. Slovenia has recorded a high level use of Internet. An opinion poll, carried out by the Ljubljana Faculty of Social Sciences, showed that as many as 9.5 percent of the population has already used the World Wide Web, while between 40,000 and 50,000 people use it every day. A number of European countries are behind Slovenia in Internet use, including Belgium, Spain, France, Greece, Italy and Portugal.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 34, September 28, 1996, p. 14)



## Unesco/Slovenia Learning - Hidden Treasure

Slovene Ministry of Education and Sport presented in Ljubljana the report of the International Commission for Education in 21st Century, drawn up for UNESCO and entitled Learning - Hidden Treasure. The UNESCO white book for the following centuries was presented by Commission's President Jacques Delors and one of the members of the Commission Aleksandra Kornhauser. Slovene Minister of Education Slavko Gaber also attended the presentation. The report, drawn up for UNESCO by an independent commission, is a result of world-wide consultations and analyses. The recommendations from the previous report, dating from 1972, however remain in force, said Minister Gaber.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 37, October 19, 1996, p. 8)



## Slovenia/EU European Parliament Ratifies European Agreement with Slovenia

The European Parliament ratified the association agreement between Slovenia and the European Union, granting Slovenia the status of an associate member in the EU with the majority of votes at its plenary session in Strasbourg on Thursday. The parliament discussed the agreement on Wednesday. The majority of MP's expressed support to Slovenia, while some Italian MP's, members of the right-wing parties pointed out the demands for the restitution of property of Italian minority members who left Slovenia after World War II. They reminded Slovenia that it was still to change its legislation concerning the purchase of land by foreign citizens. The agreement is still to be ratified by the Slovene parliament as well as by the parliaments of all EU members.

Hans van den Broek, member of the European Commission in charge of foreign affairs, estimated in Strasbourg the ratification of the agreement would give a positive sign to Slovenia and encourage Slovene parliament to realize pre-accession strategy. Van den Broek underlined the EU was interested in Slovenia's becoming an EU member, and expressed all Commission's support to Ljubljana. He also stressed Slovenia must in accordance with the association agreement change its constitution and legislation.

Slovenia and the EU signed the agreement on June 10, thus establishing a free-trade zone, with a transitory period of up to six years. It will take effect when ratified by all EU parliaments and the Slovene parliament. Until then the transitory agreement will be used.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 38, October 26, 1996, p. 10-11)



## Result of the General Elections

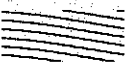
According to the official results of the general election on November 10 issued by the National Electoral Commission on Monday, the Liberal Democrats of Slovenia (LDS) gained 27.01 percent of the votes. LDS is followed by Slovene People's Party (SLS) with 19.38 percent, Social Democratic Party of Slovenia (SDS) with 16.13 percent, Slovene Christian Democrats (SKD) with 9.62 percent, United List of Democrats (ZLSD) with 9.03 percent, Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia (DeSUS) with 4.32 percent and Slovene National Party with 3.22 percent of votes.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 42, November 23, 1996, p. 4)

**Note:** Slovenia Weekly is published by Vitrum d.o.o., Hrdeckega 38, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia; phone +386 61 126 14 12, fax +386 61 140 20 27.



## SAEC EVENTS



### Speech given by the directress of the Slovene Adult Education Centre on the occasion of the Centre's fifth anniversary and the opening of the Week of Life-Long Learning

Dr Vida A. Mohorčič Špolar, Directress of SAEC

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues and guests,

In the month of October the Slovene Adult Education Centre celebrates its fifth anniversary. During the preparations to mark this event, my first thought was "five years, impossible, we have only just begun". And yet, it's true. Slovenia's main institution for the promotion and development of adult education and learning has been operating for five years now. Measured in standard work hours five years have indeed past, but measured in the extra hours our hard-working co-workers have invested during this time into the centre's work it has been more than six years.

We started out with six full-time employees (Zoran Jelenc, Olga Drogenik, Sonja Klemenčič, Maša Stavanja, Ester Možina and myself). We shared a vision, but the



extent of our work soon convinced us we needed help if we were to realise this vision. Gradually we grew and 30 people now work in our centre. Over a third of our employees have a master's degree or doctorate, another third of them are on route to achieving this. Learning and education are vitally important to us, since both provide us with people who are able to put their experience and knowledge into practice. And it is from this practice that ideas for future work, research, counselling and learning are drawn.

If we look back on the route we have taken, we can say that we have accomplished a lot, but at the same time we are afraid that there is still much work ahead of us. Our objective - the life-long learning philosophy for everyone - is still a long way off. But some of the groundwork on the route to achieving this goal has already been, or is still being paved.

Throughout this time, the principle of our centre and its activities has been to conduct research and analysis, create models, train staff, implement things in practice, develop networks and evaluate effects again followed by research and development. This is true of both the organisation of the adult education system and the expansion of the education and learning culture in Slovenia. This kind of orientation allows the growth of a basic infrastructure for adult learning and education.

The principle of our activities is best illustrated by the projects developed by our Centre. Three Learning Exchanges - in Ljubljana, Maribor and Novo Mesto - are operating in Slovenia. We hope that more will be opened elsewhere. More than 4000 people seeking knowledge and 3000 providing it now cooperate in the Learning Exchange. Since 1993, 250 study circles introduced to Slovenia by Swedish example, have operated. Nearly 2500 people of all ages have met in those circles having selected a variety of subjects linked to their environment. They enrich themselves and their environments with the knowledge they acquire, trying to change it and this encourages them to seek always new knowledge.

New centres are being opened for self-study to make it possible for people to learn according to their desire and rhythm. Data shows that people are more than satisfied with this form of learning. In a single centre alone that has only been operating for a year, 400 people were incorporated. Gradually, it will be possible to evaluate and certify the knowledge that has been acquired through different paths and in different ways - this forms the basis for the Centres for Accreditation of Prior learning. The Centre for Young Adults already cares for young adults who leave the school system without formal educations and we hope that more will be opened. Training for Life's Assurance is a project that studies the causes and extent of functional illiteracy in Slovenia and develops activities for raising the level of literacy.

This is just a segment of the comprehensive research and development work and projects being carried out at the centre. We should also mention our work on education

for the unemployed, education for democracy, the national programme of adult education, the labour market, improving the flow of information, improving learning.

Let this suffice as far as listing is concerned. I should however stress again that our activities are directed towards developing initiatives on the national, local and company levels and in individuals. Through our efforts, not only are we increasing the supply of educational opportunities, but also the demand for education. The figures I mentioned earlier confirm that we are succeeding in this mission. All other areas of the centre such as education, information, publishing, counselling and international cooperation are subordinated to this and all this is oriented towards an ultimate goal - spreading the culture of learning and education. And one of the steps in the direction of this goal is the Week of Life-Long Learning which begins today and which we hope will continue in years to come, becoming a manifestation of people's learning throughout Slovenia.



## **Congratulations from the President of the Republic on the Occasion of SAEC's 5th Anniversary**

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of this young anniversary. I hope that you continue on your successful path, that you find the right signposts towards your goal and further your pursuit of excellence for the good of our young country, a country known in the world not only for its beauty, but also for the skills and accomplishments of its citizens, who are achieving results of the highest order in many professional and sporting fields, putting them among the very best in the world.

Your efforts and successes are a contribution towards Slovenia's asserting itself as a European country capable of actively participating in the dialogue on Europe's future.

Milan Kučan, President of the Republic of Slovenia



## **The following were among those who sent us their congratulations from abroad on our 5th anniversary:**

- Alan Tuckett, NIACE, Great Britain
- Peter Bacher, The Danish Research and Development Centre for Adult Education



- Per Himmelstrup and Dr Henning Dochweiler, The Danish Cultural Institute
- Dr Keith Forester, Leeds University
- Dr Talvi Marija and Ene Kapp, Andras, Talin, Estonia
- Roger Lewis, Lincolnshire University, Humberside, Great Britain
- Dr Pal Soos, Lajosh Kossuth University, Hungary
- Quentin Whitlock, Dean Associated, Sheffield
- Dr Hannelore Blaschek, Institut für Erwachsenenbildung, Saizburg
- and others.



## Address by Paul Belanger at SAEC's 5th Anniversary Celebration

Paul Belanger, Unesco Institute for Education, Hamburg

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured on behalf of Unesco and on my own behalf to be here, because at this moment in Europe's history your country has an important role to play. You are a very special bridge.

A reality exists where this is increasingly clear to see, that is the reality of life-long learning.

Throughout Europe life-long learning is becoming central to the notion of the future. The beginning of the future will be created in the countries whose thinking goes deepest. The creativity of the Europeans is the main source from which the Europe of tomorrow will draw its power. What does this mean? What this means exactly is that the centre of life is the moment learning flourishes. If people's creativity is the key to entering the next century, then adult education and life-long learning are the locks on the doors leading to the land of success.

In Unesco we have an advantage in that here in Ljubljana we have an extraordinary research centre which is working in and for this very future. I was honoured to have also had the opportunity of representing Unesco at the foundation of your centre five years ago. Your country was not yet acknowledged at that time. Today you are acknowledged as a creative, thinking nation.


We need your centre, Europe needs your centre. We shall work together closely.

All the best, Vidal





# SLOVENE ADULT EDUCATION SCENE




## Adult Education Week in Slovenia

Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, SAEC

Deriving from the concept of "Adult Learners' Week" which was launched in Great Britain in 1992 and responding to the European Union's initiative considering 1996 as the European Year of Lifelong Learning, the Slovene Adult Education Centre co-ordinated the organisation of Slovenia's first Lifelong Learning Week.

From September 30th until October 5th, about 55 participants from 40 different places joined forces in this country-wide manifestation and celebration of learning society. It included about 550 various events ranging from open house days, workshops, educational events, exhibitions, round-table discussions, artistic presentations, literary evenings, presentations of study circles and other programmes etc. to national and local radio and TV broadcasts as well as publications in national and local newspapers. Activities at the national level were carried out by the Slovene Adult Education Centre, coinciding with the celebration of the Centre's 5th anniversary. On the other hand, the activities at the local level were opportunities for the providers of different forms of learning in local communities (folk high schools, private providers of education, study circles etc.) to promote their programmes and above all, to address the public and evoke a general acceptance of the idea of lifelong learning.

At the moment we are in the process of collecting feedback information, impressions, suggestions and photodocumentary material, and can promise you a more detailed analysis of Slovenia's first Lifelong Learning Week in the next issue of *Novičke*.



**The Opening of the Week of Life-Long Learning  
"Slovenia has overtaken Germany"**  
Taken from a speech given by Sue Cara, NIACE  
representative from Great Britain

After presenting Britain's Adult Learning Week in brief, Sue Cara, who is responsible for the development of adult education in local communities at the British National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), also said a few words about the Slovene Week of Life-Long Learning. She expressed how pleased she was that Slovenia

was able so early to join Great Britain and the other countries that have already carried out their own Week of Adult Education or Life-Long Learning. In doing this, Slovenia ranks at the very top in the realisation of such a project in Europe and the world: it is the fifth country to succeed in doing this. Sue Cara stressed in particular that she is happy we overtook Germany. She is convinced that the mentioned countries, including Slovenia, will in the coming years be followed by many others. In her opinion our Week of Life-Long Learning is a good example of how this kind of event should be organised and carried out. She wished us all the best in carrying out this year's Week of Life-Long Learning and that it will be followed by many more in the years to come. In conclusion, Sue Cara said: "At NIACE we deal a lot with the development of ideas of a place of learning. But, Slovenia is the first to strive towards becoming a country of learning.

Summary prepared by Zoran Jelenc

## Education for the Unemployed in 1995

Tanja Vilič Klenovšek, SAEC

In Novičke, each year after the National Employment Institute's annual report comes out we publish their data on the incorporation of the unemployed in education. The report for 1995 came out in April 1996.

A chart on the incorporation of the unemployed in education published in the 1995 annual report will further illustrate the education for the unemployed (National Employment Institute, Annual Report for 1995, p. 59).

	1993	% unempl.	1994	% unempl.	1995	% unempl.
Functional training	9.282	7,2	5.550	4,3	10.290	8,5
Education	2.700	2,1	1.312	1,0	2.224	1,8
On-the-job training	3.954	3,1	2.555	2,0	2.753	2,3
Off-the-job training	1.062	0,8	315	0,2	283	0,2
Training programmes	965	0,7	1.036	0,8	906	0,7
Together	17.963	13,9	10.768	8,5	16.456	13,5
Average no. of unempl.	129.087	100	127.056	100	121.483	100

From the data in the chart we can see that, in comparison with the previous year, the proportion of the unemployed in education in 1995 increased (from 8.5% in 1994 to 13.5% in 1995), but is still several decimal points lower than in 1993 when the proportion (13.9%) was more encouraging, that is greater than in 1992 when around 10% of the unemployed were incorporated in education.

1994 was truly a bad year in view of possibilities for incorporating the unemployed in education, since it was interrupted for several months because of a lack of funds. This resulted in a lower proportion of unemployed people being incorporated in education than in the previous year and this obviously was not encouraging for completely satisfying the needs for incorporating the unemployed in the following year. Those remaining in 1994 certainly increased the priority of incorporating the unemployed in education in 1995. In light of these problems we would have expected the proportion of the unemployed incorporated in education to increase considerably in 1994 (to satisfy the vital needs from 1994 and of course all the needs on the priority list in 1995). Sadly, we still find that the extent to which the unemployed are incorporated in education continues to depend more on the money available from the funds allocated for the operation of the employment offices and their programmes and that the expressed education needs represent a secondary element when allocating funds - the funding decisions are made on the opportunities for providing the education. So, the situation is still more about quenching the most pressing needs than providing opportunities for the unemployed to enrol in education programmes which have longer-term effects or in which the effects appear after a longer period of education - for example comprehensive education programmes, education programmes that are mutually supplementary and - parallel to longer term education - guarantee that the unemployed receive benefits to live off while enrolled in education, for example programmes for the psychosocial rehabilitation of the long-term unemployed and similar. It is true that the unemployed are already enrolling in these educational programmes, but in a smaller extent than indicated by the needs for this kind of education. Although the number of those without jobs has fallen somewhat in the last three years, the educational profile of the unemployed continues to be unfavourable in view of the needs of the labour market, while there has been an increase in the proportion of the long-term unemployed and senior unemployed people. Thus, certain groups of the unemployed are being pushed even further to the outskirts of social activity and often also to the edges of a normal life worth living.

The data in the chart shows something else that is interesting: the ratios of those incorporated in separate forms of educational programmes in the past three years continues to be approximately the same. So, the programmes that prevailed in 1995 were also functional education programmes, these were followed by on-the-job training programmes, then "education" programmes - this category included formal qualification programmes - financed by the employment institutes for the unemployed individual, for example the final year of study for a qualification if only this year is lacking for

completing a qualification either for a vocation (re-qualification), followed by training programmes and on-the-job training programmes.

In 1995 first-time job seekers, the long-term unemployed, job seekers without a professional education and older unemployed people were given priority in their incorporation in education. Even more attention was directed to the comprehensive treatment of the unemployed individual. From the viewpoint of education, this means that the unemployed enter education according to a planned vocational route and the relevance of education as regards employment opportunities. A word of advice we offer counsellors at the employment offices is that when directing the unemployed towards education they should be careful of a point, and that is that opportunities for finding immediate employment after education should not prevail in the overall strategy and provision of education for the unemployed. This is because we know that the unemployed also need to obtain knowledge in subjects which do not always directly lead to employment, but are often a prerequisite in ensuring that the unemployed person is in fact even motivated and prepared or capable of entering education and quite often also for them to educate themselves. This contributes towards maintaining the psycho-social activities necessary for the individual to stay in the mainstream of events and not become lost in the crowd of those who are "written off". This education enables him or her after a longer period of time, also thanks to their own activities, to become active again, either as an employee or associate employee in some other form of activity.



## Preparations for Beginning Work in Study Circles

Slavica Černoša, SAEC

The Ministry of Education and Sport published a call for applications for the funding of adult education in the 1996/97 academic year and 71 study circles fulfilled the terms of the application and received funding for their activities. This means that this year the project will have over 25 per cent more organisations than last year. Our family is thus expanding and growing stronger and we hope this will be the case in the future.

Within the framework of the Week of Life-Long Learning, which took place from 30th September to 5th October, and on the occasion of the 5th Anniversary of the Slovene Adult Education Centre, we were pleased to ceremoniously present certificates to the new study circle leaders and mentors who successfully completed their training this



year. We hope that they will show as much enthusiasm in their work on this project as the leaders and mentors who entered the project before them.

In September study circle leaders received a letter with instructions for work in the 1996/97 academic year including all the necessary forms, contracts and other useful advice. A few changes have been introduced this year, particularly for organisations that have already participated in the project in previous years.

The last school year ended with the month of August 1996. All the rights and obligations they had by contract for carrying out the study circles in that academic year thus terminated, too. It is now already possible to (unofficially) report that 126 study circles were active in the past school year. The official data will be available by the end of December 1996.

After reviewing and successfully assessing the study circles that had completed their work and sent in all the necessary documentation in time, the third segment of funding has been given to the following study circles:

### **The Museum Study Circle, Folk High School of Ilirska Bistrica**

For the second year now, the circle has been investing its efforts towards the establishment of a museum in Ilirska Bistrica. The participants have been studying local history and customs, preparing lectures and discussing particular topics. Thus, this year after investing 60 hours of work, the study circle members created a "visitation" that linked and stimulated all the neighbouring towns and revived old, forgotten customs. The event made a strong impact in the mass media.

### **Let's Organise our Town (Knežak), Folk High School of Postojna**

In two years, the study circle members have helped in increasing people's awareness of the importance of environmental preservation. They prepared a campaign to tidy-up their environment, tidied up a place called Lokev and thus continued their campaign to make Knežak a tidy place. They also designed a pamphlet presenting their work. The study circle encompassed 46 hours of activities.

### **The "Ray" Photography Study Circle, Folk High School of Sežana**

Members of the study circle captured in their camera lenses images from the Karst countryside, prepared an exhibition of photography on the occasion of a Slovene cultural holiday and a thematic exhibition titled Kosovel's Poetry in Photography. They also organised the Karst '96 Photographic Extempore, took part in the exhibitions and competitions organised by other photographic clubs and received awards for their work. This vast amount of work, which also had wide media coverage, encompassed 146 hours of work.



## **The Natural Sciences Learning Path, Vitra Cerknica**

The efforts of the members of this study circle are aimed at preserving nature and knowledge about it so that nature lovers can find their ways to its beauty, whereby paying heed to its principles and preserving it in its natural form. They have also investigated the possibilities of using the natural science-path to promote tourism, but in such a way that it would not endanger the environment with new pollution. Their environmental work has been well-received by their community and has made quite an impact in the press. To round-off their activities they prepared a wide-reaching tidy-up campaign on the banks of the river Cerkniščica, organised an exhibition and published a report on their achievements accomplished in 50 hours of activity.

## **Make-It-Yourself Solar Collectors, Vitra Cerknica**

The preservation of nature and the use of natural sources of energy were the guiding principles behind the work of the members of this study circle. Based on research and with the help of experts they made solar collectors for heating washing-water. The study circle members' work made quite an impact in their community and aroused interest in this energy source. The study circle members described their 53-hours of activities in a publication that was published at the end of the study circle last year.

## **Let's Preserve the Oil-Drilling Tower, Lendava Union of Cultural Organisations**

The dilapidation of the oil-drilling tower in Petišovci drove members of the study circle to try and preserve it and prepare it for visitors as a natural museum. In addition to the tower, they prepared a plan to exhibit the other tools once used to dig for oil. They prepared a concept for the oil-industry museum in Petišovci and presented it to the public.

## **Helping Ourselves First, Society of the Blind and Partially-Sighted of Slovenia**

Members of the study circle set out to prove to themselves and others that with strong will and confidence it is possible to overcome all obstacles, even those which may at first seem insurmountable. They would like to help themselves first and later on other people who are blind or partially sighted in their incorporation into society and in overcoming their fears, prejudice and building their confidence. At the end of the circle, which lasted 33 hours the members prepared a public debate.

## **Lace as Decoration, Centre for Social Work, Ravne na Koroškem**

Through their work and love of lace the members of this study circle contributed towards the preservation and revival of this craft. They promoted ideas on the

