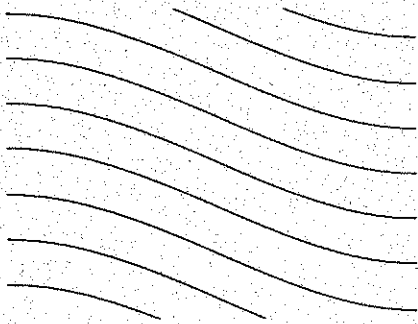


Andragoški center Republike Slovenije
Slovene Adult Education Centre

NOVIČKE



SUMMER 1997

▲ SLOVENIA FROM NOVIČKE TO NOVIČKE ● Foreign Analysts Positive About the Slovene Economy ● Solving Common Problems Within a United Europe ● Public Opinion in Favour of Joining the EU and NATO ● Family Life in Slovenia ● Fiftieth Anniversary of the College of Maritime Studies ● First Issue of "Slovene Linguistic Studies" Magazine ● Treasures of the Architect, Jože Plečnik ● Slovene Ethnographic Museum Moves to New Premises ● The First Anniversary of the "Mačkurja" ▲ SAEC EVENTS ● Work Plan of the Slovene Adult Education Centre ● Library of the Slovene Adult Education Centre ● Preparations for the Launch of the Centre for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) ● Research Progress Report: "Evaluation of the Labour-Force Education Policy with Emphasis on Education for the Unemployed - Part 2 ● Examinations for Master Craftsmen, Managers and Foremen and APL ▲ SLOVENE ADULT EDUCATION SCENE ● In the Middle of Curriculum Renewal ● Annual Adult Educators Conference ● Study Circles as a Form of Museum Work ● What's New at the Exchange? ● The Role of Classification in the Renewal of Professional Education ● Lifelong Learning - the Key to the 21st Century ● Adult Literacy Research in Slovenia ● Lifelong Learning Week in Slovenia Again This Year

Publisher: Slovene Adult Education Center, Editor: Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik

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: Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik - editor and head of the Information Centre, Meri Beganovič - design & DTP.
- Novičke is translated by Amidas, d.o.o. and printed by Tiskarna Štok.
- 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.edus.si

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SLOVENIA FROM NOVIČKE TO NOVIČKE



Foreign Analysts Positive About the Slovene Economy

Autumn forecasts by foreign analysts were characterised by predictions of lower economic growth in Slovenia - the estimates for 1996 dropped from 4.5 percent to 2.9 percent on average - but expectations improved in the spring. It is obvious that the new forecasts had taken into account the official statistical corrections of GDP growth and goods exchange estimates made late last year, and the stronger economic growth in the second half of last year. Londonbased NOMURA classifies Slovenia among the countries which last year strongly exceeded original expectations, whilst the OECD and EBRD place it in the group of the most-developed countries in transition.

Foreign analysts' average estimate of the 1996 GDP growth was 3.4 percent, which is close to the estimate that the Office for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (OMAD) made last autumn (3.5 percent). As most forecasts were made before OMAD's latest publication of the 3.1 percent GDP growth in 1996, it is expected that foreign analysts will lower the estimates of GDP growth in 1996 in their future reports.

Slovenia's economic growth in 1997 and 1998 will strengthen. Most institutes even increased their forecasts, with only two (DAIWA in Dun & Bradstreet Int.) lowering them. DAIWA corrected its fairly high forecast (from five to four percent), whilst D&B Int. has already included OMAD's early estimate for 1996. The latest foreign analyses also include expected GDP growth levels for 1998, nearly all of which range between 3.5 and 4.5 percent.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 23, June 21, 1997, p. 14)



Solving Common Problems Within a United Europe

The presidents of eight Central European countries, Milan Kučan (Slovenia), Oscar Luigi Scalfaro (Italy), Árpád Göncz (Hungary), Thomas Klestil (Austria), Roman Herzog (Germany), Václav Havel (the Czech Republic), Michal Kováč (Slovakia) and Aleksander Kwasniewski (Poland) gathered for their fourth meeting on 6 and 7 June in Piran. Slovenia's President Kučan said that the Piran summit brought a three-fold message:

the belief that all European countries and nations belong to a united Europe, that security is the natural aspiration of all European nations, and the faith in the creativity of Central-European thought continues.

Among the goals and interests common to the eight countries represented at the meeting, President Kučan discussed republican states with their own national identity, economic and political development, security, peace, tolerance and respect for the different. The countries gathered in Piran are trying to attain these goals and values also through alliances and memberships in Euro-Atlantic structures.

The official welcoming ceremony for the eight presidents was held on Friday afternoon at Tartini Square in Piran. An honorary unit of the Slovene Army and the Slovene police band were assembled there. In his opening speech, Milan Kučan said that the countries in Central Europe are bound by the same spiritual, ethical and moral values and are ready to implement them within European integrations: only open countries, which are internally free and based on free and equal citizenship, are able to become a part of the world of free cooperation.

To commemorate this important event, a wind-rose bearing the inscription "The Fourth Meeting of Presidents of Central European Countries" and set into the paving of Tartini Square in Piran was unveiled on Friday evening. The sculpture was designed by Slovene architect Boris Podrecca. After their primary discussions on Friday, the eight presidents signed the Golden Book of the town of Piran. On Saturday morning, the presidents presented their concluding thoughts on the meeting at a joint press conference which was attended by about 200 Slovene and foreign journalists.

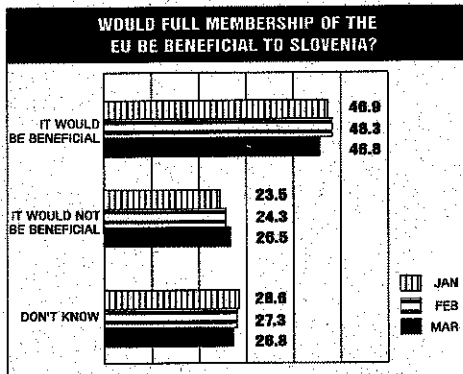
(Slovenia Weekly, No. 22, June 14, 1997, p. 12, 13)



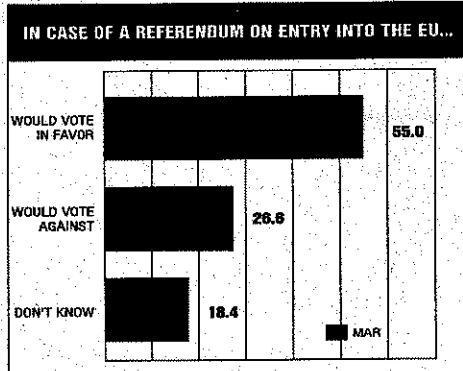
Public Opinion in Favour of Joining the EU and NATO

At the Centre for Researching Public Opinion and the Multi-Media, which is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, a regular monthly public opinion survey is carried out. It is called the Politbarometer and it serves to determine and monitor the viewpoints of those polled with regard to current political events in Slovenia. The research is based on a representative sample of Slovenian citizens of voting age, who participate in a standardised telephone polling interview (CATI). We present some results of this year's March poll in connection with the "European orientation" and "opinions regarding joining the NATO Alliance".





CJM POLITBAROMETER, March 1997



CJM POLITBAROMETER, March 1997

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 15, April 19, 1997, p. 14)

Family Life in Slovenia

An average West European couple is well above 25 years of age when they have their first child, while in Holland the average has already gone beyond 30. A similar trend is present in Slovenia, although the average age of women giving birth to their first child is still somewhat lower, a survey showed on the position of women in Slovenia in the period between 1990 and 1995, published by the government's Office for Women's Policy.

The trend is mostly due to the so called LAT (living apart together) phenomenon denoting a child's prolonged living in the home of his/her parents even after completing their studies. In most cases, the young are economically dependent but socially independent of their parents. Similarly, the fertility rate is also increasing in higher age groups with couples deciding to have their first child later than before. In 1994, the highest fertility rate was recorded between 25 and 29 years of age. 1995 showed age groups 30-34 and 35-39 as more active. Also down is the number of marriages. Most couples marry between their 25th and 29th birthdays.

The number of divorces has also decreased since 1992. A possible reason is poor financial position of such couples who simply "cannot afford" a divorce as a single parent is even less able to raise a child than a family with two incomes.

Divorces are the most frequent in families with one child (40.0 percent), followed by families without children (33.4 percent) and couples with two children (24.0 percent). Divorces are the least frequent in families with three or more children (2.5 percent).

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 9, March 8, 1997, p. 9)



Fiftieth Anniversary of the College of Maritime Studies

Among the many schools and colleges in Slovenia currently celebrating their half-century is the College of Maritime Studies in Portorož. As part of a range of celebrations with which the school is marking its role in the nautical development of the country, last Friday's official celebration in the Portorož Auditorium was particularly significant. In attendance were representatives of every generation to have passed through the college, as well as a large number of VIPs. In his welcoming speech, President Milan Kučan remarked that "with the establishment of this school and the unification of the Primorska (coastal) region with the homeland, the foundation had been laid for the maritime future of our country and the Slovene state, linking Slovenia decisively and irrevocably to the sea". Other speakers at the celebration also stressed that the College of Maritime Studies had been a cornerstone in the development of all that later grew into Slovene seamanship - Splošna Plovba Portorož, The Port of Koper, Izola Dockyards, fishing, salt-extraction, maritime freight and agency activity, the Sergej Mašera Maritime Museum, the Marine Biology Station and the Nautical and Transport College. Over the last fifty years, 3548 students have completed their education at the school, over 2000 of them sailors. Many of them are captains of Slovene and foreign ships and are acknowledged maritime and transport experts. In the words of the principal Franc Uljan, the school can present its past achievements with pride and, at the same time, prepare for the future. To this end, it is planning a new technical college programme and introducing new education and information technology.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 13, April 5, 1997, p. 5)



First Issue of "Slovene Linguistic Studies" Magazine

The Institute for Slovene Language, Fran Ramovš at Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts (SAZU), together with the Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Centre for Humanities, Kansas, has published the first issue of the magazine "Slovene Linguistic Studies".

Slovene Linguistic Studies is a multilingual biennial periodical; it is devoted exclusively to linguistic research on the Slovene language. It contains articles written in Slovene, English and other languages, aimed at fostering dialogue on the subject which transcends state and language borders. The authors in the first issue come from Slovenia and the vicinity, as well as from the USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, Estonia and Israel. The texts are written in Slovene, English, German and Russian, and they are all accompanied by a summary in both Slovene and English.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 23, June 21, 1997, p. 10,11)



Treasures of the Architect, Jože Plečnik

The Exhibition "Treasures of Gold, Treasures of the Spirit" opened in Ljubljana's National Gallery on Thursday, featuring over 60 ciboriums, chalices and monstrances designed by Slovenia's world-famous architect and designer, Jože Plečnik. This is the largest exhibition of Plečnik's sacral vessels ever, after similar works of his were first presented in Celje in 1991. Most of the objects on display, obtained from 40 locations in Slovenia and abroad, are still in daily liturgical use. The exhibition also features over 70 original drawings and designs for the objects on display by Plečnik. Many of them, including the famous Zagreb monstrance, are being shown to the public for the first time.

The exhibition, part of the European Cultural Month in Ljubljana 1997, was organised by the Museum of Architecture of Slovenia. Plečnik's work is also currently being exhibited at the Ljubljana Castle in an exhibition entitled Plečnik and the Prague Castle, and at the Fužine Castle in an exhibition entitled Jože Plečnik - Ljubljana's Urban Space.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 22, June 14, 1997, p. 11)



Slovene Ethnographic Museum Moves to New Premises

The Slovene Ethnographic Museum has moved to new premises during the ongoing European Month of Culture in Ljubljana. It will stage three new exhibitions over the coming months which will later form its permanent exhibition. The newly-renovated premises were opened on Thursday by the Minister of Culture, Jožef Školč.

A three-part exhibition project entitled the Slovene Ethnographic Museum - Act One Presentation - includes an exhibition of objects from North America collected by renowned Slovene missionary Frederick Barraga, an exhibition entitled Circle Doors

on Barraga's birth and early childhood in Slovenia, and an exhibition entitled Window of Collections involving various objects drawn from the ethnographic museum's entire collection.

The museum's new premises are located on the south wing of the former Belgian Military Barracks, built during the AustriaHungarian Monarchy in the late 19th century. The complex is to become Ljubljana's new multicultural centre hosting a number of institutions which, in addition to the Slovene Ethnographic Museum, also include the National Museum, the Museum of Modern Arts, the Academy for Theatre, Radio, Film and Television, whilst some of the buildings will be dedicated to non-institutional artistic creativity.

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 21, June 7, 1997, p. 10)



The First Anniversary of the "Mat'kurja"

The friendly hen which represents Slovenia on the pages of the world wide web, is celebrating its first birthday. After the first web pages were made in Slovenia at the Jožef Stefan Institute on November 20, 1990, a group of authors under the name of "Mat'Kurja" joined in on the promotion of Slovenia on the Internet on March 1, 1996 (<http://www.ijs.si/slo/>). The group of authors was working under the sponsorship of the Government Public Relations and Media Office and produced an entirely new image of Slovenia on the Internet. Its first birthday was celebrated with a modernised graphic design, easier access to information and the hen being specially designed for the occasion, carrying a cake with one candle in its arms. Over this last year, 64,110 Mb of documents travelled through the pages of the Internet, confirming the great importance of this site in the promotion of Slovenia.



The Government Public Relations and Media Office has also recently joined the international communications network of the world wide web by introducing its own home page on the Internet ([http:// www.uvi.si/slo/](http://www.uvi.si/slo/)).

(Slovenia Weekly, No. 16, April 26, 1997, p. 10)



SAEC EVENTS



Work Plan of the Slovene Adult Education Centre 1997

The previous issue roughly outlined the work of the Slovene Adult Education Centre in 1996. This time, we will briefly describe some of what we have planned for 1997. The work plan was adopted by the SAEC council in March, but the government of the Republic of Slovenia, the SAEC's founder, has yet to discuss and approve the plan.

In its 1997 plan, the SAEC pays special attention to resolving the status of SAEC field projects, adult-education curriculum renewal, training and upgrading programmes for adult education work and international literacy research in Slovenia, in addition to the basic orientation towards consultative, development and research work.

Functional literacy is a project whereby we are developing measures to discover, reduce and remove the consequences of functional illiteracy among adults. The tools of international adult literacy research contains a special section aimed at determining the inclusion in education for the previous year; we have extended this so that we will be able to cover information on the inclusion of adults in formal and non-formal education and to analyse the varied features of and circumstances surrounding their education.

Study circles are fairly well established in Slovenia as a form of non-formal education intended to satisfy the personal needs of individuals for education relating to the development projects of their environment. We would like to establish this form of learning in as many places and different institutions in Slovenia as possible, including non-educational institutions which bring people together on the basis of their varied interests and needs.

Project learning for young adults builds on the project of the **Youth learning clubs**, which we established the basis for and developed in recent years. The programme is aimed at young unemployed people (aged 15 to 27) who have left education and have no vocational education. The educational programme is based on three modules: general education, personal development and vocational education (or understanding a vocation), while we implement it as a learning method in learning projects based on the principles of choice and gradualism.

In the **Promotion of unemployed education development** project we have prepared - on the basis of the previously developed methodology of evaluating educational programmes - the basis for producing tools to monitor unemployed education at the micro level (at the level of educational programmes). In 1997 we will prepare tools for current monitoring of unemployed education and will introduce workshops for professional staff of the employment institutes, who guide, advise and organise unemployed education.

We can also say that the **Development of organised autonomous learning project** has taken root, since so far educational and other institutions have shown a great deal of interest in this type of learning and education; and in certain places, this approach has been brought into practice. In 1997, we will continue our previous activities, but we will pay more attention in particular to informing the wider public.

We have managed to link people in Ljubljana, Maribor and Novo Mesto together in **learning exchanges**, which enable the exchange of knowledge between those who have it and those who don't; we are planning a fourth exchange in the Primorska region, provided we find a suitable provider. Exchanges are also expected to be opened within the context of municipalities.

We wish to use the **Centre for accreditation of prior learning (APL)** to enable verification and checking of knowledge obtained by individuals outside organised education. The project supplements the introduction of independent learning (the possibility for people learning independently to assess their knowledge) and is a constituent part of the introduction of the certification system in Slovenia. This year, we plan a number of activities, including further cooperation with the relevant institutions, the establishment of the APL centre at the SAEC as part of the examination centres system of the National Examination Centre, preparation of the required professional foundations (proposed learning achievements) for the programme of extended adult education, so that later the programme can be entirely or partly provided by a system of assessing and certifying knowledge. This year, we will gradually begin to experimentally provide the programme and its modules. We plan to produce an operational plan of trial introductions of individual modules, of reviewing and selection of professional literature, the development of teaching materials for preparing didactic sets, and the preparation, introduction and evaluation of individual modules of the programme, in terms of contents, methodological, didactic and organisational aspects.

Preparing the implementation of the educational process and all that goes with it is one of the basic conditions for achieving and maintaining quality. Although the specific needs and characteristics of adults in education are taken into account during the development of the educational programme, it is only with the implementation plan that the suitability of the contents of adult education programmes, suitable relations between different organisational forms of implementation, and respect for the abilities, previous knowledge and learning styles and techniques of adults in education programmes can be ensured. We plan to carry out a project lasting several years - **The methodology of preparing implementation plans for adult education programmes**, while this year we will produce a theoretical model of the contents of the implementation plan, and will prepare and carry out a questionnaire in selected adult-education providers.

The work of the **Sectoral curriculum committee for adult education** will amongst other things this year encompass the preparation of proposals of various training programmes for adult educators in preparing educational programmes, preparation of professional opinions during discussion of adult education programmes to be studied by the programme curriculum committee and other sectoral curriculum committees, the preparation of professional materials on the introduction of a certification system in adult education, preparation of draft recommendations for preparing catalogues of knowledge and for preparing examination catalogues, completion of the review of

public adult education programmes, and preparation of draft materials for the Starting-points for the preparation of adult vocational and professional education programmes.

In recent years we have prepared the professional basis of the **National programme for adult education**, and in this context set the goals and infrastructure activities (network of providers and advisors, network of programmes, information base) and the elements for coordination between departments and social partners which need to be developed for the implementation of the long-term goals of the national programme. This year, we will discuss the national programme in professional organisations, and amend it in conjunction with providers. The Slovene Adult Education Centre as a professional institution takes part in the preparation of new laws and secondary legislation governing the status of adult education and in the assessment of current legislation by providing expert opinions. We will also take part in such preparations this year.

On the basis of existing systems for monitoring and classifying the contents of education at various levels (national, company, educational organisation) and of the review of the monitoring systems in other countries and at the international level, the work will be aimed at preparing a **standard classification of educational contents** for adults at the national level, which would use planning and monitoring of supply and demand of adult education activities.

We are also preparing everything needed to define the basic concept of **advisory activities** and of the basic fields of development of advisory activities in adult education. We will define the plan of the long-term research and development work for the development of advisory activities in adult education, and will prepare a questionnaire, which will provide us with information on the conditions and on the need for advisory activities for adult education.

We will participate in the **Development of adult education in Slovenia, 1945-1990** project with two subprojects, **Worker's and folk universities 1945-1990**, and the **Development of the conceptualisation and systemic order of adult education 1945-1990**.

Following the publication of the monograph **Adult Education Research in the Period of Transition**, we will continue the project by establishing and coordinating a research network of adult education in the period of transition. We will continue to design the applied research project **Education for democracy**, which we will also offer to other countries in transition. In this way, we will take care of the gathering and flow of information and materials on adult education research in these countries through: the operation of the **Regional Information-Documentation Centre for CEE Countries (RIDCEEC)** and by publishing the information newsletter **Adult Education Research Exchange**, which contains information on adult education research in the CEE countries and is issued twice a year.

Overall scheme of science and the system of adult education is a research project which will enable us to produce a theoretically deep and empirically supported scheme of adult education sciences as an equally important part of the (meta)theory or science of education and of the whole macrosystem of science with all essential levels needed for the definition of a science: *logos, episteme, tekhnè, pragme* and

praxis in confrontation with all types of reality: nature, man and society. Such a scheme will form the basis for the definition of the adult education system and for consideration of the current system of terminology and concepts.

Organisation of employee education in the commercial sector is an applied research project which deals with and compares the status of employee education in the commercial sector, and the demand for employee education which has arisen during the economic and ownership transformation processes in Slovenia. On the basis of these findings we will design a model of the organisation of education in companies most suited to the current ownership, market, management and other orientations of the economy.

Target research programme: Slovenia, a learning country is based on the recognition that lifelong learning is the broadest base and guiding principle of all education. During the conceptualisation, dealt with by the leading experts and organisations around the world, each country must produce its own strategy for the development of adult education and learning, taking into account adults' specific characteristics, needs and possibilities. This also applies to Slovenia. The basic guideline for the development of the lifelong learning and education strategy is defined by the phrase "Slovenia, a learning country". In 1997 we will carry out a comparative study of the origins of the concepts of "lifelong learning and education" and "the learning society, community, organisation", and will produce an operational plan for the project.

Advisory activities are one of the priority activities of the SAEC. One important aspect is the evaluation of education, policy and measures to promote and develop adult education. Advisory work is linked to both the basic organisational structure of the SAEC and the areas of study of the SAEC. It is intended for institutions and individuals. This year, we expect particular need for advisory work in the following areas in addition to the general advisory work which accompanies the work of our institution:

- **Systemic and normative issues:** last year on the basis of the new schools legislation several implementational regulations were adopted; even more were passed this year. The introduction of changes in practice always accompanies increased workloads of advice to institutions and individuals. Last year, several problems arose stemming from the legislation relating to copyright work. The problem is still not resolved; it concerns the whole field of adult education and also requires an increase in advisory work. The introduction of new professional councils requires a different procedure in the public verification of programmes; studying them and related issues also forms part of advisory work.
- **Curriculum renewal and programming in adult education:** nine programme committees work within the Sectoral curriculum commission for adult education. We carry out advisory work for them, covering notification of events in curriculum renewal in general, provision of information between committees, advice on procedures and methods of work, and on suitable links to practice. On the other hand, we provide extensive advice to adult educators and other professionals preparing new adult education programmes (these are mostly "non-public" programmes not included in the renewal). This work covers consultation on appropriate methods of formulating programmes as well as consultation linked to programme verification procedures.

- **Participation in public tenders:** fairly extensive consultation work is linked to assisting adult education institutions which wish to bid for various public tenders issued by different ministries, funds, etc. This type of tender frequently requires the preparation of extensive documentation, all of which is reflected in the volume of our advisory work.
- **Consultation relating to development projects:** the work covers consultation in introducing development projects into practice and in solving real problems arising in such projects. These projects mainly cover: study circles (around 200 mentors across Slovenia, 70 institutions), open learning centres (this year around 25 centres are expected to operate, including 11 new ones which require particularly extensive assistance), education for the unemployed (introduction of new standards and norms which affect the work and also affect the help from employment institutes), introduction of a system for assessing and certifying knowledge (we expect the introduction of a system in several sectors of the economy, we provide consultation), youth project work (trial introduction of a programme by spending one day a week consulting with providers); training programmes for functional literacy, inclusion of adults with special needs in the training programmes for functional literacy, the inclusion of Roma in education; consultation of providers and users in reviewing supply and demand.
- **Consultation with management of various institutions and organisations:** we advice on and help plan models of internal supervision, determining educational needs, training and the selection of lecturers and instructors, the design of educational programmes and the introduction of effective adult education measures in the management and organisation of educational processes.

The operation of the information system will be linked to all activities which define this field (gathering, processing and issuing of information, *Novičke*, increased library collection, publicity). We will also continue short further training programmes for adult educators and other adult education and other professional workers, we will organise an annual professional meeting with providers, and cooperate in the organisation of or organise events. Let us specifically mention that in 1996, the European year of lifelong learning, for the first time in Slovenia we organised the Lifelong learning week, which was resoundingly successful. The results of analysis show that institutions and individuals, as well as municipalities and administrative units, support this form of promotion of the lifelong learning and education strategy. Activities this year will also run at the national and local levels.

We will not neglect international cooperation, since we expect visitors from abroad who will participate in our projects, both those who will visit the Centre as a sample adult education institution, and those seeking information and contacts for further work in the Centre.

Dr Vida A. Mohorčič Špolar, SAEC



Library of the Slovene Adult Education Centre

Fifth Anniversary

Many visitors when they enter the library and see the books on the shelves (at present we have more than 2,500) ask if that's all the books we have. Jokingly, I reply by asking if we need any more. In any event, our library is one of the smallest, and this is not surprising. We have been gathering publications from a narrow, specialised (where we get the name for this type of library) field - adult education. In addition, there is also some reading material on the education of children or young people, on psychological and sociological themes, on the economy, on business management and organisation, on personnel development and other themes.

We have bought new books in line with available funding. We have received a surprising number of books as donations. Of the organisations which have donated books, let me mention the following: NIACE, The National Organization for Adult Education, the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit from London (ALBSU, now the Basic Skills Agency), the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), the Institute of Adult Education in Salzburg, the Documentation Centre of the UNESCO International Office for Education in Geneva and the Learning Resources Network (LERN) from the USA. The most important individual donors have been: Jindra Kulich from Vancouver, Carol E Kasworm from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Peter Jarvis of the University of Surrey and Jože Valentinčič.

Jože Valentinčič gave us a collection of books on adult education which he wrote himself. These belong among the core Slovene works on adult education and which of course can no longer be bought. Since a whole range of core books on adult education which a library must have are out of print, we decided to photocopy them (without fear of being punished under copyright law).

In preparing the list of foreign journals and periodicals which we have ordered, we thought long and hard and carried out consultations so as to choose the very best. At the moment we subscribe to 30 foreign journals and periodicals, as well as 29 Slovene ones. In addition, we have asked everybody publishing free journals and periodicals on adult education to put us on the list of recipients in order to know as much as possible about what is going on in the world. We have tried to repay these people by sending them copies of our *Novičke* bulletin (in English); after all, we too have things to be proud of.

The vast majority of publications, books as well as periodicals and journals, are in English. Only occasionally do we receive visitors who know German; German-language materials as a result remain largely unused. I recall one visitor looking for literature on religious education in Austria written in English; of course, she would have found more if she could also use materials in German. We generally don't order books in French, Spanish or Italian, since they would not be read.



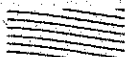
Most of the external visitors are students of adult education, but we also receive visitors from other faculties dealing with educational topics in undergraduate or postgraduate studies, from researchers and also from adult education providers.

The introduction of COBISS, a joint computerised catalogue for Slovene libraries, benefited specialised libraries most. Their collections have become more accessible in libraries and the number of loans has increased. Consequently, the effectiveness of investment in professional literature acquisitions has also increased.

Our library, like other, similar libraries, will not boast of quantitative indicators such as the number of items or the number of visitors. Our distinguishing feature will be quality: we will provide the best books and periodicals on adult education and we will handle them in such a way that users will find the right one as frequently and as readily as possible.

Please visit the reorganised library at the same times as before: Mondays and Thursdays between 2 and 4 p.m., and Wednesdays and Friday between 10 am and 12 p.m. You can also visit us at different times if you make an advance arrangement with the librarian (telephone 061 444 978).

Peter Monetti, SAEC



Preparations for the Launch of the Centre for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)

The final preparations are underway at the Slovene Adult Education Centre for the launch of the Centre for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL); this centre will allow future mentors of study circles and teachers in literacy programmes to prove their abilities. One of the most important aspects is the agreement reached with the National Examination Centre (NEC), which will verify the APL so that it will work as an authorised body of the National Examination Centre. We have contacted the director of the NEC and informed him of the operations of the centre and also with the plans, including that for expanding the network of APL centres to cover the whole country. The NEC will study the publication issued recently by the SAEC, which consists of a handbook, information intended for anyone interested in the centre's activities and as an aid for those laying the foundations of this area. At the same time, part of the publication covers the learning achievements for the two programmes - the key aspect for the centre's operation. After reviewing the literature, together with the NEC we will deal with the final preparations for the launch of the centre. We hope that we will manage, to the satisfaction of future candidates, to verify the operations of the APL as far as possible, thereby allowing the certificates obtained to function as public documents at the national level.

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