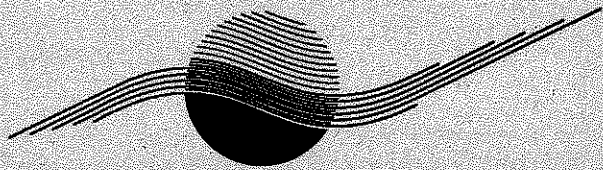


SPRING '87



Andragoški center Republike Slovenije
Slovene Adult Education Centre

NOVIČKE



LIFELONG LEARNING WEEK IN SLOVENIA

Summary of the report and the analysis

- Introduction
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Introduction

Following the example of the United Kingdom, and in response to an initiative from the European Union concerning the European Year of Lifelong Learning, we organised the first Lifelong Learning Week (LLW) in Slovenia in 1996. A number of exhibitions and activities were organised between September 30 and October 5, involving the Slovene Adult Education Centre (SAEC) and 58 other participants. We pooled our efforts and goodwill with the aim of drawing attention to our programmes and to the possibilities of education in our country, based on the slogan: "Slovenia - a Country of Learning".

Our model was the British Adult Learners' Week. We had been acquainted with the project "Adult Learners' Week" from the very beginnings. The SAEC representative Dr. Zoran Jelenc was a guest of the NIACE (The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education), the organiser of Adult Learners' Week, in May 1996. His impressions and experiences contributed considerably to the successful realisation and management of a similar project in Slovenia.

Over 450 events in Slovenia - ranging from open days, workshops, educational meetings, exhibitions, round tables, cultural events, literary evenings, presentation of study circles, knowledge exchange, independent learning centres and other adult education projects, to presentations in national and local media - reflected the rich spectrum of educational possibilities for adults. Presentations organised on the national level were mainly associated with the fifth anniversary of the operation of the Adult Education Centre, while the events organised on the local level gave the numerous institutions offering various education an opportunity to promote their activities and to present the concept of lifelong learning to a wider audience.

Below, we will provide a brief review of the activities of the Week. We will use the achievements, experiences, concepts and proposals as guidelines for planning the next such Week, hoping that it will become an annual event and a national project, welcome and accepted as a celebration for all who believe in any form of learning.



Lifelong Learning Week in Slovenia

In May 1996, SAEC drew up a draft timetable for the events. The initial concept was considerably broader, but the programme had to be reduced to a feasible size. Experience will show whether a broader campaign is desired and what preparations it would involve.

The programme included exhibitions on the national level carried out by the SAEC, and exhibitions on the local level carried out by interested parties in various areas and towns in Slovenia. Of course, the Week should also have been supported by the government, government offices, expert organisations and associations and by the commercial and social sectors. SAEC did endeavor to obtain moral and financial support from the relevant government bodies, but official confirmation and financial

assistance were never forthcoming. LLW was thus fully carried out without financial support from our government.

In June 1996, SAEC organized the first meeting of representatives of adult education providers and encouraged them to cooperate. At the same time, a special issue of SAEC's information bulletin *Novičke* "LLW 1996" was published, with articles covering the various themes. The supplement included an application form, on the basis of which the Programme of Events, as planned by individual participants, was prepared. SAEC sent circulars and other materials to radio, television and newspaper houses, thus providing nationwide media support for the Week. At the opening of the Week, a press conference was held at the SAEC, and we have been available to public media for discussion and other contributions. Another SAEC activity intended for educational organisations was the preparation of promotional material. A Programme of Events, with an LLW poster and pamphlet were a common feature of the numerous events happening all over Slovenia, and we hope that, in an improved form, these will become the trademark of many similar happenings in years to come. The third and final activity of mutual significance was a survey, in which respondents described their experience and observations for later analysis by SAEC.



Events on the national level

These exhibitions mainly took place at SAEC offices. They include the opening of the Lifelong Learning Week and a celebration of the Fifth Anniversary of SAEC activities, which were attended by notable figures from professional and political circles. A concurrent exhibition of the five years of SAEC activities and projects was staged. We organized an Open Day, and a workshop supervised by the German specialist Dr. Mona Vogl. Another important event was the awards ceremony for certificates to mentors and supervisors of study circles and teachers of literacy programmes. The Expert Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Adult Education was given an initiative for preparing awards and prizes for outstanding achievements in promoting the concept of lifelong learning.

The first Slovene Week was marked by good international participation. As many as nine foreign specialists responded to our invitations to participate in LLW: Paul Belangér from UNESCO's Education Institute, Danguoale Beresnevicziene from Lithuania, Sue Cara from the United Kingdom, Anne Gitte Munck from Denmark, Maria Horvath, Marta Mihalyfi and Margittai Katalin from Hungary, and Silvija Pongrac and Ilija Lavrnja from Croatia. Their observations of our management of the Week were very favourable.



Events on the local level

The survey form was completed by 28 of the recorded 58 participants, which is a 48% feedback rate. Despite frequent encouragement, we did not manage to elicit a

greater response. Our analysis of LLW events was based not on answers to the survey questions only, but to a large degree it also included the applications for the planned events, which were published in the Programme of Events.

Who participated?

Local-level participants in the Week came from various parts of Slovenia. Supplement 1 gives a list of the 58 participants; marked boxes show which of them returned completed survey forms. The participants were listed by regions, and Chart 1 shows participation from individual regions. Unsurprisingly, 42% of the participants (25 organisations) were from the Ljubljana region, in which the choice of educational organisations is also the largest, followed by the Maribor region with 7 participants, Celje with 6, Primorska with 5, and Notranjska and Gorenjska with 4 participants each. Only 3 participants were recorded in Koroška and 1 each in Northern Primorska, Dolenjska, Posavje and Pomurje regions. Our records show no LLW participants from the Zasavje region.

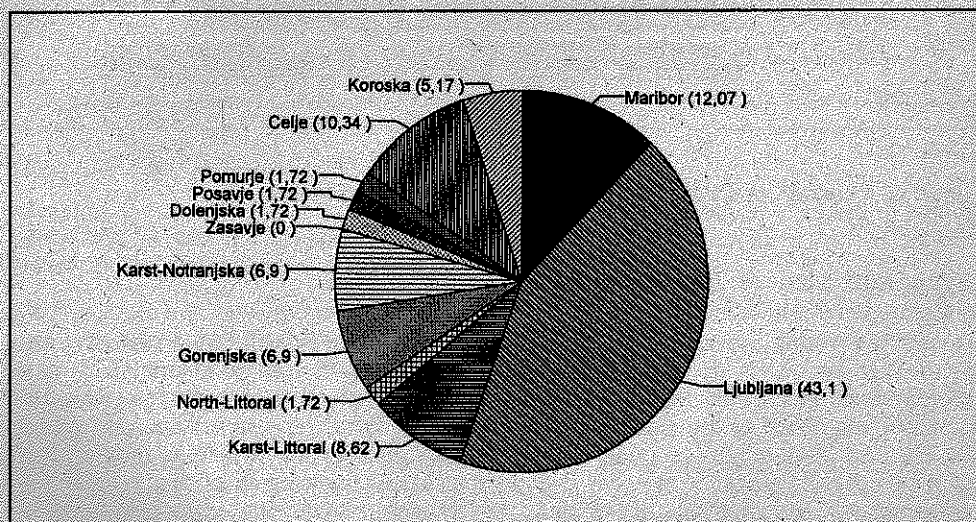


Chart 1: LLW participants by regions

Listing by type of organisation produced some interesting results. Surprisingly, private educational organisations represented the major portion with 17 participants, followed by 15 folk highschoools, and municipalities and study circles (without an umbrella organisation) with 5 participants each. Other participants were the Center for Professional Training, two libraries, a kindergarten and the Oxford Centre. The others are high schools and societies, the University was represented by the Student's Organisation,

the ZSSS Trade Union by the Podravje Regional Organisation, educational centres by KOR-CIS and chambers by the Office for Education of the Slovene Chamber of Commerce.

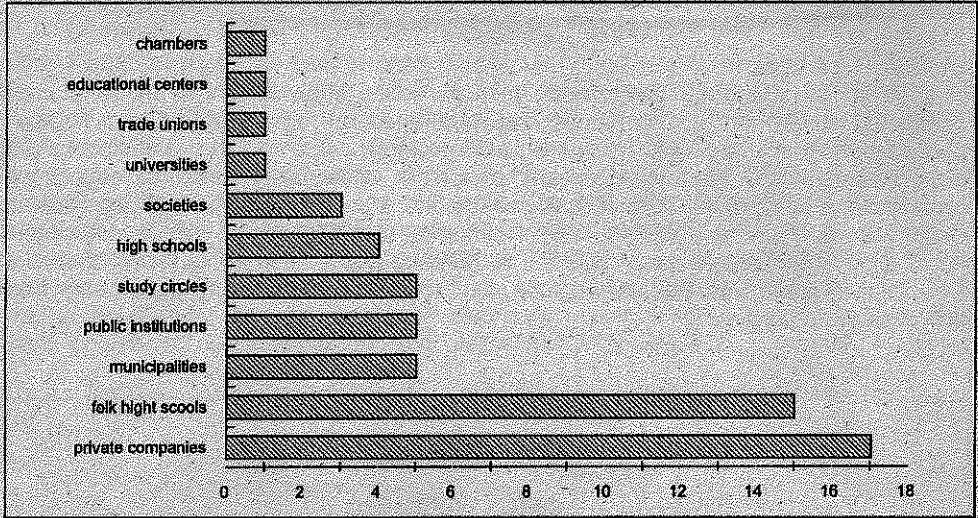


Chart 2: Number of LLW participants by type of organisation

Type and size of local events

During the Week, we counted 197 exhibitions and 456 events. Understandably, the focus was on events in which participants presented their own programmes or other programmes which they themselves carry out and which they presented to interested parties - members of the public, organisations, municipal representatives, and others. To this end, they organised open days, exhibitions and joint or individual presentations of programmes, projects, etc. We noticed that many participants chose to give their presentations in libraries, bookshops, health care institutions, shopping centres, shop-windows, etc. - locations visited by a large number of people.

Among these mainly presentational exhibitions, one particular group of exhibitions stood out in which the participants played an active role. These were mainly workshops, practical training, testing and evaluation, organised advice, conversation in foreign languages, organised discussions, club meetings, round tables, consultation. There were fewer of these than the first, but they could attract as much attention and generate interest among the visitors.

The third group of exhibitions and events was those accompanying the activities which we mainly presented at LLW (education, learning). These are: opening ceremony of

the LLW, receptions, social events, cultural events, presentations of books and publications, handing out awards, press conferences, municipal conferences.

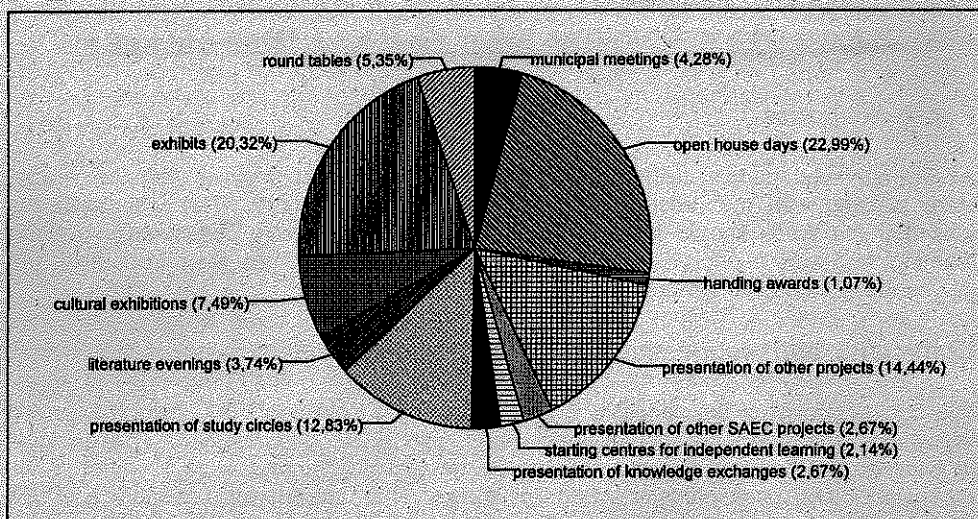


Chart 3: LLW exhibitions and events

Although the events and exhibitions of the LLW can be viewed as a series of events happening at various locations, many of the participants and programmes effectively linked these events into a comprehensive block.

Data from the survey indicate that about 10,000 people attended the LLW, but this figure includes less than half the participants.

Promotional materials

Participants used the posters, pamphlets and Programme of Events issued by the SAEC. But most did not find the joint promotional material sufficient, showing their inventiveness by issuing their own promotional and information bulletins, brochures, pamphlets, posters, invitations to participate and invitations to visit the exhibitions, postcards, educational programme brochures, notice boards, messages for the public media and for families, questionnaires for visitors, advertisements in newspapers and on radio stations.

Advertising in public media

Local level participants generated sufficient media support for their activities. According to data from the survey, a total of 168 advertisements were launched during the Week. By media used, they are divided into:

Type of public media	Number of events
Radio broadcasts	108
Television broadcasts	16
Newspapers and magazines	44

Public response

All the surveyed parties claim that the public response was positive, that the visitors were pleased with the presentations and were eager for more. They welcomed the idea that the Week should become an annual event for all who participate in lifelong learning, and were especially grateful for the expert advice and help given in participating in various educational programmes.

Comments and suggestions of the participants

The basic concept of the necessity and the manner of organising the Lifelong Learning Week was supported by all participants who responded to our survey. The question of whether SAEC support was sufficient was answered affirmatively by 12 participants, otherwise most participants claimed insufficient financial support, missed a SAEC representative's presence at their presentations and demanded better coordination of the exhibitions, more inventive ideas and clear instructions, more promotional material concerning SAEC projects in general, not just the LLW, and better support in public media.

In the future, they expect the SAEC to forward them information about their findings, operations and the success of other educational organisations in Slovenia and abroad, a summary of this year's experience and organisation of a meeting for exchanging such experience, a conference or seminar about LLW and international meetings connected to LLW, organised excursions - to LLW's abroad, preparation of the project LLW 97 on three levels: national, regional and individual organisational level, expert advice, coordination, content guidelines, cooperation with SAEC specialists on regional levels, selection in coordinating exhibitions and assistance in coordinating related activities, personal visits by SAEC representatives to event sites, assistance in acquiring government money or direct financial assistance, preparation of a tender for which organisations could apply, involvement of public media and local government, preparation of joint promotional material and timely distribution.



Initiatives for the next LLW

In addition to the demands from the preceding paragraph, which mainly concern the SAEC's role in local LLW organisation, respondents produced the following proposals for next year: organisation of LLW should be started immediately, and potential participants should be invited to brainstorming sessions, which would result in new

and useful initiatives, ideas and proposals for LLW 97. Detailed instructions for the organisation of LLW should be drawn up, as well as a system for motivating organisations, participants, mayors, ministers, company management and others. A media campaign plan should be drawn up.

All the surveyed entities unanimously agreed to participate again next year, not by expanding the size, but by improving the quality of their presentations, to award prizes and to cooperate with the local communities and other organisations. And of course, they will try to generate a better public response.



Final Conclusions

On the basis of our analysis and other data and indicators, including our own observations, we concluded that the first Slovene Lifelong Learning Week was a success. This judgment is based on the following data and observations:

59 varied participants responded, which is a large number. The participants were from 28 communities from all over of Slovenia, with 40 exhibitions sites. The participants staged 197 exhibitions involving 456 events. The events included awards ceremonies attended by representatives of the government and municipal political, social and expert bodies and organisations. The Week encouraged the opening of new training and educational centres (i.e. centres for independent study) and increased interest in cooperation in various educational and training projects. Various educational institutions and municipal leaderships and institutions participated in the successful completion of the exhibitions. Public media intensely cooperated during the Week with numerous announcements (i.e. 163 announcements on the local level). The events of the Week were visited by guests from six foreign countries, including the director of UNESCO's Education Institute in Hamburg and a representative of the British National Institute for Adult Education, which was the first to organise such an event.

Through the Week's events, we operated on both the national and the regional levels. We find it most significant that local and municipal government welcomed and supported the exhibitions. We are considerably less satisfied about the fact that the Slovene Government and the Minister of Education and Sport failed to officially respond to our initiatives for organising the Week. A pleasing contrast to this is the satisfaction and acknowledgment expressed by all those who viewed the Week as an opportunity, and who implemented their programmes mainly in addition to their professional programmes and obligations using their own funds. We can also be satisfied with the fact that we managed to organise the Week and achieve success in such a short time, making Slovenia one of the first five countries in the world to organise such an exhibition. All this strengthens our belief that we should continue organising the Lifelong Learning Week. This should become an annual exhibition, a continuing Slovene project, a celebration of learning, and our guide to realising our motto: "Slovenia - A Country of Learning".



Our conclusions and other data encouraged us to submit the following proposals to the relevant organisations and the leadership of the Slovene Adult Education Centre for evaluation:

The project should be continued and should become a comprehensive Slovene project for promoting lifelong learning. Below are some of the future tasks essential to the success of this project:

Obtaining official support from the Slovene Government, which would define the project as a project of national interest with appropriate material and organisational support. The Slovene Adult Education Centre must include the project in its work programme for 1997 and provide sufficient material and organisational support and the necessary personnel. Local subjects should be engaged in the project as soon as possible, both administrative bodies and educational institutions, and should accept the project as a possibility for advancing the education of all the people in their area and for introducing the concept and strategy of lifelong learning. The future realisation of the project should be based on experience from 1996, the critical opinions and proposals expressed in the survey and the conclusions drawn from this report. A meeting with LLW 1996 participants should be organized as soon as possible. We have already concluded that the 1996 project was mainly lacking in awards for learning achievements. This part of the project must be included already in 1997, which would truly make the Week a Slovene Festival of Learning. We must continue to seek sufficient media support for LLW and try to stimulate the media (mainly radio and TV) to provide information and advice on training and education programmes in their regular broadcasts. The Slovene LLW must be part of the international project (linked to the Socrates programme) already planned by the UK as the supervisor and initiator of the LLW both at home and on the international scene. In this, the Slovene LLW could be used as a factor for comparing and influencing the planning of such Weeks in other countries. With this, the Slovene LLW should also earn international financial support. This report must be translated into English and presented and acknowledged abroad.

We are aware that, in this first Lifelong Learning Week, not everything was as we would have liked it, but we agree with the critical conclusions expressed by the participants in their answers to our questions. We would like to thank everybody who helped the LLW to become a success despite the limited time and resources, and we look forward to our cooperation in the future, hoping that together we will eliminate all the shortcomings we have discovered.

Analysis carried out by: Dr. Zoran Jelenc and Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, M.Sc.

The work group for preparing and supervising the Lifelong Learning Week consisted of: Irena Benedik, Slavica Černoša, Zoran Jelenc, Sonja Klemenčič, Barbara Kranjc, Ester Možina, Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, Maša Stavanja, Manica Žmauc.

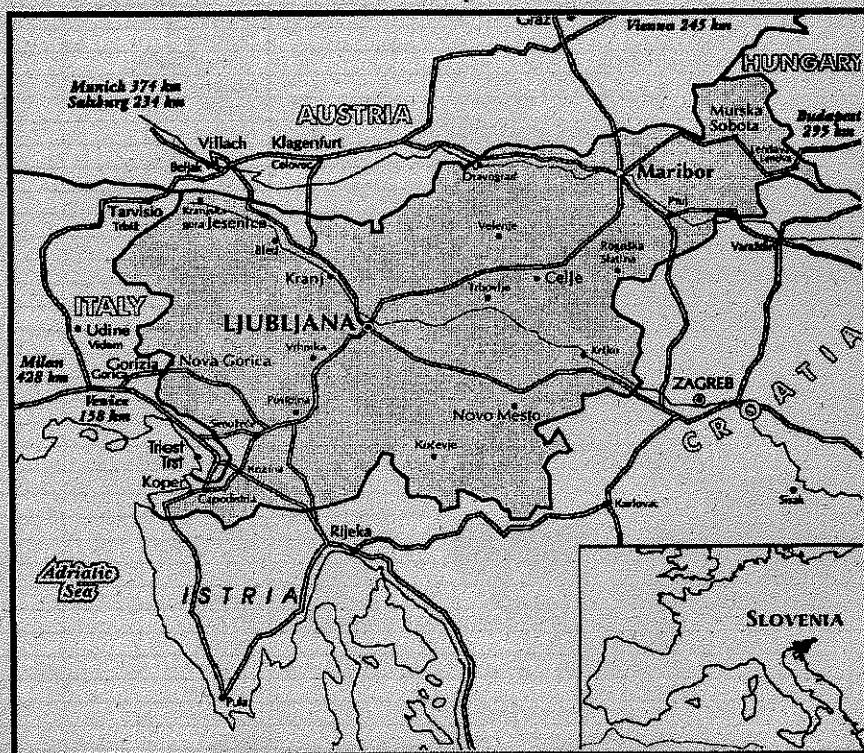
PS: A Detailed report and analysis were published as a special issue of the bulletin *Novičke* in December 1996.

Ljubljana, February 1997

Supplement 1: A list of participants of LLW on the local level:

	NAME OF INSTITUTION	MUNICIPALITY	SURVEY
1.	Adult Education Society of Slovenia - Velenje Agency	Velenje	
2.	Animacija	Ptuj	YES
3.	Athéna d.o.o.	Postojna	YES
4.	Belosana d.o.o. - Anicor	Ljubljana	YES
5.	Centre RS for Professional Training	Ljubljana	YES
6.	Vita Center	Koper	
7.	College for Quality of Life	Grosuplje	YES
8.	Dialog, School of Foreign Languages	Ljubljana	
9.	Doba, Educational Institute	Maribor	YES
10.	Eurošola	Ljubljana	YES
11.	Glotta Nova	Ljubljana	
12.	Slovene Chamber of Commerce, Office for Education	Ljubljana	
13.	Invel d.o.o.	Velenje	YES
14.	Language School Bertonec j & Gize j	Ljubljana	
15.	Cultural Society Anton Loboda, Loka pri Mengešu	Mengeš	
16.	Oton Zupanič Library	Ljubljana	
17.	KOR-CIS Educational Centre	Slovenj Gradec	
18.	Folk highschool Kočevje	Kočevje	YES
19.	Folk highschool Koper	Koper	YES
20.	Folk highschool, Adult Education Centre Maribor	Maribor	
21.	Folk highschool Nova Gorica	Nova Gorica	YES
22.	Folk highschool Ormož	Ormož	YES
23.	Folk highschool Postojna	Postojna	YES
24.	Folk highschool Radlje ob Dravi	Radlje ob Dravi	
25.	Folk highschool Sežana, FSK Žarek	Sežana	YES
26.	Folk highschool Sentjur	Sentjur	
27.	Folk highschool Velenje, Adult Education Institute	Velenje	
28.	Folk highschool Zalec	Zalec	YES
29.	Central Library Izola	Izola	
30.	Municipality of Ljubljana, Office for Prevention of Addiction	Ljubljana	
31.	Mi Amigo, Company for Culture, Education and Recreation	Mengeš	YES
32.	Municipality of Grosuplje	Grosuplje	
33.	Municipality of Jesenice	Jesenice	
34.	Municipality of Kranjska Gora	Kranjska Gora	YES
35.	Municipality of Postojna	Postojna	
36.	Oxford Centre and Grid, d.o.o.	Ljubljana	
37.	The Posavje Centre for Continuing Education	Krško	
38.	Development and Education Centre Novo Mesto	Novo Mesto	
39.	Rossana, d.o.o.	Logatec	YES
40.	Senja, courses	Postojna	
41.	High School for Metalwork, Mechanical Engineering and Metallurgy	Maribor	YES
42.	Rudolf Maister High School Kamnik	Kamnik	
43.	Commercial High School Ljubljana	Ljubljana	
44.	ŠC za PET - Educational Centre	Ljubljana	YES
45.	ŠENT - Slovene Association for Mental Health	Ljubljana	YES
46.	Study Circle "Komen in okolica v obeh pohodnikov"	Komen	YES
47.	Study Circle "Komunalna ekologija"	Škofja Loka	
48.	Study Circle "Slikanje na svilo"	Velenje	YES
49.	Study Circle "Uredimo si svoj kraj, Spodnja Kungota"	Maribor	
50.	Study Circle "Zakaj pišem poezijo"	Ravne na Koroškem	YES
51.	SOU - University Student Organisation	Ljubljana	
52.	Tiža, d.o.o.	Ruše	
53.	Vitra, Centre for Balanced Development	Cerknica	YES
54.	Kindergarten Mengeš, Unit Gobice and Unit Sonček	Mengeš	
55.	Institute Niansa, Language School	Domžale	YES
56.	Institute for Education and Culture, Folk highschool	Tržič	YES
57.	Association of Folk Highschools of Slovenia	Ljubljana	
58.	Association of Free Labour Unions of Slovenia, Regional Organisation for Podravje, Maribor	Maribor	YES

Area (sq km): 20,256, Population: 1,990,600, Population growth (%): - 0.3,
 Density (inhabs. / sq km): 98.3, Population of Ljubljana (capital): 330,000



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