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Learning Parade 2015

Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, MSc, SIAE

The third implementation of the 'Learning Parade – Days of Learning Communities' triggered colourful happenings in local surroundings and confirmed the approach developed in the EAAL project in the timeframe 2012–2015.

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in Črnomelj

Nada Žagar, MA, Črnomelj AEC

The LP was marked by the involvement of all players in the local environment, who collaborated towards a common goal – improving the quality of life in a learning community.

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in Kranj

Mateja Šmid, Kranj AEC

Visitors could view stands showcasing in detail the activities of various societies, institutes, secondary schools and companies. Numerous creative workshops and taster sessions were extraordinarily well attended.

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in Ptuj

Mojca Volk, Ptuj AEC

It is encouraging to see increasingly large numbers of people participating in such events, so we might even be able to say that an awareness of the importance of lifelong learning is becoming ever more rooted among people. Including in Ptuj.

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in Celje

Andreja Jelen Mernik, Celje School Centre

Our LP took place at two locations – the main event, with the big stage and more than 20 stands were at the square of Krekov trg, while Stanetova ulica street featured the Festival of Poetry.

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in Krško

Nataša Kršak, Krško AEC

Three SIAE award winners took part in brief moderated discussion: Marija Sušnik, Jože Prah and Marija Imperl described their educational journeys and their achievements in the adult education field.

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in Ajdovščina

Eva Mermolja, Ajdovščina AEC

With our slogan 'Learning Parade among generations' we sought to draw attention to the importance of inter-generational learning which builds bridges between people and strengthens mutual understanding and respect.

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in Trbovlje

Tone Bezgovšek, Trbovlje AEC

Through the LP we sought primarily to strengthen links between Zasavje organisations and together to promote the idea of lifelong learning. The 33 participating organisations provided performances on stage, at stands, and other events.

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We took steps into the unknown

SIAE project working group

In addition to the LP, this year's EAAL project enabled us to work closer with adult educators and other stakeholders working in the field of raising the level of key competences – especially as regards educationally deprived people.

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2nd phase of the project concluded

The implementation of the (renewed) European Agenda for Adult Learning (EAAL) is a process that has taken solid ground in adult education practice in Slovenia. This is due to the Learning Parade 2013 and 2014 and video-publications on examples of good practice, both outcomes of the first project phase. In 2015, the second phase of EAAL was carried out in the majority of EU member states, including Slovenia.

European background

The European background for our endeavours has been established in the Council Resolution on a (renewed) [European Agenda for Adult Learning](#) (EAAL), published in 2011. Its messages are intended for the activation of the potential of adult education, i.e. to contribute to the overcoming of the crisis, mitigating the consequences of demographic trends, and maintaining a balance between the economic and humanistic development of society.

National coordinators who are responsible for the implementation of the EAAL, have designed projects, at first for the project period 2012–2014, and in Spring 2014 for the one-year project starting on 1 November 2014 and concluding on 30 October 2015. Furthermore, the Erasmus+ programme has become the financial source for the implementation of EAAL.

Projects have been based on priority fields of the EAAL strategy, namely:

- Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality; [more >>](#)
- Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training; [more >>](#)
- Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; [more >>](#)
- Enhancing the creativity and innovation of adults and their learning environments; [more >>](#)
- Improving the knowledge base on adult learning and monitoring the adult learning sector; [more >>](#)



Special attention has been given to parts of population with poor educational achievements and to other vulnerable groups. In 2014 our plans were also affected by the fact that the unit responsible for implementation of the EAAL at the European Commission was transferred from DG Education and Culture to DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. This shift had substantive consequences, in that we, national coordinators, were instructed to increase the contribution of our activities to improving the employability of the population as a whole, and in particular of the priority groups mentioned above. In addition, in fall 2015, the [draft 2015 Joint Report \(ET 2020\)](#) was published, giving new impetus to fostering active citizenship, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence. In the document, the European Commission proposes six new priority areas for

Education and Training 2020. All of them are related to adult education and learning as well and are to be taken into account in our endeavours.

Another new development in this period was the integration with a parallel European project, the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe ([EPALE](#)). Adult education, including efforts within the EAAL project, thus gained a new medium offering news, forecast of events, a resources library and substantive contributions in the form of blogs and comments.

National background

In line with the Open Method of Coordination, the EAAL guidelines have the character solely of recommendations due to the fact that European cooperation in the field of education is founded on the principle of subsidiarity. In Slovenia, the policy and strategy of adult education set out in the [Resolution on the National Adult Education Programme](#) (RNAEP) 2013–2020 and in individual [Annual Adult Education Programmes](#) has been formulated in a similar spirit and is harmonised with the messages of the EAAL. This applies especially to promoting the inclusion of adults in all forms of education and learning, where special attention is focused on those with less education and other vulnerable groups. In the RNAEP Slovenia set the following targets:

- Raising the educational level of the population and the level of basic skills,
- Increasing the employability of the active population,
- Improving the scope for learning and involvement in education, and
- Improving the general education of the population.

Raising public awareness about the importance of adult education and lifelong learning is among activities needed for the implementation of the RNAEP. Since 1996 we have been active in this field implementing the Slovenian [Lifelong Learning Week](#) and other promotional measures, in the last three years complementing all this with the [Learning Parade – Days of Learning Communities](#). Of utmost importance are also endeavours for raising the level of basic skills and other key competences. Slovenia completed the [PIAAC survey](#) in spring 2015. Although the results will not be known until July 2016, special attention is already being devoted to this issue. It is no coincidence that the development of adult basic skills in the broadest sense has also found its place in the EAAL project.

In the second phase of EAAL, again the role of national/project coordinator was taken by the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (SIAE), the umbrella institution for the development of adult education. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport contributed directly to project financing, while the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (contributed indirectly by financially supporting basic SIAE's promotional work.

Project results and impacts

We have successfully achieved all the expected project objectives regarding the two thematic areas. With the third edition of the [Learning Parade – Days of Learning Communities](#) (LP) in seven new venues and eight prior venues of 2013 and 2014, we have raised awareness among the general public in Slovenia about the importance and ubiquity of adult education and the opportunities available to the population. Through 21 [Promoting Adult Skills \(PAS\) events](#) we have presented the diverse range of existing activities for the development of adult basic skills, highlighted achievements and defined opportunities and challenges. Findings and recommendations from the PAS events have been presented at a [joint event](#) in the form of the Adult Education Colloquium, and in a [video](#) entitled 'I can, therefore I am! Promoting adult basic skills'. All these developments are covered in greater detail below.

In all three years, activities have been supported by a very complex [project website](#) filled with information and multimedia materials. Due to the fact that the project will go on, the site will be accessible in the future as well. Project achievements were presented also in the Facebook ([FB](#)) page of the LLW, related FB pages of LP coordinators, and some news were published on [Twitter](#).

In the EPAL platform the visibility of the EAAL project was increased by publishing 6 blogs (that received 4 comments), 6 event forecasts (5 comments), 2 news and 10 resources. In the present [e-bulletin](#) which is joining the [2013](#) and [2014](#) issue, we have summarised project activities and asked coordinators to document their LP and PAS events.



SIAE staff members met with LP and PAS events' coordinators several times. Jointly, we planned activities, implemented them and at the end also evaluated our efforts and their impacts. Our successful cooperation, findings and initiatives for improved approaches will tailor our work in the next phase of the EAAL process which once again offers numerous opportunities for joint action.



The project addressed all target groups, i.e. policy makers, representatives from the practical and professional spheres in adult education, the media and the general public, with special attention going to learners and the educationally disadvantaged. At some LPs, learners got engaged as so called 'learning ambassadors'. At PAS events they had the opportunity to take part in some form of practical training.

Support for project activities has also come from politicians, with representatives of the relevant ministry taking part in the LP and some PAS events. At the local level, individual mayors have expressed their support for adult education and those who provide it in the local community. Both groups have had the opportunity to talk about their views and measures, and at the same time to mingle with education providers and participants and listen to their voice.



An added value of this project period that merits a mention is the heightened profile of adult education and lifelong learning, and also of the EAAL and other political instruments at the national and European levels.

Learning Parade 2015

Now an established approach to promoting adult education and lifelong learning, the LP contributed variety and riches to the 20th anniversary of the LLW. In city squares and other public places visitors were attracted by stands, workshops, taster sessions, performances on stage and accompanying activities.



From 15 to 23 May 2015 the Learning Parade (LP) featured events at seven new locations (in Črnomelj, Kranj, Ptuj, Celje, Krško, Ajdovščina and Trbovlje) that once again enhanced the repertoire of the Lifelong Learning Week (LLW) events. Furthermore, the sequence of intensive festival activities and accompanying professional and other events drew a lot of attention from the general public, and also sparked media interest. The LPs were created jointly by their coordinators, the adult education centres from the above locations and the Celje School Centre, in cooperation with numerous local partners. In

addition, eight of previous two years' LP coordinators (AECs from Jesenice, Slovenj Gradec, Slovenska Bistrica, Škofja Loka, Velenje, Nova Gorica and Novo mesto as well as KTRC Radeče) repeated their LPs in an adapted form and using their own funds. A lively pulse, colour, an abundance of curiosity, synergy, pride and hope ...

All this and much more could be sensed in the town squares, in nearby streets and study corners. The events are most convincingly reflected in the photo mosaics and short videos posted on the project website as well as on individual LP sites.

News items were posted on LLW FB page, on Twitter and on websites and FB pages of the LP coordinators. Articles were published in SIAE's and LLW's e-bulletin (e-Novičke and TVU novičke). Coordinators of LPs and PAS events cooperated very well with local media and jointly they produced on-the-spot reports, interviews, short and long articles and multimedia presentations of individual LPs and PAS events. Please take a look at them, and of course read on below for presentations of individual LPs.



Črnomelj LP

Coordinating institution: **Črnomelj Adult Education Centre (ZIK Črnomelj)**

Coordinators: **Nada Žagar, MA, Nada Babič Ivaniš and Mojca Frankovič**

Slogan: *Knowledge is fleeing, let's catch it!*

Highlights (more: <http://llw.acs.si/learningparade/crnomelj>):

- Opening speeches and LLW national opening
- Folk song and dance from Bela Krajina
- Conversation about experiences in adult education
- Circle/dance of Lifelong Learning with all participants of LP to the melody of a folk song from Bela Krajina

No of partners: **38 institutions**, 28 exhibitors, 96 performers, 19 volunteers

No of participants: above **500**

Impressions: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJT4z5LF_Zk



The Learning Parade 2015, combined with the national opening of Lifelong Learning Week (LLW), was held in Črnomelj for the first time. It was enhanced by the involvement of all players in the local environment, who joined together and collaborated towards a common goal – improving the quality of life in a learning community.



The event was aimed at preserving the cultural heritage, at intergenerational learning and the promotion of entrepreneurship. It was a contribution to fulfilling the Bela Krajina region development strategy, which emphasises nature-friendly farming, the development of tourism and promotion of entrepreneurs.

The selection of the venue for events – the old town centre – represented a contribution to reviving a variety of activities in this part of the town, and an orientation towards creating new jobs. The main formal cultural event brought together performers

representing all generations, from nursery school to pensioners, as well as different target groups, including youth, adults with special needs, Roma, the unemployed and old people. The event showcased the Črnomelj and Metlika nursery schools, folklore enthusiasts from the primary school and the Črnomelj sheltered work centre, the Semiške Klepetulje comedy group, the folk group Kresnice of Adlešiči and the Črnomelj Roma Cultural and Arts Society. The performers were from all over Bela Krajina, which sent an important message in terms of joint cooperating and linking together. The programme was anchored and held together with great spirit and imagination by members of the ZIK Črnomelj theatre group. They played the part of neighbours leaning out of their windows, chatting and swapping information.



The Learning Parade featured 28 exhibitors, who presented their various activities, programmes for promoting entrepreneurship or practical handicraft workshops, and also marketed their products. The stands displayed products promoting organic farming and food self-sufficiency, concern for a clean environment and preservation of cultural heritage. The event involved representatives of public organisations in charge of public order, safety and cleanliness, such as the police, army, fire brigade, traffic wardens, civil protection, the roads company and municipal services. Those supporting the LP

included 19 volunteers who were experiencing volunteering for the first time (secondary school pupils), and also experienced volunteers working under the ZIK, Scouts, Slovenian Caritas or the House of the Fruits of Society. The LP brought together and linked public institutions (nursery schools, schools, libraries, homes for the elderly), private companies, non-governmental organisations and individuals. Actually, it is cooperation in the local environment and commitment to a common goal that are the major gains of the LP.

We estimate that the event was attended by more than 500 visitors, who came from all three Bela Krajina municipalities – Črnomelj, Metlika and Semič – other parts of Slovenia and abroad. They were children and young adults, fellow adult educators, the unemployed and pensioners. During the LP, Bela Krajina also hosted 28 guests from abroad who represented partner organisations in the Grundtvig 'Learning to Tackle Poverty' project, from Hungary, the Czech Republic, Finland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Wales and Switzerland.



The high point of the Learning Parade was completing the cycle of lifelong learning by dancing to a folk song. We planned to ring the old town centre of Črnomelj, but heavy rain forced us to dance right in the main town square. Many people cannot remember when they last danced in the rain.

Nada Žagar, MA, Črnomelj AEC



Kranj LP

Coordinating institution: **Kranj Adult Education Centre**

Coordinators: **Mojca Rozman** and **Mateja Šmid**

Slogan: *Knowledge is like gold – it enriches our life*

Highlights: (more: <http://lw.acs.si/learningparade/kranj>):

- Procession from Kranj AEC to the LP venue, opening and speeches
- 5 learning and creativity workshops and taster sessions
- Presentation of 35 partners with stands
- Cultural and educational programme
- Performance of the music group Melanholiki.

No of partners: **45 institutions** (230 adults, 150 children – performers)

No of participants: **around 1,200**

Impressions: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3H-hBIL0zXU



The Kranj LP involved a large number of educational institutions, societies, institutes and other organisations. They presented themselves with stands, in lectures and workshops and on the stage. The ambassadors of the Kranj LP included Dr Franci Petek, Romana Krajncan, Olga Kepic, Mito Trefalt, Katja Tratnik, Marcel Rodman and Maryan Antich. Around 230 adults and 150 children participated actively at the stands and on stage. We estimate the number of visitors over the course of the day to be around 1,200.

We started off the Kranj LP in the true sense of the word, with a parade. To the strains of a brass band we walked along Prešeren

Street to the main venue. The Parade was opened and toured by Mr Boštjan Trilar, Mayor of the City of Kranj, Ms Katja Dovžak, MA, from the Higher Education and Adult Education Department at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Mr Andrej Sotošek, MA, Director of the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (SIAE), Ms Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, MSc, of the SIAE and Ms Mateja Šmid, Director of the Kranj AEC. Visitors could view stands showcasing in detail the activities of various societies, institutes, secondary schools and companies. They acquired a variety of information and promotional materials, tried handicrafts and could even make the decision to pursue a vocation or enrol in secondary education. The cooperating organisations provided numerous creative workshops, which were extraordinarily well attended. For example, the workshop given by Dario Cortese on wild plants attracted a lot of attention. We immersed ourselves with him in the spirit of exploration in the Kokra Canyon, became familiar with the beauty of the riverside ecosystem and made a paste of edible wild plants that we collected. The Tačke pomagajke society presented their friendly dogs and owners, who gave a presentation about canine therapy. The stage featured a rich cultural programme for all generations. The performers included nursery school children, primary and grammar school choirs, music school students and pupils from Kranj secondary schools. Dance routines were provided by dancers from the Korak in dance school. As a finale we all danced to the rhythms of the Melanholiki group and sang their most popular song 'O Anja, o tebi se mi sanja'.



The preparation and event itself involved the work of 14 volunteers (from various Kranj LP education programmes). We were provided 35 sets of fire brigade tables and benches for free by the Kranj Civil Protection station, and the Slovenian Army provided free transport and set up. With the help of donations from local bakeries and the Mercator supermarket, we prepared sweet treats for all the performing children. We distributed 600 water bottles with the Learning Parade label, along with 250 sandwiches. Before the LP, at QLANDIA we hosted the SIAE exhibition 'Celebration of learning'.

Visitor responses to the LP were very positive. Apart from the liveliness brought to the town centre, they liked the fact that in one place they could find out all about various educational institutions, societies and organisations, join in free workshops and attend an interesting cultural programme. Everyone could find something for themselves, gain new knowledge and experience and make new acquaintances. This signalled the success of our primary mission – spreading the concept of lifelong learning.

Renata Dobnikar, Kranj AEC

Ptuj LP

Coordinating institution: **Ptuj Adult Education Centre**

Coordinators: **Mateja Hlupič** and **Mojca Volk**

Slogan: *Knowledge is value – let us keep it this way*

Highlights (more: <http://llw.acs.si/learningparade/ptuj>):

- Opening speeches
- Music, dance and other performance on stage
- Tadej Toš, ambassador of lifelong learning
- Presentation of various partners at stands

No of partners: **30 institutions**

No of participants: **around 500**

Impressions: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KA6KxmIWnGE



Town square as a centre of knowledge: On Monday, 18 May, in the premises of the Ptuj Adult Education Centre we opened an exhibition of photographs of old Ptuj and glimpses from the natural world taken by local photographer Tanja Božič. The exhibition was open to visitors each working day.

On 19 May we held the central event of this year's Lifelong Learning Week in the main square of Mestni trg. This was the Learning Parade 2015, involving a presentation of various education institutions, organisations, institutes, societies and individuals that in one way or another are involved in education. The common thread of this diverse gathering, which attracted more than 500 curious visitors to the centre of Ptuj, was lifelong learning. The response of participating organisations was, to our enormous satisfaction, outstanding, since it



happened for the first time that we managed to bring together in one place in Ptuj everyone involved in any way with education or lifelong learning. The Learning Parade was spiced up by musical, choral, dance, theatrical and other study groups, in total more than 20, who presented their activities to the heart of our town. Stands set up by 30 participating organisations presented activities to passers-by and invited them to be involved. There was something interesting and appropriate for everyone.



Distinguished guests and outstanding visit: The event was also graced by the presence of some important guests, which for this kind of event, promoting lifelong learning activities, is especially significant. The event was officially opened by the Mayor of Ptuj, Mr Miran Senčar, who was joined at the podium by the Director of Ptuj Adult Education Centre, Ms Mojca Volk, and Ms Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik from the SIAE, who spoke about the history of Lifelong Learning Week, and on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport Ms Ema Perme spoke about the importance of lifelong learning. The honorary patron of the event was Slovenian President Borut Pahor, and actor Tadej Toš was the lifelong learning ambassador in Ptuj.



The events associated with the promotion of knowledge and learning are in no way an end in themselves. The aim is to familiarise the public not just with the fact that learning is essential, but perhaps even more that the paths to knowledge can be very agreeable, and you just have to set out. In any event it is encouraging to see increasingly large numbers of people participating in such events, so we might even at this stage be able to say that an awareness of the importance of lifelong learning is becoming ever more rooted among people of all generations. Including in Ptuj.

Mateja Hlupič, Ptuj AEC

Celje LP

Coordinating institution: **Celje School Centre**

Coordinators: **Andreja Jelen Mernik, Mateja Rajh Jager, Aleksandra Kotnik, Natalija Klepej**

Slogan: *Stars of learning*

Highlights (more: <http://llw.acs.si/learningparade/celje>):

- Opening and speeches
- Music, dance and other performance on stage
- Presentation of various partners at stands
- Festival of poetry – recitals and other performance

No of partners: **49 institutions**, around 550 performers

No of participants: **around 2,500**

Impressions: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssr5eW8FLcQ and www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WIA8D1cHy4



The rainbow colours of the Celje LP literally flooded the square of Krekov trg and Stanetova ulica street in Celje, bringing new life to the old town centre for one day. The streets were filled with curious visitors of all generations, from the youngest to the oldest. A full of 49 providers from all over the Celje region prepared especially for the event a colourful range of activities, workshops and stage performances, all aimed at showing that learning can be pleasant and fun. The importance of the event was recognised by the Mayor of the City of Celje, Bojan Šrot, who agreed to be

honorary patron of the event. Celje School Centre, which this year for the fifth year running took on the role of thematic coordinator of LLW for Slovenian secondary schools (and in recent years also for some other associated organisations), was proud to play the part of managing one of this year's seven LPs. We started out a little uncertainly, but the incredibly positive response of numerous institutions provided the impetus for organising the event.



Our LP took place at two locations – the main event with the big stage and more than 20 stands were at the square of Krekov trg, while Stanetova street featured a smaller venue and the Festival of Poetry. All together there were around 550 performers, who drew a large number of visitors to the city. Providers included nursery schools, primary and secondary schools, libraries, music and dance schools, societies, institutes, companies and numerous other institutions.



While the main stage offered a series of performances by children and youth choirs and vocal groups, Renaissance, folklore and modern dance groups, instrumental teenage, percussion and orchestral groups and modern and bygone day fashion shows, you could stroll among the stands and try ginger brews and star cocktails, fresh baked pastries and pies, fruit ice cream prepared on site, you could learn something new about dementia, view impressions of the events captured on artists' canvas, meanwhile pet a dog trained in search and rescue, and the youngest visitors could hang out in a proper children's playroom, they could make their own star of knowledge, for those a little older, school pupils measured blood sugar and pressure, the little NAO robot greeted all those present and performed his tricks, and more and more ... And wandering through the crowd all the time was the mascot – the Learning Star – who drew attention to the common thread of the event, the stars that have accompanied the city of Celje since the earliest days. It was wonderful to see just what institutions that are involved in some way with education are capable of putting together in our city. Lifelong learning has become an essential need that each individual must accept, and even in the autumn of life it is not too late to start learning something new. We hope that we showed this in an agreeable way to the widest possible circle of people.



Mateja Rajh Jager, Celje School Centre

Krško LP

Coordinating institution: **Krško Adult Education Centre**

Coordinators: **Nataša Kršak** and **Monika Novšak**

Slogan: *Learning sets life in motion*

Highlights (more: <http://llw.acs.si/learningparade/krsko>):

- Opening speeches
- Music and dance performances on stage
- Presentations on stands (educational, cultural and other institutions, societies and individuals)

No of partners: **16 institutions**, around 200 performers on stage

No of participants: **around 500**

Impressions: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oq5RqvEti2o



In Krško we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Lifelong Learning Week with a Learning Parade. Invited participants included schools, nursery schools, institutions, associations and businesses. Owing to bad weather, the Learning Parade was held in the hall of the Krško Cultural Home (Kulturni Dom Krško). The slogan of Krško's first LP was: 'Learning sets life in motion'.



Throughout the day, fifteen stands in the event venue offered a presentation of various organisations and their activities, while the stage hosted a diverse cultural programme.

Numerous workshops took place next to the stands and attracted a large number of participants from different generations. Visitors to the event learnt about the chemical analysis of soil, made sundials, took part in a painting workshop and



discovered medicinal herbs. A hairdressing corner created fashionable hairstyles. In the carpentry corner visitors had a chance to test their skills at Strelastika (a version of the traditional French game of Passe-Trappe), to discover how a *camera obscura* works and to learn about robotics. In short, a wealth of opportunities to get to know the organisations involved and acquire new knowledge and skills was available to visitors.



Participants in the LP were greeted by Miran Stanko, the mayor of the Municipality of Krško, Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, the head of the EAAL project, and Nataša Kršak, the director of Krško AEC.

'Appearing' on stage were two prominent figures from Krško's history, Josipina Hočevar and Ana Schmidinger Romih, who took us back to the early days of the development of education in Krško. In the period after 1855, Josipina Hočevar financed the first private school for girls who back then did not have the right to attend public schools. On contrary, the LP events showed the abundance of opportunities nowadays available to all generations and parts of population.

Three LLW award winners took part in brief moderated discussion: Marija Sušnik, Jože Prah and Marija Imperl described their educational journeys and their achievements in the adult education field.

They were followed by a programme of music, dance and singing, with performances by members of all generations. With music, dance, and singing, visitors of all generations performed on stage – especially at the end, when Nuša Derenda, a very popular Slovenian singer, rewarded us for all our endeavours throughout the day.



Nataša Kršak, Krško AEC

Ajdovščina LP

Coordinating institution: **Ajdovščina Adult Education Centre**

Coordinators: **Boža Bolčina** and **Eva Mermolja**

Slogan: *Learning Parade among generations*

Highlights (more: <http://llw.acs.si/learningparade/ajdovscina>):

- Opening speeches
- Performances on stage
- Information and guidance stands, workshops and taster sessions

No of partners: **20 institutions**, 16 workshops

No of participants: **around 500**

Impressions: www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3VR8zFCjyY



Here in Ajdovščina, the capital of the Bora north wind, we especially wanted to mark the 20th anniversary of LLW. Ajdovščina Adult Education Centre organised the Learning Parade for the first time, and the Mayor of Ajdovščina Municipality, Mr Tadej Beočanin, acted as honorary patron of the event. There was a whole series of educational events, through which we sought to make the possibility of learning accessible to people of all generations, social roles and interests.



Particular success was enjoyed by the festival dimension of the LP, through which we pursued the LP principle among generations. In this way we sought to draw attention to the importance of inter-generational learning, for we believe that specifically this builds bridges between generations and seriously strengthens mutual understand and respect.

To this end the display stands presented various educational institutions, local societies, institutes and organisations, artists and craftspeople. At the

same time, various workshops took place at the centre of events, where artisans and artists demonstrated their skills and thrilled passers-by. Parallel to the workshops, the stage performances reflected numerous talents, from dance, singing and playing instruments to dramatic acting.



Despite the rain and local north wind, the marquee event was lively, fun and relaxed. Contentment could be seen on the faces of the children, who focused their curiosity mainly on the creative workshops.

Young adults were interested in further career steps, so they obtained the information they needed at the stands of faculties, universities and other youth organisations. Those a little older were interested in recipes for local

fare and tips on how to improve their health. The oldest participants eagerly welcomed the handicrafts such as basket weaving and lace-making.



Three guests appeared on stage to address the LP visitors: Tadej Beočanin, Mayor of Ajdovščina, Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, head of the LLW project at the SIAE and Eva Mermolja, Director of the Ajdovščina AEC. They emphasised the importance of lifelong learning and pointed out the numerous opportunities for it that are offered in the local environment. At the same time they appealed to event participants to remain curious and knowledge-hungry in the future, for knowledge is a wealth that no one can take away from us. With this thought we conclude the story of the first LP in Ajdovščina – and we are

already looking forward to the next one.

Sara Bratina, volunteer at the Centre for Intergenerational Learning of Ajdovščina AEC

Trbovlje LP

Coordinating institution: **Zasavje Adult Education Centre Trbovlje**

Coordinators: **Mateja Pistotnik** and **Polona Trebušak**

Slogan: *It is always the right time to learn*

Highlights (more: <http://llw.acs.si/learningparade/trbovlje>):

- Official opening and speeches
- Music, dance and theatre performance on stage
- Presentation of various partners on stands and various workshops
- Lectures 'Asses your knowledge' and 'Looking for work opportunities via social network'

No of partners: **33 institutions**

No of participants: **around 400**

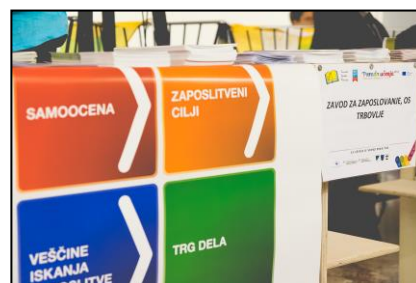
Impressions: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vr7BpB2Z-YA



For a number of years now the Zasavje AEC has played the part of regional coordinator for LLW in Zasavje. For this reason we were delighted to respond to the invitation from the SIAE to hold a Learning Parade, which represents a substantive enhancement of LLW. Through the LP we sought primarily to strengthen links between Zasavje organisations and together to promote the idea of lifelong learning. The LP involved 33 participating

organisations, some providing programmes on stage, some with stands and others with accompanying events.

The first part of the programme took place on the main stage from 9 am to 12 noon, and featured music, culture and cuisine. It began with a trombone performance by Trbovlje Music School, followed by speeches by the organiser, the Deputy Mayor of Trbovlje Mr Tadej Špitalar, Director of the SIAE Mr Andrej Sotošek and by the coordinator of the LPs, Ms Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik of the SIAE. This was followed by performances by 2nd grade pupils of Tončka Čeč Primary School, the pop-folk group of Trbovlje Music School, and pupils from the Ivan Cankar and Trbovlje primary schools. The stage also featured pupils from the Trbovlje Grammar and Economics Secondary School performing folk dances and a cheerleading group. The exquisite dance routine performed by the oriental Al Saiph was a treat for the eye. Visitors also enjoyed the singing of the Klasek group and the theatrical performance of the Funšterc Team. Poetry enthusiasts were



treated to the delight of a recitation by the Trbovlje Live Poets Society, and those who like prose enjoyed hearing the short stories read by members of the University of the Third Age.



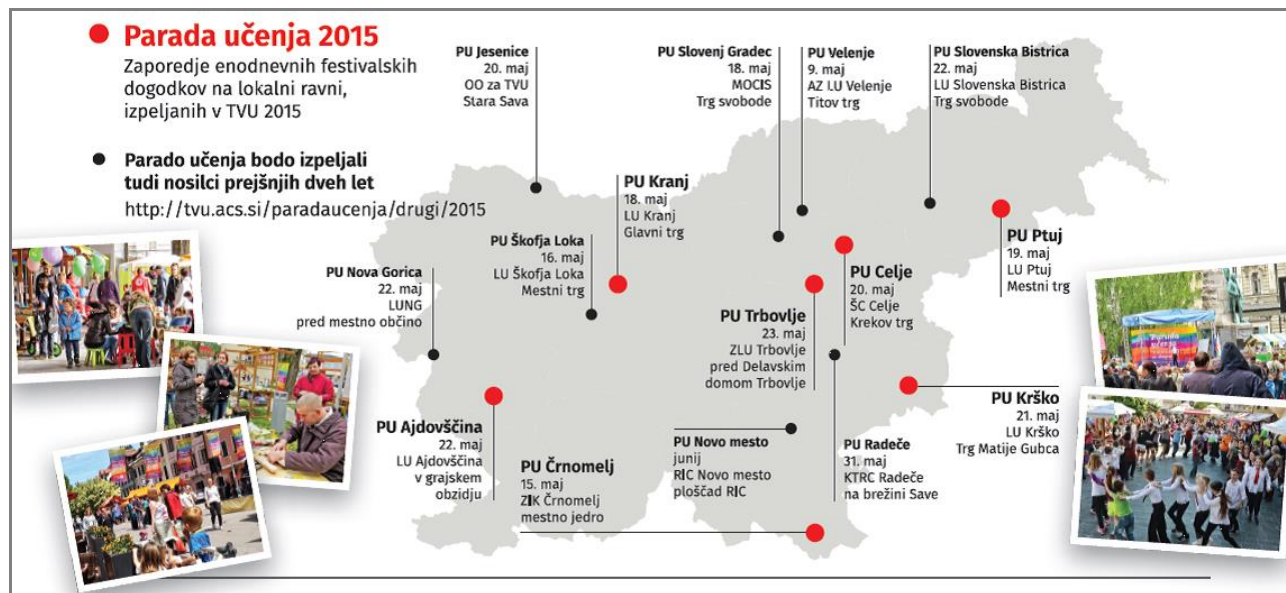
Visitors could try their hand at watercolour painting, while pupils from Zagorje Secondary School prepared various delicious drinks and funšterc omelette, and pupils intending to work in health care measured blood sugar and pressure for free. Pupils from the Trbovlje Technical Secondary School played mind games with visitors, and Trbovlje Grammar and Economics Secondary School pupils demonstrated natural science experiments and blind ten-finger typing, while pupils from the sports department measured physical abilities. The venue was adorned with crepe paper flowers made by members of the Šentknap group of Trbovlje. The lower atrium hosted a co-working corner provided by PUNKT, the Trbovlje DPM (Friends of Youth) organised creative workshops for children, and the Zasavje internet portal site ZON was also represented. The DDT lecture hall was the venue for the workshops 'Evaluate your knowledge', 'Using tablet computers and smart phones' and 'Job seeking using social networks'. And the rainy morning was enlivened by something else: genuine Zasavje funšterc omelette and white coffee.

Mateja Pistotnik, Zasavje AEC Trbovlje

Other LP 2015 venues

The concept of promoting adult education and lifelong learning through a vibrant, one-day festival-style presentation of stakeholders in the local community (with accompanying professional events and other activities) has already proved its worth in the two previous editions of the Learning Parade. We reported on these extremely successful events in the [LP 2013 e-bulletin](#) and [LP 2014 e-bulletin](#).

Eight LP coordinators from previous years decided to hold Learning Parades in their own environments this year, prompted by the enthusiastic response of local partners to the previous editions. They did so using their own resources or as part of the LLW project, yet despite what was in most cases a more modest concept and a smaller budget, they enjoyed a great response from other providers of lifelong learning and from visitors. The SIAE accepted this development enthusiastically and offered promotional and other support to these LPs. They are presented briefly below.



Velenje, 9 May 2015: In collaboration with Festival Velenje and the City Municipality of Velenje we organised Velenje's second LP. Since nature is very important to us – coexisting with it, discovering it and constantly learning new things about it – the theme we selected was 'The Coexistence of Man and Bee'. The weather was kind to us so attendance was good. All the activities we prepared were well attended. These included stands with workshops where visitors could see presentations of beekeeping through the ages, learn about bees, apiculture and beekeeping equipment, taste various types of honey, see an exhibition of beehive panels decorated by local children and treat themselves to honey pancakes. Children took part in creative workshops where they made lucky bee charms. Beekeeper Marijan Moravec was present throughout the morning to tell visitors to the LP all about his life with bees. And of course a Carniolan Grey bee mascot was also on hand to liven things up, especially for the children. Throughout the Parade the stage hosted events organised by local dance schools and Velenje Music School. Visitor responses were very positive. We are very pleased with the success of the second LP in Velenje.

Brigita Kropušek Ranzinger, Velenje AEC

Škofja Loka, 16 May 2015: Our LP once again brought together schools, associations and institutions and gave them an opportunity to present themselves to the general public. From stands in Škofja Loka's main square, they provided visitors with information about their activities and lifelong learning opportunities. The event offered something for every generation: children enjoyed creative workshops, young people had the chance to find out about activities at youth day centres and education programmes at secondary schools, middle-aged visitors obtained information about the activities of a wide range of clubs and societies, and the elderly were able to discover how learning and creativity are also an important part of life at the town's centre

for the blind, visually impaired and elderly.

Tanja Avman, Škofja Loka AEC

Slovenj Gradec, 18 May 2015: This year we came together in Slovenj Gradec's Trg Svobode on a fine spring day to celebrate lifelong learning once again. The event also marked the inauguration of LLW 2015 at the local level. The LP was supported by welcome addresses by the official speakers, while the stage saw a series of performances by participants of every generation – from nursery and primary school children to representatives of the University of the Third Age. While enjoying these performances, visitors to the LP were also able to walk among the colourful stands and find out about the activities of 26 different lifelong learning providers who, through their educational work, enterprise initiatives and other endeavours, seek to encourage learners at every stage of life. The positive response from visitors and participants means that we are already looking forward to next year's appointment at the 2016 LP in Slovenj Gradec.

Simona Štruc, MOCIS Slovenj Gradec AEC

Jesenice, 20. maj 2015: The Jesenice EAC has been part of LLW in the municipality of Jesenice for 20 years. We were the first to host a national LLW inauguration event and among the first to organise a Learning Parade. This year was our third edition. In 2012 we already organised the Festival of Lifelong Learning, thus, the idea of going out of the classroom and approaching people in a different, more non-formal manner, while at the same time bringing together organisations that in one way or another provide a variety of educational activities, has proved to be extremely effective and is very well received among local residents. Through the concept of connecting educational organisations, cultural institutions, NGOs and other organisations, all of which are involved in lifelong learning in their own fields, we have succeeded in making the LP the central LLW event in the municipality. Not only does the LP strengthen partnerships, it helps erase differences between generations and cultures – all in one place. The participants in and creators of the LP provide a diverse cultural programme that is interspersed with a variety of workshops, presentations, information and experiments, with the result that there is something for everybody. Participation in the Parade also represents an excellent opportunity to promote activities that otherwise only remain known to a narrow circle of people.

Lea Zlodej, Jesenice AEC

Nova Gorica, 22 May 2015: 'Let's promote learning through active leisure' was the title of the Learning Parade organised at the Nova Gorica Adult Education Centre (LUNG). Those invited to participate include representatives of various sports clubs from our area, who offered live demonstrations of activities that contribute to better physical and mental fitness. In the early afternoon Renata Karba offered a free workshop on green jobs in the Goriška region. There was also something for the youngest visitors – students from a vocational course on preschool education put on a puppet show entitled 'The Plump Pear'. The Learning Parade ended in the evening to the rhythms of the tango.

Ksenija Petek, Nova Gorica AEC

Slovenska Bistrica, 22 May 2015: As the organisers of the biggest education fair in Slovenska Bistrica, we were forced to admit defeat to the weather this year. Despite this setback, this year's Learning Parade still enjoyed an enthusiastic response. Highlights included presentations of activities by older learners, research projects by schoolchildren, and performances on the stage by a succession of singers, dancers, musical groups and orchestras – not to mention the wide range of educational opportunities presented on the stands below the stage. Click on the link to see how we danced in the rain together with the whole of Slovenia: <http://bit.ly/1N7fpIC>.

Brigita Kruder, MA, Slovenska Bistrica AEC

Radeče, 31 May 2015: Once again this year KTRC Radeče organised a Learning Parade. On the afternoon of Sunday 31 May we gathered at the Savus tourism and recreation centre on the bank of the Sava. The event linked together 'Sava Day', 'Sopota–Laško Forest Owners Association Day', 'Savus Themed Trail Day' and 'Radeče Raftsmen's Day'. To the strains of the Radeče Paper Workers Wind Orchestra (PORP), we set off by raft to Dvor Park, the venue for the main event. The cultural programme was provided by members of the PORP, students from PŠ Svibno, the Svibno Folk Singers and guests. A series of stands presented various educational opportunities for all phases of life. The main speaker was Ms Tanja Bolte, Director General of the Environment Directorate, who spoke about the importance of biodiversity and the effects of climate change on the environment, and emphasised the value of water in the natural environment. Encircling the venue was an exhibition of SIAE panels showing educational content in the wonderful setting of the park. More in a longer [article](#).

Marija Imperl, KTRC Radeče

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Novo mesto, 18 June 2015: The third Learning Parade in Novo mesto was devoted to the promotion of intercultural dialogue, since our city is becoming a true crossroads of different cultures. Together with voluntary association Novo mesto DRPD and the Slovenian Migration Institute (part of the research centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), we organised a specialised event entitled 'Raising Awareness of Intercultural Dialogue'. Visitors to the LP learnt to make brooches with members of the Art Creates Ties study circle, viewed a display of the circle's products and an exhibition of photographs by Anastasia Gubonina called 'Cooking Connects', enjoyed a tasting of international cuisine, which was also a real feast for the eyes, and took part in a workshop entitled 'How to Get on with Everyone'. We ended the day with a riverside walk along the recently renovated Župančič Path, which was formally opened by the mayor of Novo Mesto and the head of the Consular Department from the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. True intercultural dialogue was provided by writers from Novo mesto, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, who enriched our stroll along the Krka, in an event organised by the Novo mesto regional office of the Public Foundation for Cultural Activities.

Simona Pavlin, Novo mesto AEC

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The Learning Parade will go on



The LP will continue to inspire local environments, link educational and other institutions, associations, NGOs, interest groups and committed individuals. This condensed one-day celebration of learning achievements and opportunities seems to be a well-received antipode of other LLW events which are scattered over a longer period of time and wider range of venues.

Since there will be no more European funds available for the implementation of LPs, we are discussing with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport the possibility of financing the events via funds of the Annual Adult Education Plan.

Without doubt, coordinators of LPs 2013–2015 have recognized the benefits of acting as linking and driving forces for the implementation of the LP and adult education in general. They have established or empowered networks of solid and committed partners, acquired the support of the local community and gained experience necessary for organising such a large event. Their success is binding and encouraging therefore they wish to continue implementing the LP.

Learning Parade® 2016 At SIAE we will accommodate and further develop the LP concept and on the basis of a recent inquiry, we will determine in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and together with LP coordinators the criteria for a call for tender in order to set up co-financing of the events by national resources. It will be our joint commitment to maintain and further develop elements of high LPs' quality.

Promoting Adult Skills (PAS) events

PAS events designed to promote the development of adult basic skills attracted numerous stakeholders to 21 local venues. Common to all of them was an interest in improving educational and employment opportunities for deprived sections of the population, thus giving them a chance of a better life. The total number of participants topped 1,000, 408 of them were learners from disadvantaged groups.

PAS events complemented this year's LLW and Learning Parade with a series of fruitful discussions and practical training sessions at the local level. These events were based on experiences born out of cooperation with the organizers of the previous editions of the LP in 2013 and 2014, all of whom responded positively to the SIAE's invitation to dedicate a specialized event to identifying existing programmes, forms of cooperation, partnerships and other approaches in order to raise the level of adult basic skills among the population in their local environment. This year, they were joined by the coordinators of LP 2015.

Promoting adult skills (PAS) events (2015)

21 events designed to promote the acquisition of basic skills



Aim:

to present existing endeavours and results and identify challenges and opportunities



Professional part:

presentations by various stakeholders in adult learning



Practical part:

non-formal learning for selected target groups



Target groups:

- adults with low-educational achievements
- the unemployed
- early school-leavers
- older adults
- rural population
- migrants etc.



More:

http://llw.acs.si/learningparade/pas_events

The purpose of these events was to present at the local level the diverse range of existing activities in the field of the development of adult basic skills and other key competences, highlight achievements and define opportunities and challenges. In this way, organizers were able to identify examples of good practice, disseminate information on these opportunities at the local and national levels, and obtain the opinions of stakeholders on how to further develop this practice, how to implement it and how to incorporate it into the processes that will follow the publication of the results on adult literacy in Slovenia.



Podjetniška delavnica – opogumljanje za samozaposlovanje

The one-day events were divided into two parts: the first was reserved for adult education experts and partners from the local environment (representatives of municipalities, schools, regional offices of the Employment Service of Slovenia, social services centres, libraries, associations, local businesses, media, etc.). The second part of the event was organised with participants representing a



selected target group and functioned as a training session on a specific topic, which might also involve guidance, evaluation of non-formal learning, etc. as a practical example of promoting the basic skills of these adults. The majority of organisers selected one of the following four target groups: young people, the unemployed, migrants and the rural population. One event was dedicated to persons with special needs, and another to older adults.

At thirteen of the events, representatives of the SIAE and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport presented the PIAAC survey (ESF Project – ‘Measuring the effectiveness of the system of education and training for the development of competences of adult educators 2013–2015’). This content attracted numerous stakeholders, who were also interested in seeing results adapted to the local environment and the selected target group. For the latter, it will be necessary to wait until July 2016 and beyond, when thematic studies will have been completed.

On the following pages, individual PAS events grouped according to the above mentioned priority target groups and dates of implementation are represented. Presentations are short, focused on findings and recommendations. More information is available via respective links to programmes, reports and in some cases, to longer articles.

1. PAS events for young adults and with them

Coordinator: Celje School Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Functional literacy of young adults ([Funkcionalna pismenost mlajših odraslih](#))

Date and venue: 20 April 2015, Celje

Target group: young adults with secondary education (level V)



Invited stakeholders: secondary school teachers, higher vocational colleges and higher education institutions, Slovenian language experts, the Celje Regional Office of the Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS), an employer representative and a representative for the students enrolled in adult education at the Celje School Centre. Professional part: a round table on the functional literacy of younger adults with secondary education. Practical part: a workshop on functional literacy for adults enrolled in secondary education.

Findings and recommendations: the issue requires a systematic and systemic approach; however, change can also be achieved within the institution by: improving cooperation between the professors, librarians and principals at the Celje School Centre; devoting more attention to literacy in every school subject; establishing a group tasked with devising standard guidelines for seminar papers and other written work; organising an hour of direct contact between the adult educators at the library; conducting research among employers, together with the Celje Regional Office of the ESS, to determine the education needs of their employees. More in the [report](#) and [article](#).

Natalija Klepej, Celje School Centre

Coordinator: Slovenska Bistrica Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): A few good words can take you a long way ([Beseda ni konj, lahko nas pa daleč ponese](#))

Date and venue: 21 April 2015, Slovenska Bistrica

Target group: young unemployed adults and participants in their courses



Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education and employment, companies and the local community, as well as the business partners of the AEC. Professional part: evaluating the long-term effects of programmes developing basic skills in the local environment; presentation of the PIAAC research; participant discussion and experience/initiatives/proposals. Practical part: a workshop on effective spoken communication.

The majority of participants were young, educated adults. Since they are looking for employment therefore it is expected from them that they know how to present themselves and their competences. Education itself obviously does not necessarily mean a higher

level of functional competences.

Findings and recommendations: A holistic approach is needed in the process of training unemployed adults and empowering them in different areas. An individual needs to be motivated for social engagement and activity in order to raise his/her self-confidence. Goal-oriented, practical activities embedded in non-formal educational programmes for adults, based on experience and activation of prior knowledge are welcome. Of key importance is the development of the competence for lifelong learning which enables the individual to efficiently learn and fill the gaps between the labour market and available knowledge and skills. More in the [report](#) in [article](#).

Brigita Kruder, MA, Slovenska Bistrica AEC

Coordinator: Kranj Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Knowledge for all stages of life ([Znanja za vsa obdobja življenja](#))

Date and venue: 6 May 2015, Kranj

Target group: young adults, 15–28 years old



Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education, employment and social affairs; representatives of the municipalities of Kranj, Cerklje, Naklo, Preddvor, Šenčur and Jezersko, societies, as well as youth and other organisations. Professional part: the opening of a travelling exhibition celebrating learning; key competencies and methods for their development; a presentation of the PIAAC project; a presentation of project learning for young adults; and an innovative literacy project. Practical part: measuring everyday competencies, a workshop on key competencies development called 'Self-initiative and enterprise', presentation of new features in Europass documents,

individual counselling.

Findings and recommendations: adopting new approaches to developing general competencies; community and intergenerational learning for knowledge exchange Motivating adults for lifelong learning; encouraging the development of competences in all stages of life; constructive cooperation with competent services when devising the development strategy; encouraging the development of competencies through the identification and assessment of the existing situation and developing guided programmes for key competency development; better cooperation and relations between educational centres, the ESS and youth centres. More in the [report](#).

Mateja Šmid, Kranj AEC

Coordinator: Novo mesto Adult Education Centre (RIC Novo mesto)

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Young people between school and employment ([Mladi med šolo in zaposlitvijo](#))

Date and venue: 7 May 2015, Novo mesto

Target group: young adults, 15–26 years old



Invited stakeholders: actors in the field of education, employment and social affairs; youth and other organisations; participants and mentors in the Project Learning for Young Adults (PLYA) programme; partners and representatives of the local environment. Professional part (lectures and presentations with discussions): a presentation of the PLYA programme and its connection to the local environment; the significance of the PLYA for developing the basic skills of young people; the young as a vulnerable group in the market;

and PLYA success stories. An example of good practice: writing an autobiography; the background for the documentary titled 'I Want to Live'. Practical part (two workshops for young people): 'Where Will our Entrepreneurial Paths Lead Us?' and 'Know Yourself and Bite Your Tongue'.

Findings and recommendations: Young people are a very sensitive and diverse target group; those participating in the PLYA programme lack the basic skills required for social integration, work and everyday life; they have difficulties in life, have problems finding employment, fail to take responsibility for their actions and are dependent on others; visible 'dependence on the system', which also applies for PLYA youth; the goal is to retain PLYA as a support programme for adult education; the lack of basic skills evident in formal education (in primary and secondary education) should be developed; all too often young people stay at home for too long; developing an entrepreneurial mindset in terms of the attitude towards responsibilities and life in general rather than establishing companies; in the future, more and more people will have to create their own jobs. More in the [report](#) and [article](#).

Zvonka Potočar, Novo mesto AEC

Coordinator: Ajdovščina Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Competencies and knowledge of young people ([Kompetence in znanja mladih](#))

Date and venue: 12 May 2015, Ajdovščina



Target group: young adults, 16–29 years old

Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education, employment, social affairs; societies; and youth and other organisations. Professional part: PIAAC, an international survey of adult skills in Slovenia: Core competencies of young people – should we be worried?; the strategy for young people and related examples of good practice in the Municipality of Ajdovščina; a presentation of the Ajdovščina Youth Centre and Hostel. Practical part: a creativity workshop for young people.

Findings and recommendations: the implementation of these kinds of meetings contributes significantly to: networking between those who work with young people; raising awareness of young people's issues and promoting local activities; keeping the general public abreast of activities related to young people in the local environment. More in the [report](#).

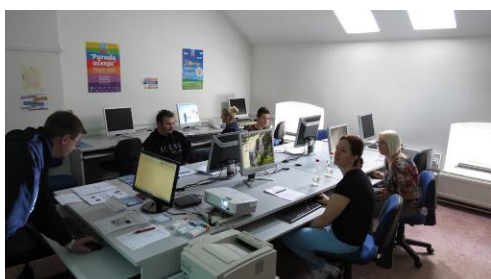
Eva Mermolja, Ajdovščina AEC

2. PAS events for and with unemployed adults

Coordinator: Zasavje Adult Education Centre Trbovlje

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): The level of development in terms of reading, writing and numeracy skills in adults ([Razvitost kompetenc branja, pisanja in računanja pri odraslih](#))

Date and venue: 7 May 2015, Zagorje



Target group: unemployed adults, younger adults – early school leavers

Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education, employment and social affairs; societies and youth and other organisations. Professional part: activities encouraging and developing core competencies in adults; a presentation of the PIAAC research results, focusing on unemployed people and adults with a low level of education; a discussion on and drafting recommendations for future activities. Practical part: Windows

basics and web browsing (drop-outs); effective communication skills (unemployed people).

Findings and recommendations: continuing programmes to encourage and develop core competences in adults; focusing the programmes on core competences to help adults engage in an active social life; including local/regional and functional content so as to provide additional motivation for people with a low level of education to enrol in such programmes; motivating local communities to ensure material support for the programmes and contribute to better social integration; maintaining and enhancing cooperation in existing

networks that develop core competencies (partnership at the Zasavje Guidance Centre, planned committees for human resource development as part of municipal and regional councils, a regional programme for improving social integration, etc.); systematisation of the co-financing of adult education programmes, a public service for adult education.. More in the [report](#) and [article](#).

Mateja Pistotnik, Zasavje AEC Trbovlje

Coordinator: Maribor Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): I capture attention with my writing ([Pritegnem, ko napišem](#))

Date and venue: 12 May 2015, Maribor

Target group: unemployed adults with low educational achievements



Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education, counselling, employment, social affairs (strategic and professional partners of the ISIO counselling network in Maribor); the municipality, library, trade union, the network of secondary schools providing adult education programmes, youth and other organisations, neighbouring adult education centres, the faculty, the National Education Institute, Maribor Prison, etc.

Professional part: a lecture by Dr Petra Javrh titled 'Is the ability to write important today?' and a discussion with the partners, a summary by a representative of the competent ministry, and a press conference. Practical part: a workshop titled 'I capture attention with my writing': the most common grammar mistakes in

job applications, examples of job applications (2 school hours).

Findings and recommendations: a completed 4-year secondary education programme is the key to attaining the third level of literacy. Unfortunately, the co-financing of tuition fees in adult secondary education is currently impossible; additional promotion of infrastructural activities in adult education is required (free and accessible support for independent learning and counselling); local partners have noted a 'dual vulnerability' among the people who require longer educational programmes. More in the [report](#) and [article](#).

Irena Urankar, Maribor AEC

Coordinator: MOCIS Slovenj Gradec Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Together on the path towards improving the basic skills of adults in the Koroška region ([Skupaj za izboljšanje temeljnih zmožnosti odraslih v Koroški regiji](#))

Date and venue: 22 May 2015, Slovenj Gradec

Target group: less educated people, long-term unemployed people, and young immigrants having left school early (drop-outs).



Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education, employment and social affairs; societies; and youth and other organisations.

Professional part: a presentation of activities encouraging the development of basic skills in selected target groups in the Koroška region (MOCIS, Zavod RUJ – Institute for education, qualifications and rehabilitation); a presentation of the PIAAC research, focusing on selected target groups; a discussion – opportunities and challenges. Practical part: a motivational

workshop titled 'There are opportunities!' for the target groups.

Findings and recommendations: despite a number of measures aimed at increasing the employability of vulnerable groups (run by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport), the development of basic skills remains unsystematic and unplanned; the development of basic skills in vulnerable groups is not to the standard required for employment. As a result, we need to: understand the local environment and the situation of vulnerable groups;

improve the links between the education system and the labour market in the region; establish new and more constructive partnerships between competent institutions in the region and encourage cooperation and the exchange of information among them; develop clear strategies for developing basic skills in vulnerable groups to empower them and help them improve their position in society. Training for vulnerable groups focuses on the ability to recognise one's own competencies, activate and motivate the participants to plan their professional and personal future, and encourage them to improve their situation. More in the [report](#) and [article](#).

Bernarda Mori Rudolf, MOCIS Slovenj Gradec AEC

Coordinator: City Library Ljubljana (MKL)

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): The development of skills required for work ([Razvoj zmožnosti, potrebnih za delo](#))

Date and venue: 28 May 2015, Ljubljana

Target group: unemployed people



Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education, employment and library science. Professional part: a presentation of examples of good practice (MKL, LinkINjob, ESS, Cene Štupar Public Institute, Slocally) and the PIAAC research. Practical part: 5 workshops: Identify, activate and respect yourself – the alphabet of business; Body language in the business world; Business etiquette; Presentation of a website for independent language learning; What is cheaper – an association, institution or being a sole trader?

Findings and recommendations: the connection and interaction between the abilities required for work and other areas of life, and comprehensive development of those sets of abilities, the importance of cooperation between different actors through joint projects, and the exchange of experience and success stories; it is necessary to take into account the needs of individuals and employers as well as the characteristics of the (local) environment; a combination of several methods is more successful – counselling, coaching, education, job seekers clubs, workspace, subsidies. More in the [report](#).

Dr Simona Šinko, City Library Ljubljana

Coordinator: Murska Sobota Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Key competencies in the 21st century in the land by the Mura River ([Ključne kompetence 21. stoletja v pokrajini ob Muri](#))

Date and venue: 29 May 2015, Murska Sobota AEC premises



Target group: unemployed adults with low educational achievements

Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education and employment, representatives of key local institutions, media. Professional part: a plenary session and a guided discussion with adult educators, employers and the ESS about acquiring, identifying and developing core competencies and their characteristics. Practical part: the notion and importance of competencies in the labour market; a workshop for unemployed people on the importance of evaluating general and professional competencies, with examples thereof.

Findings and recommendations: the development of the core competencies which are required in the labour market or self-employment calls for stronger links between the sphere of education, the private sector, employers and the ESS; adult educators need to bring their views up to date on the comprehensiveness, relevance and effectiveness of education and include the development of core competencies into all programmes for all stages of life; in order to improve employability in Slovenia, people need to 'know how to put their knowledge to good use'; tailor-made programmes are the most appropriate for both participants and companies; people with a low level of education who are caught in a poverty trap can become more competitive on the labour market with better literacy and core competencies. More in the [report](#).

Alenka Kučan and Dejan Dravec, Murska Sobota AEC

Coordinator: Nova Gorica Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Exploiting unemployment for growth ([Izkoristimo brezposelnost za rast](#))

Date and venue: 15 June 2015, Nova Gorica

Target group: unemployed, older adults, young people, local residents



Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education, employment, the social sector; director of the Nova Gorica regional branch of the Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS), representatives of associations, youth organisations, and other organisations. Professional part: presentation of LUNG's activities in the field of fostering basic skills in the unemployed, SIAE's presentation of the current PIAAC survey with an emphasis on basic skills in the unemployed and Nova Gorica regional branch of the ESS's presentation of the situation in the region. Practical part: Basic computer skills workshop, adult education information and guidance

corner, self-directed learning guidance corner, guidance corner for the assessment of language ability using the CEFR scale, group coaching presentation and seminar 'The Path to Financial Security'.

Findings and recommendations: investment in the education of young people and adults, cooperation between sectors, preparation of conditions for an effective system of skills development (funding, administration, evaluation effects, etc.), activation of the full range of skills of citizens, encouraging employers to exploit skills more effectively – provision of high-quality jobs, exploitation of all knowledge of employees, education programmes are needed for the over-45s, inclusion in active employment policy programmes, best possible cooperation with the educational institutions, essential contacts with employers and the adaptation of knowledge to needs, promotion of enrolment in vocational schools, training programmes for drivers, the lifelong learning centre has proved to be a very effective form of learning support, gaining qualifications – financing for tuition fees, further training (NVQs, courses), languages, free time (various forms of non-formal learning), free via various projects. More in the [report](#).

Nada Uršič Debeljak and Ksenija Petek, Nova Gorica AEC

3. PAS events for and with (im)migrants

Coordinator: Žalec Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Coexistence of nations: a phrase or implementation in practice? ([Sobivanje narodov: besedni izraz ali uresničevanje v praksi?](#))

Date and venue: 21 May 2015, Žalec

Target group: immigrants (particularly, Albanian-speaking women)



Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education, employment, social affairs; immigration representatives; and the media. Professional part: A round table on the coexistence of nations – intercultural dialogue. Practical part: an informative and counselling workshop for Albanian-speaking women.

Findings and recommendations: What knowledge do immigrants need: language (Slovenian), social competences, computer skills, knowledge of one's own as well as Slovenia's culture, tradition and history, etiquette and other general knowledge (e.g. how to be organised and handle different situations), knowledge of Slovenian legislation and other information on education, integration, etc. Who can help them? The answer is: everyone, e.g. volunteers – immigrants, local communities (meetings between people of different nationalities, cultures, etc.), a new network for intercultural counselling, government aid (supporting integration and financing various forms of education). 'Special' needs of immigrants: developing and nurturing their own identity; those responsible should take their views into account; and they must constantly prove themselves, etc. Four conditions: freedom of speech: equality before the law; responsive policies and citizen empowerment. More in the [report](#).

Mihaela Anclin, Žalec AEC

Coordinator: Postojna Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Lifelong learning – options and opportunities for immigrants ([Vseživljenjsko učenje – možnosti in priložnosti za priseljence](#))

Date and venue: 26 May 2015, Postojna

Target group: immigrants



Invited stakeholders: representatives from municipalities, schools, regional offices of the ESS, social work centres, libraries, associations and media from the regions of Primorska and Notranjska. Professional part: a round table with a special guest – Vlasta Nussdorfer, the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia, and a presentation of the experience of Maryan Antich, the recipient of the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education award for the promotion of adult learning and knowledge. Practical part: a workshop for the immigrant target group,

entitled 'Evaluate your informal knowledge and select the right national vocational qualification for you' in cooperation with the Postojna Guidance Centre.

Findings and recommendations: immigrants require fresh knowledge for their social integration; their lack of ability to communicate in Slovenian further impedes their integration; their previous non-formal and informal education also needs to be taken into account; certain groups are particularly difficult to establish contact with and vulnerable because of their cultural and religious background; economic, social, cultural and psychological integration are also important, which is why the integration process requires comprehensive support. More in the [report](#) and [article](#).

Erika Švara, Postojna EAC

Coordinator: Jesenice Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Supporting immigrants and migrants in their integration into a new environment ([Podpora priseljencem in migrantom pri vključevanju v novo okolje](#))

Date and venue: 3 June 2015, Jesenice



Target group: immigrants and migrants

Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of immigrant and migrant integration: Peace Institute, administrative units, ESS, social work centres, NGOs, educational institutions. Professional part: a theoretical introduction and presentation of projects and examples of good practice in the field of migrant integration into new environments. Practical part: establishing links between the professionals and organisations working with immigrants and migrants.

Findings and recommendations: joint submission of tenders; a forum for professionals from different organisations; an introductory meeting at the ESS – engaging unemployed people in volunteer work with immigrants; a database of volunteers (immigrants/locals) offering learning assistance and helping with official procedures, holding workshops and lectures; a cultural and language mediator. More in the [report](#).

Maja Radinovič Hajdič, MA, Jesenice AEC

Coordinator: Krško Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): New opportunities – basic skills in members of the Roma community ([Nove priložnosti – temeljne zmožnosti Romov](#))

Date and venue: 18 June 2015, Krško

Target group: Roma community

Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of education, social services, healthcare, schools, nursery schools, associations providing activities for the Roma community. Professional part: activities encouraging and developing basic skills in members of the Roma community, presentation of examples of good practice, discussion and formulation of recommendations for future activities. Practical part: 'learning to learn' (workshop for members of the Roma community).



Findings and recommendations: continue activities designed to foster and develop basic skills in members of the Roma community; preparation of new education programmes for the development of basic skills in members of the Roma community; maintain and strengthen partnership-based cooperation between organisations providing activities for the Roma community; preparation and

notification of joint projects; provision of co-funding for the development of new education programmes for the development of basic skills in members of the Roma community, and for their implementation. More in the [report](#).

Nataša Kršak, Krško AEC

Coordinator: Velenje Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Challenges represented by the growth in the number of immigrants in the Šalek Valley and the Upper Savinja Valley ([Izzivi povečanega števila priseljencev v Šaleški in Zgornji Savinjski dolini](#))

Date and venue: 19 June 2015 v Velenju

Target group: immigrants

Professional event: presentation of the importance of the PIAAC survey, round-table discussion: Challenges represented by the growth in the number of immigrants in the Šalek Valley and the Upper Savinja Valley. Practical part, group 1: Presentation of Albanian culture and proposals for dealing with the challenge 'How to make the first contact with immigrants' (aimed at all those who encounter immigrants in their work); group 2: non-formal educational workshops for immigrant women (silk scarf painting).



Findings and recommendations: the biggest challenge that immigrants are facing is their language problem which is difficult to solve at the local level because municipalities are facing lack of financial resources; the state has to account for that at the systemic level; longer language courses are needed as well as interpretation services in schools, medical centres, hospitals; language courses should be set up in Kosovo prior to immigrants' arrival to Slovenia; on the other hand, cultural differences can contribute to mutual learning and understanding. More in the [report](#).

Brigita Kropušek Ranzinger, Velenje AEC

4. PAS events for and with rural population

Coordinator: Cultural Touristic and Recreational Centre Radeče, Public Institute

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): Man and Earth – Celebrating World Soil Day ([Človek in zemlja](#) – ob Mednarodnem letu tal)

Date and venue: 22 May 2015, Park Dvor, Magolnik

Target group: rural population

Invited stakeholders: pupils, farmers, forest owners, the horticultural society and folk singers.

Professional part: lectures by Dr. Mojca Kokot Kranjc from the Biotechnical Faculty in Maribor and by Dr. Aleksander Marinšek from the Slovenian Forestry Institute, familiarisation with the pedology and geology of the area, and raising awareness of the significance of World Soil Day and the International Day for Biological Diversity.



Practical part: taking soil samples in the field and analysing them, familiarisation with the geological structure of the soil and different types of rocks, and the characteristics and composition of soil which enables the growth and development of plants and contributes to its quality for agricultural and general use.

Findings and recommendations: lifelong learning is vital for rural development; study circles are an excellent example of non-formal adult education, professional events in the field are effective in imparting knowledge to the participants, the support of the Slovenian Institute for

Adult Education (material support, presence, study materials, etc.) provides great encouragement to learning communities; links with local stakeholders can improve joint efforts and ensure sustainable development and rich social capital. More in the [report](#).

Marija Imperl, KTRC Radeče

Coordinator: Črnomelj Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): On the road to self-employment ([Na poti do samozaposlitve](#))

Date and venue: 29 May 2015, Semič

Target group: unemployed people



Invited stakeholders: mayors, ESM, development centres, Chamber of Crafts and Small Business, entrepreneurs, schools, adult educators, libraries, societies and the media. Professional part: a round table – promoting entrepreneurship and self-initiative as a basic skill. Practical part: an entrepreneurial workshop – encouraging unemployed people to start their own business, generating business ideas.

Findings and recommendations: identifying initiatives from the environment; developing one's own business idea; identifying opportunities and impediments; understanding the significance of integration; visiting successful entrepreneurs; being brave, persistent and confident. More in the [report](#).

Nada Žagar, MA, Črnomelj AEC

Coordinator: Koper Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): HERB – Opportunities grow ([HERB – Priložnosti rastejo](#))

Date and venue: 9 June 2015, Koper

Target group: people with a low level of education, unemployed people, the rural population



Invited stakeholders: The City of Koper, ESS, Nova Gorica Agriculture and Forestry Institute, Koper Regional Development Centre, the Obalne Lekarne pharmacy, Rotunda, the Herb Society of the Coastal Region and the Karst. Professional part: employment and self-employment opportunities, financial incentives, tenders and support institutions, counselling, marketing, quality, cooperation. Practical part: a presentation of successful projects and cooperatives.

Findings and recommendations: it is vital to take advantage of the assistance and services provided by support and counselling organisations; links are also important: joint actions, marketing, product quality analyses, the exchange of information, and the

joint registration of projects; it is necessary to constantly improve and take into account examples of good practice from abroad in the field of marketing and cooperatives. More in the [report](#).

Alenka Grželj, Koper AEC

5. Other PAS events

Coordinator: Škofja Loka Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): From coexistence to employment ([S sožitjem do zaposlitve](#))

Date and venue: 28 May 2015, Škofja Loka

Target group: people with special needs

Invited stakeholders: key actors in the field of social affairs, education, employment; and representatives of municipalities and associations. Professional part: a presentation of a good practice – the restaurant Druga Violina, a presentation of educational programmes for people with special needs at the Škofja Loka Adult Education Centre; a discussion. Practical part: a workshop entitled 'A Good Day Every Day'



Findings and recommendations: our goal is to organise and implement new forms of employment under special conditions for adults with mental developmental disabilities in Škofja Loka in order to facilitate: social inclusion, the acquisition of new knowledge and skills (communication and social skills, etc.). A positive impact on the environment: accepting differences through direct experience. All the stakeholders must expend considerable effort in creating innovative jobs for adults with special needs. More in the [report](#).

Tanja Avman, Škofja Loka AEC

Coordinator: Ptuj Adult Education Centre

Name of event and link to programme (Slovenian): 'Searching Through' [Vinko Möderndorfer, 'Brskanje'](#)

Date and venue: 21 May 2015, Dom KULTure muziKafe, Ptuj



Target group: older adults, young people, unemployed people, local residents interested in contemporary Slovenian literature

Contemporary Slovenian literature reveals slightly unpleasant yet completely authentic sides of human existence: loneliness, families still burdened by events from their national, family and political pasts, family estrangement, and the isolation of elderly people.

Findings and recommendations: the author's work is based on a world riven by conflicts between different social strata, their members and numerous interests. He is one of the first Slovenian

writers to draw attention to the structure of society; Möderndorfer expressed his view on contemporary paradoxes through lively discussion with a hint of humour; we often tend to take our troubles too seriously and so do not seem them for what they are; we should instead distance ourselves from life in order to see the 'root' of the problem and solve it in a calmer and more rational way, which is also the main lesson of his stories. The book *Brskanje* (Searching Through), which the author presented for the first time, also adds a special touch to the event.

Mateja Hlupič, Ptuj AEC

A varied gathering of PAS event organisers at the 19th Adult Education Colloquium

The [Adult Education Colloquium](#) (AEC) is the main specialised LLW event at the national level, at which experts address current issues in adult education. This year's [19th AEC](#), which we defined as a milestone in the EAAL project, went by the title 'I can, therefore I am! Promoting adult skills'.

The colloquium, which took place on 16 June 2015 in Kranjska Gora and was jointly organised by the SIAE and the national Centre for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS), coincided with the launch of EPAL Slovenia.



Participants in the colloquium, of whom there were 94, had the opportunity to listen to two foreign guests: Helen Casey, an expert on basic skills from the National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy at the UCL Institute of Education in London; and Géraldine Libreau, EPALE coordinator at the European Commission's DG Education and Culture.

Helen Casey focused on adult educators working in the field of literacy. On the other hand, the panel discussion involving the organisers of PAS events revealed the great diversity and richness of this work in Slovenia. Participants drew attention to the numerous pressing challenges affecting young people, the unemployed,

migrants and the rural population, but also reported many encouraging and cheering developments. Inspiration and personal statements for the video on PAS events that we are presenting below were collected at the adult education colloquium which at the same time was the closing gathering of PAS events. More on PAS events [here](#).

Video-language is short and concise

Video publications have already been chosen for presenting examples of good adult education practice in the first phase of the Slovenian EAAL project:

[There are opportunities!](#)

[Handmade stories](#)

[Guidance for learning](#)

[Hand in hand](#)

 <p>Priložnosti so! Programi usposabljanja za brezposelne http://tvu.acs.si/paradaucenja/video1</p>	 <p>Stkane zgodbe Podeželje kot priložnost za razvoj pismenosti in temeljnih zmožnosti http://tvu.acs.si/paradaucenja/video2</p>	 <p>Svetovanje za znanje Svetovalna podpora odraslim za izobraževanje in učenje http://tvu.acs.si/paradaucenja/video3</p>	 <p>Z roko v roki Učenje v skupnosti za osebno in skupno dobro http://tvu.acs.si/paradaucenja/video4</p>
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In the second phase of the EAAL project, video language was used for illustrating PAS events. Filming took place at different PAS events' venues, at the Adult Education Colloquium and other settings. Some professionals and learners were asked to voice their opinions. The abundance of recorded material was condensed into the following 6-minute motivational film.

Video 'I can, therefore I am! Promoting adult skills'

Video content: Key aspects of specialised EAAL events, including statements from representatives of the four target groups (young adults, the unemployed, migrants and the rural population), and an outline of the issues surrounding the acquisition of basic skills for adults in various environments

Coordinator: Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik

Scenario: Ajda Turk, Marko Kumer Murč, Urban Zorko

Directed, camera and editing: Marko Kumer Murč, Urban Zorko

Technical production: Smehomat, www.smehomat.org

Publisher and production: Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (SIAE)

Published: Ljubljana, October 2015

Duration: 6:18

Access: <http://lw.acs.si/learningparade/goodpractice>



Acknowledgments to: Géraldine Libreau (European Commission), Nika Manevski, Zvonka Potočar (RIC Novo mesto), Maja Radinovič Hajdič, MA (Jesenice AEC), Issiaka Sanou, dr Simona Šinko (MKL), Milena Štefelin, Nada Žagar, MA (ZIK Črnomelj) – who enriched the video with their statements; SIAE collaborators, who presented the PIAAC study at 14 venues – dr Petra Javrh, Estera Možina, MA, and Jasmina Mirčeva, MA, and all other partners in the EAAL project.

International exchange

Under the aegis of the European Commission, the network of national coordinators has regularly met and compared experiences in implementing projects that differ considerably in content from country to country. National coordinators have attended key events in other countries, meaning that we have all learnt from each other.

Meetings in Brussels

In November 2014 national coordinators met in Brussels for a 'kick-off' meeting at which information was provided on the substantive and financial starting points for the new project period. These are now defined by the Erasmus+ programme, which fortunately brings a number of administrative simplifications. Our experience to date has also equipped us with knowledge that will make our work significantly easier.

The representative of the European Commission revealed, when reviewing the submitted projects, that many of us have addressed or are continuing to address the issue of raising awareness of the importance of adult education, that our activities are aimed at those with poor levels of education/training and other deprived target groups, that we are promoting the development of essential skills and certain specific skills, encouraging the use of ICT, social networks and so on. Despite the satisfaction with the range of activities planned, we were encouraged to give some consideration in our working groups (and, later, in practice) to how we might forge even closer connections among stakeholders in adult education (bottom-up and vice versa), involve actors at the national level and increase the profile of adult education and the role of the national coordinator in its realisation. These are clearly the never fully achieved goals of our mission.

The meeting in March 2015 brought us up to date with the latest developments in adult education policy at the European level: the emphasis was on the recent transfer of adult education to DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and the connection of the EAAL with employment and education/training strategies in the context of Europe 2020. We were also encouraged to take the fullest advantage of the possibility of co-financing of adult education development via the European Social Fund.



In the overview of results and strengths and weaknesses of projects completed in the first project period (2012–2014), the EACEA expressed its recognition to national coordinators for the activities carried out while at the same time encouraging greater interaction and coordination among stakeholders at the national level. Further on, we discussed the current, one-year project period in which the majority of countries have opted for a continuation of activities from the 2012–2014 period (in Slovenia this is the third implementation of the Learning Parade) and some additional activities (in Slovenia these are PAS events designed to promote adult skills).

Guidance on the call for projects for the 2015–2017 period: although projects may once again be designed with regard to national circumstances, they should have a common mechanism for informing and actively including national stakeholders; priorities include a focus on basic skills for adults with low educational attainment and digital and transversal skills, quality in adult education, a balance between general adult education and vocational education and training, guidance and evaluation and awareness-raising for greater inclusion in adult education. Part of the meeting was devoted to strengthening cooperation between national coordinators and EPAL coordinators at the European and, in particular, the national level.

In June 2015 EAAL national coordinators were invited to the thematic event 'Upskilling Unemployed Adults', organised by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion under the Mutual Learning Programme. The latter is an important tool of the Open Coordination Method with regard to European employment policy being part of the European Employment Strategy. Relevant professional grounds for the thematic event were key messages from the European Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO) document titled 'Review on Upskilling Unemployed Adults (25–64): The organisation, profiling and targeting of training provision'.

Slovenian representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and the National Employment Service presented the Slovenian example of good practice. In the closing panel, the task of which it was to summarise recommendations to policy-makers – based on good practice examples as well as on group discussions – the author of this text took active part. The event was the first experience of

national coordinators with DG Employment and it showed that our thinking and acting do not differ as much as we expected.

Other international exchanges

In 2015 we once again took part in a number of international events and served as disseminators of information from the European to the national and local levels and vice versa. We have reported on this regularly in e-Novičke, the [Slovenian](#) and [English](#) bulletin of the SIAE, and on the [project website](#).

Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 24 April 2015: Implementation of the EAAL is an activity that has also found its place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite the fact that the country is not yet a member of the EU. The role of national coordinator has been assumed by the Agency for Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education, which is also responsible for adult education. Using the modest funding provided by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ programme, they have among other things organised a conference on adult education. Around 50 key adult education organisations at both the national and local levels were invited to the event, and the organisers were also keen to learn about Slovenia' approach to implementing the EAAL. We presented the Learning Parade, PAS events designed to promote adult competences, and other aspects of our work in the periods 2012–2014 and 2014–2015.



In exchange, we had the opportunity to witness their enthusiasm at the opportunities that have opened to them since the signing of the Agreement on their partial participation in the Erasmus+ programme, and to take part in working groups on the establishment of more successful social dialogue in the regulation and implementation of adult education, raising the awareness of stakeholders of the need for adult education, and ongoing professional training for adult educators.

In June, representatives of the above mentioned Agency took part in the Adult Education Colloquium, thus getting even better acquainted with our activities. We agreed to cooperate closely in the next phase of EAAL.

London, United Kingdom, 11 September 2015: The national coordinator for the implementation of the EAL in the United Kingdom has been the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). In 2015 their activities were focused on identifying the effects of adult education in all four administrative units (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales). They organised four 'impact forums' of various stakeholders and drew up findings and recommendations for future work. One of the key findings was that when providing information for data-driven decision-making it is necessary to focus more on actual effects rather than merely create collections of static data, research findings, examples of good practice and projects. In order to compare various views on **what** to measure and **how**, NIACE organised a conference at

Realising Impact : Making a difference through adult learning

European Agenda for Adult Learning
UK National Coordinator Conference 10th – 11th September 2015

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



which special attention was devoted to ways of measuring effects in adults with low educational attainment. More on this [here](#).

Bonn, Germany, 23 and 24 September 2015: We took part in a Peer Learning Activity on the 'Use of Digital Media in Basic Skills Education'. The event was organised by BIBB, the German national agency. The two-day workshop attracted just under 40 participants, for the most part staff from national agencies or individuals active in Erasmus+ projects or the EAAL project who were interested in exchanging experiences.

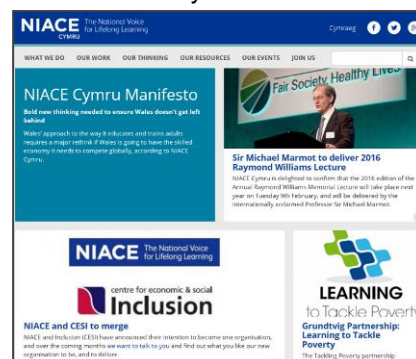


The first day was dedicated to finding out more about the German adult education and vocational education system. The second day was more practical in nature and focused on a number of interesting practices: the German websites 'ich-willlernen.de' and 'ich-will-deutsch-lernen.de' and the 'nl'. This was followed by presentations of the eVideo 2.0 learning tool from Literacy Screener developed by the Dutch Reading and Writing Foundation and

the University of Hamburg's Leo.-App application. These are major projects of high quality, but they are also very costly.

Cardiff, United Kingdom, 30 September 2015: The Welsh unit of NIACE – NIACE Cymru – held its last forum on measuring the effects of adult education after the closing conference mentioned above. At their request we presented Slovenia's experiences with the PIAAC survey and the PAS events designed to promote adult competences that were carried out this year as part of the EAAL project. The Welsh and the Scots were not in fact included in the first round of this survey, and were therefore interested in how the survey was organised and financed in Slovenia. Although in the discussion that followed the prevailing opinion was not in favour of joining the third round of PIAAC, they were grateful to hear about our experiences and keen to obtain some solid data regarding the state of adult skills in their country.

The visit to NIACE Cymru, which also saw the participation of Berni Brady, the director of the Irish National Adult Learning Organisation (AONTAS), was also a good opportunity to exchange information on learning festivals in Ireland, Wales and Slovenia.



GOAL project: The aims of the Erasmus+ 'Guidance and Orientation for Adult Learners' (GOAL, 2015–2018) project are to study the guidance needs of adults with low educational attainment for the purpose of inclusion in education and learning; to develop and implement guidance approaches to support selected groups of adults with low educational attainment; to define the competences required by guidance counsellors for work with adults with low educational attainment; to develop a methodology for the evaluation of the results of guidance activities at the level of the individual; and to exchange experiences among participating countries, with an emphasis on guidance activity models and evaluation of adults' knowledge.



The project is **indirectly** connected to the EAAL project, since it includes the institutions and ministries that have taken on the role of national EAAL coordinator in partner countries. These are Belgium, Flemish Ministry of Education and Training (coordinator), Czech Republic, Iceland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovenia and Turkey (silent partner). The SIAE representatives in the GOAL project are Tanja Vilič Klenovšek, MA, and Andreja Dobrovoljc, MA. Also participating in the project alongside the SIAE are the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (Education Development Office), the national Institute for Vocational Education and Training, two educational centres (BIC Ljubljana and Scool Centre Velenje) and two adult education information and guidance (ISIO) centres (Ljubljana and Velenje). The methodology for measuring quality and evaluation is provided by the UCL Institute of Education.

More on the project website: www.projectgoal.eu

Concluding remarks

Three series of the Learning Parade as well as this year's succession of Promoting Adult Skills events have marked 21 places in Slovenia with lively happenings. These enabled visitors to acquire new knowledge and skills, get inspired by successful learners' stories, get acquainted with challenges and opportunities, and realise the importance of collaboration and synergy. What next?

The new phase of the EAAL project has started

The LP has developed as an effective and successful approach to awareness raising on adult learning. It will be implemented and developed further. As for the concept of PAS events, we did expect the idea to land on fertile soil, but we did not imagine that the events would give rise to such a strong desire to continue and put into practice the recommendations obtained. We included these aspects in our application for the project 'National coordinators for the implementation of the EAAL 2015–2017 in Slovenia', and persuaded the co-funders of the project, namely the European Commission and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport to further support us. We are particularly pleased that the coordinators of LPs and PAS events have become important driving forces for the development and establishment of partnerships in their local environments.

This is, of course, not only because of the EAAL project and other approaches to promotion. Instead, it is the reflection of a rich store of experiences and approaches in the fields of literacy, guidance, evaluation, quality assurance, provision of formal and non-formal forms of education, and other.



The third phase of the implementation of EAAL officially commenced on 1 November 2015 and will continue until 30 October 2017. The new project envisages the establishment of a national coordination body for the EAAL. This will be achieved by enhancing the National Committee for LLW. It will include representatives of numerous national institutions which are stakeholders in adult education. These will direct and monitor the progress of the project. Over the course of two years we will build up the strategic plan for LLW and transform it into a more comprehensive awareness-raising strategy. Action plans will be

drawn upon the themes that we have identified as important in the 20 years of the LLW and the three years of the LP (e.g. inter-sectoral integration, ways of reaching marginalised sections of the population, the key role of educators and also of learners, media and visual promotion).

The focus of our efforts will be on enhancing the Promoting Adult Skills (PAS) events, which will continue to be based on the four educationally deprived target groups: young adults, the unemployed, migrants and inhabitants of rural areas. In 2016 the emphasis will be on improving the employability of members of these groups, while in 2017 we will focus on their active inclusion in the learning community. We will continue to keep the political, professional and general public informed about these activities via established communication channels, while also devoting particular attention to informing the European and domestic public via [EPALE](#).



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have collaborated in these activities: the lead institutions of the LP in all three years, the coordinators and their associates, numerous partner institutions, groups and individuals, as well as representatives of the media and all those who have contributed to the success, colourfulness and reach of the events and to the impact and expressiveness of multimedia content. Thanks are also due to the funding bodies: DG Education and Culture and DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). We would also like to acknowledge the moral and financial support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

We invite you to keep up with all the latest news on the next phase of the EAAL project on the [project website](#).



Project team: Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, head of the EAAL project, with collaborators from the SIAE: Erika Brenk, Neja Colja, Simona Kavčič, Nevenka Kocijančič, Darijan Novak, Mateja Pečar, Marjetka Petelin, Katarina Šešet and Nina Fele; external collaborators: David Fartek, Franci Lajovic, Ajda Turk, and many more.