

e★bulletin

issue 3

Contributions of Partners in the
"Widening and Strengthening the European Dimension of the Lifelong Learning Movement" Project

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Who Are We?

The project Widening and Strengthening the European Dimension of the Lifelong Learning Week Movement is an endeavor to continue the implementation of the EU policy in the field of lifelong learning. Concrete objectives of the project are:

- ★ the sharing of accumulated experience and expertise of some partner countries (SI, DE, RO and BG) and the transfer of know-how related to the promotion of adult education and lifelong learning to some partner countries (ES, BG, RO);
- ★ the establishment of national frameworks for planning and carrying out national Lifelong Learning Weeks (LLWs), evaluating their impacts and disseminating their results;
- ★ the organization of national celebrations of learning and of one collective event (ES);
- ★ the production and dissemination of high-quality informative and promotional material and services, mainly web-based;
- ★ the establishment of cross-country as well as national networks for the promotion of the 'lifelong learning for all' strategy, thus creating partnerships which will be able to continue their mission well beyond the project's lifetime, and disseminating its results nationally and internationally.

Working together will result in implemented LLW 's as an advocacy tools for promoting and raising the profile of adult education and lifelong learning in participating countries, establishment of mutual understanding and partnerships as well as initiating changes in policies of adult education and lifelong learning. Thus, the EU concept for lifelong learning will be put into practice.

These aims are a great challenge to all participating institutions, not only because of the cultural, but also because of the economic differences. Partners from five countries rely on

their experience and competence in order to assure the success of their initiative:

- ★ Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (SIAE), Ljubljana, Slovenia;
- ★ Federation of Societies for Spread of Knowledge (FSSK »Znanie«), Sofia, Bulgaria;
- ★ Institute for International Co-operation of the German Adult Education Association (IIZ/DVV), Bonn, Germany;
- ★ University of Barcelona, Centre for Social and Educational Research (CREA), Barcelona, Spain;
- ★ Spanish federation of popular universities (FEUP), Madrid, Spain;
- ★ The National Association of the Regional Centre for Adult Education (AN CZEA), Arad, Romania;

The working area of the above mentioned organizations is in close connection with adult education and so their participation in this project contributes to the widening and strengthening the European dimension of the lifelong learning.

The purpose of the E-Bulletin is to promote our project, introduce news, important events and publications related to the Lifelong Learning Weeks' Movement. The e-bulletin gives all interested readers the opportunity to inquire about the progress and outcomes of our project, presents different facts on the history of Lifelong Learning Weeks and the most important EU documents in the field of Lifelong Learning. It also provides information on Adult Education, Learning Festivals, and different researches in the field of Lifelong Learning.

★ Interim Report for the Project 'Widening and Strengthening the European Dimension of the Lifelong Learning Week Movement'

Prepared by:
Olga Drofenik



Having worked together from October 2002 to the end of May 2003 project partners have accomplished some of the main activities paving the paths to the ultimate goal of the project: promotion of the European dimension of the "lifelong learning strategy for all" by implementing lifelong learning weeks (LLW) in our countries and thus enriching the international lifelong learning week movement.

Partners have been sharing their experiences, transferring know-how and designed the first outputs on two team meetings: in Ljubljana, Slovenia, October 2002 and in Bonn, Germany, May 2003. We have elaborated 12 topics on the first and 13 on the second meeting. On both meetings partners have strengthened their commitment and strong belief that learning festivals are an important tool for advocating and promoting the implementation of both dimensions of the lifelong learning strategy for all – the life long and the life wide dimension. The LLWs we have designed involve all generations and include various thematic fields and methods of learning for people's personal growth, improving social participation and employability. The partners' satisfaction with their work on the meetings was very high (see Product No 7 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting in Interim report, http://www.llw5.org/reports/interim_report.pdf.)

The first task we have achieved was the preparation of **National Reports** where the current status of lifelong learning strategy and needs analysis of each country are identified. In the Introduction some characteristics of the lifelong learning profile in partners' countries as well as in Europe are outlined. The Reports have been and will be used in the further steps of the project – in designing the target groups to be addressed with LLW and in searching for the supporters and providers of LLW events. Additionally, familiarity with EU documents and with relevant national documents strengthens the position of LLW coordinators and providers in lobbying for moral and financial support from governments and other social partners. In addition, the expertise enhances the promotional impact of LLW on the mutual implementation of European and national aims leading towards the establishment of learning societies. (See Product No 1 Identification of the current status and needs analyses in partner countries, National reports, Interim report, http://www.llw5.org/reports/interim_report.pdf)

The second step which started on Ljubljana meeting was designing and establishing the basic infrastructure for LLW movement in participating countries: developing the network of trained national and regional coordinators for LLW movement and creating the Manual for LLW/Learning Festival co-operation.

With the **network of trained national and regional coordinators** for LLW movement the decentralized approach for organizing LLW has been adopted. National coordinators were trained in Ljubljana. The two national coordinators from Bulgaria have already transmitted their knowledge and competencies to 40 regional coordinators in their country and the Slovenian coordinator and her team provided 20 regional coordinators in Slovenia with the project outputs and thus enriched the coordinators' competencies.

The Manual for Lifelong Learning Week / Learning Festival Co-operation is a tool supporting LLW coordinators with providing an overview of fundamental tasks that are to be performed and it also comprises some examples of

good practice. The tasks cover 6 fundamental areas: establishing partnership, cooperation, coordination; planning and coordination of events; media promotion; funding; creating informative and promotional material; monitoring, evaluating and reporting. It has been and will be used for training and empowering of regional coordinators in participating countries. (For the English PDF version as well as Bulgarian, Spanish and Romanian translation sees Product No 2, The Manual for LLW/learning festival co-operation, Interim report, http://www.llw5.org/reports/interim_report.pdf.)

The next steps, performed simultaneously with both already mentioned were designing high quality **corporate image and visual promotion** of the project: logo and poster (the first drafted in May and later finalized in August) and developing IC tools and materials. **The web site** is providing partners and all interested, nationally and internationally, with relevant information on the project and its progress, on products and outcomes, on partner profiles, and the LLW movement in general (<http://www.llw5.org/>). In the *Highlights* section professionals on lifelong learning strategies are invited to comment all these outcomes of the project. The project team believes that they are relevant and useful for their work as well. Their feed-back would enhance team members' endeavors in promoting learning for all with LLW movement in our countries. In the *E-bulletin* all interested readers have the opportunity to learn more about the progress and outcomes of our project find different facts on the history of LLW and the most important EU documents in the field of lifelong learning. It also provides information on adult education, learning festivals and different researches in the field of lifelong learning. Electronic version, and since August 2003 the printed versions, are available. The *Forum* is also a part of the web site, but it is a communication tool used exclusively for partners of this project and can be accessed only by those who own the password. The usage of forum has already improved ICT skills of most of the team members.

Much work has been already done on the project with all the outputs being joint products of all

partners. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the partners that have contributed the inputs and helped in finalizing the Interim report.

The finalized outputs inspire and direct our future work. There are still a lot of activities we have merely outlined that have to be finalized by the end of December 2003 and implemented in 2004: training of regional coordinators in Spain and Romania; organizing LLWs in all partners' countries and collective event in Spain, establishing web calendar of events; finalizing the LLW evaluation instruments, dissemination plan and media plans, publishing the 3rd issue of e - bulletin, the leaflet, etc. On our third meeting in November in Spain, we will evaluate the work we have done from June onwards and review responses on the outcomes of our work.

Right now the partners are devoting most of their time to implementation of the core mission of our project: accomplishing enriched LLWs. We are to expect the events in Bulgaria (September, Germany), in Slovenia (October) and in Romania (November). The Spanish partners are breaking fresh ground with organizing their first LLW and hosting the Collective event of our team as part of their learning festival in November. We are all looking forward to seeing how the plans and expectations we have intertwined with our experiences will touch and influence people we are addressing with LLW.

★ Learning Festivals

Lifelong Learning Days, Bulgaria, 17 September – 15 October 2003

Prepared by:

Maria Todorova and Milka Atanasova



The Lifelong Learning Days initiative has started in Bulgaria for a third year on the 17th of September 2003 in Sofia. It has been organized by the Sofia office of the Institute for International cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (IIZ/DVV) in partnership with the Federation of Societies for Spread of Knowledge (Znanie), the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and other ministries/national agencies, NGOs and national/international institutions.

The Lifelong Learning Days, Bulgaria, 2003 will take place in September and October in 11 Bulgarian cities: Sofia, Veliko Tynovo, Gorna Oriahovitza, Pleven, Lovetch, Plovdiv, Burgas, Dobrich, Blagoevgrad, Plovdiv and Gabrovo. Some of the events are sustainable activities of the local educational life which continue throughout the school year.



The official opening of the Lifelong Learning Days took place on the 17th of September - the Day of Sofia - at 13:00 in front of the National

Palace of Culture in cooperation with the Sofia Municipality.



The mayor of the capital, Mr. Stefan Sofianski, the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Mr. R. Simeonov, the Director of the Direction for Continuing Education by the Ministry for Education and Research, Mrs. V. Dejkova and the Coordinator of the LLL-Initiative, Maria Todorova, took part at the opening.



The event was accompanied by a rich cultural program.

In Sofia the program has had the following accents:

- An exhibition of educational projects and programs: about 30 educational institutions took part, among them the UNDP for Bulgaria, GOPA-Bulgarian-German Program for Vocational Training and Employment,

National Employment Agency, Goethe Institute Sofia etc.



- International seminar on access to education of disadvantaged groups with participants from Serbia, Romania and Germany. The seminar is part of the *Regional Lifelong Learning Days in SEE, Skopje, October 2003*



- Seminars on Distance and Electronic Learning; Vocational Education and Training; European Educational Programs



- Open Consultation for Licensing of Centers for Vocational Education and Training
- Exhibition of a painter, belonging to the group of the disabled persons
- Opening of a School for Adult Roma in Sofia: "Second Chance School"



- Seminar on history teaching, organized by Goethe-Institute Sofia, Ministry of Education and Science and IIZDVV

Forthcoming: Events of the Partners of IIZDVV: Znanie, the Russian Cultural Center, Open Education Centre, Goethe-Institute Sofia

During the 4 weeks events with similar topics will take part in the other LLW-cities in Bulgaria, which will cover almost all the territory of the country. We may say, that the next month will be the LLW-month on the educational calendar in Bulgaria.

For more details, please visit following web-pages:
www.iizdvv-bg.org
www.lifelonglearning-bulgaria.org

Celebrating the eighth Lifelong Learning Week (LLW) in Slovenia

Prepared by:

Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, MSc



From **October 13 to 19**, Slovenia will witness its eighth celebration of lifelong learning. Educational, promotional, informative, cultural, and social events will be held in cities as well as villages, in schools and also in non-formal settings, at meeting places for different generations, and in homes over the telephone or Internet. Based on figures from previous years, we are envisaging about 600 event providers to come together for this - by now traditional - event. More than 3,000 workshops, presentations, lectures, open days, exhibitions, and many other events are expected to draw the attention of the widest public to the importance and omnipresence of learning, and to the many diverse learning opportunities available, as well as to the challenges faced and the results achieved by outstanding individuals and groups.

At the national level, the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (SIAE) will open the Lifelong Learning Week on Friday, **October 10**. Traditionally, the festival was opened on the very first day of the LLW but in order to enable the participation of LLW event providers at this central event, it will take place before the official

time frame of the festival. The highlight of the **opening ceremony** will be the **presentation of awards for exceptional adult learning achievements**; recognition will be given to 13 award winners – 4 individuals and 1 group for enriching their own knowledge, and 4 individuals, 1 group and 3 institutions for fostering the learning of others. Their stories – like the ones of the previous 77 award winners (1997-2002) – can provide encouragement and inspiration to current and potential learners; their short histories are published at <http://llw.acs.si/awards>. In fact, presentations of award winners (video-and internet-based, printed in newspapers and magazines, broadcast on TV and radio) - not only at national but also at local level - will once again be among the most attractive events of LLW.

This year the festival will have a very strong international impact. Firstly, the Slovenian LLW will form a part of the Regional Lifelong Learning Festival in South Eastern Europe (see <http://www.inebis.org>). Secondly, through the EU project ‘Widening and strengthening the European dimension of the LLW movement’ it will be combined with festivals in five other countries (see <http://www.llw5.org>). Thirdly, the traditional **Adult Education Colloquium** (professional event at national level which has been organized within the framework of LLW since 1997) this time on the theme ‘*Current issues in adult learning and motivation*’ will be an attractive meeting place for domestic and foreign experts. More than forty authors of papers from several countries have confirmed their participation and many more are expected to join the discussions that will be held from **October 17-18**; for more information see <http://llw.acs.si/ac/07>. Moreover, the 7th Adult Education Colloquium is one of the expert workshops organized within the framework of the before mentioned Regional Lifelong Learning Festival in South Eastern Europe.

However, the ‘flesh’ of the Slovenian learning festival will be provided by numerous educational institutions (from kindergartens to primary and secondary schools, faculties, and universities, folk high schools and private providers of educational programmes), clubs and associations, NGOs,

libraries and book stores, sport and health centers, rural and regional development centers, interest groups and individuals, media representatives and many others. At the **local level**, they will organize **events** that emerge out of local needs and aspirations but also achievements and further challenges of the local surroundings. The decentralized approach to celebrating lifelong learning is something we are really proud of – partly, it has developed spontaneously, as a result of a rather liberal national co-ordination of LLW by SIAE. In the last three years, however, the development and functioning of the network of regional and thematic co-ordinators has greatly contributed to the fact that LLW is addressing all walks of private and public life in many corners of our country. About twenty co-ordinators are currently investing their enthusiasm but also money and manpower to set up balanced and complex exhibitions of learning opportunities in nearly all Slovenian regions. As far as thematic co-ordinators are concerned, special tribute will be paid to people with special needs (2003 being the European year of the disabled), the national and local employment offices will contribute co-ordinated activities for the working population (employed and unemployed), tourist offices throughout the country will once again emphasize the importance of learning in their field of activities, the student population will be involved in LLW via their annual festival ‘Student arena’, and traditionally, scouts will unite generations all over Slovenia at events organized and co-ordinated by their societies.

Each year great effort has been invested in establishing partnerships with **media** and getting them involved not only as reporters or interviewers but also as providers of learning contents, i.e. presenting award winners and examples of good practice, featuring roundtables and discussions on the role of lifelong learning or providing contact shows in order to enable the widest public to acquire information and guidance for their learning attempts. This year we are looking forward to an even enlarged involvement of media in LLW - at national and local level.

For the fourth year in a row, the only country-wide

overview of LLW events will be the internet calendar of events (<http://tvu.acs.si/koledar> - in Slovenian language only) which will be posted on October 6. At the moment, SIAE is collecting information on LLW 2003 providers and events, and once again we are thrilled by the variety of LLW partners and their inputs to the learning festival. In fact, all of us involved in the preparation of this year’s LLW are looking forward to contributing once again to the implementation of the strategy of ‘lifelong learning for all’. We will share our new experiences with you in the next issue of our *E-bulletin* – until then you are welcome to visit the LLW web page (<http://tvu.acs.si> in Slovenian, and <http://llw.acs.si> in English).

The „Learning Festival“ (Lernfest) in Germany

Lernfest
2002

Prepared by:

Sabrina Boscolo Lips



The German Learning Festivals, which foot on the Adult Learner’s Week experience in England, have been promoted from 1998 until 2000 by the Ministry of Education and Research together with the 16 Federal Regions (Laender). The Adolf Grimme Institute in Marl was entrusted by the Ministry with the nationwide coordination of the festival and fostered the festivals’ spread in all Germany:

- ★ 1998: 130 Learning Festivals nationwide
- ★ 1999: 150 Learning Festivals nationwide
- ★ 2000: 206 Learning Festivals nationwide (International LLLW: Expo 2000)

The local Learning Festivals developed along the regional differences: in some towns there were more than one, in some other there was a central local coordination, some festivals were one day others one month long. Although a common date was proposed, also this could differ because of local needs (other feasts or school holidays etc.).

The local/regional differences enriched the festival movement; the different experiences enhanced the exchange and discussion and contributed to the further development of the festivals' goals and focus.

Since 2001 there is no national coordination anymore. Nowadays some 40 / 60 Learning Festivals take place nationwide and many regions developed own special events to foster lifelong learning. These don't call their projects "Learning Festivals" anymore, but they follow the same goals.

The biggest Festival is probably the Learning Festival in Benediktbeuern (Bavaria) with its 25.000 visitors in 2002 (<http://www.lernende-region.de>). The Learning Festival in Bonn has probably the highest number of shareholders: 125 in 2002 (a new network is organizing the Festival 2003 in Bonn: lernet@bonn.ihk.de).

Even during the period of national coordination the local organizers had to find the necessary financial support themselves, but could count on the professional support from the central coordination and did profit of its mass media work. Different financial models were found, depending on the local focus of the festival and on the actors participating (industry sponsoring, financial help from the region or the town administration, contributions from the festival actors themselves).

This was meant to foster the sustainability of the festivals after 2000. But: It was too early! The sudden lack of a nationwide coordination has been a real loss and a stop in the spreading and developing of the German Learning Festival movement.

Several successful Learning Festivals are taking place every year throughout Germany, but without a national coordination they are not well "visible".

We, from the LLW5-project, are trying to change this situation together with the project-office of the German Learning Regions (Projektträger des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung im Deutschen Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., PT-DLR).

Using the network of the Learning Regions we would like to create a forum where all Learning Festival stakeholders can get in touch with each other, exchange their knowledge and experience and get aware of being part of a worldwide movement!

Adult Learner's Week in Romania – the fourth edition

Prepared by:

Cristiana Vlad,



Each autumn, at the beginning of November, Romanians are accustomed to include in their cultural and education calendar the celebration of *Adult Learner's Week (Festivalul Sanselor Tale)*. It's both an occasion for AE suppliers balance on the education market and an opportunity for all to improve their personal competencies and professional carriers.

In 2003, the event will be held from the **3rd to the 9th of November** and has a clear message: adult education is not only a national policy to foster economy but also a means to support personal and professional carrier development, as well as to implement the European dimension of learning.

For the forth time, *Adult Learner's Week* is an occasion for the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Culture and Cults, the National Council for Adult Professional Training and AE non-governmental organizations, to join hands in organizing, developing and promoting the national learning event.

On a short overview regarding the rate of participation, we can consider that in 2000, over 300.000 participants and 115 suppliers from more than 65 localities were registered, in 2001 – the number of participants increased to 500.000 and 195 suppliers from more than 35 counties and in 2002 - 750.000 participants and 215 suppliers from more than 37 counties were estimated.

In 2003 we envisage the participation of 200 adult education suppliers all over the country, involving

at least 1 million visitors, from youngsters to elder people.

Workshops, presentations, lectures, open days, artistic performances, exhibitions and demonstrations are only a few of the activities that will be addressed, as every year, to young graduates seeking for a working place, to social and economic disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, to national minorities, refugees, unemployed, women, people with a low education level and also to elder people who usually take part in leisure and entertainment activities willing to share their life and professional experiences.

Such a decentralized wide-national event requests a coherent organization. The National Association of the Regional AE Centres, together with IIZ/DVV Project Romania and the National Association of the Popular Universities are in charge with the development of a national coordination plan which will be implemented at the local level by the Regional AE Centres and their network of institutions and partners. A special topic is the media partnership at the national and local level. Local newspapers and TV channels will report AL'sW activities and good practices, interviews with AE specialists, workshops and their outputs, the participation and involvement of decision makers and the European wide importance of the event.

Adult Learner's Week in Romania is a celebration of learning in diverse places and environments. Kindergartens, schools, high schools, universities, private education and training centres, GOs and NGOs, museums, libraries, cultural houses and folk universities, both in rural and urban areas, theatres, cinemas, cultural and educational counties' departments, private learning companies, continuous training centres of the Commerce and Industry Chambers, parks, non-conventional learning areas will be involved in carrying out adult learning activities and events.

In Bucharest will be organized the FAIR of Continuous Training Offers.

Last year, in order to promote the importance of lifelong learning, the Fair of Continuous Training Offer was organized within the frame of international fairs, in one of the ROMEXPO International Exhibition Hall pavilions, where adult education and continuous training suppliers displayed their educational and continuous training programmes and promoted their services, programmes and products (handbooks, courses, dictionaries, educational kits, didactical movies, and CDs).

This year's venue will take place in the same location and the program will also encompass workshops, round tables, music audition, exhibitions, folk performances, art and photo exhibitions, etc.

One of the most important issues regarding adult education in Romania is the settlement of a coherent legislative framework, containing a realistic methodology of AE institutional capacity, qualification and competencies accreditation system, etc. It's the reason why the first workshops and debates of the previous festivals approached legislative topics in adult education (2001 - "Legislation and improvising in the Romanian adult education"; 2002 – Launching the last acts on the professional training of adults and their methodological procedures; The importance of the partnership in learning projects – a national and international approach". In 2002 the themes of general interest and community issues were related to women and knowledge society; to social inclusion through "second chance" programmes for disadvantaged social categories, to young people with a low educational level or drop outs as well as senior citizens; to European integration, work mobility and professional competence at the national and European level.

Adult Learner's Week entered the memory of the people all over the country through its interesting, unusual activities and good practices which are promoting a diversity of learning opportunities and environments, such as: presentation of cultural and adult education studies, books, lectures, AE publications; inauguration of continuous training and vocational courses; open

days, debates, seminars, workshops, promotion and experimental training courses for adults; Job markets; anti-drug campaigns in discotheques; social inclusion activities for Roma population, refugees, immigrants; basic skills programs and art exhibitions for offenders; intercultural cross-border programmes; street interviews; launching of new training programs for teachers, parents and pupils. Within the fourth edition of the AL'sW edition, a national seminar on *Exercise Daily Democracy through Adult Education* topic will be held in Bucharest, Cluj, Giurgiu, Pucioasa and Tg. Mures Adult Education Regional Centres on the **8th of November 2003**.

AE practitioners, university representatives, local authorities and decision-makers on education and employability policy, private AE suppliers, representatives of GOs and NGOs are invited to join the seminars.

Best activities and achievements in AE will be **awarded with special diplomas** and promoted on the IIZDVV Project Romania and on the Romanian LLW Festival's web sites.

In order **to share cross border experiences and good practices**, representatives from Yugoslavia, Macedonia, and Bulgaria will be invited to Giurgiu Regional Centre for Adult Education in order to join the seminars.

2003 is very important for the European dimension of the lifelong learning movement. Romania, among other South-Eastern Europe countries, will be part of the first Lifelong Learning Regional Festival hold in **Skopje**, from the **14th to the 19th of October 2003** (see <http://www.inebis.org>) and through the EU project „*Widening and strengthening the European dimension of the LLW movement*” other EU countries will experience this event for the first time (Spain)(See <http://www.llw5.org>).

IIZ/DVV Project Romania, the initiator of the annually event, provides the financial support for the national and local organization, publishing costs for the informative materials (poster, leaflet, catalogues, etc) and other adult education studies,

brochures, courses, projects and program presentations launched during the *Adult Learner's Week*.

★ National Programme of Adult Education on the Agenda Again

Prepared by:
Olga Drogenik



The National Programme of Adult Education (the Programme) was determined by the Act on Adult Education in 1991. According to the law the Programme is to be adopted by the Parliament upon the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. Before the Government submits the proposal of the Programme it is evaluated and it has to obtain the positive opinion of the Expert Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Adult Education.

The Programme design process started in early 90s basing on extensive research on Slovenian adult education's state of the arts, as well as on comparative research conducted by the members of Slovenian Institute of Adult Education. The outcomes were used as the starting point for designing the first draft and further elaboration of the Programme by Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The improved draft of the Programme was approved by Expert Council and sent into procedure for adoption in Parliament in December 2000. But the procedure stopped and restarted this year with the new, former minister of education. The existent draft version (June 2003) of the Programme is being discussed. The process should be finished by the end of this year or early in 2004.

The Programme consists of 9 chapters:

- 1. Introduction** with a general overview of the progress on the area of AE in recent years.

2. **Short presentation** of the state of the arts in AE is presented by 4 indicators – participation in learning, literacy attainment, educational level of adult population, the share of GDP for education. This chapter comprises also a short description of the infrastructure supporting AE development.
3. **Strategic goals** – three goals are proposed:
 1. improving participation of adults in non formal general education activities for personal development and improving participation in cultural, political and social activities in communities;
 2. improving educational attainments – completed 4 year secondary school programme is determined as the basic educational level;
 3. improving participation in education for development of labor force and improving employability.
4. **Priority areas and quantified strategic goals** correspond to the strategic goals and cover three areas: non-formal, non-vocational education programmes aimed at improving literacy and social skills as well as supporting personal skills of individuals; programmes aimed at raising educational level of the population and programmes aimed at improving vocational competencies of the workforce. The quantified goals determine the number/share of adults that will be supported by the State to start or resume their education and learning activities. Adults lacking basic skills, those with less years of schooling or those with poor access to social or economic goods are addressed as priority groups.
5. **Activities (infrastructure)** necessary to carry out the education of adults: networks of personnel (teachers, mentors), of programmes, of guidance, research, development and information facilities, of organizations conducting adult education, and promotion activities are determined as basic infrastructure enabling the implementation of the Programme's goals.
6. The global amount of the **public funds**: the amount of funds for each priority area and for the infrastructure is determined.
7. **Incentives and measures for implementing the goals**: incentives are assigned to promote demand and investing in education among individuals, enterprises, local communities, branches of economy, and on the level of the state;
8. **Expected effects**: some international data and research on the effects of education on individuals and economy are presented.
9. **Evaluation and monitoring**: the Programme will be implemented by Annual plans and monitored by a special task force responsible for reporting on the accomplishments of the Programme to the Government and Parliament.

The document is of great importance for the whole area of adult education because it provides allocated public funds for implementing clear and operational goals and supporting measures to be reached until 2010. It enables stable conditions for development, promotion, implementation and evaluation of learning opportunities for adults. It also strengthens the role and the position of LLW. In the Programme LLW is installed among promotional activities with the awards for outstanding achievements in learning.

★ Conferences on Dialogic Literary Gatherings

Prepared by:
CREA



The conferences on dialogic literary gatherings were born in the framework of the project *1001 Dialogic Literary Gatherings around the world* (“*1001 tertulias literarias dialógicas por el mundo*”). This project sprung from the initiative of participants in the gatherings from the different entities in CONFAPEA (Confederation of Federations and Associations of Participants in Adult Education and Democratic Culture). The main objective of this project is to disseminate, worldwide, the way the dialogic gatherings works.

The dialogic literary gathering is an experience that is renowned nationally and internationally. In Spain there are 54 gatherings that work regularly; Catalonia and the Basque Country are the Autonomous Communities with the largest number of gatherings. At the same time, there are also gatherings in other countries such as the United States, the Czech Republic, Brazil, Australia and Denmark. The importance of the literary gatherings has been recognised by people like the theorist John Comings from Harvard University, and the Nobel Prize winner of literature José Saramago.

I'm glad to see how people take a great interest in a literary gathering, and that it has had such success. I would love to have attended the Conference, since your work plan is so extraordinary and necessary for making conscious everyone's individuality in a society in which we try to live with more and more solidarity (José Saramago).

The methodology of the dialogic literary gatherings is grounded in dialogic learning; it is through egalitarian dialogue that the participants reflect on the contents of a literary work. It was

born in the Verneda-Sant Martí Adult School of Barcelona, where nowadays there are eight different gatherings during different hours of the school schedule and in different languages.

The *First Conference on Dialogic Literary Gatherings* was held in April 2000 in Barcelona. It was attended by over 300 participants from different gatherings around the Autonomous Communities. The following year, CONFAPEA organised the Second Conference, which was also attended by people from Denmark, the Czech Republic, Madrid and several regions in Spain. One of the points discussed in depth at the conference was how to find ways of disseminating the dialogic gatherings around the world.

In November, the *Third Conference on Dialogic Literary Gatherings* will be held in Madrid in coordination with CONFAPEA and the CEAS Tetuán, a lifelong learning centre in Madrid. It will be held in one day, in which there will be both work groups and plenary sessions. Overcoming racism, cultural diversity, and gaining international recognition of this experience are some of the issues proposed.

★ II Trijornadas on Democratic Adult Education

Prepared by:
CREA



In the last edition of the e-bulletin, we described the upcoming celebration of the Conference on Democratic Adult Education. The conference, entitled *II Trijornadas: Democratic Adult Education and Dialogic Societies*, was held in June in Bilbao.

The success of the Conference was undeniable. Over 250 people from the field of lifelong learning attended: university professors, educators and participants. The Conference was divided into

three days. The first day was focused on the current guidelines of Adult Education research. We highlight the paper presented by Professor Ramón Flecha from the University of Barcelona, who spoke about the Dialogic Approach, which is gaining recognition in today's educational and social research.

On the second day, the discussion focused on the importance and the need for a critical education in the Knowledge Society. Therefore, different experiences and good practices in the field of Adult Education were presented, and the future of REDA (Democratic Adult Education Network) was discussed. This network is an advance in the aim to establish an education based on dialogue and equality. We highlight the following points from the conclusions:

- ★ To disseminate the good practices in Adult Education.
- ★ To organise a Congress for debate and reflection.
- ★ To foster the relations between educators through internet.
- ★ To carry out seminars with important authors in the field of Adult Education.
- ★ To foster democratisation in Adult Education associations.
- ★ To emphasise the importance of the volunteers in Adult Education.

Finally, on the third day, the interest was focused on participants' voices in Adult Education schools and centres. In one of the sessions of the working groups, the need for creating more spaces of egalitarian participation was discussed. The following are some of the proposals expressed by the attendees regarding how to meet this challenge:

- ★ To create more libraries in the schools and centres.
- ★ To have more computer classes.
- ★ To foster the creation of more dialogic spaces among different cultures.
- ★ To increase Women's Groups around the world, finding ways to include the voices of all women that have traditionally been silenced.

- ★ To foster the creation of more dialogic literary gatherings.
- ★ To design a university degree specialising in Adult Education.
- ★ To extend movements such as *EDA* (Democratic Adult Education) around the world.



Learning Regions in Germany

Prepared by:

Sabrina Boscolo Lips



A programme of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research supported by the European Union

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research started the programme „Learning Regions-Support for Networks“ (2001-2006) to foster the development of the education system according to the concept of lifelong learning.

The programme gives financial support for the implementation of new regional networks of organizations and shareholders from various education sectors as for example:

- ★ general and vocational schools
- ★ popular universities („Volkshochschulen“) and similar education providers
- ★ enterprises
- ★ work offices
- ★ offices for the regional economical development
- ★ chambers of commerce
- ★ local administrations
- ★ social partners
- ★ social and cultural organizations
- ★ Agenda 21 projects
- ★ teachers and learners themselves

The supported networks foster the development of such a regional learning culture, which favors the

exchange and cooperation among all shareholders, facilitates access and transition and leads to an increase of the learners population.

Because of the regionalism of the networks projects, they can all produce different sub-projects, which fit in the local particular situation, but may be transferred also to other regions.

The German Institute for Adult Education is responsible for the programme related research.

The actual Learning Regions are 75 regional networks spread throughout the country. Joining experience and efforts of shareholders from various education fields the networks are developing innovative projects as for example:

- ★ personal education consulting in „edu-shops“ („Lernläden“) or through a regional Education-hotline
 - ★ new mobile learning places and centers especially for the countryside
 - ★ the official recognition of informal learning as for example a „Self-Assessment-Center“ or a „Generations Workshop“
 - ★ transition from school to work; an important aspect here is to secure the long-term learning and professional perspective of the youngster in their region or to gain young people for special professions (crafts)
 - ★ projects to foster the prevention of violence, intercultural education and the learning of languages
 - ★ cooperation with small and medium size enterprises
 - ★ projects to simplify the professional come back of women after the family phase
- Beside the regional single projects all the networks are working together on transversal topics like marketing in the field of education (see also our 1st E-bulletin under „Related topics“), equality, consulting and quality management in the education system.

Several networks also organize Learning Festivals. We, from the LLW5-project, already contacted the Learning Regions coordination to start a forum on

this topic and exchange knowledge and experience.

Further information about the programme, an overall view of the regional networks and several useful reports and documents are under <http://www.lernende-regionen.info> (in German).



Creative International Camp of Paulis-Lipova Spa

Prepared by:

Lucian Cernusca



During the 6th of august until 16th of august 2003, The Regional Centre for Adult Education Arad, Romania organized an international creation camp for youth, with participants from two cross border cities, Arad - Romania and Bekescsaba - Hungary. The camp was one of the activities undertaken within the “Open Space” project, financed partly by European funds, through the CBC Phare program, by the Ministry of Development and Forecasting, as well as with the contribution of Arad Regional Centre for Adult Education.

The aims of the project were to promote and boost cultural exchanges between youth, to overcome prejudice and xenophobia, to develop the spirit of tolerance, to encourage cooperation and team working through “people-to people” activities and the last but not the least, to create a “learning by doing” environment where they are able to learn as well as materialize their own knowledge and talent. In this respect, the teenagers selected in the project, from both Arad and Bekescsaba high schools, took part in six workshops during which they had the chance to express their creative potential in different fields of art: design, literature, music, drama, dance, fine arts.

The trainers involved in the learning process of the participants had rather played the role of a moderator and counselor than the one of a “school

teacher”, since their main objective was, apart from giving the basic information needed to perform the required tasks, to ensure the freedom of the participants in finding their own resources, methods and techniques used in delivering the outcomes of their work. Both from Romania and Hungary, the trainers were selected according to the European standards of quality and objectives focused by the project.

As for the target group, the criteria used in selecting the participants was based on the one hand on the fact that teenagers are more motivated to fully participate in such a project, they are open minded and communicative, they offer a fertile ground on which the spirit of cooperation, tolerance and intercultural understanding can easily grow and bear fruits. Another aspect which was taken into consideration was that teenagers will be tomorrow’s adults and it is very important to prepare them for the future world and its demands. On the other hand, the Arad Regional Center for AE, during a previous project called “In May...more teenagers” has established the basis for a long term cooperation with 9 high schools from Arad. In this respect, the “Open Space” project represents a continuation of the former project with a stronger emphasis on the reevaluation of the creative potential of these talented teenagers.

One of the specific objectives of the “Open Space” project is ensuring the next phase of the project, “Open Space Net”, which is going to take place in 2004. In order to reach this objective, the organizers had in view to:

- ★ establish a cross-border cooperation and a network of 70 teenagers from 9 Romanian and 9 Hungarian high schools
- ★ increase the number of indirect beneficiaries and reach 5.000 teenagers more by implementing and disseminating the outputs of the project and also by sharing the experience and knowledge acquired in the project
- ★ organize public events where all the products and outputs are displayed

According to the working plan of the project, the following activities took place:

- ★ methodological studies in Hungary and Romania
- ★ training of trainers, lecturers and volunteers involved in carrying out the project
- ★ organizing and running the international camps: one in Hungary and one in Romania
- ★ setting up a public show and exhibition in Arad
- ★ publish a catalogue with all the outcomes achieved during the project

In a future Europe without frontiers, it is necessary to be acquainted to the neighbor cultures and traditions in order to have a better understanding of different values and learn to live together in a common space. Tolerance, democracy, interculturality, are some of the values that Romanian and Hungarian people should cherish and live accordingly. And these values can be achieved by cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The cooperation network established by the local and regional actors of the border area, in our case, the teenagers of the “Open Space” project, is the answer to the main objective of the JSPF (Joint Small Projects Fund). The project itself offered a great opportunity for the representatives of the two border cities to learn from each other, to acquire and share their knowledge, in other words, to enable a know-how transfer. More over, it was an opportunity to work with professionals in the field, learn from their experience and use their expertise.

By the means of the international camp, the teenagers had the chance to learn what does true cooperation and respect mean, they worked together as a team, they created new cultural values based on the specific ones and they acted in the spirit of the common European values.

Revised by: Ioana Florescu
Project manager: Ludovic Sosnak, Coordinator:
Gafiuc Petru

★ Education & Training for Governance and Active Citizenship in Europe

Prepared by:
Darijan Novak



The ETGACE research project was financed by the European Union as part of the 5th *framework programme*, the action goal of which is *to improve basic socio-economic skills*. The full title of the project is *Education and Training for Governance and Active Citizenship in Europe: Analysis of Adult Learning and Design of Formal, Non-Formal and Informal Educational Intervention Strategies*. The project aimed to promote policies and learning strategies which foster tolerant and inclusive approaches to active citizenship and governance. It has been implemented in six European countries: Belgium (Catholic University of Leuven), Spain (University of Barcelona), the Netherlands (Catholic University of Nijmegen), Finland (University of Helsinki), the United Kingdom (University of Surrey) and Slovenia (Slovenian Institute of Adult Education).

The research took place in the following phases:

- ★ We reviewed the literature and policies on active citizenship and governance at the national and European levels.

- ★ Through in-depth interviews, we investigated how adults learn active citizenship and governance. The sample covered men and women from two age groups: 25-40 and 55-70.
- ★ With groups of experts we designed educational methods and intervention strategies, as well as criteria for their evaluation. We linked the life-story method to the most important methods to promote learning of active citizenship.
- ★ We ensured a participative approach to the design of the research by involving educators, policy makers, teachers, designers of teaching materials and other end users in a consultative committee.

The continuation of the research - Re-ETGACE (the full title of the project is *Reviewing Education & Training for Governance and Active Citizenship in Europe - a Central and Eastern Europe Perspective*) - is also being conducted as part of the 5th *framework programme*. This time, research is being conducted in Hungary and Romania. The methodology and objectives are not significantly different, allowing us to obtain data comparable with previous research. The Slovenian Institute for Adult Education and the Universities of Leuven and Nijmegen are sharing the role of coordinator and consultant.

Our findings are presented on the website <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/Education/ETGACE/>.

"Widening and Strengthening the European Dimension of The Lifelong Learning Movement"

Co-ordinator: Slovenian Institute for Adult Education

Project Co-ordinator: Olga Drogenik

Partners:

- ★ Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (SIAE), Ljubljana, Slovenia;
- ★ Federation of Societies for Spread of Knowledge (FSSK »Znanie«), Sofia, Bulgaria;
- ★ Institute for International Co-operation of the German Adult Education Association (IIZ/DVV), Bonn, Germany;
- ★ University of Barcelona, Centre for Social and Educational Research (CREA), Barcelona, Spain;
- ★ Spanish federation of popular universities (FEUP), Madrid, Spain;
- ★ The National Association of the Regional Centre for Adult Education (AN CZEA), Arad, Romania;

Silent Partner: Swiss Federation for Adult Learning (SVEB) Zurich, Switzerland

- ★ Slovenian Team: Olga Drogenik, Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik, Darijan Novak, Franci Lajovic, Alenka Mavsar, Nina Špolar
- ★ Bulgarian Team: Milka Atanasova, Nikola Ovcharov, Maria Todorova
- ★ German Team: Sabrina Boscolo Lips, Sebastian Welter
- ★ Spanish Team: Isabel Garcia Longoria, Montserrat Morales Corraliza, Manuel Perez Castell, Elena Duque Sancléz, Sergio Gonzales, Lidia Puigvert
- ★ Romanian Team: Camelia Bran, Lucian Cernusca, Mariana Matache, Ludovic Sosnak, Cristiana Vlad
- ★ Silent Partner: Ruth Jermann