

Positive changes for adult learning in Slovenia

In Slovenia, adult learning and education (ALE) take centre stage as policymakers prioritise their role in addressing contemporary challenges. The country's ALE policies are designed to enhance inclusivity, and accessibility, and respond to labour market demands and societal challenges, promoting inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability. ALE policies also aim to foster social cohesion, democratic participation, and overall well-being, contributing to holistic individual development and a stronger social fabric.

"In March 2023, the Master Strategy for the Digital Transformation of Slovenia until 2030 - 'Digital Slovenia 2030' was adopted. It defines six priority areas, the second referring to digital competencies and active social inclusion. Indicators for this priority area are very clearly defined."

Recent developments in ALE

Slovenia has seen significant developments in the field of ALE, marked by the adoption of the "Digital Slovenia 2030" master strategy and comprehensive education system reforms. The National Programme of Education and Training for 2023-2030 plays a pivotal role, focusing on digital competencies, active social inclusion, and broader educational improvements. The Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (SIAE) has actively contributed to shaping these policies through its participation in various consultations and campaigns.

"With the three-day event in 2023, Days of Guidance for Learning, we will promote guidance in adult education. The 2023 theme will be the development of digital competencies for adults, therefore special regional activities will be organized on the theme day 'Day for Digital Knowledge'."

Diverse funding sources and financial challenges

Slovenia's ALE financing sources encompass project funding, program funding, operating grants, fees from individuals, and contributions from employers. While funding from public sources at the national/local level is considered sufficient, a significant challenge lies in the decrease in funding from the European Social Fund (ESF), leading to a substantial deterioration of the financial situation for ALE. Despite these financial challenges, SIAE remains an active advocate for the advancement of ALE in the country.

Promoting adult learning initiatives

SIAE actively promotes adult learning in Slovenia through various initiatives and campaigns. These include the 2023 Lifelong Learning Week, the Learning Parade, the Cultural Bazaar, and other activities designed to foster adult learning and integrate green criteria into ALE.

"A two- year national project entitled 'Climate goals in education' will be finished. In this frame, a new method of citizen science has been tested, new educational materials developed and broad dissemination provided. Dissemination has been strong also within regular duties, national and international."

Embracing the European Year of Skills

Slovenia is committed to embracing the European Year of Skills, with multiple activities planned to address this theme and further develop skills within the country. The focus remains broad, encompassing not only skills for work but also transversal and basic skills.

Active involvement in regional and European networks

Slovenia actively participates in regional and European networks, advocating for adult learning and education. Through its involvement in these networks, the country aims to strengthen its voice on the European stage and contribute to the development and promotion of ALE initiatives.
