

Developments: Slovenia had a key role in the adoption of the new European Agenda for Adult Learning

According to the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (SIAE), the situation of adult learning and education in Slovenia has slightly improved in comparison to last year.

In Slovenia, major European Social Fund (ESF) projects on ALE guidance, key competences and professionalisation of ALE staff are coming to an end, both at national and local levels. New projects have not started yet, leaving a gap in development work, and staff, well-trained over the past six years, have lost their jobs.

Apart from this, the ALE situation is relatively stable. Training programmes and events are conducted in person again after the two-year covid period.

In 2022, the Adult Education Master Plan (AEMP), for the period 2022- 2030, has been adopted.

Participation in policymaking

In 2021, SIAE co-organised and participated in the national and EU-level consultation process that led to the formulation and adoption of the new European Agenda for Adult Learning (NEAAL).

SIAE engaged in the following advocacy activities last year:

- Adult Education Conference under the Slovenian Presidency Adult Learning and

Education - The resilient response to future challenges

- The Slovenian Lifelong Learning Week featuring the Learning Parade
- Day of learning communities
- Festival of the Third Age
- EAAL Forums on the Future of Adult Education

In general, civil society is consulted in policymaking to some extent.

Country reports of the European Commission

According to SIAE, the country reports of the European Commission reflect the situation of adult education and learning in Slovenia very well. Moreover, ALE programmes and projects in Slovenia aim to address issues indicated in the country reports and the country-specific recommendations.

Financing of adult education

The funding situation for adult education in Slovenia has stayed the same in comparison to last year. No systemic changes were introduced. Adult education is mainly financed through project funding, programme funding, operating grants, fees and employer contributions.

Learners voice

In Slovenia, the legislation does not currently require the adult learner voice to be included in decision-making processes. The learners voice is made visible through communication activities. In the policymaking process, the voice of adult learning is represented by adult learning associations, based on their experience with the learning needs of their target groups.

New sustainability project in the education sector

SIAE is currently developing a strategy to promote sustainability in its learning programmes. Within their organisation, SIAE has started developing and improving the digitalization of their work organisation and administration systems. Moreover, the meeting and seminar room will be upgraded with new technological and didactic equipment for the needs of distance and hybrid education.

There are also plans to develop a sustainability strategy for the ALE sector in Slovenia.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Space and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the national project Climate goals and content in education is being carried out in Slovenia. All national government educational institutions are participating as partners in the project.

The project has the following goals and purposes:

- Analysis of the situation in the field of sustainable development with an emphasis on climate change
- Preparation of an integrated programme of awareness, education and training on climate change in the context of education and training for sustainable development
- Additional training for teachers in the field of climate change and sustainable development
- Preparation of appropriate and updated teaching materials and didactic tools.

CONFINTEA VII

SIAE was involved in the preparatory process of CONFINTEA VII and there has been a consultation on CONFINTEA VII between the national UNESCO commission, the national

ministries and civil society in Slovenia.

SIAE states that The Marrakech Framework for Action, which is the outcome document of CONFINTEA VII, is a concrete tool to develop ALE policies and strategies. Moreover, the Framework will be a guiding document for ALE in Slovenia over the next decade.

Challenges and future plans: Project learning for younger adults

In Slovenia, the digital gap has increased during the Covid-19 pandemic. Adult education providers have lost groups of learners, especially those with low digital skills.

Nevertheless, more people now have a good command of digital technologies and can access digital learning activities. Hybrid learning provision has become more common. However, funding for adult learning was not increased to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

In general, SIAE states that the ALE situation is relatively stable, training programmes and events are conducted in person again after the two-year covid period.

Future plans of SIAE

In the programme called Project learning for younger adults, SIAE is planning basic and additional training of mentors. In these programmes, the emphasis will be on transformative learning, project work, self-evaluation, upgrading of basic competencies and skills and collaborative learning.

Additionally, SIAE will continue to work in the field of developing basic competences and skills of adults. They will develop a new financial literacy programme for adults, knowledge and skill standards, descriptors of individual levels and relevant teaching materials.

Vulnerable adults remain the focus of SIAEs professional research and development work. Furthermore, SIAE hopes that the new batch of the European Social Fund will be effective both at national and local levels.

Adult education programmes should be included in the law

In January 2018, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a new Adult Education Act. This established and systematically regulated public service in the field of adult education. The public service includes guidance and informing adults in the form of comprehensive support activity.

However, the public service does not include educational programmes for adults, except for the primary school programme for adults. Therefore, as a national institution for adult education, SIAE recommends the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports propose and carry out an amendment to the Act on Adult Education. All public valid educational programmes for adults should be implemented in law and in public service.
