

## Lifelong Learning Centre Savinjska (Abstract)

There are 14 Lifelong Learning Centres in Slovenia which are located in 14 Slovenian regions. They are coordinated as EU projects by Slovenian public Adult Education Centres. They represent a network of centres which, in one part offer the same services to adults, i.e. operate according to the same concept of providing guiding and learning opportunities and open access to knowledge for all. However, each Lifelong Learning Centre also meets the specific needs of the adults within its local environment or region. All 14 Lifelong Learning Centres are funded by the European Social Fund and the Slovenian Ministry of Education and Sports for the period of 2008 – 2013.

Lifelong Learning Centre Savinjska is one of the largest centres in Slovenia, covering the region with 192.000 inhabitants. It is based on a network of partnership organisations that provide a complete and qualitative information and guidance in adult education, new opportunities for organized self-directed learning for adults, vocational guidance for adults and youngsters, as well as various other activities for different, locally recognised target groups. Considering also specific situations of most vulnerable groups, such as migrants, the unemployed, prisoners, we also offer special programmes and workshops to meet their needs. With our activities we contribute to the rise of the educational level and a higher degree of involvement of the citizens in the lifelong learning processes. This also results in the improvement of their career possibilities, as well as the quality of their personal and social life.

Within our Lifelong Learning Centre we put special emphasis on

- the complete guidance services,
- new, innovative and up-to-date approaches to acquiring knowledge and skills,
- non-formal and informal learning options,
- the ICT supporting self-directed learning,
- the development and promotion of e-learning and multimedia learning,
- the promotion of importance of lifelong learning for personal and professional life of individuals and society as a whole.

The main activities of Lifelong Learning Centre Savinjska are defined as follows:

1. *Local Guidance Centre for Adult Education (ISIO)*
2. *Lifelong Learning Points (TVŽU)*
3. *Vocational Information and Counselling Centre (CIPS)*
4. *Knowledge Exchange*
5. *Career planning workshops*
6. *Motivation workshops for stimulating e-learning*
7. *Active citizenship workshops and programmes*
8. *Entrepreneurial workshops*
9. Professional development and training of personnel

The important aspect of the operation of the Lifelong Learning Centre is establishing and developing partnerships and networks of national, regional, local and professional partners and institutions, which can be recognised on three levels:

- On the national level, the cooperation of 14 Lifelong Learning Centres is based on the network of local Guidance Centres.
- On the project level, there is a consortium of eight regional partners of Lifelong Learning Centre Savinjska which cover different areas of work and carry out main activities of the project (*local Adult Education Centres, Secondary School Centre, Public Library, Local Development Agencies, a private organization for the development of human resources*). They also ensure better local accessibility for the citizens.
- Within the framework of Local Guidance Centre for Adult Education (ISIO), the important role has the so-called Local Partner Guidance Network. It links various local organisations and institutions that are directly or indirectly involved in counselling and adult education (strategic and professional partners' network). Our partners within this network are adult education centres and secondary schools, Municipality of Žalec, Administrative Unit Žalec, Employment Agency, Local Chamber of Commerce, Social Work Centre).

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