

Coordination



The UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE) is an international research, training, documentation, and publishing centre of UNESCO. Founded in 1952, UIE has worked in the areas of literacy, non-formal education, adult and lifelong learning.

Since September 2000, UIE has been monitoring and promoting International Adult Learners Week, launched by UNESCO to bridge and promote national learning festivals worldwide. The global network, which has parented IntALW in Europe, seeks to support the development of lifelong learning cultures and the building of learning regions and societies.

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Austria

bm:bwk

The department responsible for adult education in the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture provides professional and financial support to associations and other institutions of adult education.

The Austrian Info Days for Continuing Education have taken place since 1999. While the responsibility for organizing the concrete events rests with the local providers, the overall coordination and support for the public relation activities are provided by the Ministry for Education, Science and Culture, which is equally in charge of the central opening ceremony of the Info Days and aspires to strengthen the cooperation between providers and institutions.

www.erwachsenenbildung.at
www.bmbwk.gv.at

Belgium (Flanders)



DIVA is a partnership between four departments (Education, Employment, Culture and Economy) of the Ministry of the Flemish Community. A number of joint projects are coordinated by DIVA and provide a transparent system of counseling and advice on adult education, stimulate cooperation and exchange of providers and harmonize procedures and recognition of qualifications.

The campaign „Word wat je wil“ is one of the projects DIVA is carrying out. It aims at sensitizing adults for learning all year long, focusing on media-compatible and local activities to communicate to target groups which are usually difficult to reach.“

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(starting 1 May 2000)

Bulgaria



The Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (IIZ/DVV) is operating nationally and internationally. Established three years ago, the office in Sofia is focusing its work on basic education, vocational education and training and democratization in the framework of lifelong learning.

IIZ/DVV Sofia has been the initiator and national coordinator of the Lifelong Learning Days in Bulgaria since 2001.

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Cyprus



The Cyprus Adult Education Association (CAEA) is a non-governmental organization which promotes adult education and international cooperation. It also acts as a consultant for other adult education institutions throughout Cyprus. Good practices, experiences and scientific information in various fields of adult education are distributed in various associations of adult education.

CAEA, together with the adult education centres and the Ministry of Education and Culture, was the initiator of the Adult Learners Week in Cyprus in 2002. CAEA also coordinates the participation of non-governmental organizations in the ALW activities.

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Estonia



The Association of Estonian Adult Educators Andras (ETKA Andras) is a national non-profit organisation which is taking part in designing education policy and improving learning facilities for training adults. Andras co-operates closely with both public and private sectors and NGOs.

ALW was initiated in Estonia by Andras, and has been organized since 1998 in cooperation with the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. Over the years, ALW has become a traditional event popularizing adult education and learning possibilities.

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Finland



The Finnish Adult Education Association (FAEA) is an umbrella organization for non-formal adult education in Finland. FAEA also hosts the Helsinki link office for the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) and is responsible for information and documentation services.

FAEA organized the seventh Adult Learners Week in Finland in April 2004. A large number of local, regional and national events are mobilizing learners to participate such as the learners' awards. The Week is supported by the Ministry of Education.

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Iceland



EDUCATE - Iceland is a forum for cooperation between the employment and education sectors in Iceland with a view to developing education and vocational training in particular.

EDUCATE - Iceland has organized the Week for Lifelong Learning in Iceland for the Ministry for Education, Science and Culture since 1999 with different themes each year. Various events are organised during the week in cooperation with the main participating organisations, the general public and target groups.

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Lithuania



Founded in 1992 the Lithuanian Association of Adult Education (LAAE) is a non-profit independent national association of individuals and organizations, developing adult education policy in Lithuania, fostering cooperation and promoting life long learning.

LAAE initiated the Adult Learners Week in Lithuania since 2000 and coordinates the national activities. ALW is an opportunity for those engaged in adult education to share the problems and achievements. It has become a tradition and an event the adult learners look forward to.

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The Netherlands



CINOP is a centre for development, research and advice on vocational education and training, adult education, ICT and business management training and capacity building. Besides the formal system CINOP gives attention to the value and recognition of qualifications obtained outside the traditional educational context.

Since 2000 the ministry of Education has appointed to CINOP the task to coordinate the Adult Learners Week in the Netherlands. CINOP stimulates the organization of local festivals, promotes examples of good practice and presents every year awards to learners with outstanding learning achievements and to innovative projects in the field of adult education.

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Norway



The Norwegian Association for Adult Education (NAAE) include adult learning associations and voluntary NGOs in the field of adult learning. The purpose of NAAE is to represent the common interests of the associations vis à vis the Government, and to promote non-formal adult learning in the society in general.

The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research has delegated to the Norwegian Association for Adult Education (NAAE) the task to coordinate The Adult Learners' Week, in cooperation with regional coordinators. ALW provides a focus for practitioners from all sectors – public, private and voluntary. The main target of the week is to focus on diversity, methods and possibilities to motivate adults for learning.

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Romania



The Romanian Office of the Institute for International Co-operation of the German Adult Education Association (IIZ/DVV- Project Romania) was opened in 1993. Its main task is to promote the development of adult learning and to support adult education institutions, as well as to improve general conditions of adult learning as an important pillar of the national system of education in Romania.

The Lifelong Learning Festival was initiated by the movement of the folk universities (ANUP) and the Popular University "Ioan I. Dalles". The festival is supported by IIZ-DVV – Project Romania.

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Slovenia



The Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (SIAE) (founded in 1991) is the national, non-profit institution for research, development, education, information, promotion and guidance in the field of adult education in Slovenia.

Since 1996, SIAE has been acting as national co-ordinator of the Slovenian Lifelong Learning Week thus contributing to the implementation of the strategy of lifelong learning for all, promoting examples of good practice and giving space to learners by granting awards for outstanding learning achievements. In addition, SIAE has been fostering international cooperation and the transfer of know-how related to learning festivals.

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Switzerland



The Swiss Association for Adult Learning (SVEB) is the national umbrella organization representing about 185 associations and 250 small and medium institutions as well as individuals active in adult learning. SVEB is a non-profit organization. The main tasks are to provide adult learning in Swiss educational policies and legislation.

In 1996 SVEB organized one of the first Adult Learners Weeks in the World, and in 2005 Switzerland celebrates the 4th week.

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United Kingdom



The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education is the national organization for adult learning in England and Wales. NIACE is a voluntary organization with members from private, public and voluntary sector organizations. The Institute seeks to represent the interests of adult learners locally, nationally and internationally.

NIACE has organized Adult Learners' Week annually since 1992 to promote education and training for adults, provide access to information and guidance and motivate more adults to participate in learning opportunities. ALW is a collaborative venture between education and training providers, broadcasters and national and local government.

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Additional Network Members:



Germany

The home office of the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (IIZ/DVV) in Bonn is building up a clearing house on the German learning festival landscape.
www.iiz-dvv.de/

Hungary



The Hungarian Folk High School society has been responsible for the learning festival in Hungary since 2002. Zsófia Fesztbaum
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Spain



The Spanish Federation of Popular Universities established the first learning festival in Spain in November 2003. Isabel García-Longoria
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Network Members

International Adult Learners Week in Europe

Network of Learning Festivals

Where we come from

Learning festivals communicate the value of learning and lead the way to concrete possibilities for taking part in learning. They help create networks and structures supportive of learning and they provide input for needs-based and learner-centered educational policies and provision. Learning festivals can thus mobilize for immediate action and for strategic purposes. This potential has made them indispensable elements in any marketing strategy for lifelong learning.

Since the creation of the first adult learners week in 1992 by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) in the United Kingdom, almost forty countries around the world have established a learning festival — more than half of them in Europe. UNESCO (the United Nations specialized agency for education, science, culture and communication) launched International Adult Learners Week in 2000, thereby recognizing the importance of advocacy work for lifelong learning.

Who we are

In September 2003, the European Commission agreed to support International Adult Learners Week in Europe (IntALWinE) within the SOCRATES/Grundtvig-4 framework. IntALWinE is a Europe-wide network linking coordinators of national learning festivals in — so far — fourteen European countries: Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Coordinators from Germany, Spain and Hungary have already been invited to join the network.

The three-year network project is coordinated by the UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE), which is located in Hamburg, Germany.

What we want

The aim of IntALWinE is to draw on and build up the strategic potential of learning festivals, with a view to developing a more consolidated European framework of cooperation. The cooperation, which is open to additional members and will be sustained and enlarged beyond the duration and scope of the Socrates/Grundtvig project, will lend support to national learning festivals. It will increase the technical skills of coordinators and facilitate the involvement of learners, it will produce and circulate materials, and it will lend to the visibility and status of learning festivals in support of advocacy work for lifelong learning.

What we do

The network will concentrate its work on three interrelated areas, organized in thematic working groups: 1) bringing to the forefront the voices and perspectives of learners themselves, 2) improving the effectiveness of learning festivals, and 3) manifesting and maximizing the value of learning festivals as mobilization and advocacy tools for learning and democracy building. The working groups will prepare concrete activities and outputs of the network:

► **Working Group 1** will extract and collect the experiences and aspirations of learners in the partner countries of the network. It will organize an International Learners Forum and a Study Tour of International Learners, and will coordinate the related publication on the "Learning Journeys of Learners."

► **Working Group 2** will concentrate on the operational improvement of learning festivals, identifying best and worst practice, developing methods for data collection and evaluation, and suggesting models for cooperation with partner agencies and the media. It will feed the data bank of the network to be installed on the website.

► **Working Group 3**, following up on the work of the first two working groups and drawing on their results, will employ a strategic perspective; it will demonstrate the mobilization and advocacy potential of learning festivals for learning and democracy building. It will directly input into the final comprehensive publication, which will include assessments of learning festivals, guidelines, voices of learners and policy recommendations.

Working meetings, study visits, communication by email and the working groups form the body of the network's activities. They will be complemented by the active participation of learners in the international learners' forum and study tour as well as by the learners' input for the evaluation of the network and the formulation of policy recommendations.

International
Adult
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Week
in Europe

Network of
Learning
Festivals



www.unesco.org/education/uie/InternationalALW/IntALWinE.htm



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