



Meeting	What new perspectives did the meeting give us? What did we learn? What will we use in our work?
1. Reims, France , October 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project planning 	<p>At this meeting partners met for the first time, we got acquainted with our overall activities and results, and discussed our joint work in the SLS project for the next 2 years. The project plan of activities was put together in details, dates were set and particular roles defined (e. g. we took the responsibility of setting up the project website (http://pro.acs.si/sls)). Partners decided to write a 'country report' before every thematic workshop as to identify the 'state-of-the-art' concerning the specific issue of each meeting. The French partner (Foyer Jean Thibierge) was an excellent host; we got to know their daily work with disabled people involving many types of non-formal learning. We decided to connect them with similar institutions at home in order to enable an exchange of experiences at the upcoming meeting in Slovenia.</p>
2. Dublin, Ireland , February 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshop on 'Volunteer involvement in learning campaigns' • attending the Adult Learners' Festival 	<p>We were impressed by the similarities and strong connection between the adult learning sector and the volunteering sector which needs to be recognized and stimulated to a greater extent in our country in the future. The presentation of the Irish experience (Ireland Volunteering) was very inspiring and outcomes of the workshop were helpful for endeavors in this field when preparing our Lifelong Learning Week (LLW) 2011 and 2012. Through LLW regional coordinators, this succeeded especially at the local level. In addition, we were overwhelmed by the 40-year work of our host, AONTAS, their ALW opening ceremony (Star Awards), their promotional material and involvement of social media and YouTube. Following their example we introduced Facebook and YouTube in LLW 2011 and even stronger in 2012.</p>
3. Ljubljana, Žalec, Prebold, Slovenia , May 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshop on 'Media engagement in ALW/LLWs and how to use new media' • attending the Lifelong Learning Week 	<p>Before the official start of the project meeting the French and the Turkish delegation visited two Slovenian institutions working with disabled people which prompted ideas about cooperation on new projects. During the whole meeting, we gained affirmation for our own work, especially concerning the LLW opening event, the video-portraits of award winners, the network of LLW coordinators and the cooperation with media.</p> <p>In the workshop we gained additional input for employing social media as to reach an even wider audience for our promotional campaigns and to disseminate learners' stories. Emphasizing the presence of partners from 6 foreign countries at LLW events called attention to the international dimension of the learning festivals' movement and strengthened our position in the adult learning community as well as with policy makers.</p>
4. Tallinn, Estonia , October 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshop on 'Involving outstanding learners in learning promotion' • attending the Adult Learners' Week 	<p>During the award ceremony and especially during the workshop we became aware of the conditions and support (constant communication, some degree of guidance and leadership) learners/award winners need in order to be able to act as ambassadors of learning and to contribute actively to learning campaigns. Although we have worked successfully on the promotion of award winners for several years, we decided to involve them in lobbying for lifelong learning in a more structured and effective way while taking into account the Estonian experience. We would be keen to start a new partnership on this matter since not only professionals but also learners seem to get very inspired by the exchange of their life-stories and viewpoints in an international context. Another inspiring element of the Estonian ALW was</p>

		the learning tram with professionals and learners sharing their viewpoints in this public place.
5.	<p>Kahramanmaras, Turkey, March 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> workshop on ‘Engaging target groups in adult education’ 	<p>The exchange of opinions on the main topics – the definition of key target groups, presentation of successful approaches in reaching them, and recommendations on how to increase their involvement – was short but effective and made us rethink our priorities and challenges. Some of our participants are working with disabled people themselves and they were able to contribute greatly to discussions at places that we visited. Nevertheless, for us the whole meeting was an additional stimulus to pay extra attention to target groups in order to stimulate life-long and life-wide learning. We also very much appreciated the commitment of our Turkish partner and support their attempts to organize a campaign for lifelong learning at the local level. An idea to take home and implement right away was the promotion of everyday reading in families – a nation-wide campaign in Turkey.</p>
6.	<p>Haarlem, The Netherlands, May/June 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> seminar on ‘Networks and partnerships promoting adult education’ concluding activities 	<p>In spite of the fact that the meeting was dedicated to the conclusion of our 2-year activities, we thoroughly enjoyed the possibility to meet with a large number of Dutch speakers illustrating the huge potential of local partnerships. Libraries proved to be strong players in the promotion and implementation of lifelong learning which gave us a stimulus for empowering their role in our endeavors in the future. The Seniorweb Network encouraged us to work more in with this target group, and the mentor project Attract and retain convinced us to invest more money and work in the training of learners/award winners in order for them to become mentors as well. On the other hand we also had the possibility to share our own good practice (video-portraits of award winners and study circles) and get acquainted with outstanding practices from partner countries.</p>
7.	<p>General conclusions for the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education – new perspectives and ideas, what can we use in our work</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> From the national point of view, the SLS project helped us to strengthen existing partnerships and establish new ones – nationally and internationally. From Slovenia, three groups of participants were engaged in SLS meetings abroad: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of the network of LLW coordinators who had been especially successful in expanding the LLW at the local level. For them it was a great experience to meet their counter-parts in partner countries. This experience strengthened their commitment to the learning festival and empowered them personally and professionally. Two of them, based on ideas gained at SLS visits organized the grand opening in 2011 and 2012; after having them in the SLS delegation, SIAE could cooperate with them even better. Representatives of SIAE award winners; they also met with their fellows in other countries and recognized that they could become more involved in the learners’ movement and make their voice heard and taken into account – nationally as well as internationally. They recognized our institution as an important partner on their personal and professional learning pathways. Members of the LLW working team at SIAE: SLS study visits empowered and inspired them for their future work on the LLW project. The Slovenian meeting was an opportunity for SIAE and the network of LLW coordinators to work closely on a new matter – thus we got to know each other better, we got acquainted with aspects other than the ones that usually bring us together and we worked efficiently for the thematic

		<p>workshop in order to show our partners how things work in Slovenia. In all, our working (and personal relationships) deepened and expanded. The same is true for the LLW working team at SIAE itself.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Policy-makers at national and local level were involved in the SLS meeting in Slovenia – thus, the adult education sector in general, and promotional campaigns more specifically gained on importance and visibility. 4. SIAE gained some important insights into the further work with learners (following the example of Estonia and Ireland) – together with volunteering these were the two most important impulses for our future work. 5. Writing the country overviews helped us to reflect on our practice – on aspects where we believe that we are very good (but can still learn from others) as well as on aspects that need some improvements, up-grading or even a fresh start – our partners’ experiences will be shining examples in many fields (e.g. volunteering, social media, using learners more effectively and provide them with training and other kinds of support). 6. The exchange of ALW/LLW promotional and publicity materials was very useful for us, too. 7. Soft elements (music, culture, crafts, local tradition, sightseeing...) played an important unifying role for the whole SLS community at events in all partner countries. This shows how important it is to be able to go beyond the usual professional cooperation via e-mail, phone, meetings... and enable people to get together and share at an entirely different level. 8. It is also very important to see what effect a certain measure (for example a specific approach used at the grand opening or the learning tram) has on people at the venue itself – one has to experience such things in real life not only read about them in reports or on websites. This way the transfer of an idea can be carried out in a much smoother and successful way.
8.	<p>Contribution to the general conclusions for all partners</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We learned that in most countries the structural basis of the ALW/LLW is fragile and financing depends for a great part on external money (national ministries and/or ESF). In the case of Slovenia, the LLW and its financing has become part of the Adult Education Master Plan and its subsequent Annual Adult Education Plans. Thus, SIAE for acting as national coordinator is being financed by the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs, whereas the network of providers receives financial support via an annual call for tender by the Ministry of Education. We can only hope that financing will continue to be like this, however, due to this relatively stable situation, volunteering has not developed the way it could and should, and this recognition is one of the major future challenges triggered by the SLS project. 2. Related to this point, the evaluation of ALW/LLW wider impacts and effects remains an issue that deserves further exploration and an innovative approach.