

Country report: Slovakia experience

Overall overview

Two of the three trainings conducted in Slovakia, were provided by 2 external trainers (Zuzana Kocurkova Ausilia, Ingrid Shcostokova – Empower Caching) and one by our internal trainer (Veronika Korim - topcoach). There were together 33 adult educators involved in the pilot trainings. All pilots took place in Bratislava. Our educators came from educational organizations, state pedagogical institutes, schools but some also from the private sector.

The training courses were organized during March 2022, as planned, in person but also by Zoom meetings/training.

1. *Were the planned learning outcomes achieved?*

Most of the agreed and designed training plan was followed, fulfilled but trainers individually added their exercises if needed with regards to the target group. Some of the learning outcomes took longer periods in the training, some shorter, as not all of them could be also practically and easily demonstrated/explained. For example LO 3 (Understands the basic concepts in adult learning methodology, role of the teacher and knows the contemporary approach to learning) and LO 8 (Understands the need for self-analysis as a supporter of a teacher's professional development).

2. *What else would you point out in relation to the learning process?*

We noticed that learners were more focused, interested and motivated during our in-person training, as the group dynamics, teamwork and exercises had a bigger impact on the participants. They appreciated the methods used during training and also homework activity, so they could come back to the topics provided during trainings and understand them better. The learners appreciated the most the practical exercises.

3. *How did the group process work?*

The learners created great group dynamics, in which they felt comfortable and understood by the trainer, but also by their peers, other adult educators. Giving and getting feedback was also very effective and understood by all learners.

4. *Other important observations and recommendations for the future?*

From our point of view,

- the time between training sessions could be shorter
- and we would not use the online zoom meetings, instead to give more practical exercises that learners will train in their own training process.

The methods were well understood and also applied in learners' own practice.