

# THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

in the Republic of Slovenia





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## The EDUCATION SYSTEM in the Republic of Slovenia

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**THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**





# THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

## Location

Slovenia is a small European country that stretches over an area of 20,273 km<sup>2</sup> between the Alps, the Adriatic Sea and the Pannonia Plain. Slovenia shares land borders with Austria at 318 km, Italy at 280 km, and Hungary at 102 km and Croatia at 670 km, total border length of 1,370 km. The coastline extends over 46.6 km. The capital of Slovenia is Ljubljana.

## Population

According to the last census (of 2002), Slovenia had 1,964,036 inhabitants; by 1 January 2013 the number had increased to 2,058,821. Population density is 101.6 people per square kilometre. The ethnic population breakdown is as follows: the majority, 83.1%, is Slovenian; members of the Hungarian (0.3%) and Italian (0.1%) national communities are recognised national minorities. In the census of 2002, every sixth person in Slovenia (16.5%) declared themselves members of a different ethnic group: nearly 2% as Serbs; 1.8% as Croats; 1.1% as Bosnians, of which 0.53% declared themselves as Muslims and 0.41% as Bosnians; 0.31% as Albanians; 0.2% as Macedonians; 0.14% as Montenegrins and 0.17% as Roma.

## System of Government

Since 25 June 1991, Slovenia has been an independent country. It is a democratic republic based on the principle of separating powers into legislative, executive and judicial. Legislative power is exercised by the **National Assembly** and the **National Council**. Executive power is vested in the **Government** that consists of the Prime Minister and Ministers and is responsible to the National Assembly. When carrying out its judicial function the **judiciary** is independent, bound by the Constitution and the law. **The President of the Republic** represents the Republic of Slovenia and is the supreme commander of armed forces.

Residents of Slovenia exercise **local self-government** in municipalities and other local communities. Local matters that only affect the residents of a municipality and can thus be dealt with independently, fall under the jurisdiction of municipalities. The state may impose by law upon the municipalities to carry out individual tasks that are under national jurisdiction, provided the necessary resources are made available.

Since 2004, Slovenia has been a **member of the European Union** and **NATO**.



*God's blessing on all nations,  
Who long and work for that bright day,  
When o'er earth's habitations  
No war, no strife shall hold its sway;  
Who long to see  
That all men free  
No more shall foes, but neighbours be.*

*(Translated by  
Janko Lavrin)*

**State symbols of the Republic of Slovenia** include the flag and the coat of arms; the seventh stanza of Zdravljica (A Toast) written by the Slovenian poet France Prešeren (1800–1849), set to music by Stanko Premrl (1880–1965) constitutes the national anthem.

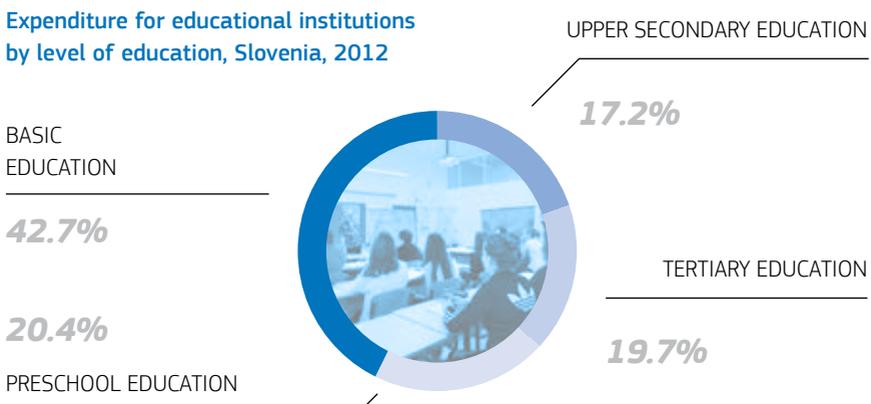
**The official languages** are Slovenian, and Italian and Hungarian in ethnically mixed areas inhabited by the Italian and Hungarian national communities.

Since 2007, the **official currency** has been the euro (€).

In 2013, Slovenian **GDP** was €35,275 m or €17,128 per capita.

In 2012, **public expenditure on education reached** 5.8% of GDP, i.e. €2,037 m. 95% of all public expenditure on formal education was allocated directly to educational institutions, while 5% was spent on public transfers to households and other private entities.

### Expenditure for educational institutions by level of education, Slovenia, 2012



**ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE  
OF EDUCATION IN SLOVENIA**

**PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION**

**BASIC EDUCATION**

**UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**THE GENERAL MATURA AND  
VOCATIONAL MATURA**

**TERTIARY EDUCATION**





# ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATION IN SLOVENIA

## Goals of education in Slovenia

The primary goal of the education system in Slovenia is to **provide optimal development of the individual**, irrespective of gender, social and cultural background, religion, racial, ethnic or national origin, and regardless of their physical and mental constitution or physical and mental disability.

Right to free education is enshrined in Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. Basic education is compulsory and is publicly funded. The state is obliged to create opportunities for citizens to obtain proper education. Universities and colleges are autonomous.

**The language of instruction** is Slovenian; the Italian and Hungarian national communities and their members in ethnically mixed areas have the right to education in their respective language. The Constitution also protects the status and gives special rights to members of the Roma community who live in Slovenia. The children of migrants have the right to compulsory basic education under the same conditions as other citizens of the Republic of Slovenia.

## Governance at national and local level

In the Republic of Slovenia, the education system is organised mainly as a **public service** rendered by public and private institutions and private providers holding a concession who implement officially recognised or accredited programmes. By law, public schools are secular and the school space is autonomous; in public schools, political and confessional activities are prohibited. By law, it is allowed to establish private educational institutions that provide their own programmes, thus one may opt for education in line with ones worldview.

Concerning the governance of public institutions, the state and the local communities have several roles given that they are the regulators, founders, main financiers and supervisors.

The state's main concern is **public institutions** that provide a public service. Public institutions are bodies governed by public law and state-controlled by various mechanisms such as appointment of representatives to management bodies, public funding and adoption of common rules and guidelines on public service by primary and subordinate legislation. Education staff at public education institutions enjoys **professional autonomy** over his or her teaching practice.

**Public upper secondary schools, short-cycle higher vocational colleges, higher education institutions, educational institutions for SEN children and residence halls for upper secondary and tertiary students, as well as supporting professional institutes in education are founded and financed by the state.**

**Public kindergartens, basic schools, residence halls for pupils, music schools and adult education organisations are founded by municipalities.** Pre-school education programmes are financed by municipal funding, fees charged to parents and other sources. Basic education is financed by municipal and state funding. Adult education is financed by municipal and state funding, as well as other sources.

There are also **supporting public institutions** in education, set up by the state that pursue, primarily, activities in the scope of development, professional support and supervision, as well as quality monitoring, counselling and so forth.

These institutions are:

- National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
- Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training
- National Examinations Centre
- Educational Research Institute
- Slovenian Institute for Adult Education
- Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes
- Centre for School and Outdoor Education
- National School of Leadership in Education, and
- Slovenian School Museum.

### Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

In Slovenia, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is responsible for education. It has authority to formulate and implement education policies, as well as make system regulations. The Ministry directly or indirectly outlines national programmes and draws up budgets for preschool, basic, upper secondary, higher vocational and higher education. Furthermore, it lays down criteria for financing public services, oversees budget implementation, supports the salary system administration and standardization of staff statuses, and develops investment and major maintenance programmes. It renders decisions on allocation of different educational programmes to institutions for upper secondary and adult

education and seeks consent from the Government before publishing to calls for enrolment for upper secondary, higher vocational or higher education programmes. The Ministry undertakes the development of the information systems at all levels of education and has its representatives appointed to the governing boards of public institutions. It has other obligations and responsibilities specified by law relevant to specific field of education.

It is also the responsibility of this ministry to develop and establish relevant policies for the domains of science and sports, as well as to make system regulations respectively. It is involved in outlining national programmes of sports and research, as well as drawing up budgets for financing public services.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is supported by seven directorates:

- Pre-School and Basic Education Directorate,
- Upper Secondary, Higher Vocational and Adult Education Directorate,
- Higher Education Directorate,
- Science Directorate,
- Sports Directorate,
- Investments Directorate, and
- Information Society Directorate.

Furthermore, within the ministry's organisational structure we may find several autonomous departments (Public relations, International cooperation and EU Office, HR development in education, and Internal auditing and Financial department), two offices (Education Development Office and UNESCO Office), Cohesion Policy Project Group and the Secretariat. The Minister and Minister's closest advisors constitute the Minister's cabinet. The Ministry works closely with the Slovenian Research Agency.

There are two other bodies affiliated to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport: Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth and Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Education and Sport.

The Government establishes several councils of experts to support the Ministry in taking decision on expert matters in specific areas of education, planning and implementing education policies and making regulations or developing national programmes.

Councils of experts:

- Council of the Republic of Slovenia for General Education
- Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational and Professional Education
- Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Adult Education
- Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Higher Education (it addresses matters of higher vocational education to a certain extent).

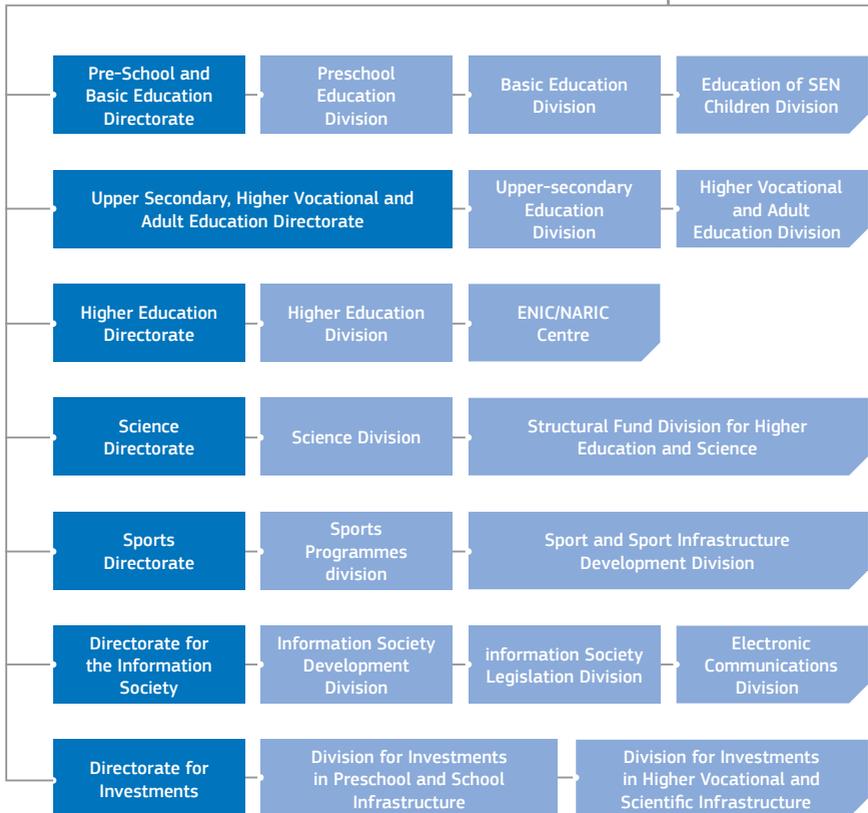


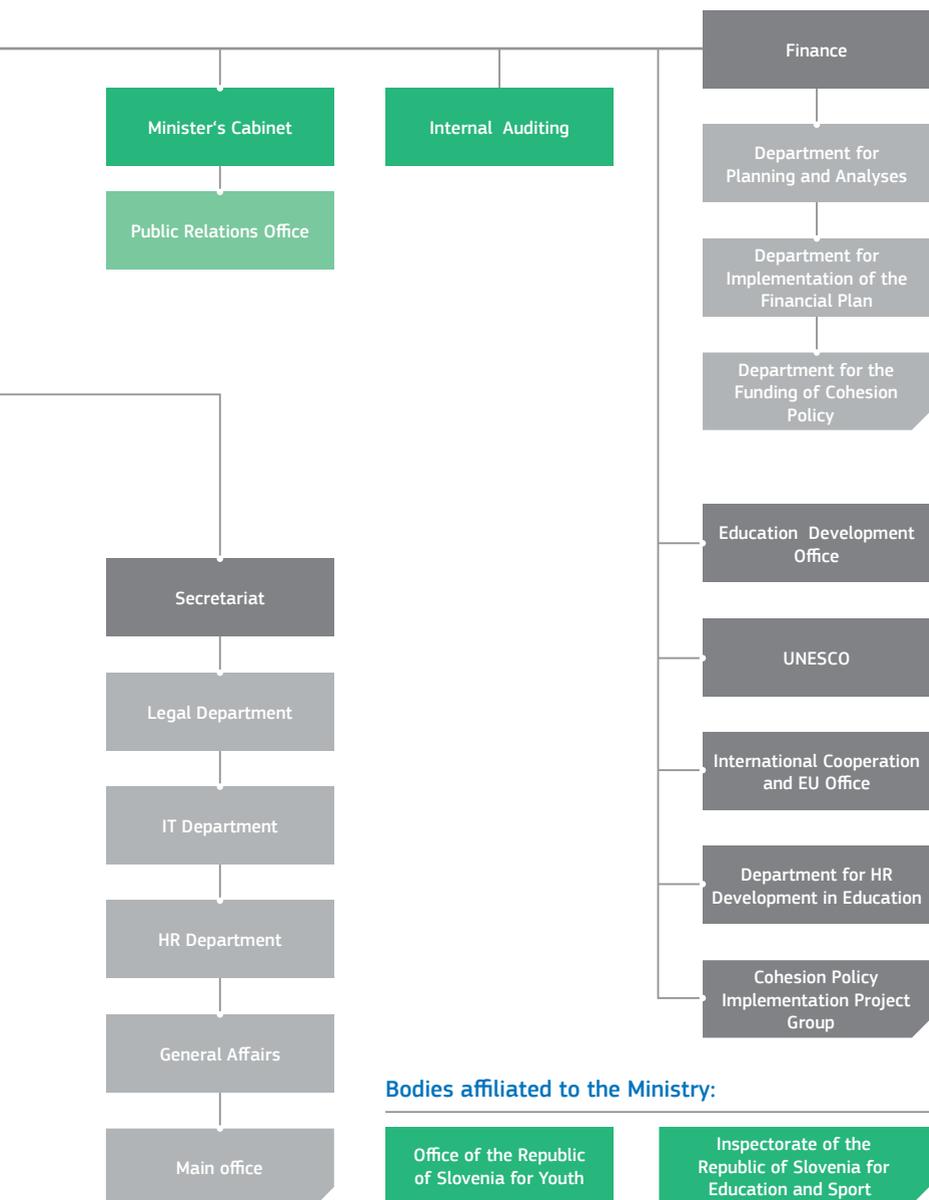


REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
 SCIENCE AND SPORT**



The organisation chart applies from 1 December 2014.





### Governance at institutional level

The governance body of public kindergartens and schools is the council, and the management body is the head teacher. Kindergarten and basic school councils are composed of representatives of the founder, employees and parents, while councils of upper secondary schools also include representatives of students. The founder – municipality or state – participates in the governance of kindergartens and schools through representatives appointed to the council and directly in administrative procedures. Among other responsibilities, the council of a public kindergarten or school shall appoint and relieve from office head teachers, adopt the development plan, annual work plan and implementation report thereof.

Public kindergartens, basic and upper secondary schools also establish a council of parents; it consents to above-standard services and appoints its representatives to the council; otherwise, its function is essentially consultative. The council of parents gives suggestions and opinions to the institution's bodies. As of 2008, parents have the right to adopt their own programme of co-operation with schools and associate with local and national associations of parents.

Higher vocational colleges shall establish governance and management bodies depending on the founder (state, private) and organisation (independent college, unit of another institution or company). The management body is the director or head teacher, whereas the council (or strategic council) is the governing body. Apart from representatives of the founders and employees, at this level councils also include representatives of students and employers. In addition, each school sets up a quality assurance committee; it co-operates with evaluation bodies in higher education.

Universities and independent higher education institutions are autonomous institutions; it is so enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and specified by the Higher Education Act. This means that in addition to the freedom of research, artistic creation and transmission of knowledge they the right to self-govern their internal organisation and practices of relevant bodies. The law defines the most important bodies and relevant functions only.

Bodies of a university:

- rector
- senate
- management board, and
- student council.

Bodies of members of a university (e.g. faculty): dean, senate, academic assembly and the student council.

### Private education

Private kindergartens, schools, colleges and higher education institutions may be founded by domestic and non-domestic natural or legal persons. However, this does not apply to basic schools, which may only be founded by domestic natural or legal persons. There are no private kindergartens and schools in Slovenia that are entirely financed from private sources. They are all financed or co-financed entirely by public funds.

Most private higher vocational colleges are financed entirely from private sources, that is, tuition fees. To private higher education institutions, which have been granted a concession the state allocates resources for study and extracurricular activities. They are not entitled to resources for maintenance and capital investments; however, they may participate in tenders for co-financing of development projects. These can also be obtained by private higher education institutions without a concession. ■



## PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Pre-school education is aimed at children aged one to six or the starting age of compulsory primary education and **it is not compulsory**. It is up to parents to decide whether to enrol their child or not. Pre-school education is provided by public and private kindergartens. Where necessary, a network of public kindergartens is complemented by private kindergartens that hold a concession.

**Public kindergartens are founded by local communities** in line with the needs of the local population. Kindergartens may implement as to the needs of parents and children and in agreement with the municipality various programmes: full-day, half-day and part-time programmes. The programmes are carried out by pre-school teachers and pre-school teacher assistants.

In the 2013/14 school year, pre-school education was provided by 960 units of kindergarten: set up in 105 public kindergartens, 196 basic school based kindergartens and 65 private kindergartens. The majority of kindergartens or 93% are public, while 7% are private.

Participation rate of children enrolled in kindergartens continues to rise. In 2013/4, there were **83,700** or **75.6%** of children of pre-school age who attended kindergartens and early childhood education and care families. In the same school year, **over 90% of all five-year olds attended pre-school education**.

Public kindergartens welcome children aged 11 months or more. Children remain and receive pre-school education and care in the same institution until they start basic school. Kindergartens provide Education and care in two age groups:

- first age group: children aged 1 to 3 years and
- second age group: children aged 3 years to basic school age.

### Goals of pre-school education

Pre-school education goals in kindergartens seek to:

- develop the ability to understand and appreciate oneself and others
- develop the ability to debate and resolve, appreciate diversity and cooperate or interact in a group
- develop the ability to recognise emotions and encourage emotional experience and expression
- foster curiosity, exploratory spirit, imagination and intuition, as well as develop critical thinking
- nurture language development for effective and creative use of speech, later also reading and writing

- cultivate appreciation of artistic works and the artistic expression
- share the knowledge of different scientific fields and everyday life
- motivate physical and locomotive development, and
- develop sovereignty in keeping personal hygiene and care for one's health.

### Kindergarten curriculum

Principles of pre-school education in kindergartens:

- democracy
- pluralism
- autonomy, professionalism and responsibility of employees
- equal opportunities for children and parents by respecting diversity amid children
- right to choice and being different, and
- balance various aspects of the child's physical and mental development.

Education and other professional staff of public and private kindergartens that hold a concession adhere to the **Kindergarten Curriculum**, that is, the essential programme document adopted in 1999 that specifies pre-school education as part of the education system.

The introduction of the curriculum defines the principles to be respected by the education and other professional staff of kindergartens, as well as basic professional principles such as, physical laws of the child's development and learning, democratisation of everyday (routine) activities (e.g. eating, resting), positive interaction and respectful communication. **The importance of the hidden curriculum** is also highlighted; it comprises many elements of educational influence on children that are not defined elsewhere, but appear in the form of indirect education to be more effective than direct educational activities. The curriculum also provides guidelines about how to arrange and use space, as well as co-operate with the parents.

The second part of the curriculum includes the presentation of the areas of activity in kindergartens. The areas are common to all children aged 1 to 6 years. The common "subject" areas defined for both the first and the second age group: **movement, language, nature, society, arts and mathematics.**

In accordance with the prescribed standards, pre-school teachers shall earn a bachelor degree, and the pre-school teacher assistants shall have completed a relevant upper secondary education programme. This stipulation, in addition to the norms on the size of the kindergarten groups, and norms and minimum technical

Classes and children in pre-school education, Slovenia, 2013/14 school year	Classes	Children total	1 <sup>st</sup> age group	2 <sup>nd</sup> age group
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b>83,700</b>	<b>23,967</b>	<b>59,733</b>
Public kindergartens	4,721	80,626	22,887	57,739
Private kindergartens	199	3,074	1,080	1,994

Source: SORS.

Kindergarten participation rate of children by age, Slovenia, 2013/14 school year	Age						
	total	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years or more
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Boys	76.3	42.5	65.5	83.9	88.8	94.9	7.0
Girls	74.8	41.7	65.3	83.7	86.8	93.8	3.8

Source: SORS.

requirements for kindergarten premises and equipment and the curriculum, secure high standards in working with children.

On average, one pre-school teacher or pre-school teacher assistant looks after 8 children, that is, 6 (6.1) in the first age group and 9 (9.3) in the second age group.

### Home-based childcare

Pre-school education may also be organized at a home of a pre-school teacher and a pre-school teacher assistant employed at a kindergarten, or at a home of a private pre-school teacher. Private pre-school teachers shall meet the same requirements as pre-school teachers, pre-school teacher assistants or counsellors at public kindergartens and they shall register with the ministry of education.

Childcare services may also be provided by child-minders who do not need to be qualified for the implementation of the pre-school education programme, but have to be qualified to take care of children. They too, shall register with the ministry of education. Child-minders may organise care at their homes, but for not more than 6 children. They may, however, register to provide individual in-home care. The number of registered home-based child-minders continues to rise each year, also due to difficulties in supplying places in public kindergartens. In January 2014, there were 279 registered child-minders. ■



## BASIC EDUCATION

Primary and lower secondary education is organised in a **single-structure nine-year basic school** attended by pupils aged 6 to 15 years. It is provided by public and private schools (less than 1% of pupils attend private basic schools), as well as educational institutions for SEN children, and for adults adult education organisations.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, **basic school education is compulsory** and it is state financed. Basic schools are founded by local communities. Slovenia is distinguished by a public network of basic schools that gives all residents of Slovenia access to education. In the 2013/14 school year, **166,535 children attended 782 basic schools and their branches**, as well as 57 schools, school based units and institutions for SEN children. In total, there were **16,308 teachers** employed in basic education.

### Basic school education goals

The key basic school education goals seek to:

- provide pupils the opportunities to acquire knowledge and develop skills consistent with their abilities and interests
- foster personal development
- develop the ability for life-long learning and continuous education
- foster the sense of belonging to one state, national identity and cultural heritage, as well as educate about common cultural values
- educate about respecting human rights, understanding diversity and teach tolerance;
- develop skills of communicating in Slovenian and foreign languages;
- educate for sustainable development, for taking responsibility for one's actions, one's health, other people and the environment
- develop entrepreneurial skills, innovation and creativity.

### Basic school programme

The basic school programme is specified by the **timetable and curricula** of compulsory and elective subjects, as well as by **guidelines and educational concepts** that define other methods of working with children (morning care, after-school classes, extra-curricular activities, outdoor school), cross-curricular contents (days of activities, how to use libraries and information technologies) and other documents to guide the work of the education staff. The programme also specifies the knowledge teachers have to have of specific subjects.

Along with compulsory and compulsory optional subjects, class discussion periods and days of activities (cultural, sports, technical, science days), all basic schools undertake activities of the extended programme. These include extracurricular activities, non-compulsory optional subjects and morning care for pupils in grade 1, as well as after-school classes for pupils of grades 1 to 5.

### Assessment and grading of knowledge

Teachers assess pupils throughout the period of instruction of the subject. In grades 1 and 2, teachers assess pupils' progress with descriptive grades. From grade 3 onwards, teachers assess the achievement of knowledge standards in accordance with the prescribed curriculum with numerical grades 1 to 5, whereby 1 is a negative grade and all others are positive grades.

At the end of grades 6 and 9, pupils' knowledge of mother tongue and mathematics and foreign language in grade 6 or third subject chosen by the minister in grade 9 is evaluated with the **national assessment**. Assessment is mandatory for pupils. Results do not have any bearing on the grades; they are only additional information about the level of pupils' knowledge.

Schools organise **remedial classes** for pupils in need of learning assistance and **supplementary classes** for pupils who exceed the prescribed knowledge standards. Schools may **adapt assessment** to pupils who at the same attend music schools, pupils who are promising athletes, SEN children and immigrant pupils.

At the end of the 2012/13 school year, 17,361 pupils successfully completed regular education programmes of basic school. Of those, 1.4% fulfilled legal obligation to attend school 9 years and left the basic school without having acquired their final certificate.

### Age levels and grouping of pupils

The basic school programme is divided into **three educational cycles**; each cycle covers three grades. In a separate grade, there are pupils of the same age. Pupils of the same grade are further grouped into classes. Smaller schools form multi-grade classes in which they place pupils of two or three different grade levels.

According to norms and standards that apply to basic schools, there may be **no more than 28 pupils in one class**. Lower limits may be applied in case of multi-grade classes, schools of ethnic minorities or classes that contain Roma or

Pupils in basic education, Slovenia, beginning of the school year 2013/14	Type of institution	2013/2014		
		Pupils	Institutions	Classes
Basic schools without branches	Public	147,044	447	7,238
	Private	921	3	46
	<b>Total</b>	<b>147,965</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>7,284</b>
Basic school branches	Public	15,198	330	1,066
	Private	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,198</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>1,066</b>
<b>Basic school</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>163,163</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>8,350</b>
Basic school with adapted education programme *	Public	2,070	27	315
	Private	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>315</b>
Mainstream basic schools that implement adapted education programme *	Public	462	21	78
	Private	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>78</b>
Basic schools with adapted education programme	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>393</b>
Educational institutions for SEN children	Public	541	10	100
	Private	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>166,239</b>		

Source: SORS.

\* Data on pupils and classes of special education programme included.

SEN children. In the 2013/14 school year, a class had 19 pupils on average. At the end of the 2012/13 school year, there were 10,400 SEN children included in mainstream basic school education or 6.5% of the basic school population.

In the first educational cycle, pupils are taught by a general (class) teacher. In grade 1, there is another teacher present during half of the lessons; usually, it is a pre-school teacher. In the second educational cycle, the instruction is primarily provided by a class teacher, but instruction of individual subjects is provided by specialist teachers. In the third cycle, specialist teachers deliver all lessons.

Instruction in specific subjects may be provided in smaller groups. ■



## UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION

The next stage after nine years of compulsory basic education is two to five year non-compulsory upper secondary education that begins at the age of 15.

The main goals of upper secondary education in Slovenia seek to allow:

- entire population to attain general educational qualification and an occupation,
- the largest possible share of population to attain the highest level of creativity possible,
- the largest possible share of population to attain the highest level of educational qualification, and facilitating the inclusion in the European integration processes.

The upper secondary education encompasses:

- **general education**, with different types of four-year gimnazija programmes (gimnazija, classical gimnazija, technical gimnazija, gimnazija of economics, gimnazija of arts) and a one-year matura examination course, and
- **vocational and technical education**, with educational programmes of different levels of difficulty, such as short upper secondary vocational (2 years) and upper secondary vocational education programmes (3 years) in which students shall pass the school-leaving exam to successfully complete the programme; upper secondary technical education programmes (4 years), vocational technical education programmes (2 additional years after completing a vocational programme) and the vocational course (1 year) in all of which students shall pass the vocational matura to successfully complete the education programme.

In the 2013/14 school year, upper secondary education was provided by **110 public schools (unified upper secondary schools or school centres) and 6 educational institutions for SEN** children. Schools may implement programmes of the same or different types at one or more levels of upper secondary education. Public upper secondary education schools may be arranged into unified organisations; however, due to programme diversity or size measured in the number of classes and students they may be organised in school centres with more schools, i.e. organisational units.

## UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION

The **system** of upper secondary education is **centralised**; decisions about the foundation and financing of upper secondary schools, as well as agreement on and distribution of education programmes are adopted at the national level. However, schools and teachers enjoy autonomy in determining teaching content, choosing teaching methods, staffing and managing employment relationships. The enrolment of new students shall be approved by the founder.

**At the end of the 2012/13 school year, there were 76,058 students and 14,790 adults enrolled in upper secondary education programmes. Upper secondary educational qualification was acquired by 18,463 students and 3,234 adults.**

Of all enrolled students 40% were enrolled in upper secondary general education, among them over 59% were girls. **Upper secondary technical education** captured over **44%** of students, and **short-vocational and vocational education** slightly less than **16%**.

Upper secondary education students, Slovenia, end of 2012/13 school year	Enrolled			Graduates		
	total	male	female	total	male	female
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,058</b>	<b>38,729</b>	<b>37,329</b>	<b>18,463</b>	<b>9,276</b>	<b>9,187</b>
Short vocational	737	535	202	307	228	79
Vocational	11,158	7,691	3,467	2,945	2,039	906
Technical	33,534	18,040	15,494	7,740	4,076	3,664
technical (4-year programmes)	29,721	15,487	14,234	6,442	3,227	3,215
vocational technical programmes	3,514	2,454	1,060	1,147	807	340
vocational course	299	99	200	151	42	109
<b>General</b>	<b>30,629</b>	<b>12,463</b>	<b>18,166</b>	<b>7,471</b>	<b>2,933</b>	<b>4,538</b>
general and professional gimnazije	30,059	12,291	17,768	7,283	2,863	4,420
matura examination course	570	172	398	188	70	118

Source: SORS.

### Age levels and grouping of students

As a rule, students enrol at the age of 15 years. Education is structured as a single-cycle education programme of two to five years, depending on the programme type. Students of the same age are grouped into years. Most of the time, same teachers teach same students same subjects for several school years.

Classes contain 17 to 30 students; however, with the consent of the respective Minister classes may contain up to 32 students. If there are SEN students in a class, then lower numbers may apply.



Type of programme	Upper secondary general education	Upper secondary vocational- technical and technical education
Goal	To prepare for continuing education at a university.	To obtain qualifications for a specific occupation to enter the labour market or to continue education at the tertiary level.
School	Gymnasium	Vocational and technical school
Programme characteristics	<p>4 years</p> <p><b>In Slovenia, there are general and technical gimnazija programmes. The latter include gimnazija of technics, gimnazija of economics gimnazija of arts, while the former include general gimnazija and classical gimnazija.</b></p> <p>All programmes have a basic structure of both compulsory and elective parts. In all gimnazija programmes, students learn at least two foreign languages.</p> <p>The syllabus of general gimnazija includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compulsory four-year subjects: Slovenian (Italian/Hungarian) language, maths, first foreign language, second foreign language, history, and sports</li> <li>• Compulsory subjects: music, visual arts, geography, biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, sociology, philosophy, and information science</li> <li>• Classes of elective subjects: the number of hours of elective subjects in, e.g. in gimnazija programmes, is greater every year from year 2 to year 4; in the last year the hours are allocated to studying for the matura examination.</li> </ul> <p>In classical gimnazija and gimnazija of economics the hours of elective subjects are only determined for years 3 and 4; in various fields of gimnazija of arts, there are less hours of elective subjects compared to other gimnazija programmes.</p>	<p>4 years (or 2 years after a completed 3-year vocational programme)</p> <p>Programme entails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>general subjects</b> (40% of total hours),</li> <li>• <b>technical modules</b> (25% to 30% of hours); some modules are compulsory, others are elective</li> <li>• <b>practical training</b>, in part <b>school</b> based in the form of practical lessons, in part as employer based practical training (15% of hours)</li> <li>• interest activities, (5% of hours)</li> <li>• <b>open part</b> of the programme determined by the school in cooperation with companies (10% of hours).</li> </ul>
Graduation	General Matura	Vocational matura
Transition to higher levels of education	Higher academic study programmes	Higher professional study programmes, short-cycle higher vocational study programmes; as well as higher academic study programmes on condition that candidates pass additional exams of general matura

<b>Upper secondary vocational education</b>	<b>Short upper secondary vocational education</b>	<b>Type of programme</b>
To obtain qualifications for a specific occupation to enter the labour market	To obtain qualifications for a specific occupation to enter the labour market	<b>Goal</b>
<b>Vocational and technical school</b>	<b>Vocational and technical school</b>	<b>School</b>
3 years	2 years	<b>Programme characteristics</b>
<p>Programme entails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general subjects (28% of total hours)</li> <li>• <b>technical modules</b> (28% of hours), over half of this time is dedicated to <b>school based practical lessons</b>; some modules are compulsory, others are elective</li> <li>• <b>employer based practical training</b> with an employer (25% of hours)</li> <li>• interest activities (4% of hours) and</li> <li>• <b>open part</b> of the programme determined by the school in cooperation with companies (15% of hours).</li> </ul>	<p>Programme entails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general subjects (30% of total hours),</li> <li>• <b>technical modules</b> (40% of hours) about two thirds are dedicated to <b>school based practical lessons</b>; some modules are compulsory, others are elective</li> <li>• <b>employer based practical training</b>; (6% of hours)</li> <li>• interest activities (4% of hours)</li> <li>• <b>open part</b> of the programme determined by the school in cooperation with companies (20% of hours).</li> </ul> <p>Short upper secondary vocational programmes are open to students who have completed at least the first 7 years of nine-year basic education, and thus met the basic school obligation. In the 2011/12 school year, only 1% of students enrolled on this type of education programmes.</p>	
<b>School-leaving exam</b>	<b>School-leaving exam</b>	<b>Graduation</b>
Vocational-technical education	Vocational or technical education	<b>Transition to higher levels of education</b>

### Entry requirements and choice of school

Children who complete compulsory basic school may continue their educational pathway at any upper secondary school.

The Ministry of Education shall issue a **common call for enrolment** in gimnazije and the matura examination course, short upper secondary vocational and upper secondary vocational, upper secondary technical and vocational-technical education programmes and the vocational courses no later than 6 months before the beginning of the school year.

#### **After the issue of a call for enrolment, schools organize information days to inform the candidates about**

- **options and requirements of education**
- **qualification and occupation programme**
- **options for further educational pathways**
- **entry requirements**
- **procedure and selection criteria in the case of limited enrolment**
- **important dates and terms of enrolment, and**
- **other significant information about enrolment.**

**Information days for vocational programmes in case of education vacancies with employers are also organised by the Chamber of Craft and Small Business and Chamber of Commerce.**

Candidates shall successfully complete basic school to enrol in the upper secondary school to which they have applied. Schools may limit enrolment in the first year if the number of candidates exceeds the human resources and capacity of the school. With the consent of the Minister, the school may issue a **decision on limited admission**.

### Matura course

One-year matura examination course programme is focused, in particular, on candidates with a four-year upper secondary technical educational qualification who wish to take the matura examination in order to continue their studies at the university level. Nevertheless, the programme is open also to candidates who have completed:

- three-year upper-secondary vocational education
- third year of gimnazija and did not attend the education programme for at least one year
- basic school and passed an exam on the level of the third gimnazija year
- education in a formally recognised programme of a private gimnazija for which the Expert Council for General Education established that it satisfies the minimum knowledge requirements for the successful completion of the programme, but have not passed the matura.

### Vocational course

One-year vocational course programmes are open to individuals who have successfully completed:

- year 4 of gimnazija, or
- education and training programmes leading to an upper-secondary technical qualification and wish to acquire additional qualification. ■





## THE GENERAL MATURA AND VOCATIONAL MATURA

**The general matura** is a national examination at the end of upper secondary general education. The general matura also grants access to higher education to adults who have either dropped out of education or their prior education does not allow them to enrol in higher education programmes.

**The general matura is an external examination at the national level** that students take at the end of the gimnazija programme. Students take exams in five subjects. Three subjects (Slovenian (Italian/Hungarian) language, mathematics, and a foreign language) are compulsory, while students choose two additional subjects from an approved list.

The general matura is led by the National Committee for the General Matura, which is appointed by the Minister. The administration of the matura examination is the responsibility of the school matura committee at individual schools, presided over by the head-teacher. The responsibility for technical and professional support for the preparation of examination materials and assessment is vested in the **National Examinations Centre**.

The successful completion of the **general matura examination grants candidates the right to enrol in first cycle academic and professional study programmes**, and short-cycle higher vocational study programmes.

Students who have successfully completed a technical upper-secondary education programme take a **vocational matura**. This is a final **examination** taken before a school **examination committee** that may contain external professionals as nominated by the competent chamber of employers and representative unions, as well as teachers.

The vocational matura examination is a two-part examination, with one part comprising the compulsory exams in Slovenian (Italian/Hungarian) language and theoretical-technical subject, while the elective part consists of exam in either foreign language or mathematics, and a seminar, product or service with oral defence to demonstrate the practical skills for a chosen occupation. The general part of the vocational matura is an examination in the mother tongue and foreign language or Mathematics.

Passing the **vocational matura examination gives students the right to enrol in professional higher study programmes or short-cycle higher vocational study programmes**. Students may pursue their studies in certain academic higher study programmes, but they first have to take and pass another exam in one of the general matura subjects. ■



## TERTIARY EDUCATION

Slovenia is actively involved in the Bologna process and as a member of the European Union committed itself to the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy. It aims to establish a high quality, diverse and accessible, as well as internationally comparable tertiary education system. Among the most important fundamental objectives of tertiary education are quality, employability and mobility in Europe and the world, fair access, diversity of institutions and study programmes.

The tertiary education in Slovenia consists of **short-cycle higher vocational education and higher education**. Both subsystems of tertiary education are interrelated in that they are linked by a system of quality assurance, students' progression from lower to higher level education, and also partly by institutional and programme compatibility.

**Almost two-thirds of those who complete upper secondary education (typically at the age of 19) enrol in a tertiary education programme.**

**According to Eurostat, Slovenia reached a specific objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy in 2013, namely 40% of people, aged 30 to 34 years had completed tertiary education<sup>1</sup>.** The percentage of the population who have completed tertiary education in Slovenia is constantly rising. In 2002, there were 215,000 tertiary education graduates (12.9% of the population) over the age of 15; in 2011, the number rose to 308,000 (17.5%) or one in six of people aged over the age of 15.

### Short-cycle higher vocational education

**Short-cycle higher vocational education** is provided by 64 public and private **higher vocational colleges**. In the 2013/14 academic year, some 13,000 students attended. The practice-oriented programmes, which were developed to meet the needs of the economy, are of two years' duration. They provide students with **vocational competencies** in accordance with vocational standards. Graduates are trained for managing, planning and controlling work processes.

<sup>1</sup> Data from EUROSTAT were collected in the Labour Force Survey. Using a single methodology, the data were collected for all EU Member States, which, like Slovenia, committed to pursuing the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Data from SORS for 2013 collected based on the register-based census show 34.4% share of young people aged 30 to 34 years with tertiary educational qualification.

## TERTIARY EDUCATION

Short-cycle higher vocational education students, Slovenia, 2013/14	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Public higher vocational colleges and concessionaires	8,172	2,416	10,588
Private higher vocational colleges		2,614	2,614
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,172</b>	<b>5,030</b>	<b>13,202</b>

Source: MESS.

### Higher education

Higher education is organized at public and private **universities and independent higher education institutions**. In the 2013/14 academic year, some 79,000 students were enrolled at faculties, art academies and higher education professional institutions. In the last decade, the number of higher education institutions has increased markedly. In 2013, there were three public and two private universities, one independent public higher education institution and forty-two private higher education institutions in Slovenia.

The main tasks of higher education institutions – scientific or artistic work, and education – are determined by law. Strategic objectives for individual five- to ten-year periods are determined by the national higher education programme adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia.

Higher education is organized in three Bologna cycles. In this context, the first-cycle features higher professional and academic undergraduate bachelor study programmes; the second-cycle features postgraduate master's study programmes (cycle or integrated), and the third-cycle includes doctoral study programmes. The introduction of the new Bologna study programmes at all levels of education was completed in the 2009/10 academic year. The old programmes have been withdrawn concurrently with the introduction of new programmes – time frame to graduate from old programmes is until 2015/16. Study programmes are carried out as full-time or part-time or in the form of distance learning.

**Tertiary education study programmes last from 2 to 6 years.  
Credit points – ECTS are awarded according to student workload.  
One full-time study year corresponds to 60 ECTS, whereby 1 ECTS equals 25–30 hours of work or a total of 1,500 to 1,800 hours of work per year.**

Higher education Students, Slovenia, 2013/14	Full-time	Part-time	Total
<b>Public higher education institutions</b>	<b>61,655</b>	<b>8,376</b>	<b>70,031</b>
Undergraduate programmes (former)	2,447	279	2,726
Academic or higher (former)	2,438	243	2,681
Professional higher (former)	9	36	45
1st cycle programmes	41,086	4,661	45,747
Academic	26,606	1,516	28,122
Professional	14,480	3,145	17,625
2nd cycle programmes	17,646	1,317	18,963
Integrated master	4,306	87	4,393
Master	13,340	1,230	14,570
3rd cycle programmes	477	2,112	2,589
Doctorate of science	477	2,112	2,589
Postgraduate (former)	0	7	7
Doctorate of science (former)	0	7	7
<b>Private higher education institutions</b>	<b>4,115</b>	<b>5,187</b>	<b>9,302</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> cycle programmes	2,859	4,234	7,093
Academic	670	203	873
Professional	2,189	4,031	6,220
2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle programmes	1,014	780	1,794
Master	1,014	780	1,794
3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle programmes	242	173	415
Doctorate of science	242	173	415
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,770</b>	<b>13,563</b>	<b>79,333</b>

Source: eVS, MESS.

Type of tertiary education study programme	Duration	ECTS	Entry requirements
Short-cycle higher vocational study programmes	2 years	120	Certificate of general matura or vocational matura or title mojster (master craftsman), foreman or shop manager and 3 years of work experience, as well as passed examination of knowledge in the general part of the vocational matura
Higher education professional study programmes (1st cycle)	3–4 years	180–240	Certificate of vocational matura or general matura
Higher education academic study programmes (1st cycle)	3–4 years	180–240	Certificate of general matura or vocational matura with an additional general matura subject
Master's study programmes (2nd cycle)	1–2 years	60–120	Bachelor's degree in respective study fields, or bachelor's degree in other study fields and bridging obligations of 10 to 60 ECTS
Integrated master's study programmes (2nd cycle)	5 years	300	Certificate of general matura or vocational matura and an additional subject of the general matura
Doctoral study programmes	3 years	180	Second cycle master's degree or an integrated master's degree

## TERTIARY EDUCATION

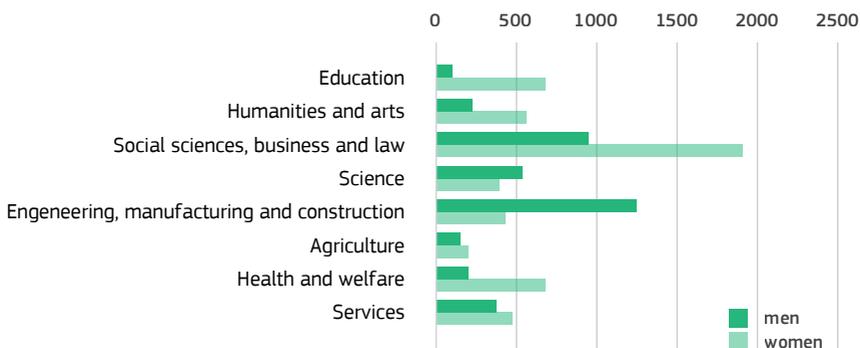
### Enrollment

Tertiary education entry requirements are specified by law and study programmes. Commonly, candidates shall have a certificate of general matura. The general matura gives students access to any short-cycle higher vocational or bachelor or integrated master's higher education study programme.

In case, the number of applicants exceeds the capacity, candidates with better overall grade in the matura or vocational matura and the overall grades in years 3 and 4 or grades of individual subjects in upper secondary education are selected. Candidates' success from prior studies is also taken into account even when they enrol in masters' and doctoral study programmes.

Students apply to short-cycle higher vocational and higher education study programmes upon a public call for enrolment which is issued at least six months before the beginning of the new academic year. Public higher vocational colleges shall obtain consent of the Minister of education to their proposed number places. The maximum number of places in private higher vocational colleges is specified by the decision on entering the relevant institution in the official register of tertiary institutions.

### Tertiary education students enrolled by study fields, Slovenia, 2013/14



Source: SORS.

### Quality

The Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (SQAA) was founded in 2009 and registered in the European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (EQAR) in 2013. The SQAA is part of the European system of quality assurance in higher education. It allows for the direct improvement of quality of European higher education, promotes greater mobility of students and facilitates trust between higher education institutions. ■



**BASIC MUSIC AND DANCE EDUCATION**  
**EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL**  
**EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**  
**ADULT EDUCATION**





## BASIC MUSIC AND DANCE EDUCATION

Slovenia has a well-developed system of non-compulsory basic music and ballet education. It is provided outside mainstream formal education and, pupils may attend school simultaneously. The education is uniform in terms of organisation, but is internally differentiated in terms of content in order to enable students finish their education at the basic level and allow talented students to continue their music and dance education. It is provided by **public and private music and ballet schools**; they may also organise other music and dance activities. They cater for pre-school children, basic school pupils, upper secondary school students, tertiary students and adults, as well. Candidates are required to pass an entrance aptitude test.

Basic school pupils who attend music schools may be exempted from attending an elective subject and all the same, have their elective obligations of the basic school programme recognised. **Officially recognised programmes** provided by public and private music and ballet schools are primarily financed by public funds; however, schools may charge parents material costs. Schools **established by local communities and private providers** allow students to gain artistic experience, encourage students to perform solo, set up chamber music groups and orchestras and dance groups; the most talented students are prepared to participate in music and dance competitions.

At the beginning of the 2013/14 school year, there were approximately 25,500 pupils enrolled on the basic music and ballet education programmes, of which 1,296 into dance programmes. Basic school pupils make up for 88% of all music school pupils. In the 2012/13 school year, over 3,200 pupils completed basic music and ballet education programmes. In the same school year, music and ballet schools had a staff of 1,964 teachers and 60 accompanists: on average 13 (12.7) pupils per teacher.

### Basic music and ballet education programmes include:

- 1-year pre-school music education
- 1-year preparatory music school
- 3-year preparatory dance school
- 4-, 6- or 8-year music programme
- 6-year dance programme.



Ballet and music education programmes comprise compulsory subjects, accompaniments and student performances as well as supplementary lessons for exceptionally talented students. Orchestral and other instruments are taught, as well as singing, dancing (ballet, modern dance), chamber and ensemble music, orchestra (string, wind, accordion, and symphony), music theory, as well as solfeggio and folk instruments: zither, tamburitza, and diatonic harmonica. The pre-school level is comprised of pre-school music education, music and dance preparatory school.

**The maximum number of hours per week** at the pre-school and preparatory levels is 2 or 3 lessons in dance education, and later on, 4 to 9 lessons or not more than 13 in dance education. An individual lesson takes 20, 30 or 45 minutes and a group lesson 45 or 60 minutes.

At music schools, educational provision is organised in grades, classes and groups. Lessons of instruments and singing are taken individually, while lessons in other subjects are taken in groups. ■

Children in basic music and dance education, Slovenia, beginning of the 2013/14 school year	Programmes					
	Total	Pre-school music education	Preparatory music school	Preparatory dance school	Music	Dance
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,542</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>20,676</b>	<b>1,296</b>
Public music schools	24,029	520	1,674	1,131	19,452	1,252
Private music schools	1,513	42	150	53	1,224	44



## EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The education of children with special educational needs (SEN children) is based on the principle of equal opportunity, whilst taking into account the diversity of children's needs, inclusion, parental involvement, individualised method of work, as well as all other conditions to ensure the best development of the individual child.

In Slovenia, the education of SEN children is provided exclusively as a **public service**, namely at public kindergartens, schools, specialised public schools or public institutions. The government provides **officially recognised education programmes from the pre-school level to the end of upper secondary education**.

In accordance with the Placement of Children with Special Needs Act, SEN children are:

- children with mental disabilities
- deaf children and children with hearing impairments
- blind children and children with visual impairments
- children with speech and language impairment
- children with physical disabilities
- children with problems in specific fields of education
- children with long-term illness
- children with emotional and behavioural problems, and
- children with autistic disorders.

Programmes of all types and levels of education **with adapted implementation and additional professional assistance** are provided at kindergartens and schools in regular classes. The majority of SEN children (90%) enrol in the above-mentioned programmes. There has been a decline in the number of SEN children enrolled in the **adapted and special programmes for SEN children** provided at special class units (or units) within regular kindergartens and basic schools (21 schools) specialised basic schools (27), public institutions for the education of SEN children and youth (16) and public social care centres (5). The education programmes for children with emotional and behavioural problems are provided only by public institutions for the education of SEN children.

The education of SEN children is financed by public funds. **Specialised public basic schools for education of SEN children** may be founded by local communities; public institutions for SEN children are founded by the state.

## EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Otroci s posebnimi potrebami v specializiranih programih, začetek šolskega leta 2013/14, Slovenija		Classes/pupils in mainstream kindergartens or basic schools	Basic schools with adapted programme	Institutions for SEN children
Adapted pre-school programme or pre-school education in an institution	classes	No data	-	11
	pupils	208	-	52
Adapted basic school programme of an equal educational standard	classes	-	-	62
	pupils	-	-	333
Adapted basic school programme of a lower educational standard	classes	50	158	22
	pupils	298	1,135	115
Special education programme	classes	28	157	16
	pupils	164	935	96
Adapted upper secondary education programmes of an equal educational standard	classes	-	-	53
	pupils	-	-	303
Educational groups at institutions for with emotional and behavioural problems	classes	-	23	73
	pupils	-	187	587

- no occurrence of event

Source: SORS, MESS.

In 2013, there were **29 residence halls for permanent or temporary accommodation**, five of which were social welfare institutions, available to SEN children. They cater to various groups of children and their specific needs: children with mental disabilities, children with physical disabilities, blind and visually impaired children, deaf and children with hearing impairments, and children with emotional and behavioural problems.

**The share of SEN children who attend regular basic school programmes is 6.5% of the entire basic school population.**

In Slovenia, the participation of SEN children in the regular school system is based on the **concept of inclusive education** by the right of all children to develop optimally their potentials, and by their right to non-discrimination.

At the end of the 2012/13 school year, the regular education programmes were attended by 10,040 SEN children or 6.5% of all children enrolled on basic school education programmes.

In regular education programmes, various groups of SEN children are provided with partial individualisation through adapted implementation or an adapted programme and additional professional assistance. The latter is provided as assistance to overcome handicaps, impairments or disabilities, as learning assistance and as assistance aimed at creating a supportive environment. The adjustments may refer to organisation of teaching, methods of assessment, progression and the schedule of lessons. If necessary, the adjustments can also include spatial layouts and learning or teaching tools and materials. A SEN child may have a permanent or temporary assistant assigned to him or her.

In the adapted education programmes with equivalent education standards, the timetable and external assessment may be adapted, as well, and in the



adapted education programmes with lower educational standard, the subject curricula, educational cycles and completion requirements.

Any SEN children, for whom the instruction at the location of their residence and transport due to the great distance from the location of schooling cannot be provided, may be placed in an institution for the education of SEN children, social welfare institution, and residence hall for such children or a foster family.

### Age levels and sizes of classes with SEN children

At kindergartens, no more than two SEN children may be included in a regular class, and such classes can be smaller than the usual. A class with an adapted programme for pre-school children, however, may include a maximum of six SEN children.

In classes with an adapted basic school programme with an equal or lower education standard for SEN children and in classes carrying out a special programme for children with moderate or severe mental disabilities, the class sizes are considerably smaller than ordinary classes, ranging from 5 to a maximum of 12 pupils, and differ by programmes and the special needs of the children. A special education programme is provided for children with moderate and severe mental disabilities to the age of 26.

At upper secondary schools providing adapted education programmes, typically, classes contain 10 students, and learning groups 4 to 12 students.

Basic and upper secondary school classes that contain SEN pupils or students may be smaller than specified by regulations.

### Placement of SEN children

The placement of SEN children is initiated based on a written request by either parents or the school. In the first instance, the decision on the placement of SEN children is taken by the National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia. Children are placed in education programmes by taking into consideration their physical, cognitive, emotional, social and health-related needs. Furthermore, their attained level of development is taken into account as well as their learning abilities, achievement of knowledge standards and further development outlook in light of their handicaps, impairments or disabilities. Commissions at the first and second instance draft an expert opinion suggesting the placement of SEN children in an adequate education programme.

In the second instance, the SEN children placement commission responds to the complaints against the commission's decisions in the first instance. The commission is set up at the ministry of education. ■





## ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education comprises the education, training and learning of individuals who have fulfilled the legal compulsory basic school education obligation and wish to acquire, update, expand and deepen their knowledge, and do not have the status of a regular pupil or student. A wide variety of programmes and training providers are available within the adult education system in Slovenia.

The Adult Education Act regulates adult education, whereas some other programmes available to adults are governed by sector-specific law.

A public organisation providing adult training may be founded as a public institution or an organisational unit of an educational institution, another institution or another legal entity. They are founded by local communities or the state. Adult education is provided by adult education institutions, schools or their units, specialised adult education institutions, as well as other public or private institutions on the register of adult education institutions, by company training centres and private individuals enjoying a status of a private teacher.

According to Eurostat, 12.4% of the population in Slovenia, aged 24 to 65, participated in lifelong learning in 2013.

### Goals of adult education

Principles behind adult education:

- life-long education
- access to education under the same conditions
- freedom and autonomy to choose the path, content, forms, means and methods of education
- secularism of adult education provided as a public service
- professional and ethical responsibility of education staff
- respect of the personality and dignity of every participant, and
- achieving the same educational standards of officially recognised educational qualification as they apply to youth.

### Programmes of formal educational qualification

Adults wishing to acquire basic school educational qualification take lessons of the **basic school programme for adults**. Acquiring basic school educational qualification is the right and free of charge at any age. In the 2012/13 school year, 170 individuals successfully completed the basic school programme for adults.

Any adults desiring to receive **upper secondary education may enrol in regular upper secondary education programmes with special adjustments**

## ADULT EDUCATION

Adults in upper secondary education, Slovenia, end of 2012/13 school year	Enrolled			Completed		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	14,790	7,416	7,374	3,234	1,466	1,768
Folk high schools	3,342	1,343	1,999	804	204	600
Other specialised adult education institutions	2,551	1,254	1,297	482	165	317
Company training centre (unit)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult education units at schools	8,491	4,656	3,835	1,732	984	748
Educational centres at the Chamber of Commerce or Craft	-	-	-	107	78	29
Other	406	163	243	109	35	74

- no occurrence of event

Source: SORS.

**for adults.** The organisation of education is adapted to meet the needs of adults. In the 2012/13 school year, 14,790 adults were enrolled on upper secondary adult education programmes, with 66% of them being successful at the end of the school year. The education providers are primarily upper secondary schools with adult education units, whereas adult education organisations account for less than half of them. Of the 3,234 adults who completed upper secondary education, as many as three quarters finished upper secondary technical education and 17% upper secondary vocational education.

### Mojster (master craftsman) exam

Mojster exams are open to candidates with:

- upper secondary vocational education certificate and at least three years relevant work experience
- upper-secondary technical education and at least two years relevant work experience
- short-cycle higher vocational education and at least one year relevant work experience.

### Foreman and shop manager exams

Foreman and shop manager exams are open to those with upper-secondary vocational education and at least three years of work experience from the relevant field.

Those who successfully pass the master craftsman, foreman or shop manager exam officially complete their upper secondary technical education.



### Special education programmes

Adults may also acquire knowledge and skills within special officially recognised adult education programmes, which constitute only a small portion of the range of informal adult education programmes. The **officially recognised programmes** targeted at special groups of adults, particularly those needing to improve their basic competences or literacy skills or requiring assistance integrating in society, have been approved by the Council of Experts for Adult Education and are mostly available free of charge. The main officially recognised programmes include programmes for learning foreign languages, digital literacy, Slovenian language for foreigners, development of literacy and basic competences of adults and family literacy **Education programme for success in life (UŽU)**. A special officially recognised one-year programme called **Project Learning for Young Adults (PUM)** is designed for young people who have dropped out of school before attaining their vocational qualification. The programme helps them reintegrate into the formal education system, develop their professional identity and enter the labour market.

Informal education may be of a professional nature, i.e. further training and educational pathways in connection with job promotion or of a general nature aimed at personal development. Study clubs and independent learning centres constitute an important type of informal education. Many adults in Slovenia are involved in occasional self-learning.

### Further education in Slovenia in the 2011/12 school year

The Slovenian Institute for Adult Education is the supporting institute for adult education founded by the state. Each year, it publishes a catalogue of formal and non-formal adult education. The catalogue contains information about programmes that are available to adult learners, as well as information about providers of education programmes, namely for a separate school year.

## ADULT EDUCATION

Further education, Slovenia, 2011/12	Providers		Participants		
		total	officially non- recognised programmes	officially recognised programmes	language programmes
Total	358	302,340	247,295	35,787	19,258
Folk high schools	30	34,274	24,516	4,012	5,746
Specialised adult education institutions	108	61,632	47,578	6,815	7,239
Units of schools	31	20,173	16,460	1,585	2,128
Units of enterprises, etc.	31	128,269	127,672	242	355
Educational centres at the Chamber of Commerce or Craft	3	9,050	9,050	-	-
NGOs	29	14,132	11,915	-	2,217
Driving schools	107	22,784	-	22,784	-
Other providers	19	12,026	10,104	349	1,573

- no occurrence of event

Source: SORS.

The catalogue for the 2013/14 school year contains over 200 providers that offer over 4,000 education programmes. The majority are private providers, followed in number by public upper secondary schools and public specialised adult education centres. Informal programmes, primarily language courses and managerial training, constitute the majority of the courses offered and are followed by computer courses, courses for personal growth and communication.

### Recognition of informally acquired knowledge

Slovenia has developed a system for the recognition of non-formal learning and established the **national vocational qualification system** for recognising competencies on the labour market. The system is administered by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. The national vocational qualifications are developed from vocational standards, namely at the request of employers. Persons who acquired specific knowledge and skills in a non-formal manner may apply to have their knowledge certified. In this procedure, they have to demonstrate knowledge as specified by the relevant catalogue for a specific vocational qualification; i.e. by producing a personal portfolio and taking a test. Upon the successful completion, the candidate is awarded a certificate of national vocational qualification. ■



**EDUCATION STAFF**

**QUALITY ASSURANCE IN EDUCATION**





## EDUCATION STAFF

Education staff **at kindergartens and schools that provide officially recognised education programmes** include pre-school teachers, pre-school teacher assistants, teachers, counsellors, school librarians and other education staff. Both public and private kindergartens and schools shall ensure that their education staff is adequately qualified, that is they have a perfect command of Slovenian (and/or the language of the relevant ethnic minority); **hold a relevant educational qualification and they have passed the professional examination.**

- Pre-school teachers, second teachers in the first grade and teachers of professional subjects in vocational and technical education shall hold an educational qualification of no less than the first cycle study programme.
- Teachers, counsellors, school librarians and other education staff shall hold an educational qualification of the second cycle study programme.
- Pre-school teacher assistants in kindergartens, laboratory assistants and teachers of practical lessons and skills in vocational and technical education shall have no less than upper secondary technical education.

All education staff shall hold a relevant pedagogical-andragogical educational qualification, while education staff in education of SEN children shall hold special pedagogical educational qualification.

Pre-school teachers acquire a suitable educational qualification in first-cycle study programmes, which usually last 3 years (180 ECTS), while study programmes for teachers of professional and theoretical subjects usually last 3 or 4 years (180 or 240 ECTS). Other teachers, school librarians and counsellors acquire their educational qualification in second-cycle study programmes of total 5 years or 300 ECTS (integrated programmes, 3+2, or 4+1). There are two pathways to a teaching qualification: under a **concurrent** model (in parallel with the subject of instruction) or under a **consecutive** model in a supplementary study programme after receiving the degree in a subject of instruction.

Education staff at kindergartens, Slovenia, 2013/14			
	Total	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,379</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>11,118</b>
Pre-school teachers	5,057	49	5,008
1 <sup>st</sup> age group	1,833	8	1,825
2 <sup>nd</sup> age group	3,224	41	3,183
Pre-school teacher assistants	5,501	180	5,321
1 <sup>st</sup> age group	2,202	63	2,139
2 <sup>nd</sup> age group	3,299	117	3,182
Management	374	14	360
Counsellors	143	2	141
Other education staff	304	16	288

Source: SORS.

Education staff at basic schools, Slovenia, 2012/13 school year				
	Total	Men	Women	
<b>Basic schools</b>	<b>EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>17,953</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>15,669</b>
	Teachers of the first and second educational cycles	6,218	178	6,040
	Teachers of the third educational cycle	6,970	1,452	5,518
	Teachers of after-school classes	2,232	204	2,028
	Management	818	226	592
	Counsellors	890	25	865
	Other education staff	825	199	626
<b>Basic schools and institutions providing adapted education programmes</b>	<b>EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>820</b>
	Teachers of the first and second educational cycles	229	9	220
	Teachers of the third educational cycle	240	57	183
	Teachers of after-school classes	110	14	96
	Management staff	54	9	45
	Counsellors	102	3	99
	Other education staff	196	19	177

Source: SORS.

## EDUCATION STAFF

### Education staff at public upper secondary schools, Slovenia, 2012/13 school year

	Total	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,039</b>	<b>2,331</b>	<b>4,708</b>
Teachers	6,175	2,086	4,089
Teachers in upper-secondary general education	2,485	730	1,755
Teachers in upper-secondary technical education	2,568	859	1,709
Teachers in upper-secondary vocational education	996	433	563
Teachers in short upper secondary vocational education	126	64	62
Management	251	114	137
Counsellors	195	10	185
Other education staff	418	121	297

Source: SORS.

Education staff at **higher vocational colleges** include lecturers, instructors, laboratory assistants and librarians.

- Candidates for the lecturer title shall hold no less than a Master's degree, and have three years of relevant work experience and significant achievements in the respective profession.
- Instructors shall hold no less than a Bachelor's degree, lab assistants a degree in short-cycle higher vocational education.

Education staff at higher vocational colleges, Slovenia, 2012/13 school year	Number			Number in FTE <sup>1</sup>			Teaching load	
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Full-time or more	Part-time
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>527.6</b>	<b>269.7</b>	<b>257.9</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1,650</b>
Higher vocational college lecturers	1,476	777	699	453.8	231.3	222.5	101	1,375
Instructors	208	121	87	42.2	23.0	19.2	5	203
Laboratory assistants	48	38	10	18.7	14.2	4.5	8	40
Physical education teachers	5	5	0	0.8	0.8	0.0	0	5
Librarians	31	2	29	12.1	0.4	11.7	4	27

1) Full Time Equivalent

Source: SORS.

Education staff in short-cycle higher education shall have relevant pedagogical-andragogical educational qualification. Lecturers are appointed for a term of five years by the college's panel of lecturers.

In higher education teaching and/or scientific research are pursued by teaching faculty and research faculty respectively, as well as by faculty assistants.

Higher education teaching faculty includes assistant professors, associate professors, full professors and lectors; in professional higher education study programmes teaching may be pursued by lecturers and senior lecturers. Candidates for election to the title of assistant professor, associate professor or full professor shall hold a doctorate of science; in the field of art, the candidates shall have an acclaimed artistic production. Candidates for other teaching titles shall have no less than a Master's degree. Moreover, all candidates shall attest their pedagogical skills.

Instructional and professional support staff at higher education institutions, Slovenia, 2012/13	Number			Number in FTE <sup>1</sup>			Number according to teaching load	
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Full-time or more	Part-time
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,763</b>	<b>5,074</b>	<b>3,689</b>	<b>5,762.8</b>	<b>3,398.7</b>	<b>2,364.1</b>	<b>3,487</b>	<b>5,276</b>
<b>Teaching faculty</b>	<b>5,596</b>	<b>3,483</b>	<b>2,113</b>	<b>3,471.5</b>	<b>2,156.2</b>	<b>1,315.3</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>3,577</b>
Full professors	1,623	1,248	375	1,035.1	803.3	231.8	615	1,008
Associate professors	1,167	780	387	817.3	531.1	286.2	505	662
Assistant professors	1,704	971	733	1,074.8	615.9	458.9	616	1,088
Senior Lecturers	394	220	174	191.5	99.0	92.5	102	292
Lecturers	541	236	305	208.5	84.6	123.9	87	454
Lectors	167	28	139	144.3	22.3	122.0	94	73
<b>Faculty assistants</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>2,226.3</b>	<b>1,202.1</b>	<b>1,024.2</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>1,614</b>
Assistants	2,472	1,379	1,093	1,966.7	1,133.5	833.2	1,300	1,172
Instructors	125	46	79	71.6	26.8	44.8	57	68
Specialist advisors	412	90	322	153.3	37.8	115.5	47	365
Librarians	41	4	37	34.7	4.0	30.7	32	9
<b>Research faculty</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>85</b>
Research advisors	39	28	11	20.9	15.0	5.9	9	30
Senior researchers	21	11	10	13.8	6.5	7.3	8	13
Researchers	57	33	24	30.3	18.9	11.4	15	42

1) Full Time Equivalent

Source: SORS.



**Research faculty** that implements a scientific research programme of a higher education institution shall hold a doctorate of science. The titles include researcher, senior researcher and research advisor.

**Faculty assistants** include assistants, librarians, expert advisors, senior experts, junior experts and instructors. Faculty assistants shall hold a Master's degree and attest their pedagogical skills.

The titles are awarded by the senates of higher education institutions, namely for a term of 5 years or indefinitely in case of the titles full professor or research advisor. The criteria for awarding a title are specified by the senate of the university and/or higher education institution, whereby it complies with the standards and criteria of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

### **Employment and working conditions**

Education and other staff in public kindergartens, schools, higher education institutions, and other institutions have the status of public servants. Policies concerning salaries, employment relationships and retirement are uniform for the entire country. The Slovenian Employment Relationship Act sets forth employment by means of entering into and terminating agreements, 40-hour work week, types and forms of relationships under labour law, rights, obligations, and responsibilities in connection with the working time, payments, leave of absences, and similar. Specific rights arising from relationships under labour law are subject to collective negotiations between the Government and labour unions, and they are governed by collective agreements of a respective sector. A special law governs the pension and disability insurance obligation in view of intergenerational solidarity. The salaries of education employees based on the principle of equal pay for comparable jobs within the entire public sector are governed by the Public Sector Salary System Act.

Employees are recruited via public advertisement of a post that is set forth according to the staffing structure of posts, defined norms and standards, as well as the consent of the competent administrative body; in higher education, it is set forth according to the provisions of the higher education institution's statute. The employment agreement may be a fixed-term or open-ended, full-time or part-time; the agreement about working conditions is governed by an employment contract.

Education staff may take their first job in kindergartens and schools as **beginners or trainees** as a rule, for 10 months if they hold a Bachelor or Master's degree and 6 months if they have an upper secondary technical educational qualification. Assisted or guided by a mentor they shall train in order to be able to perform their work independently and prepare for their professional examination. Only after they have passed the professional examination they fully meet the requirements to do the educational work.

Education staff continues with their professional education and training throughout their career, and successfully completed programmes of continuous professional development are a prerequisite for any promotion to higher salary grades or titles. Education staff may be **promoted to the job titles Mentor, Advisor and Councillor**.

Teaching time of teachers and other education staff	Teaching time in hours (60 minutes) per week	
Kindergarten	Pre-school teacher	30 hours
	Pre-school teacher assistant	35 hours
Basic school education	Slovenian (Italian, Hungarian) language teacher	15,75 hours
	Teacher	16,5 hours
	Teacher of after-school classes	20,8 hours
Upper secondary education	In-hospital teacher	18,75 hours
	Slovenian (Italian, Hungarian) language teacher	14,25 hours
	Teacher	15 hours
	Accompanist	15 hours
	Teacher of practical lessons and skills	18,75 hours
Short-cycle higher vocational education	Laboratory assistant	22,5 hours
	Educator (at residence hall)	30 hours
	Lecturer	8,5 hours
Higher education (during organised study process)	Instructor	10,6 hours
	Laboratory assistant	13,9 hours
	Assistant professor, associate professor and full professor	3,75 - 5,25 hrs.
Senior lecturer, lecturer and lector	6,75 hours	
Assistant	7,5 hours	

Source: MESS.

### Counselling service

All public kindergartens and schools shall have a counselling service provided by counsellors. These may be professionals in the field of psychology, pedagogy, social work, social pedagogy, special pedagogy, rehabilitation pedagogy, etc.

Larger kindergartens and schools have several counsellors on staff and smaller ones have at least one, employed part-time. Counsellors perform three commonly interconnected and intertwined types of activities: supportive, developmental and preventive, as well as activities of planning and evaluating.

They perform pedagogical, psychological, and social counselling. They help children, pupils, upper secondary students, teachers, parents and management. Furthermore, they are involved in developing and implementing individualised programmes for SEN children.

### School librarians

All schools shall have a library and a school librarian. School librarians are qualified teachers holding a certificate of the supplementary study programme in library science or librarians holding the pedagogical-andragogical educational qualification.

### Management staff

Public kindergartens and schools are managed by head teachers. They assume two roles: that of a pedagogical leader and that of an executive manager. A kindergarten head teacher candidate shall meet the requirements for a kindergarten teacher or counsellor, and a school head teacher candidate shall meet the requirements for a teacher or a counsellor, namely at the school where he or she shall assume the position of a head teacher. They are also required to have at least 5 years of work experience in education, the title Advisor or Counsellor or at least 5 years the title Mentor, and have a **headship license**.

Head teachers are appointed by a kindergarten or school council based on the opinions offered by the assembly of pre-school teachers, teachers or lecturers, local community, council of parents, and the Minister of education. Upper secondary students and students of short-cycle higher vocational education also offer their opinion about head teacher candidates in upper secondary schools and higher vocational colleges.

Public adult education organisations are managed by a director, and organisational units by a head teacher or head of unit. The head shall have a degree in higher education, passed their professional examination, and have at least 5 years of work experience, of which three years in adult education.

A university is managed and represented by a rector elected by all members



of teaching and research faculty, and by one-fifth of votes students, as well. Professional leaders of higher education institutions that are members of the university are deans. They are appointed by the university rector upon the recommendation of the senate of the member institution. The dean of an independent higher education institution that is not a member of the university is both manager and professional leader.

### Technical and administrative staff

Kindergartens and schools may employ accountants and administrative assistants to do the accounting and administrative work. However, the founder of a kindergarten or school may organise accounting, administrative, maintenance and other work to be done by respective divisions; kindergartens and schools may sign on a subcontractor from outside the school / a company or not an employee of the school.

Kindergartens and schools employ cleaning staff and a caretaker to do the technical, maintenance and other housekeeping related work. Upper secondary schools employ a maintenance keeper for IT and other computer equipment, and at kindergartens, there is a laundress. Kindergartens and basic schools employ cooks to prepare food, and kindergartens employ a cook assistant, as well.

Schools that implement a special education programme for children with special educational needs may employ minder – carers. Institutions that implement education programmes for deaf and hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired, and children with physical disabilities employ maintenance workers to maintain, adapt and rent out computer, electro-acoustic and other equipment.

Kindergartens and schools may also employ an attendant of a child with physical disability (pupil or upper secondary student) if it is so specified by the SEN child placement decision. ■



## QUALITY ASSURANCE IN EDUCATION

Slovenia shall endeavour to provide all participants in education with access to a high quality education and to this end, it has developed a system of quality assurance in education.

The regularity or legality of management and education activities at public and private institutions holding a concession is supervised by the **school inspectorate**. It carries out regular and extraordinary inspections and examines legal, organisational and other administrative procedures.

Kindergartens and schools carry out regular **self-evaluations**. Self-evaluation reports are reviewed and approved annually by the councils of respective institutions. In the process of self-evaluation, education institutions evaluate, in particular, education processes, and compare students' results of internal assessment to those of external assessment of knowledge. Findings of the self-evaluation are then considered when developing a work plan in the following school year, as well as when long-term planning (e.g. when developing a development programme). All documents are adopted by the council of the institution.

By law, upper secondary technical and vocational schools shall establish quality committees based on the principle of social partnership. According to the indicator of quality adopted by the Council of experts of the Republic of Slovenia for vocational and technical education, schools publish online annual quality reports by the school quality committee. The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training is responsible to monitor the process of quality assessment and assurance in vocational and technical education.

At the end of the second cycle (grade 6) and at the end of basic school education (grade 9), an organised **national assessment** takes place. At the end of upper secondary upper secondary education, students in technical education take **vocational matura** and students in gimnazija take **general matura**. Both types are external final examinations, either completely or in part. Every year, the National Examination Centre makes a thorough analysis of the final examination outcome by subjects, municipalities and by schools. The analysis results are communicated to the ministry of education and respective schools. The information about the achievement of pupils and students in school is not public. Schools apply the information to assess the level of quality achieved in their work. They may compare the achievements of their pupils or upper secondary students to the average and highest outcomes on a national level.

The quality and evaluation council is a body appointed by the minister to cater for the coordination of evaluation programmes in pre-school education, basic school education, and upper secondary education; it reports to the minister. It shall also establish criteria and procedures for assessing and assuring quality in kindergartens and schools, at a national level. It shall define strategies and the course of evaluation activities. It shall identify basic dilemmas of evaluation, recommend the commission of evaluation studies, and propose call for tenders and selection of evaluation studies. The final decision is made by the Minister of education. Furthermore, the council shall monitor the course of evaluation studies and report to the council of experts, the minister and other professionals.

Information on the enrolment of children, pupils, upper secondary students and tertiary students, employees, institutions and programme structure are collected and administered by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. They are published in a form that prevents the identification of a specific statistical unit.

In tertiary education, internal evaluation is the responsibility of higher vocational colleges and higher education institutions, and external evaluation of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education has the main role in external evaluation. ■

## EURYDICE SLOVENIA

Eurydice Slovenia, which is responsible for this publication, is the national unit of the network for the exchange of information on education systems. It is a part of the Education Development Office at the ministry of education. The Eurydice network operates within the Erasmus+ programme and has 40 national units in 36 countries and a central office in Brussels.

### The network's mission is:

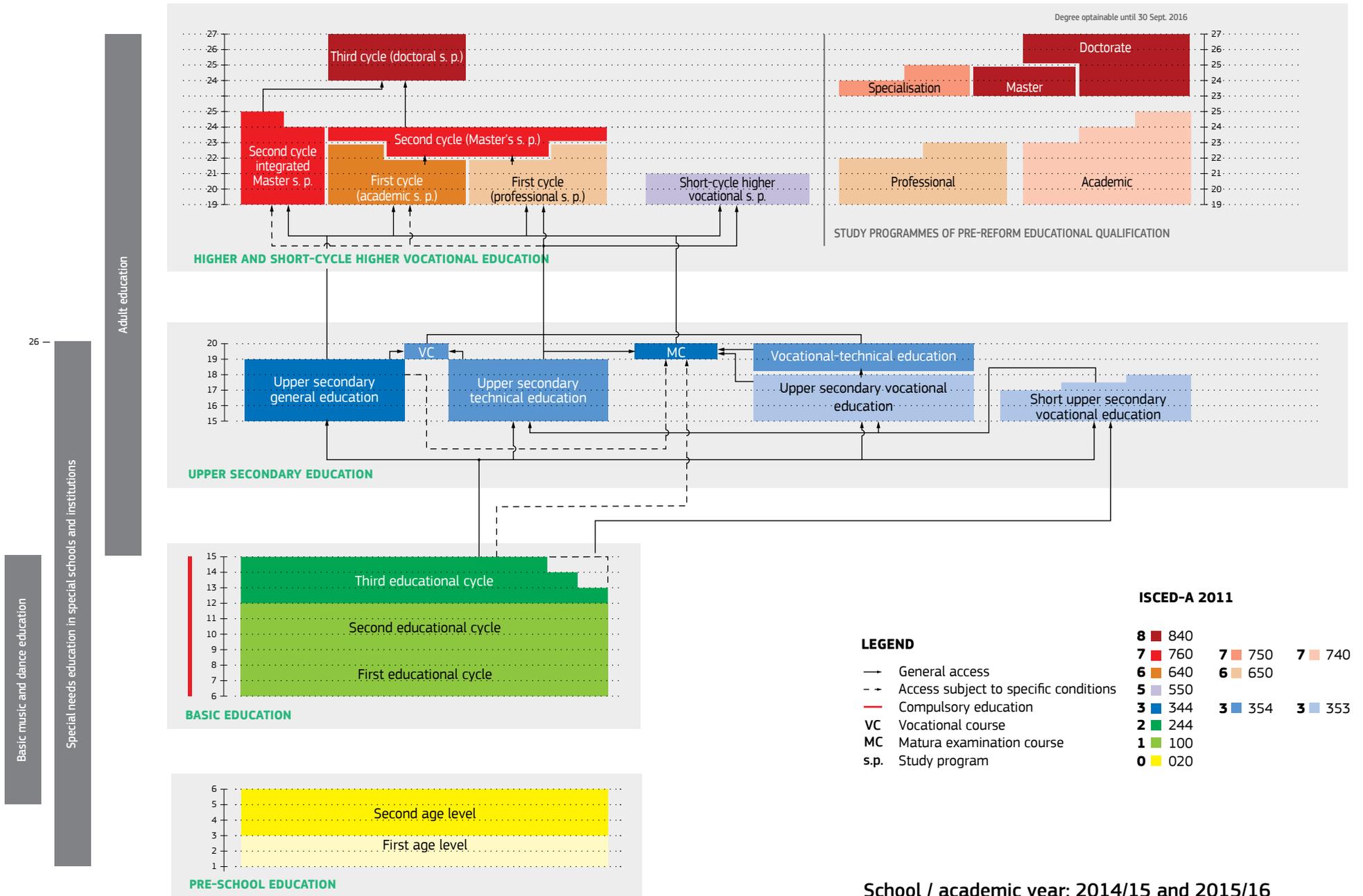
- to provide reliable and relevant information from the field of education
- to analyse different aspects of education systems
- to contribute to European understanding of education, and
- support evidence-based political decisions at the national and European level.

### Products of the network include:

- Eurypedia – an encyclopaedia of national education systems, which offers comparable and up-to-date descriptions of education systems
- comparative studies (Thematic Reports)
- publications with indicators and statistics Key Data
- publications with information on the structure and main characteristics of education systems (Facts and Figures).

Eurydice Slovenia publishes all works on its website, [www.eurydice.si](http://www.eurydice.si). In addition to studies prepared by the network, the Eurydice website also publishes regular news from the field of education, information of reforms in other countries and links to collections of education legislation.





**THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**