

# Education system in Slovenia

Majda Vehovec, OŠ Šenčur

<http://www.os-sencur.si/>

majda.vehovec@os-sencur.si



# Key features of the education system

- The education system of the Republic of Slovenia is organised as a **public service** rendered by public and private institutions that provide officially recognized or accredited programmes.
- By law, public schools are secular and the school space is autonomous



## The **state** acts as founder of public:

- upper secondary schools
- short cycle higher education colleges
- higher education institutions
- educational institutions for SEN children
- residence halls for students, as well as
- supporting professional institutes in education.



The **municipality** acts as founder of public:

- kindergartens
- basic schools (single structure primary and lower secondary education)
- residence halls for pupils
- music schools, and
- adult education organisations.



# Organisation and structures

- **Minority provision**

The language of instruction is Slovenian. Members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities 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.




## ■ Legal entitlement to pre-school education

Children in Slovenia are legally entitled to a place in a kindergarten (*vrtec*) from the age of 11 months (end of childcare leave) to the age of compulsory schooling. The steering document of public pre-school education is the kindregarten curriculum




# 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



## ■ **Extended basic school programme**

All basic schools have to provide free of charge non-compulsory activities of the extended programme, namely remedial and supplementary lessons, extracurricular interest activities, non-compulsory optional subjects, as well as morning care (grade 1) and after-school classes (grades 1 to 5). The programme is provided by qualified teachers in line with officially adopted educational guidelines and concepts.

- 
- Primary and lower secondary education is organised in a single-structure nine-year basic school attended by pupils aged 6 to 15 years.
  - 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 (max. number 28).

# Foreign languages

- First foreign language (English or German);
  - Optional in first grade – (more than 95% pupils included) – 2 hours/week
  - Compulsory from second to nine grade:
    - from second to fourth grade – 2 hours/week
    - fifth, eight and nine grade – 3 hours/week
    - sixth, seventh grade – 4 hours/week



## ■ Second foreign language:

- non-compulsory optional subjects - from fourth to sixth grade (German/English, French, Italian, Croatian, Hungarian) – 2 hours/week
- compulsory optional subjects (German, French, Spanish, Russian, Italian, Croatian, Chinese, Latin, Hungarian, Macedonian, Serbian) – 2 hours/week
- 2018/19 trial implementation – compulsory second foreign language in thirth period (20 schools)

## ■ **National assessment**

- At the end of grades 6 and 9, pupils undertake compulsory national assessment in three subjects. The main objective is to improve the quality of teaching and learning, thereby also ensuring a higher quality of knowledge and competences of pupils.
- Trial implementation – third grade (2017/18, 2018/19)



## ■ **Music Education**

A well-developed network of publicly funded music schools provide music and ballet lessons to enthusiastic pupils who in turn do not have to take one of two compulsory optional subjects.



## ■ **Inclusive approach for SEN children**

The provision of special needs education in Slovenia embraces the multi-track approach to inclusion: kindergartens and schools tend to children with special needs by way of inclusion and special classes, and there are special education institutions, as well.




- 
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFYOMQrUhNU&list=PLpXqOJBpuT-nY6S7KpbvfWTU0iwHZzITm&index=4>



# Teaching profession

- Education staff at kindergartens and schools have to hold relevant educational qualification (ISCED 6 for pre-school teachers and certain teachers of practical subjects in VET, ISCED 7 other teachers), relevant pedagogical educational qualification and they have to pass the state professional examination for education staff.

- 
- Continuous professional development is a right and a duty for all educational staff and attending programmes of CPD is a prerequisite for **promotion to professional titles** (Mentor, Advisor and Councilor).

