

## **Teachers' Education in Slovenia**

Pavel Zgaga  
University of Ljubljana

### **System of Education in Slovenia**

*Pre-school education* (not compulsory) is divided into two stages (age 1 to 3 and 3 to 6 years).

Compulsory basic education is organised as *9-year primary school*, divided into three stages (so-called 'triads': 3 + 3 + 3; starting age is 6 years).

Upper-secondary education is organised:

- in *gymnasia* (general, classic, professional; all of them last 4 years),
- in *technical and professional schools* (4 years) as well as
- in *vocational schools* (3 years; lower VET 2 years).

Tertiary education consists of:

- *post-secondary vocational education* (vocationally oriented study programmes last for 2 years) and
- *higher education* (HE; three cycles; first cycle lasts minimum of 3 years of full-time study).

(See Annex 4)

### **Teachers in Slovenia**

Qualifications of the professional staff in Slovenian pre-university education (pre-school and school teachers, teachers in VET colleges, councillors, librarians, educators etc.) are regulated by *Organisation and Financing of Education Act* adopted in 1996.

According to this Act, all professional staff in pre-university education (further on: teachers) must:

- complete *higher education study programme of an appropriate profile* (first degree),
- be proficient in *Slovene language* and
- pass the *State Teacher Certification Examination*.

During her/his career, a teacher can be promoted at three levels: *mentor, adviser and consulter*.

## Regulation on teacher qualifications

Some details on teachers' HE qualifications:

(A) *Pre-school* teacher candidates may enter the profession, providing they have completed 3-year higher education study programme in pre-school teaching and obtain the professional title of (*graduated pre-school educator*).

The regulations also set forth the possibility for *other first-degree higher education graduates* to enter the profession, provided qualifications in the appropriate discipline and consecutively the *supplementary training* (credential programme; approx. 30 ECTS) for pre-school level teaching are acquired.

(B) *Elementary school* teacher candidates may enter the profession, providing they have completed a 4-year university study programme and obtained the professional title of *Professor of Class Teaching* or *Professor in one or two subjects* (e.g. Professor of Physics and Chemistry).

*The first triad* (pupils aged from 6 to 9) is taught by class teacher, while the second teacher, usually a pre-school teacher, also provides instruction in the first year. *The second triad* (pupils aged 9 to 12) is taught by class teachers, with subject teachers becoming gradually more involved in the teaching process. *The third triad* (pupils aged 12 to 15) involves solely subject teachers.

(C) *Upper secondary school* teachers must complete either a 4-year university teacher training programme, thereby receiving the professional title *Professor in one or two subjects*, or – mainly in cases of vocational and technical schools – other higher education study programmes followed by a *non-degree (credential) teacher training programme* of about 30 credits ECTS.

(D) *VET college lecturers* (tertiary level) must have at least a higher education degree of the appropriate profile, a non-degree (credential) teacher training programme, 3 years of relevant work experience and outstanding achievements in their field of education.

(E) *Adult education teachers and school counsellors* must meet the same requirements as youth teachers.

## Teachers' Professional Development

There are two main stages in Teachers' professional development (teacher education and training - TET):

- *initial (pre-service)*, provided at universities (HEI);

- *continuous (in-service)* provided by various actors.

*Initial TET*: 4-year HE degree (3-year only in pre-school teaching). Second and third degree (Master and Doctorate) are also organized.

*Continuous TET*: all teachers are obliged to take courses of in-service education and training every year to improve and update their knowledge and skills.

There are two main types of continuous TET:

- *credential programmes* (e.g. 30 ECTS) provided by HE institutions (licence for teacher work)
- short (one to two day) *in-service courses* (updating and improving teacher knowledge and skills).

### **Pre-service Study Programmes**

National legislation set down *basic standards of pre-service degree study programmes* for future teachers:

- 4 year study programme (240 credits ECTS);
- courses in *subject(s) of teaching*;
- courses in the so-called *special didactics*;
- *minimum* one semester (30 ECTS) of *education studies* (psychology, pedagogy, philosophy and sociology of education etc.)
- *practical work* in schools (*minimum* 1 month).

A pre-service study programme for future teachers is *approved* by University. It should be *accredited* at the national level like any HE study programme. *Quality assessment* is organized.

*Credential programmes* are approved, accredited and quality monitored in a same way.

### **In-service Teachers' Training (ITT)**

There are several types of *short in-service courses*:

*Advanced training programmes (ATP)* upgrade, deepen and expand knowledge of teachers.

*Professional training programmes* allow (a) continued professional development (b) training for implementation of new programmes, (c) achievement of the objectives of new curricula, (d) constant updating of knowledge, and (e) learning about efficient education and training practices, etc.

*Published programmes* that are included in the set of officially published programmes of ITT in a given school year.

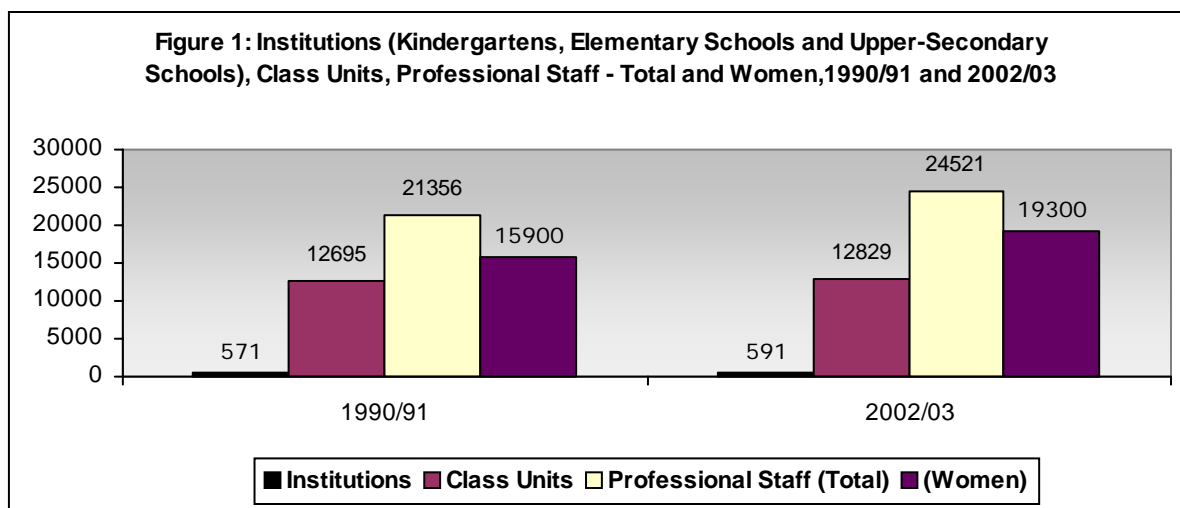
*Other programmes*: programmes not included in the set of published programmes (thematic conferences, study groups, networks, computer literacy, etc).

## Annex 1

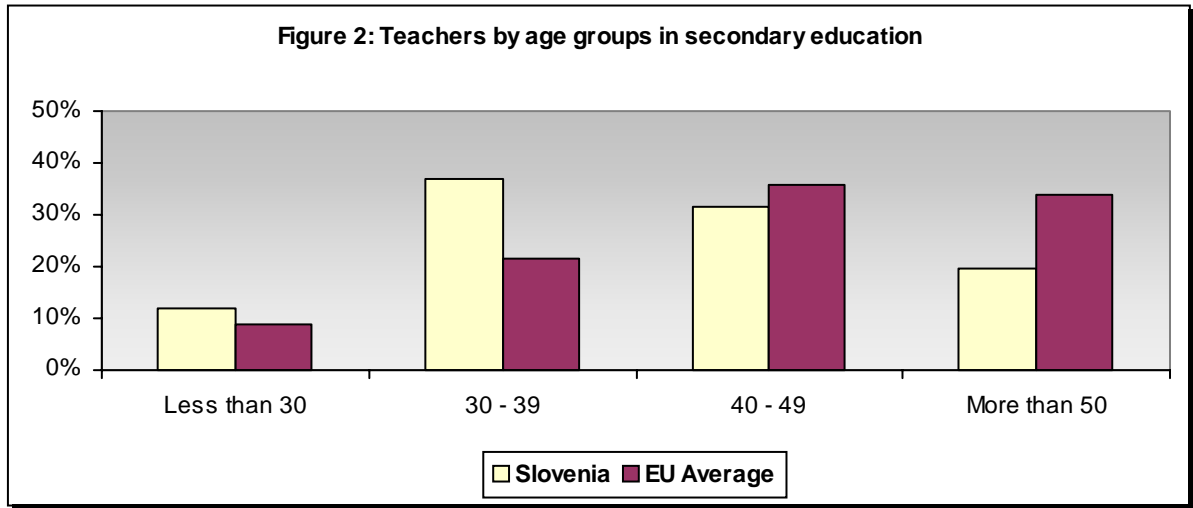
**Table 1: Shares of teachers with appropriate qualifications**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>1993/94</b>		<b>1997/98</b>		<b>2002/03</b>	
	<i>Element.</i>	<i>Upper second.</i>	<i>Element.</i>	<i>Upper second.</i>	<i>Element.</i>	<i>Upper second.</i>
<i>Class Teaching</i>	92,5	-	95,0	-	95,3	-
<i>Slovenian language</i>	70,4	77,5	71,4	75,8	91,5	95,9
<i>English language</i>	80,1	80,1	75,8	73,8	83,1	92,0
<i>Mathematics</i>	63,9	50,4	68,2	54,7	90,0	85,4
<i>Physics</i>	70,8	49,4	77,8	54,9	82,9	78,3
<i>Chemistry</i>	63,7	74,3	81,3	80,8	90,2	90,5
<i>Biology</i>	81,2	88,4	87,1	81,6	91,5	94,5
<i>Nature</i>	85,1	50,8	90,1	63,3	91,4	75,9
<i>Society / Sociology</i>	78,2	80,2	92,4	85,3	89,5	90,3
<i>Geography</i>	83,3	90,0	85,4	89,0	91,6	94,0
<i>History</i>	81,9	92,9	83,7	90,2	91,8	96,7
<i>Ethics and society</i>	47,3	-	61,9	-	82,9	-
<i>Arts</i>	55,1	69,7	58,5	73,4	85,6	76,9
<i>Technical education</i>	48,9	-	53,1	-	67,8	-
<i>ICT</i>	-	25,5	-	35,6	-	76,4

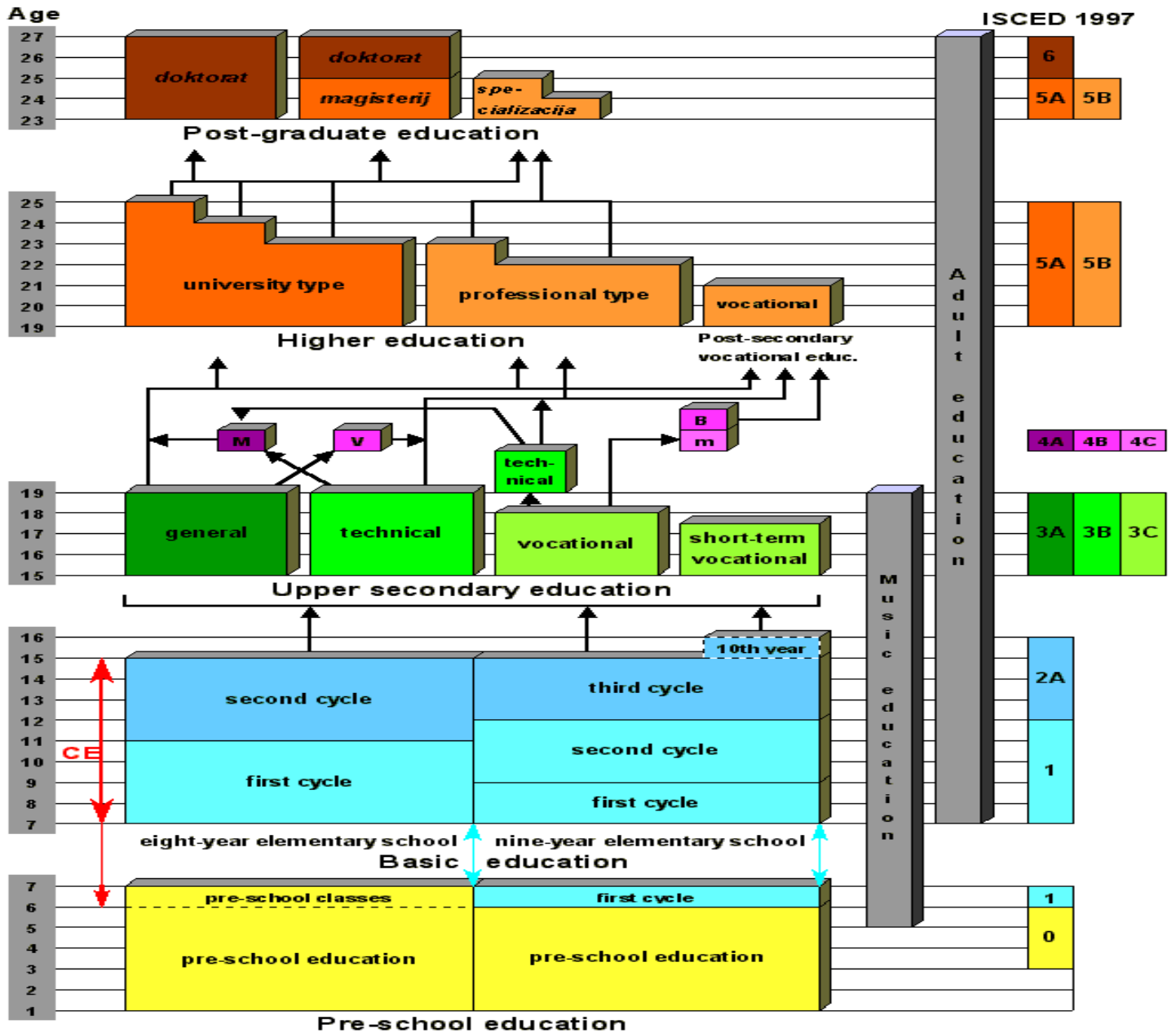
## Annex 2: Institutions and Teachers



### Annex 3: Teachers by Age: Slovenia vs. EU



# Annex 4



**Legend:**  
**CE** - compulsory education      **M** - *matura* course      **V** - vocational courses  
**m** - master craftsman preparatory course      **B** - bridging exam for admission to post-secondary vocational education