



spotlight on VET

SLOVENIA

VET in Slovenia

Formal vocational education and training (VET) programmes in Slovenia are generally provided by public schools. Together with private providers public schools also offer continuing VET for adults.

In addition to VET programmes, the national vocational qualifications (NVQ) system governed by the Ministry of Labour has been in place since 2000. It does not provide formal education and is based on assessment processes that enable individuals to obtain formal recognition of their vocational competences.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) is the main responsible body for VET. It prepares legislation for upper secondary and higher vocational education, adopts educational programmes and finances public schools.

Social partners are involved in VET at all levels:

- preparation of vocational standards as a base for formal VET programmes;
- participation in council of experts for VET (consulting body for MoE);
- cooperation at local level in preparing 'open curricula' (employers);
- practical training for students.

After completing compulsory basic education, VET students can enrol in the following upper secondary programmes:

- technical upper secondary programmes (ISCED 3B): four-year programmes that lead to a vocational matura (two general and two vocational – theoretical and practical – exams). Programmes consist of at least 40% of general subjects and four to 12 weeks of practical training at a workplace. After passing vocational matura, students can enrol in higher post-secondary non-tertiary vocational education (ISCED 5B, two years) or in first-cycle tertiary professional education (ISCED 5A, three to four years). Graduates also have an opportunity to access most academic tertiary programmes, if additionally they pass one general matura (fifth) exam;
- vocational upper secondary programmes (ISCED 3C): three-year labour-market-oriented programmes that lead to a final exam – practical assignment and Slovenian language exams. Programmes include at least 24 weeks of workplace training. After completion of the final exam students can access two-year vocational

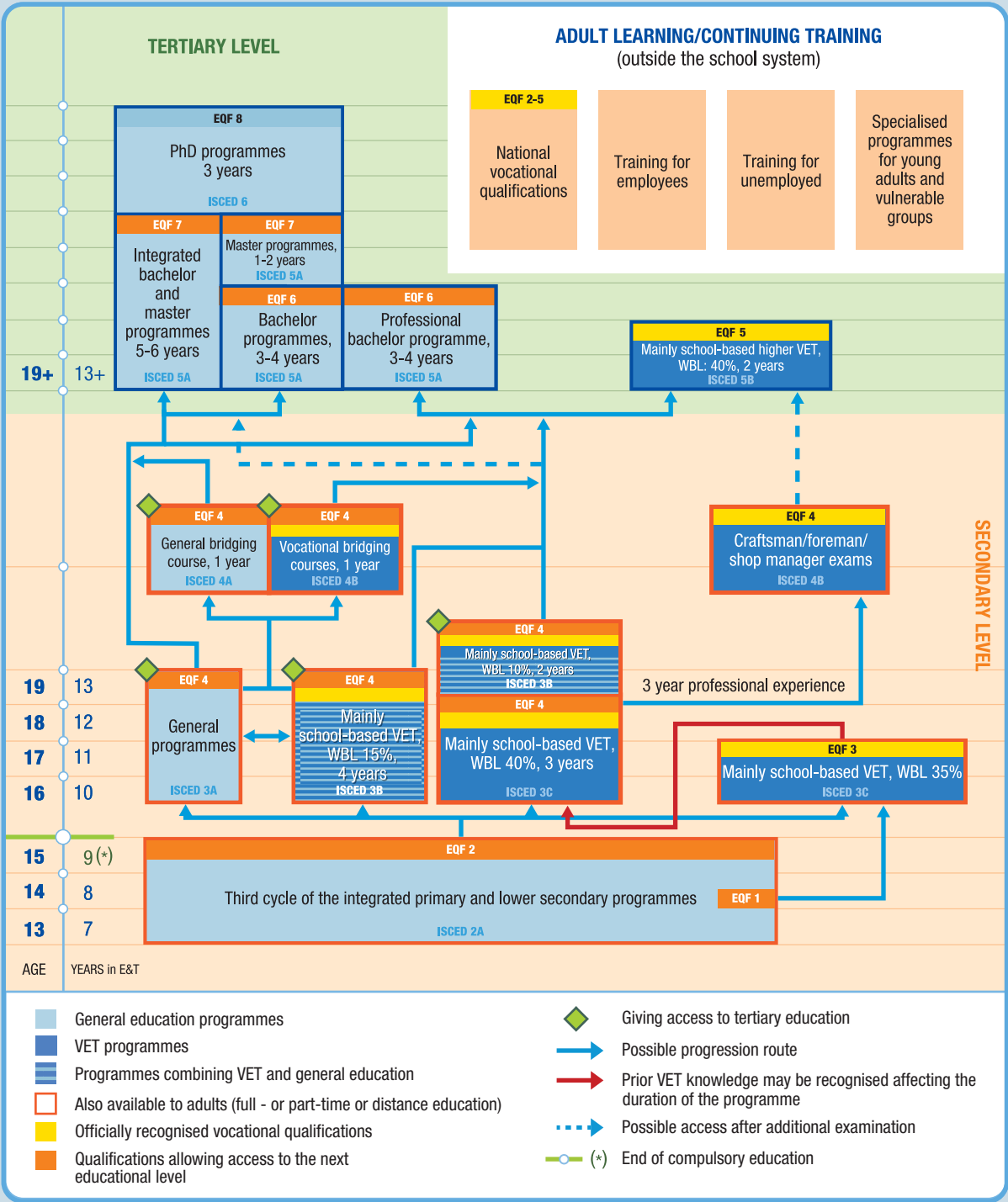
technical education programmes at ISCED 3B that lead to vocational matura;

- short vocational upper secondary programmes (ISCED 3C) are two-year programmes that lead to a final exam. Graduates are qualified to work, for example at assistant level or can continue their education in vocational or technical upper secondary programmes.

Public and private VET providers also offer higher vocational programmes. Graduates with vocational matura or general matura can enrol in two-year higher vocational programmes which contain 40% of practical training in companies.

Vocational programmes for adults within the formal education system are identical to the ones designed for youth; the only difference is that provision is adjusted to suit the needs of an adult learner. The adjustments mean that the programmes can be completed in modules and exemptions to some parts of a programme may also apply. Adults can also participate in continuing vocational education and training in programmes usually provided by private companies. Regulation of provision of such programmes is not part of legislation.

VET in Slovenia's education and training system



NB: ISCED 1997 was used on the chart. Conversion to ISCED 2011 is ongoing.
Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Slovenia.

Distinctive features of VET

Vocational/technical programmes and national vocational qualifications are based on vocational standards prepared in cooperation with employers. To respond faster to changing requirements of the world of work, vocational and technical programmes have been made more flexible by allowing 20% of 'open curricula' to be decided by schools in cooperation with local employers.

Education institutions are forming school centres that encompass all VET levels from vocational and technical upper secondary to higher vocational education and also general upper secondary education. A school centre is an umbrella institution that provides regulatory, financial and advisory service to schools.

Local companies cooperate actively with VET schools to establish a business-to-business training centre (MIC). A MIC is part of a school centre and is an example of well-established and successful cooperation between VET institutions and local companies based on mutual agreement. Within MICs various forms of training are organised: practical training of students, training and requalification of adults and the unemployed, and further training of employed individuals.

Permeability between VET and general programmes at upper secondary level is high. Students have various options to change the course of their education. Transfer from general upper secondary programmes to vocational education is possible by passing a vocational bridging course. It is also possible for students from technical upper secondary programmes to transfer to general education by passing a general bridging course.

Challenges

After a decade of beneficial VET reforms further development is needed in the following areas:

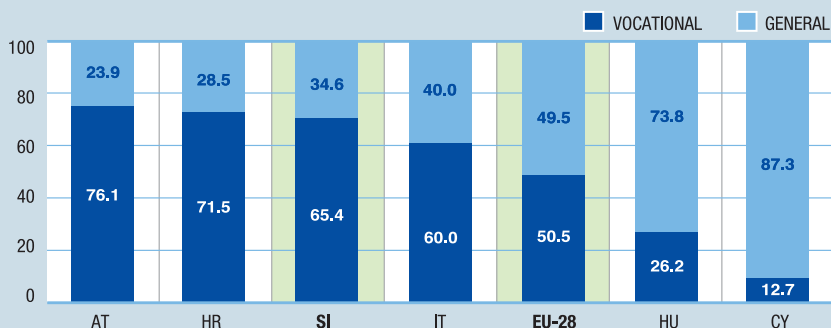
- as the education-to-work transition remains at a critical point, it is necessary to strengthen the link with employers and promote employment of young workers;
- attractiveness of VET should be improved by providing better qualifications that match labour market needs, an attractive learning environment and improved career opportunities;
- specific teaching approaches need to be developed to ensure at least acquisition of key competences by the increasing number of special needs students enrolled in VET;
- flexibility of educational pathways, for example with apprenticeship, needs to increase;
- quality of practical training needs to be improved in cooperation with employers by using a better system of incentives and greater support for mentors;
- development of quality learning materials, including e-learning, should be encouraged and autonomy of schools and teachers needs to be strengthened;
- implementation of the European tools and instruments, for example EQF, ECVET and EQAVET has to be accelerated to integrate VET into the international environment and provide greater mobility opportunities for students and young employees;
- there is a need to improve the quality assurance system with suitably determined objectives and indicators, develop and implement self-evaluation and strengthen external evaluation.



Education and training in figures

Learners in upper secondary education enrolled in vocational and general programmes

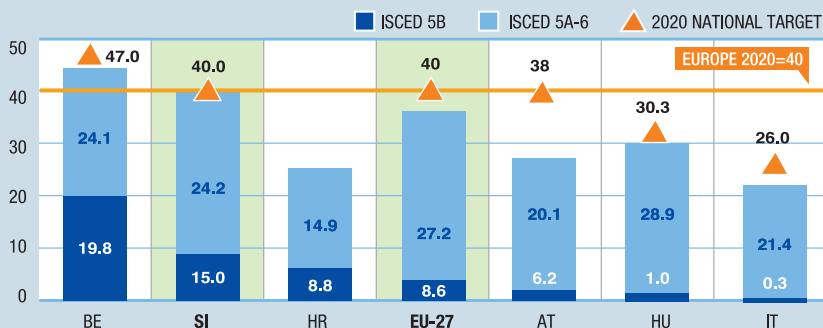
% of all students in upper secondary education, 2011



Source: Eurostat, UOE data collection on education systems, date of extraction 28.6.2013.

Tertiary education by type

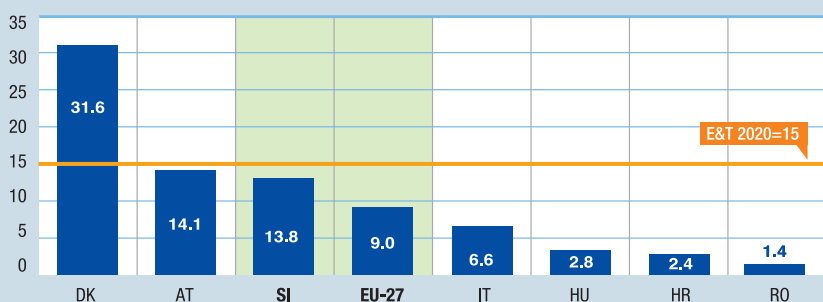
% of 30-34 year-olds with tertiary education by type, 2012



Source: Cedefop calculations based on Eurostat, labour force survey, date of extraction 8.7.2013.

Lifelong learning

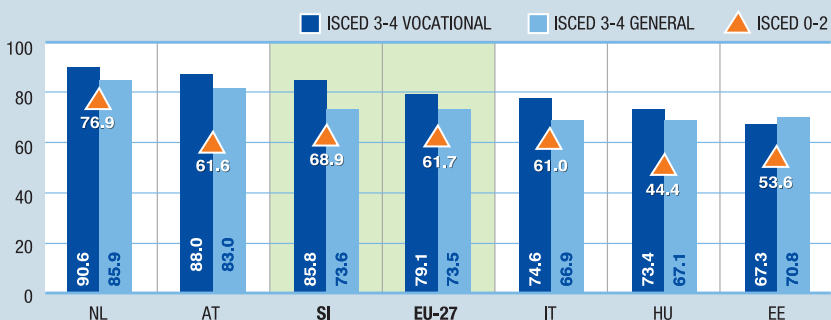
% of population aged 25-64 participating in education and training over the four weeks prior to the survey, 2012



Source: Eurostat, labour force survey, date of extraction 3.7.2013.

Employment rates by highest level of educational attainment

20-34 year-olds no longer in education by highest level of educational attainment, 2009



Source: Cedefop calculations based on Eurostat, 2009 ad hoc module of the EU labour force survey, date of extraction 19.9.2012.



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Further information

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<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Overview>.

www.mizks.gov.si/en	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
www.mddsz.gov.si/en	Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
http://eng.gzs.si/slo	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia
www.ozs.si	Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia
www.cmepius.si/en	Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for mobility and European educational and training programmes
www.cpi.si	National Institute for VET
www.zrss.si	National Education Institute
www.acs.si	Slovenian Institute for Adult Education
www.zrsz.si	Employment service of Slovenia
www.umar.si	Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development
www.stat.si	Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
www.solazaravnatelj.si	National school for leadership in education
www.refernet.si	ReferNet Slovenia
www.europass.si	Europass
www.npk.si	National vocational qualifications
www.nok.si/en	Slovenian qualifications framework
www.mojaizbira.si	Guidance/career portal My choice



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