The background features a stylized landscape. The top portion consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent green mountain peaks of varying heights and shades. Below the mountains is a wide, textured orange field that resembles a field of flowers or a field of grain. The bottom edge of the image shows a dark green, textured border.

# Education system in Slovenia

# General principles and goals

- The basic document of modernisation (White Paper on Education in the Republic of Slovenia (1995)) established overall philosophy, values and principles forming the basis for renewal:
  - accessibility and transparency of the public education system
  - legal neutrality
  - choice at all levels
  - democracy, autonomy and equal opportunities
  - quality of learning to take precedence over the accumulation of facts.

- The new legislation includes acts on the organization and funding of education, pre-school education, elementary school, *gimnazija*, vocational and technical education, adult education, higher education, professional and academic titles, school inspectorates, music schools and the placement of children with special needs.

# Main changes

- to increase the opportunities for the inclusion of children, young people, adults and individuals with special needs in education programmes at all levels;
- to introduce a greater variety of pre-school education programmes, educational forms, and paths to qualifications and various kinds of knowledge;

- to improve the opportunities for transferring between different categories of the education system and to improve access to full- and part-time studies;
- to improve functional and "cultural" literacy among adults and increase the number of adult learners;
- to set up mechanisms to provide equal educational opportunities for socially disadvantaged learners;

- to ensure equal opportunities for both sexes;
- to increase the mainstream inclusion of children with special needs;
- to facilitate the establishment of a modern higher education system comparable to other European systems, with the focus on co-ordinated development;
- to promote quality;

- to enable a renewal of post-graduate studies, a systematic link between research and teaching, and co-operation between higher educational institutions and industry, local communities, and the general public.

Phare supported new systemic elements and their evaluation. Since 1997, Slovenia has gradually become involved in European programmes in education (Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, Youth).

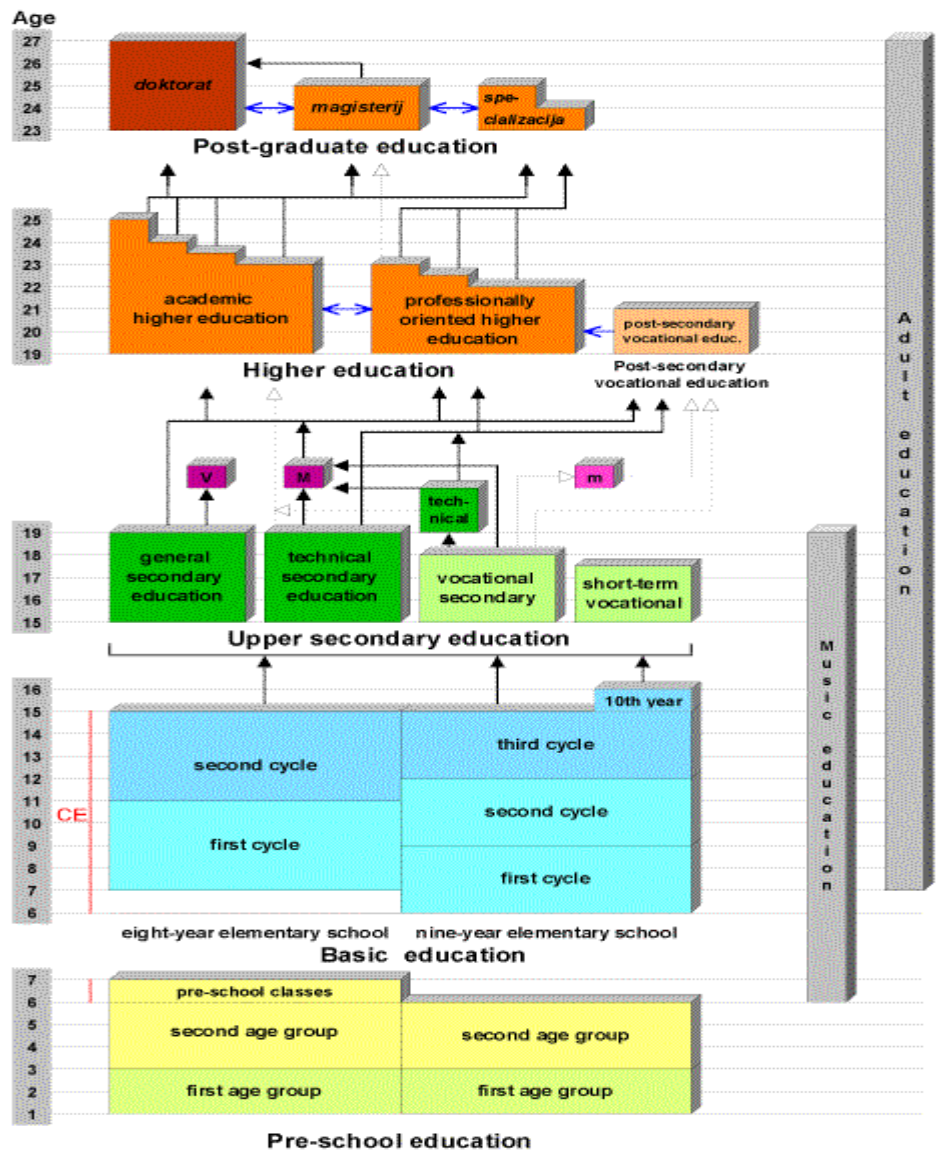
# Structure

The education system in Slovenia includes:

- Pre-school education
- Basic education (single structure of primary and lower secondary education)
- (Upper) secondary education
  - short-term vocational education and secondary vocational education
  - secondary technical education and secondary general education
- Post-secondary vocational education



- Higher education
  - undergraduate education (of the professionally oriented and academic type)
  - post-graduate education at levels:
    - *specializacija* and *magisterij*
    - *doktorat*
- Specific parts of system:
  - Adult education
  - Music and dance education
  - Special needs education
  - Modified programmes and programmes in ethnically and linguistically mixed areas



**Legend:**

- CE - compulsory education
- ← general access
- ◁ access under certain conditions (additional or bridging exams)
- M - matura course
- V - vocational courses
- m - master craftsman preparation
- ↔ transfer under certain conditions

# Pre-school education

- Pre-school education, offered by pre-school institutions, is not compulsory.
- It includes children between the ages of 1 and 6.
  - The curriculum is divided in two cycles (from 1 to 3 and from 3 to 6).
  - The new curriculum promotes different types of programme such as: day, half-day and short programmes.

- There is also possibility of childminders, pre-school education at home or occasional care of children in their homes.
- The Curriculum for Pre-school Institutions was approved by Council of Experts and it defines six areas of activities: movement, language, art, nature, society and mathematics. The goals set in individual fields of activities provide the framework for selection of contents and activities by teachers.

# Basic education

- Basic education has been extended from eight years to nine.
- The implementation of the nine-year basic education began in the 1999/2000 school year.
- Children that reach the age of 6 in a particular calendar year enter the first class in that year.
- A tenth year of education has been planned for pupils who fail or who wish to improve their results in the external knowledge assessment.

- Nine-year basic education is divided into 3 three-year cycles.
- Elementary schools provide the compulsory and extended curriculum.
  - The compulsory curriculum must be provided by school and studied by all pupils. It consists of compulsory subjects, electives, home-room periods and activity days (culture, science, sports, technology).

- The optional elementary school curriculum must be provided by school but pupils are free to decide whether they will participate in it or not.
- It includes:
  - educational assistance for children with special needs,
  - remedial classes,
  - additional classes,
  - after-school care and other forms of care for pupils,
  - interest activities and
  - out-of-school classes.

- Successful completion of basic education enables pupils to proceed to education in their choice of secondary school. Pupils who fulfil the legal compulsory education requirement and successfully complete at least six classes in the eight-year elementary school or at least seven classes in the nine-year elementary school can continue their education in a short-term vocational education programme. Success at that level opens doors to other more demanding secondary school programmes.



# Possibilities *during* and after basic education

- *Music and dance education*
- *Special needs education*
- *Modified programmes and programmes in ethnically and linguistically mixed areas*
- (Upper) secondary education
- Post-secondary vocational
- Higher education
- Adult education