

VET in Slovenia

Formal vocational education and training (VET) in Slovenia starts at upper secondary level and is provided mainly by public schools. The education and labour ministries share responsibility for preparing legislation, financing, and adopting VET programmes, standards and qualifications. While the education ministry deals with VET at systemic level, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for VET (CPI) is responsible for VET at the practical level; it monitors and guides the development of VET, and provides in-service teacher training and vocational standards. The CPI also acts as a link between ministries, schools and social partners.

VET programmes

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

- technical upper secondary programmes (ISCED 354): four-year programmes that lead to vocational *matura* (two general and two vocational – theoretical and practical – exams). These programmes consist of 40% general subjects and at least 8 weeks of work-based learning. After passing the vocational *matura*, students can either enrol in higher vocational education (ISCED 554), in first-cycle professional education (ISCED 655), or enter the labour market;
- vocational upper secondary programmes (ISCED 353). For the three-year labour-market-oriented programmes there are two paths:
 - school-based path: approximately 20% (at least 24 weeks) of the programme is undertaken at an employer and the rest at the school (consisting of general subjects and VET modules);
 - apprenticeship path: a minimum 50% of the programme is undertaken at an employer, while at least 40% – general subjects and VET modules – is in schools.

Changing paths midway is possible. After final exams, students from both paths can enter the labour market or enrol in two-year vocational technical education programmes at ISCED 354 that lead to vocational *matura*;

- short vocational upper secondary programmes (ISCED 353): two-year programmes that qualify learners for less demanding occupations (at

assistant level) or continuing education in vocational programmes.

In the school year 2016/17, 35.1% of students enrolled in general upper secondary programmes and 59.8% in upper secondary VET programmes (41.7% in technical programmes, 16.7% in vocational programmes, and 1.4% in short VET programmes).

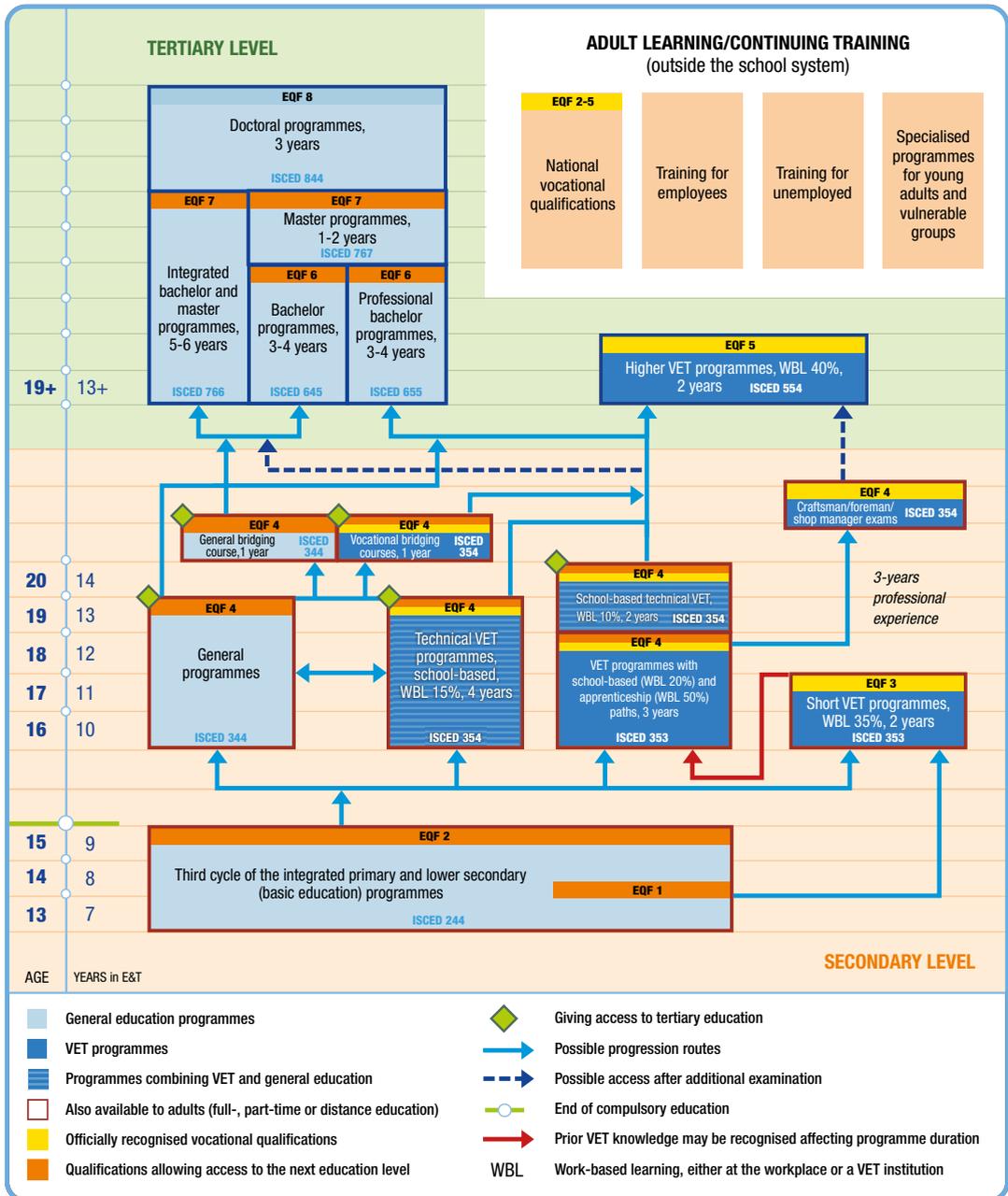
Learners with vocational or general *matura* can enrol in two-year higher vocational programmes (ISCED 554), which are provided by public vocational schools and private providers. These programmes include 40% of work-based learning in companies.

Adult learning and CVET

Adults can enrol in the same formal VET programmes as young people. Organisation and means of assessing knowledge are adjusted to suit an adult learner (such as the use of modules and allowing exemptions). Adults can also participate in continuing VET, offered by public and private providers; regulation of provision of such programmes is not part of legislation. Many activities to support adult education are organised by adult education centers.

In the school year 2016/17, 5.0% of adult learners enrolled in general upper secondary programmes, while 95% enrolled in upper secondary VET programmes (61.3% in technical programmes, 33.0% in vocational programmes and 0.7% in short VET programmes).

The national vocational qualifications (NVQ) system is intended for adults over 18 who would like to verify knowledge gained outside formal education. The system has been in place since 2000.



NB: ISCED-P 2011.

Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Slovenia.



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