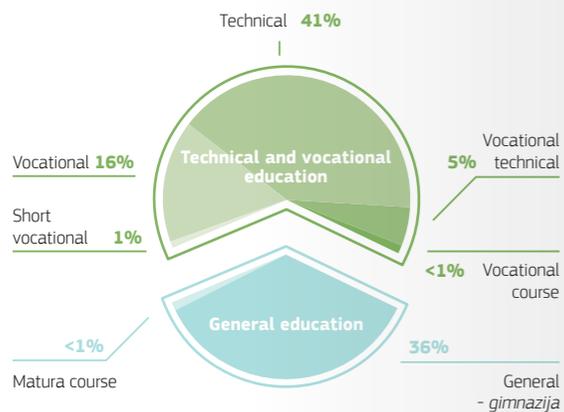


The **main goals** of upper secondary education in Slovenia are:

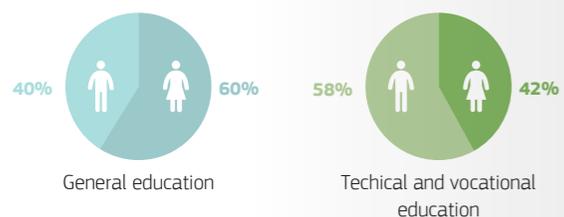
- to make it possible for everyone to obtain a general educational qualification and an occupation;
- to allow the largest possible share of population the attainment of the highest possible level of creativity and educational qualification;
- to facilitate the inclusion in the European labour market.

Tracking of students in Slovenia only begins in upper secondary education. Upper secondary education programmes are either general or vocational.

Enrolment by type of upper secondary education programme, 2015



Gender ratio in upper secondary education, 2015



International comparison: in Slovenia, the upper secondary attainment is high.

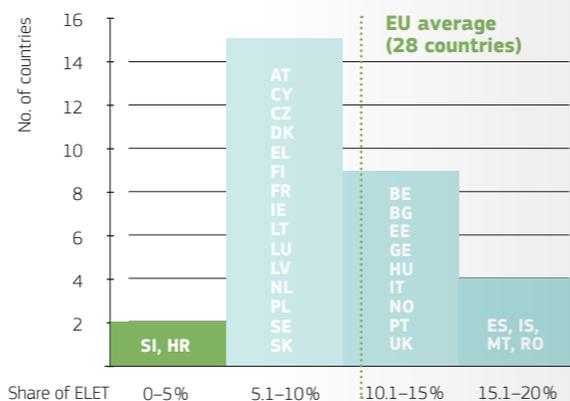
OECD data shows that in 2014, the average share of younger adults in OECD countries (25-34 year olds) without upper secondary education was 17%. In Slovenia this share was significantly lower (6%), and in only four other countries even lower.¹

Share of young adults without upper secondary educational qualification



Similarly, Eurostat data shows that Slovenia was significantly below the EU average early school leaving rate in 2015. Namely, the average share of 18 to 24 year-olds who had failed to complete upper secondary education in the EU was 11%. This is nearly two times the (5%) share in Slovenia.²

Share of early school leavers, 2015



¹ OECD (2015) *Education at a Glance 2015*.
² Retrieved from http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=t2020_40&plugin=1

UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Upon completion of compulsory basic education, students – typically aged 15 – may choose to continue their education at the upper secondary level at a school and a programme of their own choice. This takes two to five years to complete.

Acquiring upper secondary education qualification is also possible in adulthood, through regular programmes with special organisational adjustments for adults. Schools may limit enrolment if the number of candidates exceeds their capacity.

The system of upper secondary education is centralised. Consequently, decisions about the founding and the funding of schools as well as about educational programmes are adopted at the national level. Schools and teachers, however, are autonomous in the implementation of prescribed programmes. Additionally, schools are autonomous in the selection and management of their human resources.

Students and graduates in upper secondary education, end of school year 2014/2015

	Enrolled	Graduated
Students	73,652	17,793
Adults	13,327	2,291

Public upper secondary schools may operate as standalone institutions or as organisational units of large school centres. In the 2015/16 school year, upper secondary educational programmes were provided by 111 public schools or school centres, 6 private schools and 6 public educational institutions for children with special educational needs. These programmes were attended by nearly 75,000 students in 2015/16.

UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Upper secondary education is structured as general and as vocational and technical education.

GENERAL EDUCATION:

- different types of gimnazija programmes (general, classical, technical, economics, and arts)
- goal: to prepare for continuing education at a university
- a basic structure of compulsory and elective parts, including two mandatory foreign languages
- concluded with the national-level general matura examination.

The matura course is also a general upper secondary programme. It lasts one year and is focused on candidates with technical or vocational education who wish to take general matura.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION:

- a range of programmes at different levels of difficulty
- goal: to obtain qualification for a specific occupation to enter the labour market or in four-year programmes, to continue education at the tertiary level
- programmes based on vocational standards stemming from the needs of the labour market
- prescribed proportions of general subjects, technical modules, practical training and content determined by each school in cooperation with business companies.

Vocational courses are one year programmes open to individuals who have successfully completed year 4 of gimnazija or obtained upper secondary technical qualification and wish to acquire additional qualification.

GENERAL PROGRAMMES

Duration: 4 years
Completion: General matura

Access: Higher academic and professional study programmes, short cycle higher vocational programmes

TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES

Duration: 4 years
Completion: Vocational matura

Access: Higher professional study programmes, short cycle higher vocational programmes and also higher academic study programmes on condition that candidates pass additional exams of general matura

SHORT VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Duration: 2 years
Completion: School leaving exam

Access: Vocational or technical programmes

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

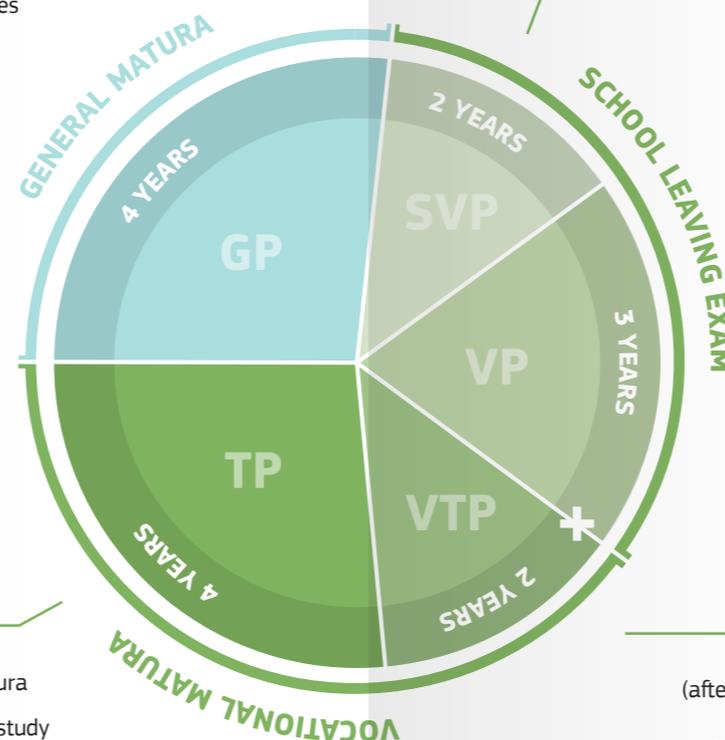
Duration: 3 years
Completion: School leaving exam

Access: Vocational-technical programmes, matura course

VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES

Duration: 2 years (after completed 3 year vocational programme)
Completion: Vocational matura

Access: Higher professional study programmes, short cycle higher vocational programmes and also higher academic study programmes on condition that candidates pass additional exam of general matura



The upper secondary educational qualification is awarded only after passing the final examination that grants also the right to enrol in higher levels.

All examinations are technically supported and coordinated by the National Examinations Centre.

GENERAL MATURA:

- external national examination
- exams in five subjects: three compulsory (mother tongue, mathematics, and foreign language) and two elective subjects
- may also be taken after a one-year matura course and by adults of at least 21 years of age.

VOCATIONAL MATURA:

- national examination;
- externally designed tests (national level)
- taken before a school examination committee that may include external professionals
- exams in four subjects: two compulsory (mother tongue and specialisation subject), elective exam (mathematics or foreign language), practical work (seminar, product or service) with an oral presentation
- may be taken after a one-year vocational course, as well.

SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION

- school designed examination:
 - at the end of vocational upper secondary education of two parts: exam in mother tongue and final assignment (product or service with an oral presentation)
 - in short vocational education students only present the final assignment.