

Background Information: Higher Education System in Slovakia



DZHW
Deutsches Zentrum für
Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsforschung

eurostudent.eu
★★★★★



Contributors

DZHW, Germany

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (MŠVVaŠ), Slovakia

Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR), Slovakia

Higher Education System in Slovakia

I. General Characteristics

Population	
Total population (I.I.2013) (million) ¹	5.41
Population density (2013) (persons per square kilometre) ²	110.4
Population Structure (2013) (share of total population %) ³	
0-14 years	15.4
15-24 years	13.0
25-49 years	38.2
50-64 years	20.3
65 years and older	13.1
GDP	
GDP per capita in PPS (2013), EU 28 = 100 ⁴	75
GDP year-on-year growth rate (2013) (%) ⁵	1.4
Education (2012) (All levels) ⁶	
Enrolment	
Total (ISCED 0-6)	1,103,172
Tertiary Level of Education (ISCED 5-6)	221,227
Tertiary Education	
Population aged 25-64 years with tertiary education (2012) (%) ⁷	19.0
Population aged 30 – 34 years with tertiary education (2012) (%) ⁷	24.0
Public expenditure on tertiary education (percentage of GDP) (2011) ⁸	0.8

2. Types of Higher Education Institutions

In Slovakia, higher education is provided by university-type institutions and professional higher education institutions which can be public, state-owned, private, or foreign institutions.

State-owned higher education institutions include the police higher education institutions, military higher education institutions, and medical higher education institutions. Public institutions are autonomous and self-governing whereas state-owned higher education

¹ European Commission. (2013). Eurostat Compact Guides: Basic Figures on the EU, Winter 2013/2014 Edition. Eurostat: Luxembourg.

² Eurostat. (2013). Population density. Retrieved from <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00003&plugin=0>

³ Eurostat (2013). People by age group. Retrieved from <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=tps00010&language=en>

⁴ Eurostat. (2013). GDP per capita in PPS. Retrieved from <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=teco0114>

⁵ Eurostat (2013). Real GDP growth rate. Retrieved from <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=teco0115>

⁶ Eurostat (2014). Students by ISCED level, age and sex. Retrieved from http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=educ_en1rtl&lang=en

⁷ OECD. (2014). Education at a glance 2014: OECD Indicators, pp. 44. Retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/edu/Education-at-a-Glance-2014.pdf>

⁸ OECD. (2014). Education at a glance 2014: OECD Indicators, pp. 232. Retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/edu/Education-at-a-Glance-2014.pdf>

institutions have limited autonomy and are mainly supervised by the responsible Ministries (Interior, Defence, Health). The public, private, and state higher education institutions are required to be accredited by the Accreditation Commission in order to award degrees. Foreign higher education institutions are generally from a member country of the European Union and may provide education according to legislation of the state of their place of residence.

Universities focus on scientific and academic research offering degrees in first (Bachelor), second (Master), and third (Doctoral) cycle qualification. Professional higher education institutions focus on applied research and offer degrees in the first and second cycle qualifications.

3. Study Structure

Slovakia joined the Bologna process in 1999⁹. Higher education attainment and student's performance are measured in credit points compatible with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

First cycle qualification (Bachelor)

- The credit requirement for a Bachelor degree varies between 180 and 240 ECTS credits, with study duration of three to four years (five years at most for part-time students).
- Bachelor study programmes' graduates receive the academic degree of Bachelor (Bc.)

Second cycle qualification (Master)

- The credit requirement for a Master degree is 60 to 180 ECTS credits with study duration of one to three years of full-time studies and two to three years of part-time studies. Master studies may also be carried out as a continuous study comprising the first and second levels of higher education.
- Master study programmes' graduate receive academic degree of:
 - *magister* (Mgr.)
 - in the field of art *magister umenia* (Mgr. art.)
 - *inžinier* (Ing.) in technical, agricultural, and economic fields of Engineer's programmes, and in the field of architecture and town-planning the academic degree of *inžinier architekt* (Ing. arch.)
 - *doktor všeobecného lekárstva* (MUDr.) in the field of general human medicine
 - *doktor zubného lekárstva* (MDDr.) in the field of dental studies
 - *doktor veterinárskeho lekárstva* (MVDr.) in the field of veterinary medicine

Examina rigorosa

Holders of the academic degree of Magister may take *examina rigorosa*, which also includes the defence of a *rigorosa* thesis. After successfully completing *Examina rigorosa*, the higher education institutions award the following academic degrees:

- *doktor prírodných vied* (RNDr.) in natural science study programmes

⁹ Europa. (2010). The Bologna process: setting up the European Higher Education Area. Retrieved from http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/lifelong_learning/c11088_en.htm

- *doktor farmácie* (PharmDr.) in pharmacy study programmes
- *doktor filozofie* (Doctoral) in social sciences and arts and health-care study programmes
- *doktor práv* (JUDr.) in law study programmes
- *doktor pedagogiky* (PaedDr.) in teacher training and sports study programmes
- *doktor teológie* (ThDr.) in theological study programmes except for the study programmes in the field of Catholic Theology

Third cycle qualification (Doctoral)

- The writing of a thesis forms the essential part of Doctoral degree programmes with study duration of at least three to four years (part-time four to five years).
- Third cycle academic degrees include the following:
 - *doktor -philosophiae Doctor* (Doctoral)
 - *doktor umenia- artis Doctor* (ArtD.)
 - *licenciát teológie* (ThLic.) after completing the first comprehensive part of the Doctoral study in the field of catholic theology

The standard student's workload (full-time studies) for the entire academic year is generally 60 ECTS credits, for a semester is 30 ECTS credits and for a trimester is 20 ECTS credits. The standard student's workload (part-time studies) for the entire academic year is 48 ECTS credits at most, depending on the standard length of study, study programme, and the number of credits necessary for its due completion.

4. Admission Requirements^{10 11 12}

In Slovakia, the admission to study at an institution of higher education requires the secondary education school-leaving certificate. Moreover, admission is granted upon entrance examinations. Each examination is organised directly by the faculties. Admission to a Master programme requires a relevant Bachelor degree. A Master degree qualifies for a Doctoral programme.

5. Enrolment Levels

Figure 1 shows trends in enrolment levels (ISCED 5A, 5B and 6, ISCED 97) in Slovakia between 2003 and 2012. The number of students in Tertiary Type 5A and Type 6 have increased steadily whereas enrolment levels in Tertiary Type 5B has decreased considerably.

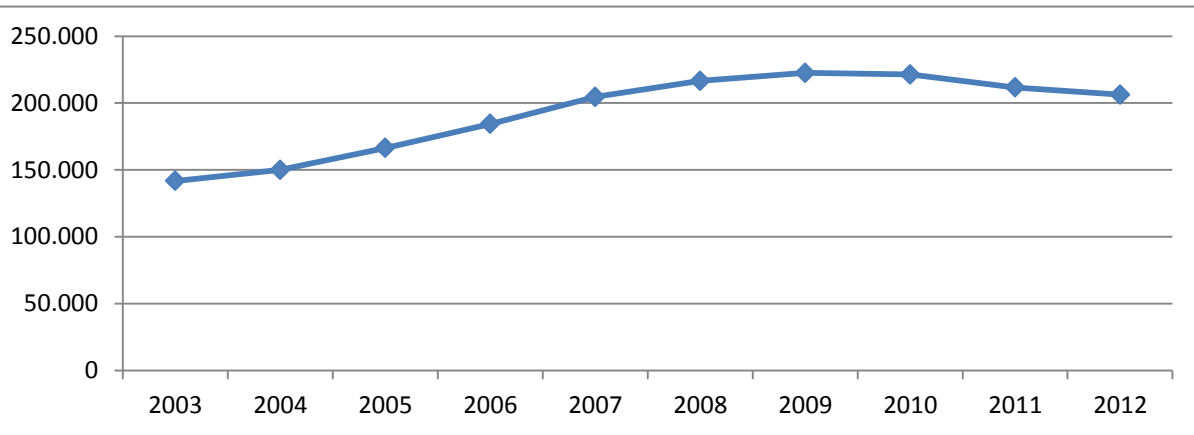
Figure 1: Trends in enrolment levels

¹⁰ Eurydice. (2014). *Bachelor*. Retrieved from <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovakia:Bachelor>

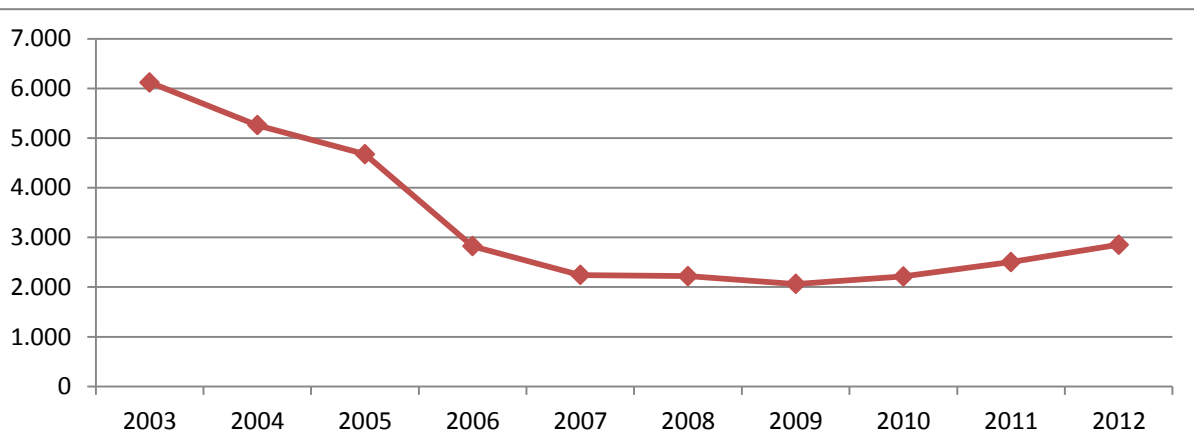
¹¹ Eurydice. (2014). *Second cycle programmes*. Retrieved from https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovakia:Second_Cycle_Programmes

¹² Eurydice. (2014). *Third cycle (PhD) programmes*. Retrieved from https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovakia:Third_Cycle_%28PhD%29_Programmes

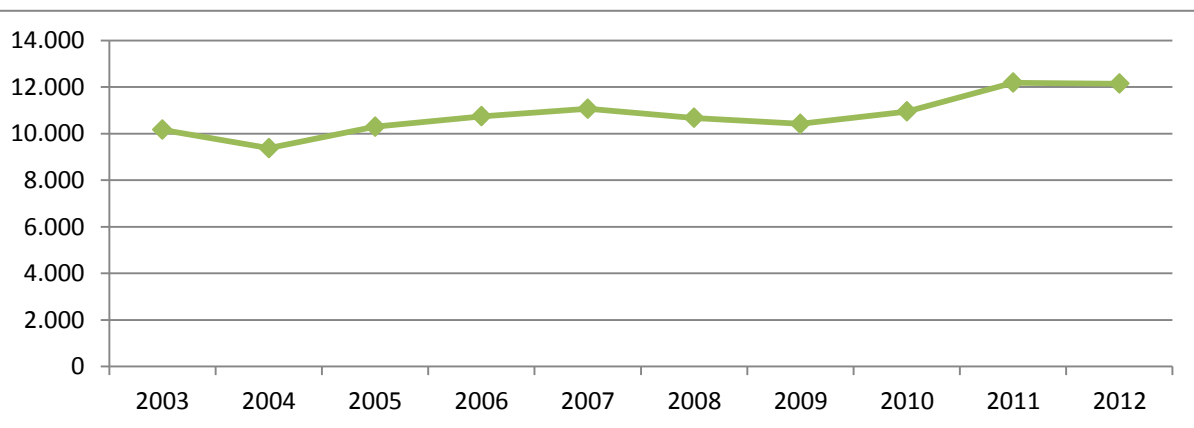
a) Tertiary Type 5A



b) Tertiary Type 5B



c) Tertiary Type 6



Data source: Eurostat (2014), *Students by ISCED level age and sex*, European Commission. http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=educ_en1rt1&lang=en#

6. Registration and/or Tuition Fees¹³

Students who study full-time at public higher education institutions (HEI) and who have not exceeded their standard length of study do not pay any tuition fee. Students at public HEI who study full-time are required to pay the annual tuition fee if the study programme is carried out exclusively in a language other than the official language.

Part-time students at public and state higher education institutions and students at private higher education institutions have to pay a tuition fee. The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport determines the maximum amount of tuition fee for an academic year for part-time study programmes.

7. Financial Support for Students¹⁴

In Slovakia, students can receive financial assistance in the form of direct and indirect support. Direct financial support is granted in the form of a scholarship which is provided from resources allocated from the national budget or scholarship funds. The number of scholarships as well as their amount is set by the higher education institutions themselves. Moreover, students can apply for student friendly loans e.g. from the Fund for Education Support. Indirect financial support is granted in the form of tax relief, family allowance, travel discounts, and support for dependent children.

8. Note on the Slovakian data provided for EUROSTUDENT V

The academic year starts on September 1 of the current year and ends on August 31 of the following year. It is composed of two semesters (winter and summer) or of three trimesters. The organisation of the academic year is set by the statute of the faculty or statute of the higher education institution if the higher education institution is not divided into faculties.

This report is based on the following sources:

European Higher Education Area (EHEA). (2010). *Slovak Republic*. Retrieved from <http://www.ehea.info/>

Eurydice. (2013). *Overview Slovakia*. Retrieved from

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovakia:Redirect>

SAIA; SAAIC. (2010). *International Student's Guide to Slovakia*. Retrieved from

http://web.saaic.sk/llp/en/doc/rozne/student_guide.pdf

Studentnews. (2009). *Slovakia – Financial Support for Students*. Retrieved from <http://www.studentnews.eu>

¹³ Eurydice. (2014). *Higher education funding*. Retrieved from https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovakia:Higher_Education_Funding