

# Background Information:

## Higher Education System in Slovenia



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# Higher Education System in Slovenia

## I. General Characteristics

<b>Population</b>	
Total population (1.1.2013) (million) <sup>1</sup>	2.06
Population density (2013) (persons per square kilometre) <sup>2</sup>	102.3
<b>Population Structure (2013)</b> (share of total population %) <sup>3</sup>	
0-14 years	14.5
15-24 years	10.5
25-49 years	36.6
50-64 years	21.4
65 years and older	17.1
<b>GDP</b>	
GDP per capita in PPS (2013), EU 28 = 100 <sup>4</sup>	82
GDP year-on-year growth rate (2013) <sup>5</sup>	-1.0
<b>Education (2012) (All levels)</b> <sup>6</sup>	
Enrolment	
Total (ISCED 0-6)	418,707
Tertiary Level of Education (ISCED 5-6)	104,003
<b>Tertiary Education</b>	
Population aged 25-64 years with tertiary education (2012) (%) <sup>7</sup>	26.0
Population aged 30 – 34 years with tertiary education (2012) (%) <sup>7</sup>	39.0
Public expenditure on tertiary education (percentage of GDP) (2011) <sup>8</sup>	1.1

<sup>1</sup> European Commission. (2013). *Eurostat Compact Guides: Basic Figures on the EU, Winter 2013/2014 Edition*. Luxembourg: Publications office of the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> 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>

<sup>4</sup> 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=tec00114>

<sup>5</sup> 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=tec00115>

<sup>6</sup> Eurostat (2014). *Students by ISCED level, age and sex*. Retrieved from [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=educ\\_enrlrtl&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=educ_enrlrtl&lang=en)

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

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

## 2. Types of Higher Education Institutions<sup>9 10</sup>

In Slovenia, the higher education system comprises short-cycle higher vocational programmes and higher academic and professional programmes. The short-cycle higher vocational programmes are offered by the higher vocational colleges. The practice-oriented vocational programmes provide students with competences for employment in specific professions.

Higher education is offered by the universities, composed of faculties, art academics, higher professional colleges, and by independent higher education institutions. The focus of faculties is on scientific research and educational work in science related disciplines. Faculties offer degrees in at least two cycles of qualification (the first and second, or second and third). Art academics perform artistic and educational activities in a wide range of artistic disciplines. Like faculties, art academics also offer degrees in at least two cycles. Higher professional colleges perform educational activities of one or more related or interlinked trades or occupational fields. They may also perform research or artistic activities if this is specified in its charter and meets all the requirements. Higher professional colleges offer degrees in at least the first cycle qualification. They may also offer Master study programmes if they meet the necessary requirement or can do so in cooperation with faculties or art academics.

## 3. Study Structure

Slovenia joined the Bologna Reform in 1999 as a result of which a three-cycle study structure was introduced in 2004<sup>7</sup>. Higher education attainment and student's performance are measured in ECTS (the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits.

First cycle qualification (Bachelor)

- Bachelor programmes generally require three to four years of study.
- The credit requirement is 180 to 240 ECTS credits.

Second cycle qualification (Master)

- Master programmes generally require one to two years of study.
- The credit requirement for Master programmes is 60 to 120 ECTS credits.
- Unless the EU directives state otherwise, integrated Master programmes require five years of study.
- The credit requirement for integrated Master programmes is 300 ECTS credits or 360 ECTS credits if so required by EU directives.

Third cycle qualification (Doctoral)

- Additional 180 ECTS credits are required to receive the official scientific title Doctor of Science (*doktor znanosti*) and require about three years of study.

## 4. Admission Requirements<sup>11 12 13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Development of Higher Education Management Systems. (n.d). DEHEMS project: HE review- country report about the higher education system.

<sup>10</sup> Eurydice. (2014). Types of higher education institutions. Retrieved from [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Types\\_of\\_Higher\\_Education\\_Institutions](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Types_of_Higher_Education_Institutions)

Access to academic study programmes is granted to candidates who passed the *matura* (national upper secondary school graduation examination), the final examination prior to 1 June 1995, or vocational *matura* pursuant to the relevant programme leading to secondary professional qualification from the same professional field, provided these candidates passed an examination in one of the general *matura* subjects. Access to professional study programmes is granted to candidates who completed the *matura* or final examination pursuant to the relevant secondary professional education programme leading to a professional qualification as specified by the study programme.

The admission requirements vary with individual study programmes. For some study programmes, particularly those related to artistic fields such as sports, architecture, and music, applicants it are required to successfully pass a test of talent.

The general requirement for admission to second cycle study programmes is the completion of a first cycle programme. Additional requirements are set-up individually by each study programme. The general requirement for admission to Doctoral study programmes is a degree at the second cycle.

## 5. Enrolment Levels

Figure 1 shows trends in enrolment levels (ISCED 5A, 5B and 6, ISCED 97) in Slovenia between 2003 and 2012. The number of students in Tertiary Type 5A has overall increased whereas the enrolment levels in Tertiary Type 5B has decreased considerably. There is a noticeable increase in Tertiary Type 6 enrolments between 2005 and 2012.

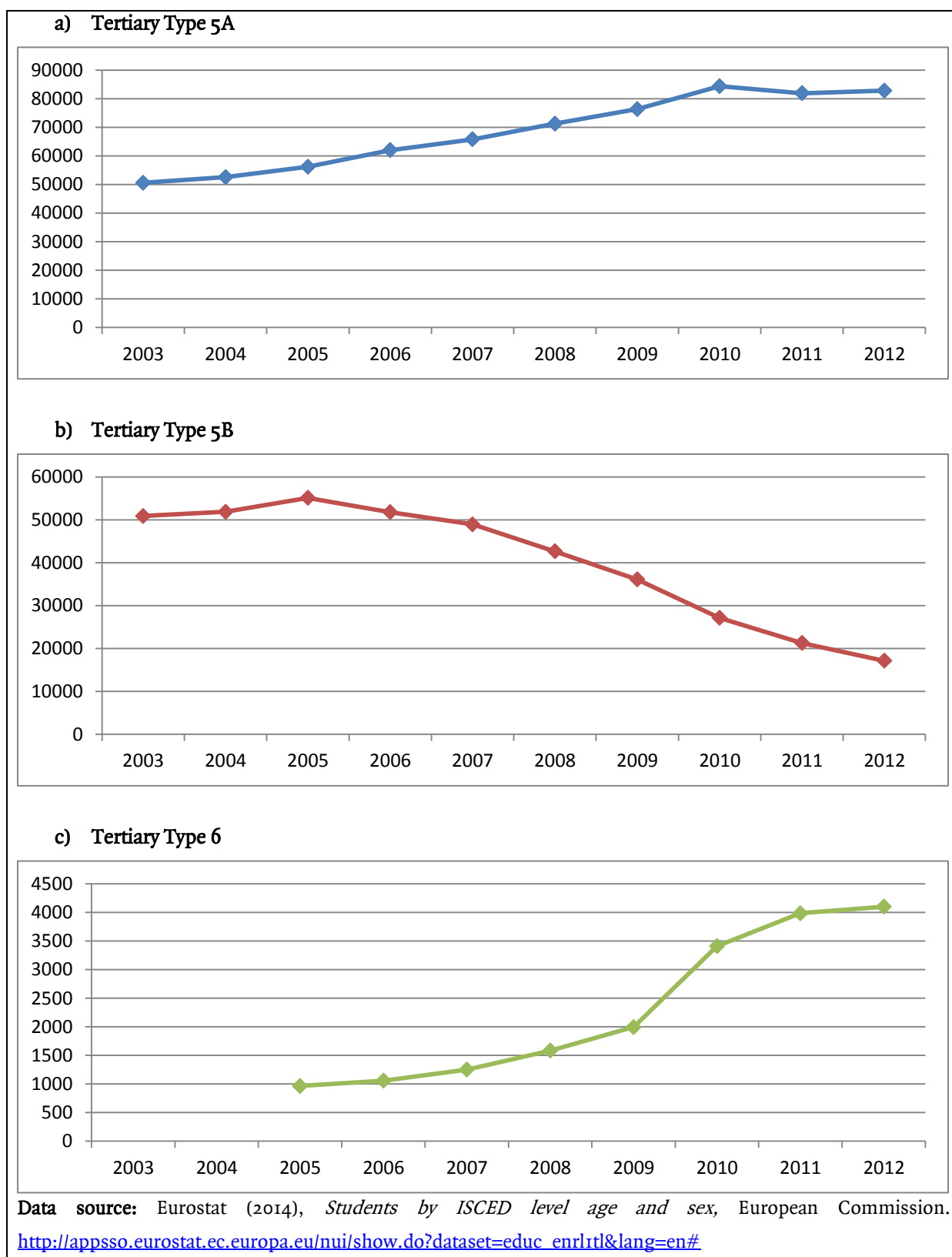
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<sup>11</sup> Eurydice. (2014). *Bachelor*. Retrieved from <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Bachelor>

<sup>12</sup> Eurydice. (2014). *Second cycle programmes*. Retrieved from [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Second\\_Cycle\\_Programmes](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Second_Cycle_Programmes)

<sup>13</sup> Eurydice. (2014). *Third cycle (PhD) programmes*. Retrieved from [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Third\\_Cycle\\_%28PhD%29\\_Programmes](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Third_Cycle_%28PhD%29_Programmes)

Figure 1: Trends in enrolment levels



## **6. Registration and/or Tuition Fees<sup>14</sup>**

Public higher education institutions and private higher education institutions with a concession are not allowed to charge fees from students who are citizens of the Republic of Slovenia and other European Union (EU) member states for studies in accredited full-time first and second-cycle programmes. Higher education institutions may charge fees for part-time studies and study programmes not funded from public sources and for supplementary study programmes.

## **7. Financial Support for Students<sup>12</sup>**

Students with limited financial resources are eligible to apply for government scholarships. Employer scholarships to support the attainment of qualification for specific occupations are also available. Talented students are eligible to apply for Zois scholarships. Slovenia also provides scholarships to Slovenian national minorities in neighbouring countries and Slovenians abroad and also to citizens of countries that have signed bi-lateral or multi-lateral agreements on educational cooperation and scholarships based on reciprocity.

The government provides subsidies for accommodation to short-cycle higher education and higher education students. The grant of subsidies depends on student's performance, economic situation, distance from home, and social and health needs. Short-cycle higher education and higher education students are, under the specified conditions, also entitled to subsidised meals, transportation subsidies, and other rights and benefits.

## **8. Note on the Slovenian data provided for EUROSTUDENT V**

International students cannot be identified due to the high number of missing responses on the identifying variable. 90 % of data in question 2.1 are missing and no respondent has chosen "foreign qualification". Question 2.2 (country of qualification) is missing in the survey – therefore no respondent can be classified as international.

Regarding the data on the delay between leaving school for the first time and entering higher education it should be noticed that the national questionnaire in Slovenia did not provide the possibility to enter monthly data but only data on yearly basis.

This report is based on the following sources:

Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes. (2011). Higher education in Slovenia.

Development of Higher Education Management Systems. (n.d). DEHEMS project: HE review- country report about the higher education system.

Eurydice. (2013). Overview Slovenia. Retrieved from

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Higher\\_Education](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Higher_Education)

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<sup>14</sup> Eurydice. (2014). *Higher education funding*. Retrieved from [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Higher\\_Education\\_Funding](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Slovenia:Higher_Education_Funding)