

**What's up in education**  
New models for future pre-school services

# Educational models of governance and ECEC services organisation

**SLOVENIA**



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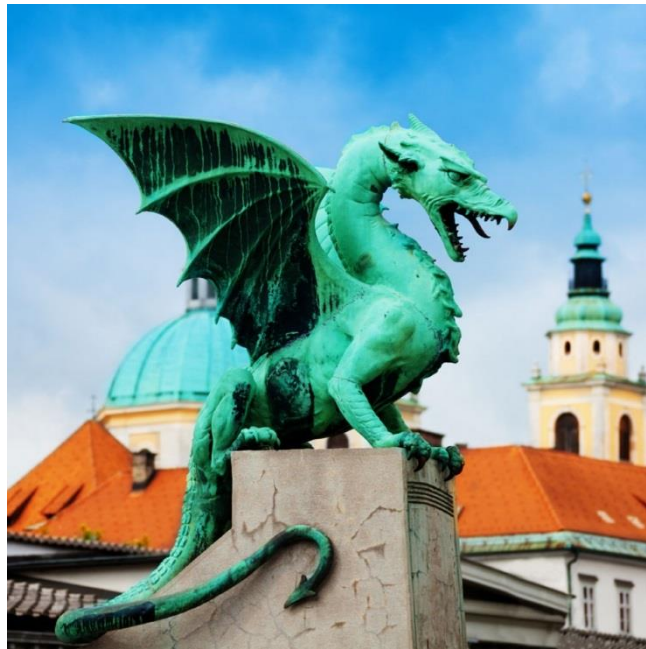
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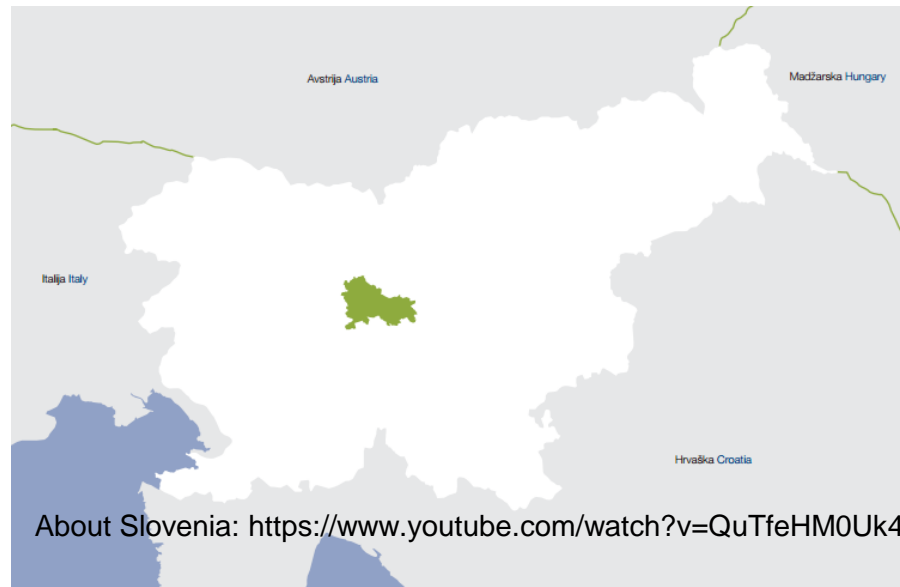
# General context

## Socio-cultural context characteristics

(culture, traditions, geographic area,...)



- Ljubljana is the capital of the Republic of Slovenia. It is the political and cultural heart of the Slovenian nation.
- It is covering an area of 275 km<sup>2</sup>, it encompasses 1.36% of Slovenian territory.
- It has 282,994 inhabitants which is 13.7% of population of Slovenia.
- Number of students (2012): 36,439
- Economically speaking is far the most developed region in the country with GDP per capita 43.6% above Slovenian average.
- Ljubljana is:
  - ✓ from 2010 Unesco city of literature and form 2015 Unesco creative city.
  - ✓ one of Global Top 100 Sustainable Destinations 2016
  - ✓ In 2016 Ljubljana held the title of Green capital of Europe.
- More about Ljubljana: <https://www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/>



About Slovenia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuTfeHM0Uk4>





# School system

## Compulsory school system: different school levels and their management



In the Republic of Slovenia, pre-school education, compulsory basic education (integrated primary and lower secondary education), basic music education, upper secondary, short-cycle higher education, higher education and adult education are in the domain of the **Ministry of Education, Science and Sport**.

It is organised mainly as a public service rendered by public and private institutions and private providers holding a concession who implement officially recognised or accredited programmes.

By law, public education institutions are secular and the school space is autonomous.

Education staff at public education institutions enjoys professional autonomy over his or her teaching practice.

Slovenian educational system is divided in

Preschool education (non-compulsory)

- First age period from 1-3 years old children
- Second age period from 3-6 or child's school admission

Compulsory basic education (three educational cycles – 9 years ) from age 6 -15.

Upper secondary education:

- General upper secondary education
- Vocational and technical upper –secondary education.

Tertiary education (from age 15 up to 20)

Higher and short-cycled higher education

Adult education.

***The complete structure of the educational system is available in [http://www.mizs.gov.si/fileadmin/mizs.gov.si/pageuploads/ENIC-NARIC\\_center/slike/Zgradba\\_sistema\\_izobrazevanja\\_2015-16\\_ang.pdf](http://www.mizs.gov.si/fileadmin/mizs.gov.si/pageuploads/ENIC-NARIC_center/slike/Zgradba_sistema_izobrazevanja_2015-16_ang.pdf)***

# Local ECEC Services system

## Local ECEC Services system characteristics

### Pre-school education in Slovenia

- Not compulsory
- Provided by kindergartens (*vrtec*)
- In Slovenia, pre-school is well accessible to all users
- Pre-school programmes are funded from municipality budgets, pre-school fees, state budget and other sources.
- Unified system -includes children from age 1 to 6 organized in two age groups (homogenous, heterogeneous or combined).

## Type and number of local ECEC services and related management

- Preschool education is provided by 108 public independent kindergartens, 196 kindergartens in basic schools in 75 private kindergartens.
- 2015/16: 85,407 children is attending kindergarten, which is 85% of all children from 1 to 5 years old and the number is increasing each year.

# Local ECEC Services system

## Educational background

The basic tasks of pre-school education are to support parents in comprehensive care for children, to improve the quality of family life and to create good conditions for optimal development of children's physical and mental abilities.

**Curriculum for kindergartens** (1999, Ljubljana: Ministry of Education and Sport) is applied when organizing pre-school educational work which assures the appliances of the basic principles of educational work with preschool children.

### Program goals and starting points:

- Varied and diverse offer of contents and activities in all area of preschool education
- consideration of child's developmental period of age
- consideration of children's individual development and learning differences
- consideration and respect for children privacy and intimacy
- flexibility in space and time organization of life and work in kindergarten
- development and growth of positive interaction between children and adults in kindergarten
- cooperation with parents , presenting parents with contents of activities in the child's group
- cooperation with environment

## Access/Accessibility

(regulations, ways, cost, age, access rate, ...)

In Slovenia preschool education is accessible for all users.

Parents pay maximum of 77% of kindergarten's cost, 33% is payed by the government. The payment deepens on economic status of the family. 4,4% of the children attend ECEC for free.

The fee includes all educational materials, and three to four healthy meals per day.

# Local ECEC Services' organisational aspects

## School calendar

Kindergarten operates up to 11 hours per day, but child can attend to maximum of 9 hours.  
It operates every weekday all around the year.

## Schedule

- **6 - 6.30 a.m.** opening time
- **Until 7.00 - 7.30 a.m.** Children gather and play in a common playroom, free play ,
- **7.00 – 8.30 a.m.** Morning playfully arranged activities, free play, individual work
- **8.30 a.m.** Breakfast,
- **9.00 – 12.30 a.m.** Educational playfully arranged activities for all fields of preschool curriculum education; morning circle, playing corners, outdoor play, trips and visits...
- **12.30** Lunch time
- **1 p.m.** Resting time, afternoon activities
- **2.30 p.m.** Afternoon snack time,
- **Until 5 p.m** Free play and going home, **5 p.m.** closing time

## Attendance type

With each group there are always working in team preschool teacher and preschool teacher assistant.

## Numerical ratio between teacher and children

- First age group: 1-2, 2-3: max 14 children, 1-3: max 12 children,
- Second age group: 3-4 max 19 children; 4-5, 5-6: max 24 children; 3-6: max 21 children
- Combine groups: 2-4: max 19 children

## Meal, diet

- Each day our kitchen prepares healthy meals for all children. They get breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. We take extra care that menus are prepared balanced and healthy and we buy food from local and eco providers.

## Other important aspects

- We additionally put a lot of efforts to ecological and health education.
- Active participation of all children is guaranteed by active involvement of children in planning, implementing and evaluating educational process according to their chronological and developmental age.
- Children are provided with supportive learning environment, individual, joint and collective forms of work according to their individual needs and strengths. The educational work is process-oriented and ensures compliance with the developmental characteristics and individual needs. It takes place in working playing corners and the implementation of daily routines.