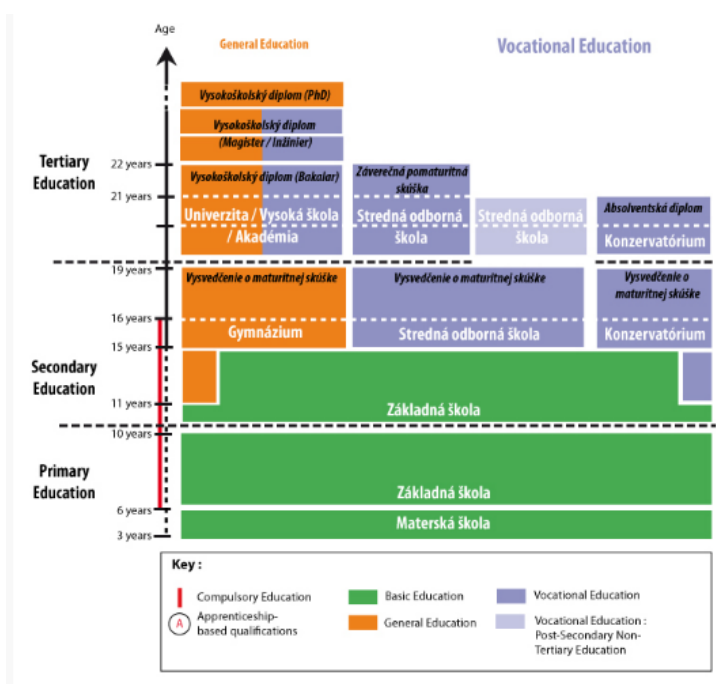


Slovak Education System



Secondary education in Slovakia has been divided into general and vocational by the Millennium Programme (National Programme for Education in the Slovak Republic for the next 15 to 20 years) in 1998.

The professional education and training develop knowledge, skills, habits and other skills of students acquired in lower secondary education. The result of this education is vocational education, which is part of professional qualifications. It allows to students engage in employment as a skilled workforce or continue their studies.

Professional education can be distinguished from two perspectives:

- achieved by degrees:
 - vocational education and training where the certificate is indenture,
 - secondary vocational education, where certificate is school-leaving exam;
- by type of vocational training that bind the certain groups of occupations, for example chemical education, economic education, engineering, clothing industry etc.

There are a few types of secondary schools in Slovakia.

1. **Grammar school:** 4-8 years; provides general secondary education and prepares for further study at universities and other higher education institutions.
2. **Specialized Secondary School:** 4-5 years; provides specialized education and usually prepares students for further study at higher education institutions.
3. **Conservatories:** 4-5 years; special type of professional school providing specializing in fields such as Music, Singing, Dancing and Dramatic Arts.
4. **Vocational School:** 2-4 years; prepares students for careers that are based in manual or practical occupations.

STRUCTURE OF SCHOOL SYSTEM IN SLOVAKIA

· **Pre-school education** (ISCED 0), age: 3 - 6

· **Basic education**

I. **Basic first stage** (ISCED 1), age: 6 - 10

II. Basic second stage = **lower secondary education** (ISCED 2), age: 10 – 15

· **Secondary education**

1. General secondary education

Grammar schools (ISCED 3A) - Provides general secondary education and prepares for further study at universities and other higher education institutions.

A. Length of program in years: 4, Age: 15 - 19 Certificate/diploma awarded: School-leaving Certificate (Maturita)

B. Length of program in years: 8, Age: 10 - 18 Certificate/diploma awarded: School-leaving Certificate (Maturita)

2. Specialized secondary education

I. Specialized secondary schools (ISCED 3A) - prepare students for vocational education (Technical, Economic, Agricultural, Health Care, Arts) and for study at higher education institutions. Length of program in years: 4/5. Age: 15 – 19 /20.

Certificate/diploma awarded: Secondary School-leaving Certificate

II. Vocational schools (ISCED 3)- prepare students for occupations requiring higher level vocational education and a School Leaving Certificate. Students may continue their studies at higher education institutions. Length of program in years: 4. Age: 15 - 19

Certificate/diploma awarded: Certificate of Apprenticeship or School-leaving Certificate (Maturita) –

III. Apprentice training centres - prepare school-leavers for professional activities. Length of program in years: 3 Age: 14 - 17.

Certificate/diploma awarded: Certificate of Apprenticeship (ISCED 3C)

IV. Conservatories - are a special type of professional school that provides courses in such fields of Singing, Music, Dancing and Dramatic Arts. Length of program in years: 6 Age: 15 - 21 Certificate/diploma awarded: absolútorium (discharge granted / awarded)

· **Higher education**