



Education and Culture

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European Educative Partnership Project

LIVE - LIFE VEST - YOUNG'S GUIDE FOR SURVIVING IN EUROPE

2007/08



Osnovna
šola
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Ljubljana

PRIMARY SCHOOL KOSEZE

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WHEN I GROW UP,

I'LL BE ...

Work and training

PROJECT WORK FOR MEETING IN RAKKESTAD (Norway)

April, 2008

WHAT IS A PROFESSION?

WHAT IS A BASIS FOR A CAREER?

WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL BE ...

**BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT
SLOVENIA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM**

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– a current trend? Prestige?
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INTERESTS SHOULD LEAD THE WAY, NOT MONEY!**

THE MOST PERSPECTIVE JOBS IN THE FUTURE

WHAT ARE THE BEST JOBS OF 2008

INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION ...

When I was just a little girl
I asked my mother, "What will I be?
Will I be pretty, will I be rich?"
Here's what she said to me

Que Sera Sera
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Que Sera Sera

Since I am just a boy in school
I asked my teacher, "What should I try?
Should I paint pictures, should I sing songs?"
This was her wise reply

Que Sera Sera
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Que Sera Sera ...



What will the future bring? What will I do for the rest of my life?

WHAT IS AN OCCUPATION/PROFESSION?

A profession is an occupation, vocation or career where specialized knowledge of a subject, field, or science is applied. It is usually applied to occupations that involve prolonged academic training and a formal qualification. It is axiomatic that professional activity involves systematic knowledge and proficiency. Professions are usually regulated by professional bodies that may set examinations of competence, act as a licensing authority for practitioners, and enforce adherence to an ethical code of practice.



WHAT IS A BASIS FOR A CAREER?

PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT.

EVERYONE KNOWS SOMETHING.

EVERYONE HAS AN INTEREST IN SOMETHING.

EVERYONE HAS WISHES.

EVERYONE IS SPECIAL, UNIQUE AND ONE OF ITS KIND.

Advice for a future career given to young people often depends on the limited possibilities in their environment. As a result, young people don't resist much when accepting a career path which will not allow them to fully show their abilities. The situation can be different. If we don't know ourselves well – especially if we don't listen and trust ourselves – we may suppress our true wish as regards the future career; we may get involved in a job or formal studies just for the sake of money.

If we are guided just by one aim – money – then everything is OK as long as we are happy. When happiness ends, everything suddenly changes.

It usually becomes obvious that the job brings us no passion, it tires us easily, it leaves us empty and aimless; our only aim seems to be the money.

Perhaps this inner distress is a signal that we should undertake a journey to explore our innate abilities. In this way we can explore new fields where our creativity would be more wholly expressed, where we would feel fulfilled.

All of this leaves us with the idea that our wishes and interests have to be taken into consideration when we are deciding about our career.

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT SLOVENIA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM

Slovenian school system enables us to get formal education for any profession. It ensures quality education since our experts are respected abroad; furthermore, more and more foreign students decide for an exchange programme in Slovenia in the framework of the European programme Erasmus.

The Slovenian Constitution guarantees free education to Slovenian nationals. Basic education is mandatory and funded from budgetary resources. The State is required to enable its citizens to obtain appropriate education. State universities and professional colleges are autonomous. Members of ethnic minorities have the right to receive and further instruction in their mother tongue. Roma are likewise granted special educational rights.

Slovenia has signed over 30 bilateral agreements on co-operation in education, culture and science, more than 20 programmes and some protocols. Since 1992, Slovenia has actively participated in all educational projects of the Council of Europe and has been involved in the work of the Unesco.

Since 1999, it has taken part in the European Union programmes of Socrates, Leonardo and Youth. Since 2002, the Ministry of Education and Sport has co-operated also with the OECD. And because of those programmes we are here now in Norway.

In recent years, approximately 6% of GDP have been spent on education.

In 2002, 67% of population had at least upper secondary education.

Goals and principles of the education system

Knowledge is the focal point of development. That is why Slovenia strongly supports the idea of construction of knowledge society. It is necessary to focus on those aspects of education which best respond to the true requirements of society and the market and which will contribute most effectively to the modernisation of education system in the future.

During the process of developing the system the following was taken into account:

- the equal opportunities principle should be matched with the requirements for quality;
- concrete social circumstances and development tendencies, linked with the requirements for high-quality and non-repressive schools (that is schools educating for open-mindedness and critical judgement and offering support in facing various ideological pressures);
- requirements for achieving internationally comparable attainment targets applied in developed countries;
- respect for the plurality of cultures.

The Republic of Slovenia is actively participating in international activities targeting on increase in quality and efficiency, openness and co-operation in the field of education and the recognition of the importance of lifelong learning. The main objective, however, is to achieve a high level of education for the highest percentage of the population.

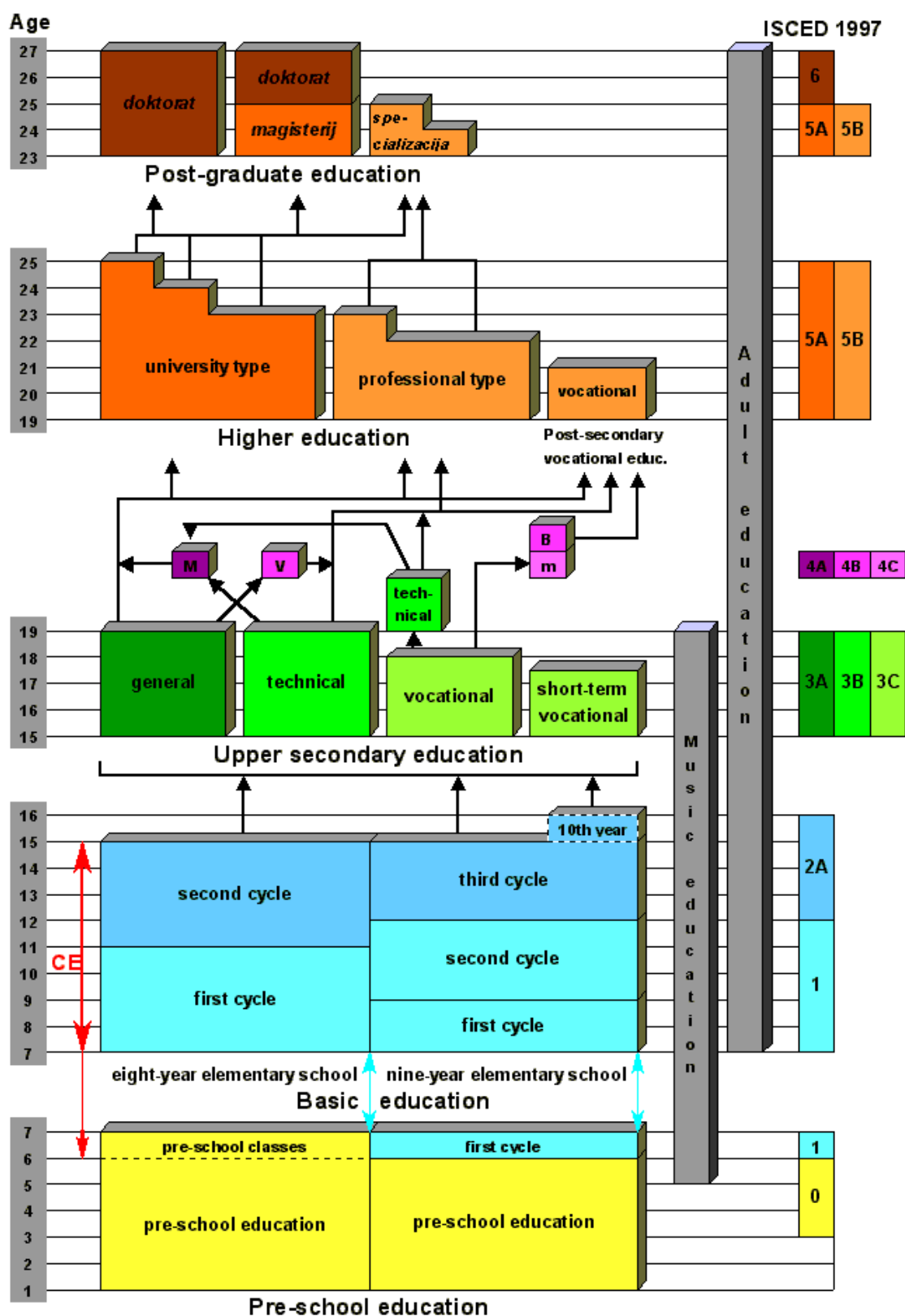
The Slovenian education system consists of:

- pre-school education,
- basic education (single structure of primary and lower secondary education),
- (upper) secondary education:
- vocational and technical education,
- secondary general education,
- higher vocational education,
- higher education.

Specific parts of the system:

- adult education
- music and dance education
- special needs education
- modified programmes and programmes in ethnically and linguistically mixed areas

In comparison with other European countries, Slovenia has a well-developed primary music education in public and private music schools. Music education includes also ballet, dance classes and modern dances. As a result, Slovenia has got a great number of talented musicians who are active in various kinds of music and who are recognized at home as well abroad.



Legend:

CE - compulsory education

M - *matura* course

V - vocational courses

m - master craftsman preparatory course

B - bridging exam for admission to post-secondary vocational education

WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL BE ...

FROM CHILDREN'S WISHES TO REALITY ...

Surely all of us can still recall our first job wishes when we were **cicibans** (*ciciban* is a word for a pre-school child coined by the Slovenian poet Oton Župančič. The word nicely describes the pre-school period). The *ciciban* period is a time when imagination and reality keep intertwining: a bath easily becomes an ocean; a curtain in the living room turns into a princess's mantle; mother's necklace shines like a tiara; a spoon replaces a microphone.

Job wishes differ from person to person: some children want to become flight attendants because they could touch the clouds every day; some children want to grow up to be police officers because they would like turn on a siren when driving through the city.

In order to rekindle our first job wishes, we decided to visit a kindergarten where five-year-olds confided what they would like to become and why.

Do you perhaps recognize yourself in any of these comments by five-year-olds?

WHAT DO OUR CICIBANS WANT TO BE WHEN THEY GROW UP?



- ☺ A policeman because he drives a car
- ☺ A fisherman because he catches fish
- ☺ A ballerina
- ☺ A butterfly
- ☺ A cook



IF ONLY CHOOSING A PROFESSION WAS THAT SIMPLE!

You can see more in a film on a DVD which is added to this booklet.



Cicibans from the group zājčki (bunnies) who helped us



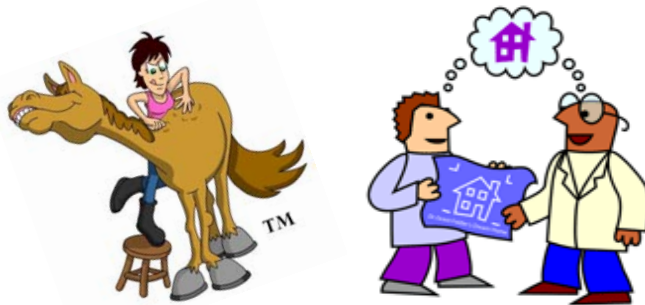
Not so long ago, we were zājčki too!

The same question was given to our fifth and seventh graders (11 and 13 years old) and of course to our ninth graders (15 years old) who enrolled to secondary schools last month and they made the first step on the way to their profession.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

FIFTH GRADERS, 11 years old:

- ☺ a doctor because I want to help people who need help,
- ☺ a fashion designer because I like drawing clothes and that way you can earn lots of money,
- ☺ an artist because I like playing dramas,
- ☺ an architect because I like drawing different kinds of plans,
- ☺ an archaeologist because this is a much more interesting job than others,
- ☺ a professional basketball player because I like basketball,
- ☺ a dentist but I don't know why,
- ☺ a veterinary because they earn lots of money and do nothing.



SEVENTH GRADERS, 13 years old:

- ☺ an actor because I really like to act,
- ☺ a model because I have a big interest in fashion. You can see different places and the job is very dynamic. you can also earn lots of money,
- ☺ a veterinary. I like animals and I also have a pet - a little rabbit. twice a week I ride and I spend a lot of time with horses,
- ☺ a detergent seller. This is a family tradition: my father runs a firm and I'll be his successor. I think this job is very interesting,
- ☺ a crime scene investigator. because I like to reveal the truth and send criminals to jail,
- ☺ an electrotechnician. I like technology and computers,

- ☺ a fashion designer because I like drawing clothes (and also buying them ☺),
- ☺ a journalist. I simply love writing and reading,
- ☺ a writer. I like writing books,
- ☺ a biologist or a badminton player. I like animals and sports.
- ☺ a lawyer. I like law, my sister studies it and I think this is very interesting,
- ☺ A tennis player. We have a tennis academy at home (my father and uncle run it),
- ☺ a lawyer. Because I want to defend innocent people,
- ☺ a veterinary or zoologist. I like animals and I want to help them
- ☺ a basketball player,
- ☺ a lawyer. Because my mum is a lawyer too and I know this job pretty well. It's a very good job,
- ☺ a businessman or judge. You can earn lots of money,
- ☺ a cook,
- ☺ something connected with art or music,
- ☺ a football player because I would like to earn lots of money,
- ☺ a translator. Because I like languages,
- ☺ a tennis player,
- ☺ an architect. I have so many ideas!
- ☺ A dancer. I like music,
- ☺ a veterinary. I just love animals,
- ☺ a pilot. My father is a pilot too,
- ☺ a computer technician,
- ☺ an archaeologist. I like history very much,.
- ☺ a secret agent. I like adrenalin and sports like that,
- ☺ a paediatrician. I want to help people, especially children,
- ☺ a physiotherapist or another kind of doctor. Because I like to help injured people.



AND NOW IT GETS FOR REAL! I HAVE DECIDED FOR ...

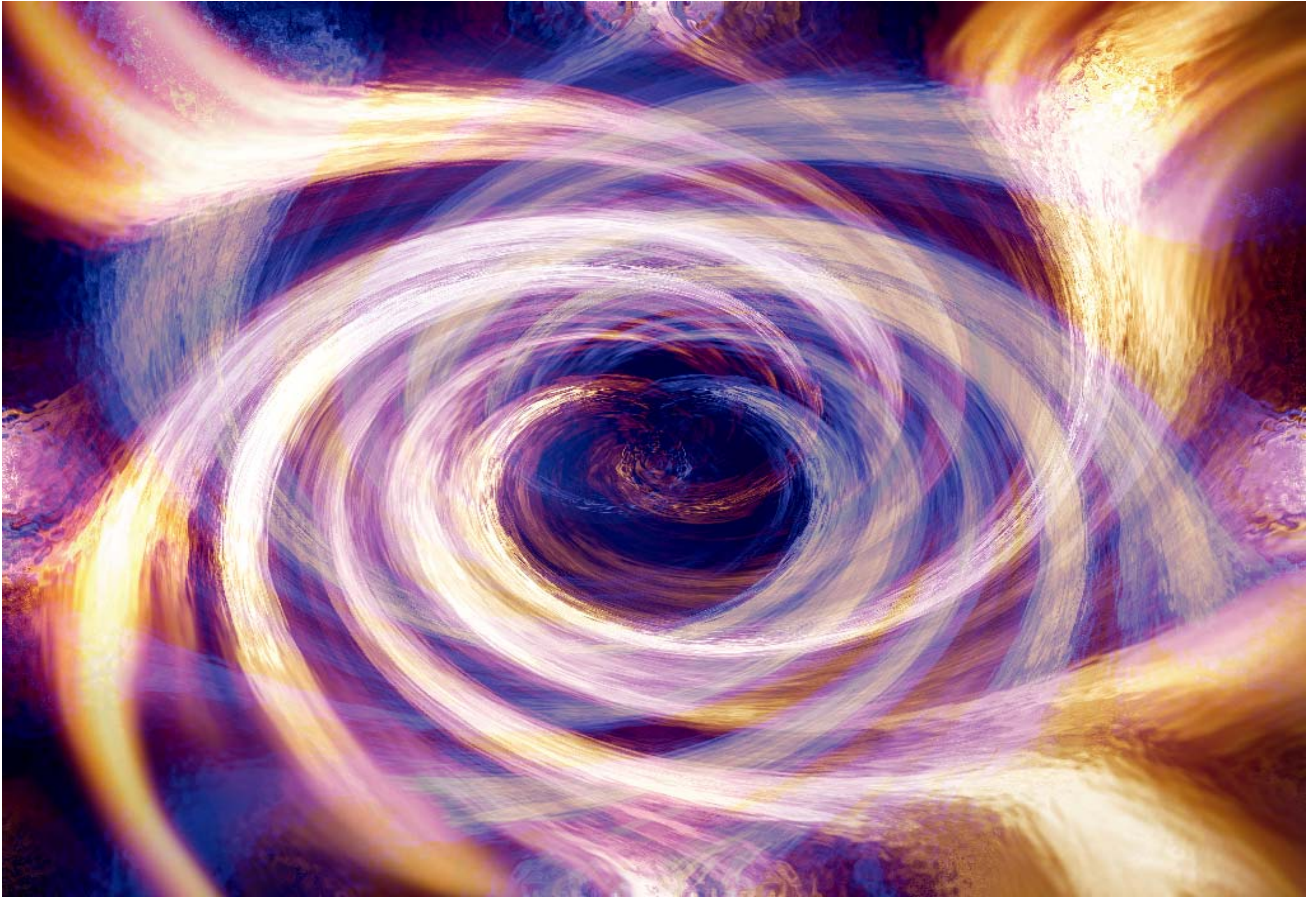
NINTH GRADERS, 15 years old

- ☺ I would like to travel around all over the world, explore nature, animals, ... I enrolled to a grammar school, after that I want to study at university.
- ☺ I don't know what I want to do in the future; maybe something with pharmacy or medicine. Therefore I'll go to a grammar school - I have 4 more years to decide what to do in the future.
- ☺ I want to be a psychiatrist; there is lots of money and I also like this job.
- ☺ I want to be a psychologist. That's why I decided for a grammar school.
- ☺ I'm not sure yet. Maybe something with journalism or foreign languages or history, art ... I like all that.
- ☺ A computer programmer. This work is fun and it's very interesting.
- ☺ I'd like to be a manager because this is a family business.
- ☺ I want to be a fireman. This is a very dangerous but also a very interesting job.
- ☺ A real estate agent. My mother has a private company and I'd like to work there.
- ☺ An architect because I simply like that!
- ☺ I don't know exactly ; maybe a manager or an architect. I like drawing.
- ☺ I haven't decided yet what I would like to become. I would like speak fluent Spanish and I would like to travel to different countries, especially Mexico. I'm considering singing to be part of my profession. This year I Hope to enrol to the grammar school.
- ☺ I would like to be a mechatronic. I enrolled to the secondary school Litostroj. I have decided for this profession it interests me.
- ☺ I don't know exactly what my profession will be. I think it's too soon to think about it and I would change my mind ten times until then.
- ☺ I'd like to be a programmer because I have been using the computers since I was little. I learned to read on computer, write programmes and to be creative through design software. What's more have already made some money by making websites« Later in my life, when I get old I'll work with stocks so I will be able to have nice house and a car. ☺
- ☺ I would like to be a veterinary for horses, because the horse is my favourite animal and I like help animals.
- ☺ I want to be a professional football player. I enrolled to a sports class in grammar school.
- ☺ I'm not sure yet. I enrolled a secondary school of design and photography.
- ☺ When I grow up, I want to be a psychologist because I want to help people.

- ☺ I want to become an interior designer for yachts and houses or musician (guitar, bass). Maybe I'll end up becoming an architect.
- ☺ I would like to be an economist.
- ☺ I would like to be a mechatronic because I like robots and I think it's a good job.



AND THE REALITY IS ...



We asked our school psychologist Mina Mišić Vučetić, who provides also vocational guidance, what actually influences our career choice. She has provided some interesting information.



INFLUENCE OF PARENTS



Parents can have great influence on choosing a profession. It depends on the amount of freedom they allow their child at personal decisions. Parents have a much bigger influence than school.

HOW GOOD DO WE KNOW OUR POSSIBILITY FOR JOB EDUCATION?

It is always possible to discuss our future educational path at our school. We can also attend special free presentations at a school that we might want to enrol to; at these presentation days, we can get more information about this particular school, about its programme, etc. Our attention is attracted also by different posters by various schools. We may find additional information on the web.



Furthermore, a student organization in Ljubljana ensures a great promotion of professions each year. This promotion event is called *Študentska arena* (student arena) and it is the largest and most important educational fair and career event, organised for the young people in Slovenia. This year (school year 2007/08) was its 8th anniversary. The education fair featured a number of interesting and insightful presentations and additional opportunities for networking and building relationships.

The educational programme offered more than a hundred workshops, lectures and round-table discussions; all of them took place in lecture rooms divided into the following thematic blocks:

- ✓ Planet of Opportunities
- ✓ Universe of Ideas
- ✓ Ocean of Experiences and in interactive corners: European Avenue, Avenue of Creativity, Avenue of Knowledge, Avenue of Environment, Avenue of Fun.



Student arena is the only event of its kind in Slovenia and even in Europe.

WHAT WE DON'T WANT TO BE ... (shortage professions in Slovenia)

The young in Slovenia take less interest in professions that involve little mental effort but are physically quite demanding. For instance, dressmaking, the construction industry, the metallurgical sphere, technical occupations and processing industry, agriculture – in short, the professions that are not highly valued in the society.

Due to the lack of Slovenian workers in these spheres, foreign workers are employed. They usually come from southern countries, but nowadays more and more workers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland are employed.

Due to the EU and European standards, some old programs are abolished and new ones are introduced.



POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN SLOVENIA

– a current trend? prestige? Or an actual Necessity?

In the last few years, Slovenia has witnessed an increasing number of postgraduate students. The MA programmes enable the students a deeper and more advanced insight into a field of knowledge and an expert qualification in searching new sources of knowledge at expert and scientific levels.

Slovenia has approximately 2 million people. As becomes evident from the table below, the number of people who undertake postgraduate studies is very high. Not to mention the number of undergraduate students! If we make a generalization, we can conclude that every second student finishing a secondary school goes to a faculty.

Masters of science and specialists by fields of science

	Doctors of science					Masters of science and specialists				
	1945 - 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	1962- 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
TOTAL	4424	298	318	367	355	10702	905	1058	1082	1096
MEN	3234	152	174	215	211	6567	451	486	512	500
WOMEN	1190	146	144	152	144	4135	454	572	570	596

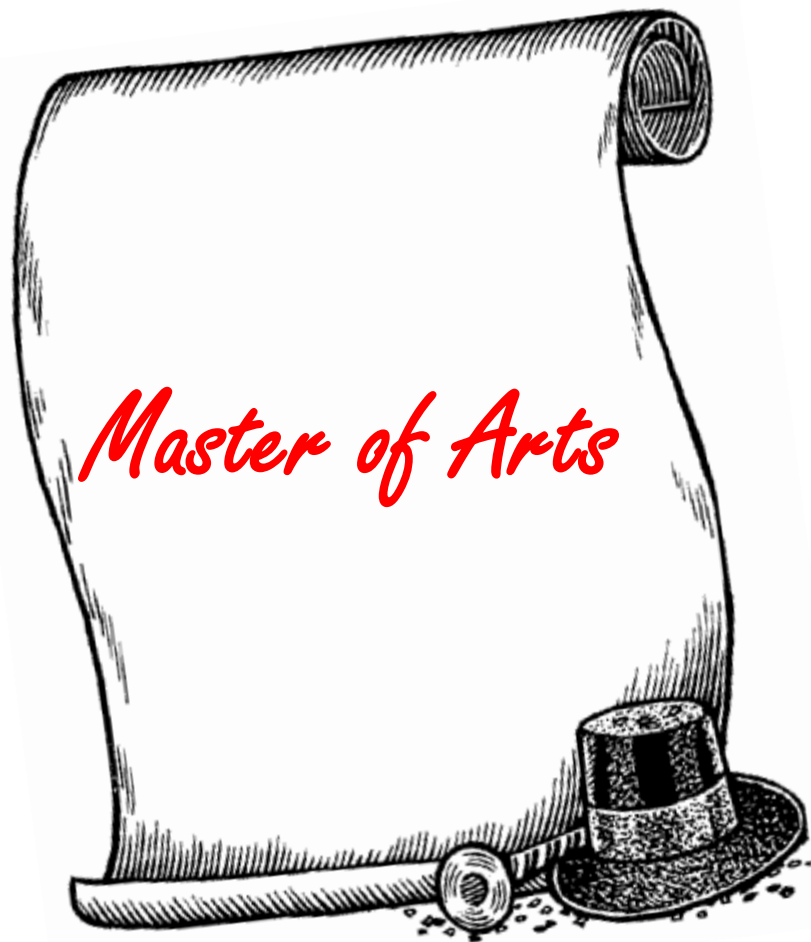
2006/07:

	University degree	Masters of science and specialist
TOTAL	91426	8687

A mere glance at these numbers raises the question whether education in Slovenia has truly become a highly esteemed value.

The answer is positive; the requirements at work places are getting bigger and bigger. A person often has to know 2 to 3 foreign languages to qualify. At the same time, however, another question can be asked: is there really such a great need for so highly educated people, or is it just a matter of prestige or shortly – a matter of showing off?

The answer is positive here as well. Most of the pupils decide for a grammar school because they want to be highly educated; or alternatively because they want to postpone deciding upon the profession itself. If a young person chooses a grammar school, then he or she also reaches a decision to go to a faculty afterwards. That's the reason why so many Slovenes attain a high level of education.



CAREER PROSPECTS

A profession choice often depends on the money and a possibility of a good career. One of the professions that opens many doors is nowadays – in a united Europe – surely a linguist. Knowing many languages is an advantage, if not even a necessity for a successful career abroad. Various European institutions offer jobs, good salaries, successful careers; those who are in precedence over the competition are of course fluent in at least two foreign languages.

How does it feel to work in the European Union, more specifically in Strasbourg? Maša Brosche, a Slovene who has worked as a translator in the European Parliament for three years, provided an answer to our question.

"WORK SHOULD ALWAYS BE SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU RICH WITH NEW EXPERIENCES, KNOWLEDGE, FRIENDSHIPS AND NOT JUST SOMETHING THAT FILLS YOUR BANK ACCOUNT"

You're linguist by profession. Which languages did you study?

I studied English and French at the university, but in secondary school I also learned Italian.

Did university studies give you enough knowledge for your job or do you need additional skills, trainings, maybe learning other foreign languages?

Indirectly I use the theory knowledge I learned at the university every day, because it gives me rules that are a basis for a good translation. But just theory is not enough. Practical work is very important. It brings experience and makes you aware of your capabilities, but it must be complemented by additional learning. Let me give some examples of knowledge I didn't get in school that I use in my work:

- I can touch-type (10-finger typing without looking at the keyboard) and this speeds up my work.
- Nowadays translators use computer programs, which store their previous translations for future re-use, since very often texts are similar. Mastering such programs can make your work much easier.



- Looking for information is an essential part of translator's work and we have to have good knowledge on internet search engines.
- I work for the European Parliament, where almost all documents are translated into all the official languages of the European Union. Knowledge of other foreign languages (apart from the one I'm translating from) helps me: if for example I can't find a translation for a French word, but have its translation into German, I can find a German-Slovene translation for it. And, of course, if I learn another foreign language very well, I can translate also from this language.

Why did you choose to work abroad?

Working abroad also means living abroad, in a different culture from the one you grew up in. It is a great opportunity to learn new things and meet people that come from completely different environment than the one you know. I wanted to test myself and see how I cope with these differences.

Is financial motivation a good enough reason to choose working abroad?

Apart from those migrants that choose living abroad, because they have no possibility of earning their living in their own country, I don't think money is the only factor one should consider when deciding to work abroad. It would be very sad to be among people you don't know very well doing the job you don't like at all.

Even if you don't find your dream profession, work should always be something that makes you rich with new experiences, knowledge, friendships and not just something that fills your bank account.

Do you think that linguists have an advantage when looking for work abroad?

Quite on the contrary, I think people from other professions (for example computer programmers, scientists, doctors) who know foreign languages have much more opportunities for working abroad. But of course, they have to know the language of their new working place very well.

In what can working abroad be an advantage for your career?

It depends on a profession, but in general I think that experience of working abroad shows to the future employer that you're a person who isn't afraid of adapting and learning. In some cases it might also mean that you've got knowledge that just doesn't exist in your country.

What are some of the advantages and what are some of the disadvantages of working abroad?

I live in Luxembourg which is not that different from Ljubljana, so apart from small and mostly unimportant things I can only think of the following.

Advantages:

- learning about new culture (from small things like different eating habits to national history of your host country) broadens your mind;
- you meet people you never would if you stayed at home;
- you become more confident in what you know and what you can do.

Disadvantages:

- your friends and family are far away and if there's something wrong, you can't be there to help them and you have to make an effort to keep in touch with them;
- you're not completely at home neither in your motherland nor in your host country, because in both cases you miss bits of everyday life (national news, latest gossip or pop hit...).

CAREER CHOICE – INTERESTS SHOULD LEAD THE WAY, NOT MONEY!



Jobs in the European Union are well-paid; however, money should by no means be the main motive when choosing a career.

The young supposedly admire jobs that are profitable. Some of them decide for a profession they are not really keen of, but which promises good money. Often they are encouraged by their parents to do so.

When it comes to a career choice, the young person's interests and wishes should lead the way. The payment, on the other side, should be seen as a good and suitable award for their input.

SUCCESS IS A RESULT OF A LOT OF WORK, EFFORT, PERSISTENCE; YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOU WISH FOR

As we mentioned, our country has quality music education. That's why we have many great musicians.

Professional musicians are not paid well in Slovenia, especially if you are a classic musician or if you play jazz.

But it can bring you success and personal satisfaction; with lots of work it can also bring you international reputation and recognition.

One of such musicians is Franci Kosem, a young and perspective trumpeter, who plays in the Slovenian Philharmonic as the first trumpeter. He has also received a Prešeren prize for students.

If you have a goal in front of you and if you do something because you love it, then everything is easier.

*"WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT ONE FEELS THE NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE
UPGRADING"*

Why did you decide for:
- this profession; has *this* always been what you wanted to become?

It was a coincidence;
however, from my first day
at music school this wish
has grown stronger and
stronger.

- the MA studies;

After graduation I realized that this level of
education wasn't enough for me and that I need more
knowledge. The diploma paper simply wasn't enough.

What was your 'path' leading up to this
profession like?

It was full of changes. There were ups and
downs.



The MA studies are surely demanding, aren't they? Have you ever thought of giving up?

Never. While gaining further knowledge, I have never considered giving it up.

The MA studies have to be financed and the sum is not that small. Have you had any considerations because of that?

Not really. I started thinking how to pull it through and in the end, I found some ways and solutions.

Have you ever regretted the fact that you decided for the MA studies?

Never.

Where will the MA title come in handy? Is it worth having it?

There's no use thinking about the titles. What is important is that one feels the need for knowledge upgrading.

**It is worth investing all the effort it takes and making it happen.
The happiness that the wider horizon brings is what matters.**

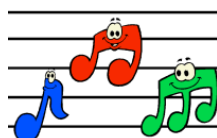
Why do you think (or maybe know) we need to spend so much money for MA studies?

This is simply due to the system in our country which is not fond of financing such studies.

Has there been anything that you had to give up – which you otherwise wouldn't have to?

No, not yet.

Would you make any other choices if you could turn back time?
No, certainly not.



All the investments which help you become what you are – SUCCESS DOESN'T COME SPONTANEOUSLY

The drummer Ratko Divjak is one of the best jazz drummers in the world. For the last 30 years he has been taking part in the European and American jazz scene.

He is a member of the orchestra called Big Band RTV Slovenija.

He has performed with the most significant jazz artists in the world, like Boško Petrović, Duško Gojković, Stjepko Gut, Petar Ugrin (Ugrin – Divjak quintet), Art Farmer, Albert Mangelsdorf, Tony Coy, Gary Burton, Sal Nistico, Ferdinand Powel, Gianni Basso, Richard Davis, Joe Pass, Greentown Jazz Band, etc.

He has played in a number of small and big bands – from Philharmonic to Jazz (also with the famous movie composers).

He has cooperated with conductors like Michael Abene, Herb Pomeroy, Maria Schneider, Jerry van Rooyen, Fritz Pauer, etc.

He has played in the EBU Big band four times.

His discography: more than 30 jazz CD's and LP's, around 3000 different kinds of jazz records, rock, pop, movie music, TV and radio shows, etc.

RATKO DIVJAK - AN INTERVIEW SUMMARY



Ratko Divjak is a 54-year old musician, more specifically a drummer, he has been playing drums for about 37 years, he likes music for music, simple as that.

He puts a lot of work in playing. He thinks that musical schools coordinate young talents but aren't necessary. Even if a musician is very talented it is still important to play a lot and work on music. A professional musician doesn't get a lot of money, so normally musicians have some other jobs besides playing an instrument.

His first junior band was Dinamiti (Dynamites), his second band at his 21 years was Time, they played mostly jazz and rock music and recorded their songs in studios.

If you want to become a professional musician you must work, work and again work and if you know what you want to be and what you want to accomplish and you work hard, you have all the chances to become a professional musician.

He likes both Rock and Jazz music and he has mixed them several times, so he likes jazz and rock the same. He has played with musicians known all over the world, for example Stan Getz.

When playing you must be relaxed and enjoy it - at that time you never think of money or anything else, you just play. All the investments which help you become what you are - success doesn't come spontaneously

His first contact with music was listening to the radio because he did not have a TV or a CD player like we do these days. He learned to play drums as he watched the famous musicians and bands on his friends television.

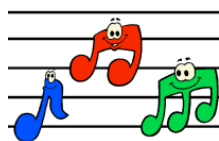
At the beginning, his family did not like him playing an instrument, especially his father. But when they saw him play on television and listened to the music, his father was amazed and proudly said to his friends: ''Oh, look this is my son playing!''

Oh yes and something I almost forgot, he bought his first drums himself, working hard for the money.

This is Ratko Divjak the professional drummer who has very important message for all of us:

All the investments which help you become what you are - success doesn't come spontaneously!

You can see more in a film on a DVD which is added to this booklet.



DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT ARE THE BEST JOBS OF 2008 (world statistics)?

With an increase in demand, professional and service jobs, which include professions like educator, scientist, health care worker and artist in the "professional" category, and police officer, child caretaker and cosmetologist in the "service" category, is also **important** million new jobs to the economy.

By comparison, other categories such as construction, sales and administration, are predicted to grow by only 10 percent; all eight other occupational groups combined will add only about half a million jobs to the economy in 2008.

While new jobs are being created, they don't represent the majority of the open positions workers will see this year. Career switching and baby-boomer retirement will create a higher turnover than ever, which will continue to increase the supply of jobs available.

Whether it's fast growth, industry expansion or comfortable salaries, here are the eight best for jobs seekers in 2008. Some are age-old professions, while others are nascent, but they all have one thing in common: they're here to stay, and they need you to apply.

TEACHER



For workers who have graduate school degrees, the clear leader in job growth -- by a factor of 4 -- is the position of postsecondary teacher. In 2008, roughly 38,000 of these jobs will be created in colleges and universities nationwide. More broadly, education and library jobs will expand by 14 percent over the next 10 years, making them one of the fastest-growing occupational groups amongst the rubric of professional jobs.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE ENGINEER



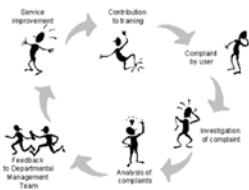
Computer and mathematical science jobs are projected to grow at nearly double the rate of other types of jobs. Even though their growth rate has decreased significantly since the days of the tech boom, good times may be on the horizon once again.

SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES



Social and health service jobs are projected to grow 20 percent year, thanks to the burgeoning population of senior citizens. This year will be the first year that baby boomers can officially claim early retirement, and they're expected to do so in droves. Many boomers will require medical and living assistance well into old age, making related careers in high demand for the foreseeable future.

SUSTAINABILITY EXPERT



Some career experts believe that so-called “green” jobs will proliferate in 2008, shaking up the list of the “fastest growing” jobs. More and more companies are adding dedicated staff to focus their environmental efforts.

PEACE CORPS WORKER



If you’re new to the workforce, you may be one of many looking for jobs outside your country. Students in a variety of fields like business, communications and technology are inquiring about opportunities to work overseas. Because foreign jobs are relatively rare, many students fulfil their wanderlust by going overseas to work in education, often teaching English, or volunteer[ing] with the Peace Corps. When they return, they not only have a life-changing experience to their name, they also have serious team-building and problem-solving cred on their resumes.

NURSE



Financially, the best bet for a new worker is becoming a registered nurse. Like social and health services workers, nurses will benefit from baby boomers in need of care over the ensuing decades.

FRANCHISEE



The best way to find a good job might just be to create your own. There are a lot of workers who don’t want to be employees anymore. What are they doing instead? Lots of folks are trying to escape the desk job format, after becoming wary of new positions that promise little job security. The freedom some workers find with self-employment often allows for more vacation time, less anxiety about the future, and more potential for profit -- even if it means assuming more risk.

VETERINARIANS



As country’s population grows, so does its population of furry companions. One of the fastest growing jobs: veterinarian. With improvements in human medical science, the trickle-down effects brings a new generation of technology to animal care -- meaning more pets are living longer and getting treatment for their ailments. Of the twenty fastest growing jobs, only one, computer software engineer, has a higher median salary.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW ...

THE MOST PERSPECTIVE JOBS IN THE FUTURE

As presented by the web-page MSNBC, top 10 hot jobs of 2012 are the following:

ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCERS AND SELLERS



By 2010, organic food and beverage will represent about 10 percent of the total market. More organic food producers will be needed as organic trend continues in the future.

Salary range: \$50,000 to \$80,000

COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGISTS



The use of maths and computer science in biology is getting more and more important due to the massive quantities of data. In genetics, for instance, that's important, considering one human genome has 20,000 genes.

Salary range: \$106,000 to \$118,000

PARALLEL PROGRAMMERS



By 2012, computers will develop from core duo processors to multi-core processors. One machine will contain as many as 80 processors. Qualifications for parallel programmers: a bachelor's degree, creativity and non-linear thinking.

Salary range: \$79,000 to \$80,000

DATA TECHNOLOGISTS



In 2012, ID chips, video cameras, computers and sensors will generate more information than people will be able to comprehend. Qualifications: experience in virtual environments, imaging and visualization; willingness to learn new tools; communication skills and imagination.

Salary range: \$90,000 to \$102,000

SIMULATION ENGINEERS



By 2012 better computers and data processing will make simulations more realistic. Simulation will be present in every industry and every engineering field. Qualifications: a bachelor's degree in computer science, engineering, math, physics or relevant field.

Salary range: \$91,000 to \$114,000

BOOMER COMPANIONS AND CARETAKERS



Most retiring baby boomers want to remain in their homes for the rest of their lives, according to surveys. To accomplish that, they will need help with different errands and chores.

Salary range: \$23,000 to \$25,000, with free housing in the clients' home (in some cases)

GENETIC COUNSELLING



Genetic counsellors will be needed to help individuals and families make decisions about genetic technologies in terms of personal beliefs.

Qualifications: a master's degree in genetic counselling

Salary range: \$58,000 to \$64,000

BRAIN ANALYSTS



Using more advanced tools, neuroscientists will be able to determine how people feel and react or what they're capable of. Qualifications: a bachelor's degree in neuroscience, experience in health care and social skills.

Salary range: \$180,000 to \$229,000

SPACE TOUR GUIDE



With about 200 reservations already, the company Space Adventures plans on hiring about 10 space tour guides.

Qualifications: a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering or a relevant field.

Salary range: \$80,000 to \$90,000

ROBOT BUILDERS, TENDERS



The components, processors and sensors for robots are getting cheaper every quarter. Robots already work in some research laboratories and factories. With the right idea, you could be a robot millionaire. Qualifications: Experience in computer science, engineering and electronics

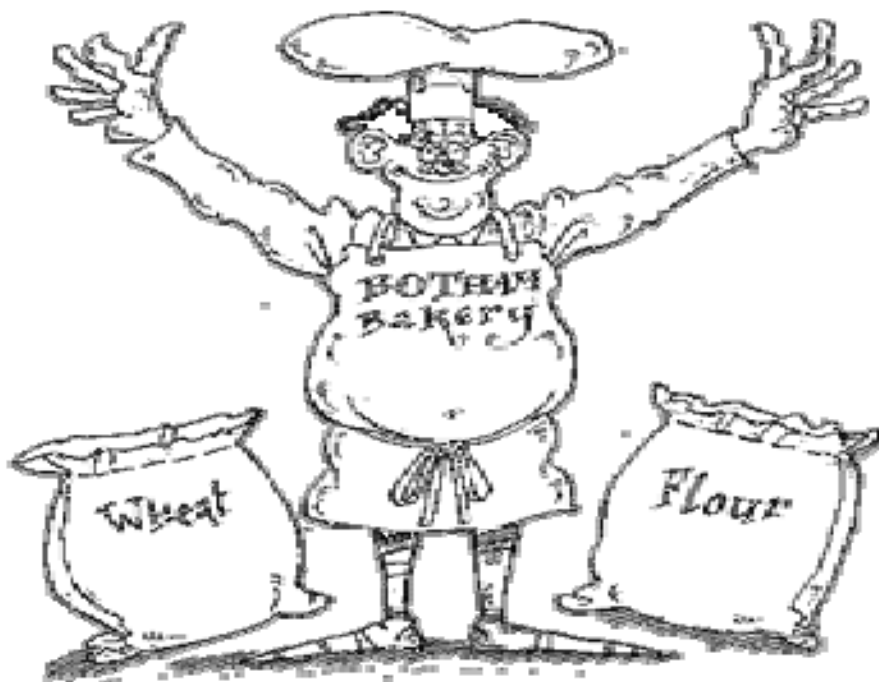
Salary: \$80,000 to \$90,000

INSTEAD OF THE END ...

If you really want to be successful in your job, then you must listen to "your heart". Your motive should be the following: choose a profession which you will do with ease; it should be something that you could do for hours and hours without feeling tired or losing motivation.

Even though your perfect profession might also be many other people's perfect profession, or if the conditions (for example, the salary) are quite poor, you will still experience a long-term satisfaction and success. What's more, you'll stay healthy, which is a basis for tackling stressful situations with optimism and without any problems.

IT IS WORTH TRYING!



When you walk,
Always walk the path till the end, ...
if it's not the first time,
Not the second time that you reach it
Try again and again ...

Tone Pavček, Always to the end