# *Slovenia*

**The national VET system**

According to the Vocational Education Act which regulates this topic Slovenia has several types of education programmes in the vocational and specialised schooling which are aimed at gaining a profession for entering the job market and continuing schooling in programmes of tertiary education (Dular et al., 2011, p. 223; NRP, 2013).

Lower vocational education: generally takes two years and is concluded with the final exam, that is, with a product or service and oral exam. It is intended for education to perform vocation in the following fields: agriculture, cattle breeding, electrical field, glasswork, carpentry. Wood-related work, civil engineering, varnishing, textile, housekeeping-servicing. Passing the final exam also enables further enrolment into a three-four year secondary school.

Secondary vocational education: generally lasts three years and is concluded with a final exam which includes an exam in Slovene and a product or service and oral exam. This education path enables students to perform the following jobs: auto-mechanic, auto body repairman, car painter, body shop mechanic, roofer, wood-maker, mason, carpenter, installing mechanical installations, industrial mechanic, constructional mechanic, tool-maker, seamstress/tailor, butcher, baker, florist, gardener, pastry-maker, confectioner, salesman, painter, stonecutter, etc. A successful final exam enables the students to further enrol into vocational-technical schools.

Technical secondary education generally takes four years and is concluded with vocational matura, which includes an exam from the following courses: Slovenian language, a basic technical and theoretical class, either Math or a foreign language, and a test in practical training for the job in the appropriate field. After completing the technical secondary education students can then receive the title: tourist technician, food and accommodation services, pharmaceutical technician, economic technician, preschool teacher, textile technician. The successful completion of the vocational matura means they have a vocational qualification and the chance to enter the lower cycle of higher education programmes. When taking the vocational matura it is possible to take an additional (general) matura class which enables entry into university programmes.

Vocational technical education: takes two years and enables those who performed the final exam in the secondary vocational education to acquire a secondary technical education. It is concluded with the vocational matura which equals finishing a technical secondary education.

Vocational course: takes a year and is aimed at acquiring vocational matura, and primarily functions as retraining to acquire a vocation.

VET programmes consist of theory and practice. Experts from this field claim that not enough time is given to practical training. Vocational education programmes are more practice oriented (24 weeks of practice) then technical secondary education programmes are (4 weeks of practice).