

Education system

# Slovenia

described and compared with  
the Dutch system

This document contains information on the education system of Slovenia. We explain the Dutch equivalent of the most common qualifications from Slovenia for the purpose of admission to Dutch higher education.

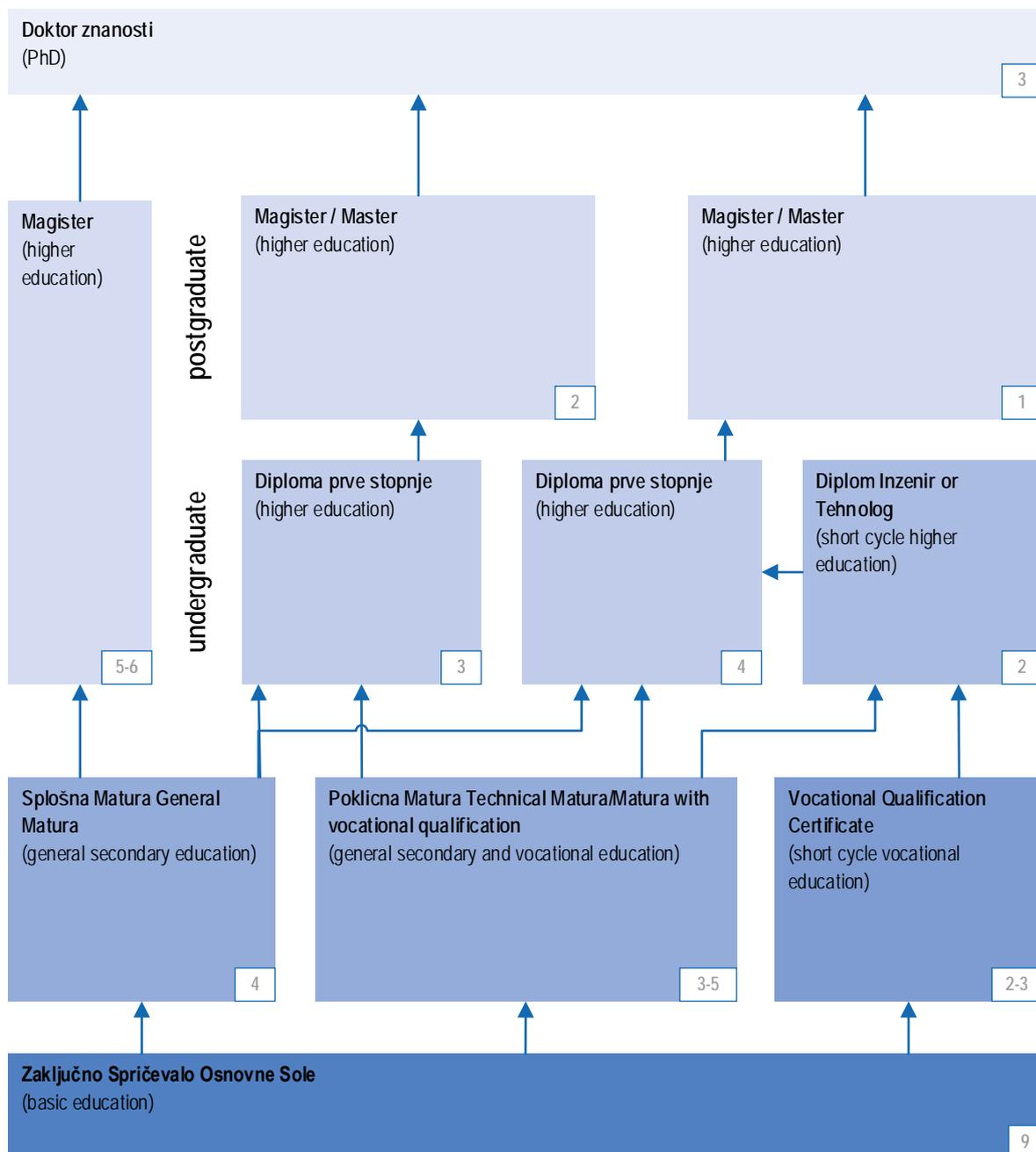
### Disclaimer

We assemble the information for these descriptions of education systems with the greatest care. However, we cannot be held responsible for the consequences of errors or incomplete information in this document.



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## Education system Slovenia



 Duration of education

## Evaluation chart

The left-hand column in the table below lists the most common foreign qualifications applicable to admission to higher education. The other columns show the Dutch equivalent along with the comparable levels in the Dutch and European qualifications frameworks.

Degree or qualification	Dutch equivalent and NLOF level	EQF level
<i>Poklicna Matura</i> (Vocational Matriculation Certificate)	HAVO diploma for its general education component	4
<i>Splošna Matura</i> (General Matriculation Certificate)	VWO diploma	4+
<i>Diplom</i> with professional qualification or <i>inženir</i> or <i>tehnolog</i> ( <i>visje strokovne skole</i> - 2 years)	2 years of HBO or AD	5
<i>Diploma prve stopnje</i> (first-cycle diploma)	HBO or WO bachelor's degree	6
<i>Diploma druge stopnje</i> (second-cycle diploma) - <i>Magister / Master</i>	HBO or WO master's degree	7

### NB

- The information provided in the table is a general advice from which no rights may be derived.
- NLOF = Netherlands Qualifications Framework. EQF = European Qualifications Framework.
- The EQF/[NLOF level](#) is not so much a reflection of study load or content; rather, it is an indication of a person's knowledge and skills after having completed a certain programme of study.
- Information about Dutch equivalent qualifications can be found on our website: [the Dutch education system](#).
- [The Cooperation Organisation for Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market \(SBB\)](#), evaluates statements on foreign qualifications and training at VMBO and MBO level. The evaluation may vary if SBB evaluates the diploma for admission to VET schools or the labour market in the Netherlands.

## ■ Introduction

**Slovenia, officially the Republic of Slovenia (*Republika Slovenija*), was one of the ex-republics of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY). In 1991 Slovenia became independent, joining the European union on 1 May 2004.**

The country is bordered by Austria to the north, Italy and the Adriatic Sea to the west, Croatia to the south and east and Hungary to the north-east.

Slovenia's official language is Slovenian. The language is spoken by around 2.2 million people both within the country and elsewhere. Slovenia's population totals approximately 2 million, and its area is roughly half the size of the Netherlands.

In Slovenia the *Ministrstvo za izobraževanje, znanost in šport* (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) is responsible for primary and secondary education. Within this ministry, the *Direktorat za visoko šolstvo* is responsible for higher education.

The higher education system is partly binary, with a first cycle for academic programmes and professionally-oriented programmes, a second cycle for the programmes conferring the title of *magister* and a third cycle for doctorate programmes.

The official language of higher education is Slovenian. Some programmes may be offered in English.

The academic year runs from October to July (in primary lower secondary schools, from September to June). Compulsory education in Slovenia lasts 9 years, for children aged 6-14.

## ■ Primary and secondary education

### **Primary education and lower secondary education**

Primary and lower secondary education is provided in a single structure, basic education. Basic education is divided into three cycles, each lasting 3 years each. During the first cycle (children aged 6-8), all education is provided by generalist teachers. The second cycle (children aged 9-11) also includes some subject specialist teachers, and the third cycle (children aged 12-14) uses subject specialist teachers almost exclusively. External, national exams are compulsory for all pupils at the end of the second and at the end of the third cycle. Exams are compulsory for three subjects: the native language, mathematics and a third compulsory subject annually determined by the ministry. At the end of basic education pupils receive the final certificate - *Zaključno spričevalo osnovne šole* (Final certificate of elementary school).

Pupils who do not pass, receive a confirmation that they have completed compulsory years of education (9 years) and may continue on to short-term vocational programmes on the bases of the *Potrdilo o izpolnjeni osnovnošolski obveznosti* (Certificate of elementary education).

### Upper secondary education

There are two types of upper-secondary education: general and vocational.

#### General upper secondary

General secondary education is provided at *gimnazija* for pupils aged 15-18, and is intended as preparation for higher education. *Gimnazija* may vary in the type of general education they offer, allowing a distinction between various profiles. Classical *gimnazija* set Latin (and Greek) as compulsory core subjects; technical *gimnazija* may offer subjects such as biotechnology, electronics, mechanical engineering and computer science. Other *gimnazija* also exist, such as economics *gimnazija* (*strokovna gimnazija*) and art *gimnazija* (*umetniška gimnazija*). At the end, students complete national exams (*matura*), granting them entry to any form of higher education.

At *gimnazija*, the *matura* exams are offered in June (spring term) and in September (autumn term) and thus held each semester and include five compulsory subjects: Slovenian/ Hungarian/ Italian, mathematics and a foreign language, plus two subjects to be chosen from a series of subjects approved by the ministry.

The [National Examinations Centre](#) organises and administrates activities regarding *Matura* examinations.

In terms of level, the *Splošna Matura* (Matriculation Certificate) is comparable to a VWO diploma.

#### Vocational upper secondary

Vocational upper secondary education prepares pupils both for a career and for further study. Programmes are divided into seven categories that vary in title, duration, admission requirements and the various options for further study. In general, a distinction is drawn between:

Vocational upper secondary education programmes lead to a professional qualification and/or a vocational (*poklicna*) *matura* lasting 3 years, with a final exam. Pupils may leave school with a professional title but without a *matura* and then - after 3 years of professional practise - re-enter programmes to gain the *poklicna matura* or may obtain their professional qualification together with the *poklicna matura* after 4 of 5 years in upper secondary.

Examinations are taken in four subjects: Slovenian/ Hungarian/ Italian, a technical subject, mathematics or a foreign language, and one elective.

The *Poklicna Matura* enables candidates to continue studies in higher vocational colleges and other higher education colleges without any additional requirements, but for access to university studies an exam in an extra subject is required to gain the *Splošna Matura* and general university entrance.

The *Poklicna Matura* (Vocational Matriculation Certificate) is comparable to a HAVO diploma for its general education component.

## ■ Admission to higher education

The general admission requirement for higher education is the *splošna* (general) *matura*. The *poklicna* (vocational) *matura* is primarily intended to grant admission to short-cycle higher vocational programmes and higher education professionally oriented study programmes. Students holding the *poklicna matura* may acquire the *splošni matura* by having an exam in an extra *matura* subject and thus gain general entrance into university careers as well.

In both cases, in addition to the *matura* results, institutions may also consider the student's school exam results when deciding whether to grant admission. Entrance exams are also administered for programmes requiring specialist knowledge or talent in a certain field that may play a decisive role in deciding whether to admit the student

## ■ Higher education

In Slovenia, higher education is provided through a unitary system. There are short, higher professional education programmes, first-cycle programmes (both higher professional and academic education) equivalent to a bachelor's programme, second-cycle (graduate) programmes equivalent to a master's programme (higher professional and academic education), and lastly PhD programmes.

In the 2009 / 2010 academic year, around sixty institutions offered short-cycle higher vocational education programmes. Thirty of these institutions are public, two are partially funded by the government, and the remainder are private or independent.

There are also three public universities, two private universities and 26 higher education institutions with specific specialisations, twelve of which receive funding from the government. All higher education institutions, both public and private, must be accredited in order to confer degrees.

## ■ University and higher professional education

### Diploma programmes

Short cycle higher vocational education programmes has existed in Slovenia since 1996, and provides education intended to develop students' professional skills. The programmes for these diplomas and associated professional qualifications usually last 2 years (120 ECTS). Institutions that offer these programmes are generally referred to as *višje strokovne šole* (professional universities of applied sciences).

The admission requirement is usually a *poklicna* or general *matura*. These programmes involve a relatively large amount of on-site practical training, in workshops or factories. Programmes are offered in numerous fields, such as technology, photography, geo-technology, building and construction, computer science, woodworking, telecommunications, social work, nutrition and horticulture.

The diploma awarded includes a professional qualification, which is stated on the diploma itself. In addition to this professional qualification, the title *inženir* or *tehnolog* is also conferred.

In terms of level, the *Diplom* and the associated professional qualifications of *inženir* and *tehnolog* are comparable to 2 years of higher professional education (HBO) in a similar discipline, or to an Associate Degree.

### Bachelor's programmes

Programmes at bachelor's level are referred to as 'first-cycle' degrees: *diploma prve stopnje*. The issued diplomas are often called *Diploma o pridobljeni univerzitetni izobrazbi* (Diploma of university education), and usually take 3 to 4 years to complete (180-240 ECTS). Upon successful completion of their programme, students receive a *Diploma* stating the specialisation as well as the associated professional title. There are various professional titles, the most common of which are: *Univerzitetni diplomirani (univ dipl.)*, *Univerzitetni diplomirani inženir (univ dipl inz)*, *Profesor (prof, or lecturer)*. The *Diploma prve stopnje* qualifies for professional practice at higher professional level, or for admission to master's programmes.

In terms of level, the *Diploma prve stopnje* is comparable to an HBO or WO bachelor's degree, depending on the duration and specialisation of the programme.

## Master's programmes

Admission to master's programmes usually requires a relevant first-cycle (undergraduate) degree. The master's programmes themselves take either 1 to 2 years (60 or 120 ECTS), depending on the duration of the preceding undergraduate programme. Five years of study are therefore required to obtain a master's degree (i.e. 3+2 or 4+1), which always concludes with a master's thesis. Several integral master's programmes also still exist for professions that are regulated at a European level (for example medical doctors). A general or technical *matura* is required for entry into these programmes. They have a nominal duration of 5 to 6 years, lead to the title of *Magister* and also grant access to PhD programmes.

The title bestowed is that of *Magister znanosti* (Master of Science) or *Magister umetnost* (Master of Arts). Master's programmes prepare students for entry into either a profession or a PhD programme.

In terms of level, the *Diploma druge stopnje - Magister/Master* is comparable to an HBO or WO master's degree, depending on the duration and specialisation of the programme.

## Doctoral programmes

Access to doctoral programmes awarding the title of *Doktor znanosti* requires a second cycle degree (*Magister* degree), or a pre-bologna undergraduate degree lasting 4 to 6 years and a high GPA. The specific requirements are determined by the individual institution. Programmes awarding the title of *Doktor znanosti* must be at least 3 years in duration, and the title is bestowed upon submission and defence of a doctoral thesis.

## ■ Assessment systems

Secondary (primary from 3 grade on and upper secondary) education use the national number system from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), where 2 is the minimum passing grade and 1 constitutes failure.

Numerical grade	Description	Definition
5	<i>odlično</i>	Excellent
4	<i>prav dobro:</i>	Very good
3	<i>dobro</i>	Good
2	<i>zadostno:</i>	Satisfactory
1	<i>nezadostno:</i>	Unsatisfactory

The first and second grade in primary/basic education use the descriptive system (since 2013/2014),

Nowadays, higher education usually employs a number system from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest), where 6 is the minimum passing grade and 1-5 all constitute failure.

Numerical grade	Description	Definition
10	<i>odlično: izjemni rezultati z zanemarljivimi napakami</i>	Excellent: outstanding results, with only a limited number of errors
9	<i>prav dobro: nadpovprečno znanje, vendar z nekaj napakami</i>	Very good: above average, but with some errors
8	<i>prav dobro: solidni rezultati</i>	Very good: solid results
7	<i>zadostno: znanje ustreza minimalnim kriterijem</i>	Good: a good understanding, but with gaps
6	<i>zadostno: znanje ustreza minimalnim kriterijem</i>	Satisfactory: understanding satisfies the minimum criteria
5-1	<i>nezadostno: znanje ne ustreza minimalnim kriterijem</i>	Unsatisfactory: understanding does not satisfy the minimum requirements

For all study programmes accredited after April 2004, course credits are calculated according to the ECTS system, where 60 ECTS is equal to one full year of study.

More information on ECTS is available in the [ECTS User's Guide](#) issued by the European Commission.

## ■ Bologna Process

Slovenia signed the Bologna declaration in 1999. The Bologna structure of higher education has been implemented gradually. The final cohort of students from the old pre-Bologna system began in 2009 / 2010, and will finish their studies no later than 2015 / 2016. From then on, only the Bologna structure will be in place: an initial degree of 3 to 4 years, a second degree of 1 to 2 years (a master's) and a third stage lasting 3 years to earn the title of *Doktor znanosti*.

More information is available from the [website](#) of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

## ■ Qualification frameworks

The Slovenian Institute for Vocational Education and Training (CPI) has been designated as the National Coordination Point (NCP) for the European Qualifications Framework in Slovenia. Efforts have been underway since 2007 to produce a Slovenian Qualifications Framework (SQF, in Slovenian language: SOK). In 2011, a working group submitted a proposal to the Steering Committee Group on the Preparation of the National Qualifications Framework.

A legislation on SQF is in preparation.

More information on the development of the Slovenian Qualification Framework can be found on the SQF [website](#).

## ■ Quality assurance and accreditation

Slovenia has the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (*Nacionalna agencija RS za kakovost v visokem solstvu*, or NAKVIS). NAKVIS performs activities in higher education related to accreditation and quality assurance. All changes to study programmes at Slovenian universities must be approved by the governing board of this institute, whose members are appointed by the Slovenian government, the Conference of Rectors, higher education unions and other higher education organisations.

Since 2013 NAKVIS is registered at the European Quality Assurance Agencies EQAR. More information is available from the NAKVIS [website](#).

All higher education institutions (both public and private) must be accredited in order to confer degrees. An overview of accredited institutions is available below, under [Overview of higher education institutions](#).

## ■ International treaties

Slovenia signed the Lisbon Convention on 11 April 1997 and ratified it on 21 July 1999.

## ■ Diploma Supplement

As part of the implementation of the Bologna process, a model of the Diploma Supplement in accordance with European standards has been implemented. More information on the Diploma Supplement is available on the European Commission [website](#).

The latest information on the Diploma Supplement (in the Slovenian language) is available [here](#).

## ■ Composition of file

Secondary education diplomas usually consist of multiple pages, i.e. school reports (*Letno spričevalo*) from each year of upper secondary education are usually submitted, along with a final certificate as well as a list of marks obtained as follows:

- in upper secondary vocational education:  
*Spričevalo o zaključnem izpitu* with *Obvestilo o uspehu pri zaključnem izpitu*
- in upper secondary technical education:  
*Spričevalo o poklicni mature* with *Obvestilo o uspehu pri poklicni mature*
- in upper secondary general education:  
*Spričevalo o splošni maturi* with *Obvestilo o uspehu pri splošni maturi*.

Upon completion of a higher education programme, a diploma and diploma supplement (*Priloga k diploma*) with a grade list and/or transcript are issued. A diploma supplement is a part of each higher education diploma.

## ■ Overview of higher education institutions

[Website](#) of the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport offers an overview of accredited higher education institutions

Also see: [List of accredited Slovenian higher education institutions, April 2017 \(xlsx\)](#).

## ■ Useful links

- [Website](#) of the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, also the Slovenian [ENIC/NARIC](#).
- [Website](#) of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency (NAKVIS).
- A general [introduction](#) into the legislation on professional recognition by the Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

## ■ Splošni Matura (general Matura)

  
 REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA

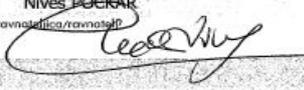
Šolski center Ljubljana, Gimnazija Antona Askerca  
 Ljubljana, Aškerčeva 1  
ime in sedež šole

**S**pričevalo  
 o splošni maturi

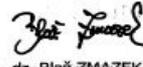
ime in priimek \_\_\_\_\_  
datum rojstva \_\_\_\_\_ Ljubljana Republika Slovenija  
kraj rojstva država rojstva

**je opravil -a splošno maturo.**  
 S tem je pridobil -a srednjo izobrazbo.

številka spričevala \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ljubljana, 16. 9. 2011  
kraj in datum

Nives POČKAR  
ravnateljica/ravnatelj  




  
 dr. Blaž ZMAZEK  
predsednica/predsednik Državne komisije za splošno maturo

DZS-27232-III-11-1.38 SŠ-SSM-10

## ■ Splošni Matura (general Matura) – transcript Matura exam



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA

DRŽAVNI IZPITNI CENTER

# Obvestilo

o uspehu pri splošni maturi

ime in priimek \_\_\_\_\_

datum rojstva \_\_\_\_\_ kraj rojstva **Ljubljana** država rojstva **Republika Slovenija**

je opravil/a izpite iz predmetov splošne mature.

**Dosegel -la je uspeh:**

predmet	ocena	točka
SLOVENSČINA	zadostno (2)	2
MATEMATIKA	zadostno (2)	2
ANGLEŠČINA (V)	prav dobro (4)	6
SOCIOLOGIJA	dobro (3)	3
UMETNOSTNA ZGODOVINA	dobro (3)	3
/	/	/

**splošni uspeh** > **16**

številka obvestila o uspehu \_\_\_\_\_

Ljubljana, 16. 9. 2011  
kraj in datum



številka spričavala \_\_\_\_\_

**Dr. Darko ZUPANC,**  
direktorica/direktor Državnega izpitnega centra

025-27234 (IV) / 1-138 5

SŠ-OSM-10

## Splošni Matura (general Matura) – transcript 4th year

REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA

Šolski center Ljubljana, Gimnazija Antona Aškercia  
Aškerčeva cesta 1, 1000 Ljubljana

ime in sedež šole

# Letno spričevalo

ime in priimek

datum rojstva

Ljubljana  
kraj rojstva

Slovenija  
država rojstva

je v šolskem letu 2010/11 obiskoval -a 4. letnik izobraževalnega programa

Gimnazija  
vrsta in ime izobraževalnega programa

naziv poklica/strokovne izobrazbe

**Dosegel -la je uspeh:**

Slovenscina	zadostno (2)
Matematika	zadostno (2)
Angleščina	prav dobro (4)
Nemščina	zadostno (2)
Zgodovina	dobro (3)
Sportna vzgoja	prav dobro (4)
Filozofija	prav dobro (4)
Umetnostna zgodovina	zadostno (2)
Sociologija	dobro (3)
Obvezne izbirne vsebine	opravi-l-a
/	/
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splošni uspeh  
} dober

številka spričevala

Ljubljana, 7. 7. 2011  
kraj in datum

Danijel Mlakar  
razpisateljica/razpisatelj

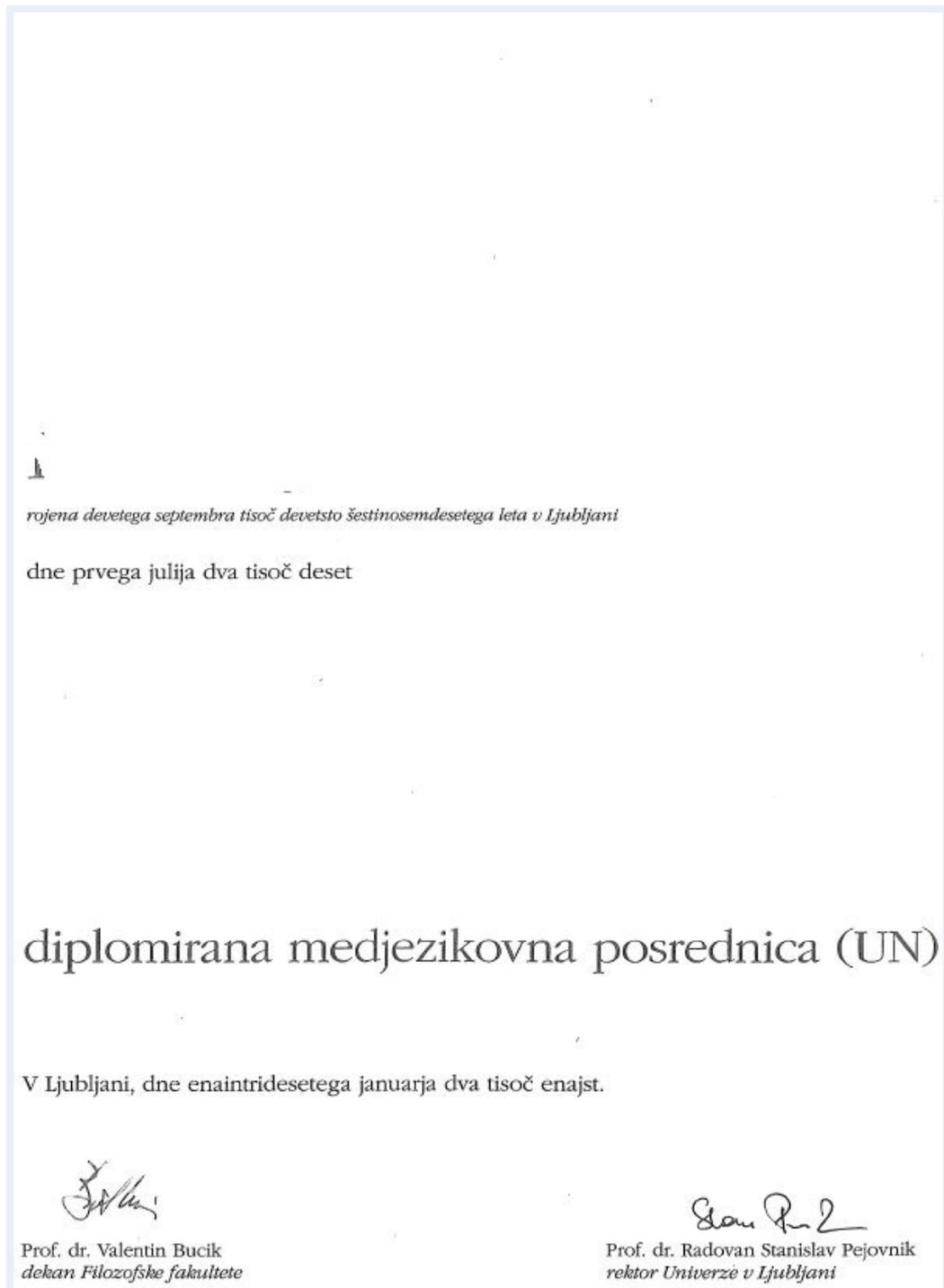
Andreja Kotnik Trčak  
ravnateljica/ravnatelj

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SS-15-10



■ **Diploma prve stopnje (page 1)**



■ *Diploma prve stopnje (page 2)*

