This chapter provides a thematic and chronological overview of national reforms and policy developments. It lays out the on-going reforms and policy developments related to:

- early childhood education and care [1]
- school education [2]
- vocational education and training and adult learning [3]
- higher education [4], and
- transversal skills and employability [5].

In this chapter, we also depict the European perspective [6].

**Overall national education strategy and key objectives**

The continuous development of the system of education in the Republic of Slovenia is specified in national programmes and other documents related to one or several levels or fields of education:

- In December 2019, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the National Strategy for the Development of Reading Literacy 2019–2030 (doc, sl [7]).

The new strategy's focus is on the reading literacy as the cornerstone of other literacies. An important part is the reading culture that embraces reading as a value in itself, and highlights the significance of the reading motivation.

The aim of the strategy is for each and everyone in Slovenia to develop the level of literacy needed for them to become skilled at active life and work. The development of reading literacy is the foundation for economic progress, sustainable development, and social cohesion. Furthermore, continuous development of reading literacy at all ages is a prerequisite of lifelong learning. The strategy includes a framework of specific goals for different age/target groups, and descriptors of reading literacy levels per age group.

The new strategy sets ambitious quantitative targets to achieve by 2030:
- at least 90% of 15-year olds, at the end of basic education, have attained the basic level of literacy as calculated by PISA, and
- at least 10% of them have attained the highest levels of reading literacy, the levels 5 and 6.

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is responsible for the implementation of the strategy. It will appoint the National Reading Literacy Council. Among other, the Council will monitor the implementation of the strategy, as specified with the action plan. All relevant ministries, in cooperation with the Government, will allocate funds for the implementation, namely for activities...
proposed by the National Reading Literacy Council.


- The Resolution on **National Higher Education Programme** for 2011–2020 (NHEP) (.pdf, [9]en [9]) was adopted in 2011 and it introduced, in particular, the policy of **structuring** the studies, and binary options and **diversification** of higher education institutions, changes to the **funding** of higher education in view of the institutions and a student, redefinition of the **part-time study**, focus on **quality, accessibility** to higher education, and development of the **internationalisation** of the Slovenian higher education. To realise separate goals, one plans to introduce further changes and amendments to the programme.

- The **Adult Education Master Plan 2013-2020** (sl [10]) as of 2013 is a strategic developmental document with which Slovenia expressed the public interest and defined the national policy in adult education and training. At the same time, the plan provides the **basis** for tangible **planning** at the level of the state with annual programmes of adult education. It supports the **systematic regulation** of the field, helps to identify priorities and content related activities for the development of adult education, as well as to allocate public funds (state and ESF) by ministries that participate in joint planning.

The vision of the National Master Plan for Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia is to provide all adults with equal opportunities for quality education at all stages of life.

In spring 2019, the Minister of education call out to other ministries, social partners, local communities, and other stakeholders to join the collaboration; it started the process of development the new national programme of adult education for the period of 2021 until 2030. Slovenia implemented the recommendation of the 2nd phase of OECD **Skills strategy** [11][2018]. By summer, different actors at different stages held professional and other meetings and discussions: professional consultation about new concept of basic school for adults (sl [12]).

In terms of further development of education in the Republic of Slovenia, the following **strategic documents** are of significance, too:

- Resolution on National **Research and Development** Programme 2011–2020 (.pdf, en [13])
- National Programme for **Youth** 2013–2022 (sl [14])
- National Programme of **Sport** in the Republic of Slovenia 2014-2023 (sl [15]), as well as
- Resolution on the National Programme of **Nutrition and Physical Activity for Health** 2015–2025 (sl [16]), and
- Resolution on the national programme for **equal opportunities** for women and men, 2015–2020 (sl [17]).

In January 2019, the **Ministry of Culture** [18] of the Republic of Slovenia put forward for public discussion the draft new Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2019–2023 (sl [19]) to replace the previous programme that ended with 2018.

In December 2017, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 (sl [20]), It is the new long-term national development framework. Its primary objective is to ensure quality of life for all (“Slovenia, a country with high quality of life for all”). Future development of Slovenia rests on five strategic guidelines and twelve related goals. The strategy rests on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations as well, and so Slovenia
attached the significance to sustainable and inclusive future in which the society as a whole can flourish.

In November 2015, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015-2020 (sl). [http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO108](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO108)

Each coalition that constitutes the Slovenian Government in the co-operation agreement highlights also programme priorities related to education.

In January 2020, Mr Majan Šarec resigned as the prime minister of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

The caretaker government pursued current business until the new Government was formed on 13 March 2020. It is led by Mr Janez Janša.

Dr. Simona Kustec was appointed the new Minister of education, science and sport.

The coalition government: Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS), Modern Centre Party (SMC), New Slovenia - Christian Democrats (NSi) and Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia (DeSUS) signed the coalition agreement.

The parties gave the covenant on measures planned for the education system from 2020 to 2022.

The measures include:

- promote excellence and international openness of the higher education system;
- set up a dual system in upper secondary and short cycle higher vocational education, as well as advance the system of apprenticeship;
- introduce the entrepreneurial background and ethics combined with basics of financial literacy;
- improve the system of SEN children placement; renewal of the extended programme at the level of basic and upper secondary education (promotion of active life);
- release information about employability of graduates;
- improve the role of the national institutions in education;
- reintroduce free kindergarten for the second and all subsequent children attending kindergarten at the same time; as well as incentives to enrol in kindergarten and/or enrol in kindergarten at least in the year before starting school;
- set up the new regime of state scholarships, and introduce the universal child benefit.

According to the Ordinance on the temporary prohibition of assembly in educational institutions and universities, as well as independent higher education institutions ([si](https://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO108)), all kindergartens, schools, most of institutions of education for SEN children, all adult education organisations, universities, and independent higher education institutions, residential halls for basic school, upper secondary school or higher education students, and music schools closed their doors and have remained closed since 16 March 2020. Education is provided in the form of distance learning.
Overview of the education reform process and drivers

In the Republic of Slovenia, the **Government** of the Republic of Slovenia as the executive authority and top body of public administration develops legislation and other instruments with statutory authority, national programmes and other common documents that specify the principle and long-term political guidelines for specific areas (or individual members of the parliament, the National council of the Republic of Slovenia or a group of at least five thousand members of electorate). The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia has the authority to adopt or pass those draft instruments.

The **National Assembly** is the highest representative and legislative authority of the Republic of Slovenia. Its carries out the legislative function under which deputies adopt the most important national legislation. Laws are passed in a legislative procedure of several phases: from submitting draft law through tabling amendments to voting on the enactment or rejection, promulgating the law by the President of the Republic of Slovenia to publishing it in the official gazette.

The National Assembly has the authority to adopt new legislation that specify anew separate social areas or it may pass new laws to amend the social relation already established under law. The legislative procedure is regulated by the **Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia** (en [22]) and the **Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly** (sl [23]).

The instruments enacted by the executive branch of government (Government, ministers) include decrees, ordinances, rules, orders, and instructions.

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