

PROJECT CAR CAREERS

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National report: National Qualifications Framework in Slovenia

Andrej Vukovič

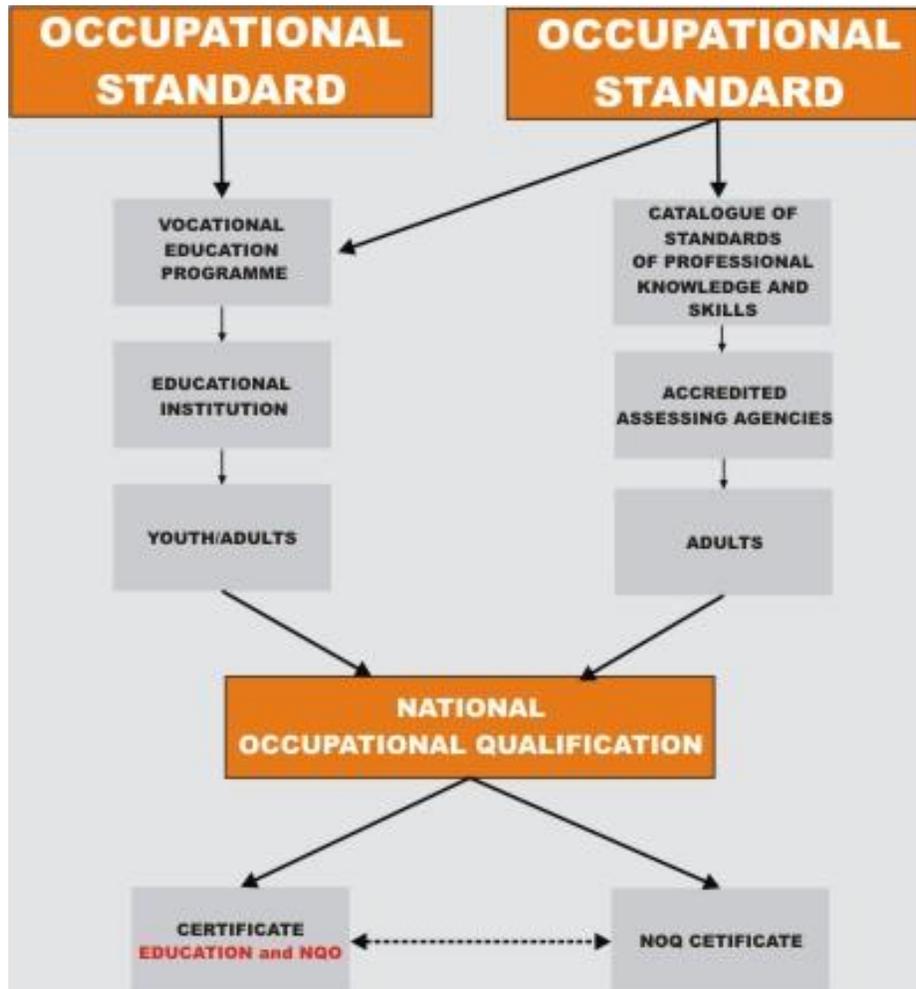
Center of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training

1. The National Qualifications Framework in Slovenia

The Slovenian system of qualifications consists of three sub-systems:

- qualifications obtained through educational programmes at the *formal education levels*, which end with the gaining of a certificate, diploma or other evidence of publicly recognised education;
- a certification system of national vocational qualifications (NVQ), which enables the gaining of working vocational or professional training and recognition of non-formal knowledge with a publicly recognised document;
- further and supplementary education, by which an individual deepens knowledge and develops competences for life, work, mobility and career promotion and by which she or he obtains certification which may be a condition for employment or for continuing to perform work.

The National Professional Qualification (NPQ)



The National Professional Qualification is a formally recognized competence required for practicing the occupation on the basis of the National Occupational Standard. In Slovenia, the National Professional Qualification can be acquired in the following ways:

- By completing the vocational or professional education programmes or completing modules as part of the educational programme; OR
- By assessment and accreditation of the NOQ Educational programmes are drawn up and implemented in accordance with the Vocational and Professional Education Act (1996) falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Sport in cooperation with the social partners. The Educational programme defines the path towards the acquisition of National Occupational Qualifications.

Educational programmes are drawn up and implemented in accordance with the Vocational and Professional Education Act (1996) falling within the sphere of responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Sport in cooperation with the social partners. The educational programme tentatively defines the path towards the acquisition of NOQ (subjects, number of lessons, theory-practice ratio, implementation regulations and standards). The main stress is increasingly shifting towards learning achievements that are tested by way of a final examination or a secondary vocational school leaving examination (*poklicna matura*).

The traditionally established school path leading to the acquisition of occupational qualifications is intended for the youth, but also for the adults. School certificates, however, are losing the role of the only guarantee that confirms the occupational competence of its holder. Certification models are being developed throughout Europe, above all as assessment and accreditation systems of informally acquired knowledge. While looking for methods to measure competence, the focus is increasingly moving towards the ability to mobilize knowledge, skills, habits and actions in order to perform work tasks in various circumstances.

In Slovenia the focus is shifting towards learning achievements, tested through final examination (school leaving examination) or vocational baccalaureate (Matura). Competence is measured by the ability to mobilise knowledge, skills, attitudes and actions in order to perform work tasks in a number of circumstances.

Professional qualification is vocational or specialised for training managing specific professions or individual tasks within the profession on a determined required level. The NPQ includes further (continuing) education based on labour market demands and the concept of life-long learning.

National Professional Qualification Act (NPQ Act)

Professional qualification is proven with:

- direct assessment of expert knowledge, skills and competences defined in the catalogue,
- based on certificates from education programmes or other (certification).

The assessment and verification of national professional qualifications is carried out by the committees at the appointed institution/organisation for the assessment and verification.

The assessment and verification (certification) of NPQ is for adults only. Minimum age stands with 18 years. The exception for prior trial is possible, if candidate's apprenticeship or studentship expire and has relevant work experiences.

The national professional qualification is obtainable:

- Through the attainable vocational education and training of all the professions based on vocational standards, and in accordance with education programme,
- By education programme modules for acquiring the vocational or professional education,
- By vocational and professional education/training if so stated,
- By education programme modules for acquiring the higher education or further study programme (training),
- When achieving skills and knowledge, stipulated with the catalogue, and in accordance with law.

1.3. Instruments for the certification

There are different methods and ways of certifying knowledge and skills and they depend on educational programme in initial VET.

In vocational schools we know two types of assessment of knowledge that gives a school leaving certificate. In three year schools we have a final exam and in four year schools we have a so called professional ***matura*** which is in one part external.

1.4. NPQ and the Automotive sector

There are five (5) approved, verified standards in the field, as well as five (5) catalogues, which represent the framework for certification of NPQ's in Automotive Sector.

The occupational standard for Engineer in Car Mechatronics is currently in preparation. It will enable education on post secondary vocational schools (1st bologna degree). In accordance with the Slovenian legislation the occupational standard will enable the individuals to acquire the title Engineer in Car Mechatronics also by certification of individual modules of the educational programme.

KLASIUS¹	Qualification	Program of study (name of the course)	Type of education	EQF
3	NPQ (career path) ²	TYRE REPAIRER	National Professional Qualification ³	2
4	School leaving certificate	CAR MECHATRONIC	Secondary vocational education	3
		VEHICLE BODY REPAIRER		3
5		TECHNICIAN FOR CAR MECHATRONICS	Vocational Technical Education	4
		TECHNICIAN FOR CAR MECHATRONICS	Technical Secondary Education	4
6/1	Higher VET diploma	INGENEER IN CAR MECHATRONICS (in development)	Higher vocational education	5

¹ Klasius represent classification (≠ qualification) system of education and training, which is one of the formal bases for building NQF.

² Considering that National Professional Qualification is classified as a vocational qualification (pretentiousness of work).

³ The assessment and verification of NPQ is carried out by the committees at the appointed institution/organisation for the assessment and verification. The assessment and verification (certification) of NPQ is for adults only. Minimum age stands with 18 years. The exception for prior trial is possible, if candidate's apprenticeship or studentship expire and has relevant work experiences.

1. Assessment and recognition of non-formal and informal learning in Slovenia

Existing legislative concerning certification system and recognition of non-formal and informal acquired knowledge

In the following paragraph the key foundations are listed for the certification system and the implementation of the system for recognition of non-formally and informally acquired knowledge.

- National Professional Qualifications Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, 81/2000, 83/2003, 118/2006, 1/2007)
- Rules on Method and Procedure for the Assessment and Award of National Professional Qualifications (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 13/2001, 97/2003, 108/2004)
- Rules on Composition of the Commissions for the Assessment and Accreditation of National Professional Qualifications and on Method and Procedure to Grant and Withdraw the Licence (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 13/2001, 97/2003, 108/2004, 18/2005)
- Rules on Keeping the Register of Providers of Procedure for Assessment and Awarding of National Professional Qualifications (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 26/2001, 77/2003, 107/2005)
- Rules on the Certification Examination for Inspectors of National Vocational Qualifications (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 16/2002)
- Order on the Public Document Form Concerning National Vocational Qualification – Certificate (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 97/2003)
- Order Setting up the Training Programme for the Assessment and Award of Vocational Qualifications (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 16/2002)
- Act Regulating the Recognition Procedure for Qualifications of Citizens of EU Member States relating to Access to Regulated Professions and Professional Activities in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 21/2002)

The term “procedure of NVQ assessment and recognition” was introduced in Slovenia with the amended National Professional Qualifications Act in 2000. The Act enables for the people with work experience, but without publicly recognized certificates to undertake assessment and recognition procedures, thus acquiring a publicly valid document that testifies to their ability to practice an occupation. The assessment procedure focuses on the knowledge and skills directly pertaining to the occupation or vocational qualification defined by the national standard.

Recognition of non-formal learning in the school system is made possible by the Vocational and Technical Education Act (2006), while more detailed instructions on recognition are being prepared within the Rules on Accreditation in VET.

There are currently no active commissions for assessment and recognition of non-formally and informally acquired knowledge in the field of automotive industry.

3. Higher education in the field of automotive industry:

3.1 The Educational programme Engineer in Car Mechatronics is currently being prepared by a consortium of post secondary vocational schools and the Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia. It will be initiated as an educational programme on 1st bologna degree (short cycle) and implemented by post secondary vocational schools.

3.2 In automotive industry and car repair activities the most frequent vocation/profession is the mechanical Engineer which is acquired with successful graduation on the Faculty of mechanical engineering.

What are the qualifications of a mechanical engineer?

- Development and research of new technologies and processes.
- Development and design of equipment, mechanisms, engines and systems.
- Development and design of products and single component elements.
Planning the technology in mechanical, electrical and similar industries as well as in other fields of industry.
- Testing materials as well as engine and mechanism components.
- Metrology (methods of measuring limits, fits and tolerances).
- Development and manufacture of automatised systems for every industrial line.

- Development and planning of systems and tools for work and transport.
- Development and planning of mechanisms, engines and systems for power and process industry.
- Software activities in mechanical engineering and other areas of industry.

How is mechanical engineering linked with other studies?

The robots, which are nowadays integrated in various production processes and systems, have to be designed in advance and manufactured by mechanical engineers. The electronic engineers add the control system; the software engineers add the system of programmed control; and finally the economists have to provide successful marketing for the complex interdisciplinary product.

Career opportunities after graduation

Engineers can pursue a career in every company, in all industries; where new products are developed and manufactured; where there is a need for scientific and technical knowledge, as well as design and production, testing of materials and design, maintaining engines and mechanisms, introducing and maintaining information and software activities, organizing production management and in many other technical and economic activities.

Other career opportunities:

- In power engineering, processing technology, transport and logistics, communal services.
- In education and research institutions.
- In service industries.
- In government and administrative bodies.
- In the army.
- In health care.

In Novo Mesto the Faculty of Industrial Engineering Novo Mesto (FINI) is in the process of establishment. At first they plan to enlist students in only one programme: Automotive industry.