

# The Initial Teacher Education at Slovak Universities (contemporary situation, problems and challenges)

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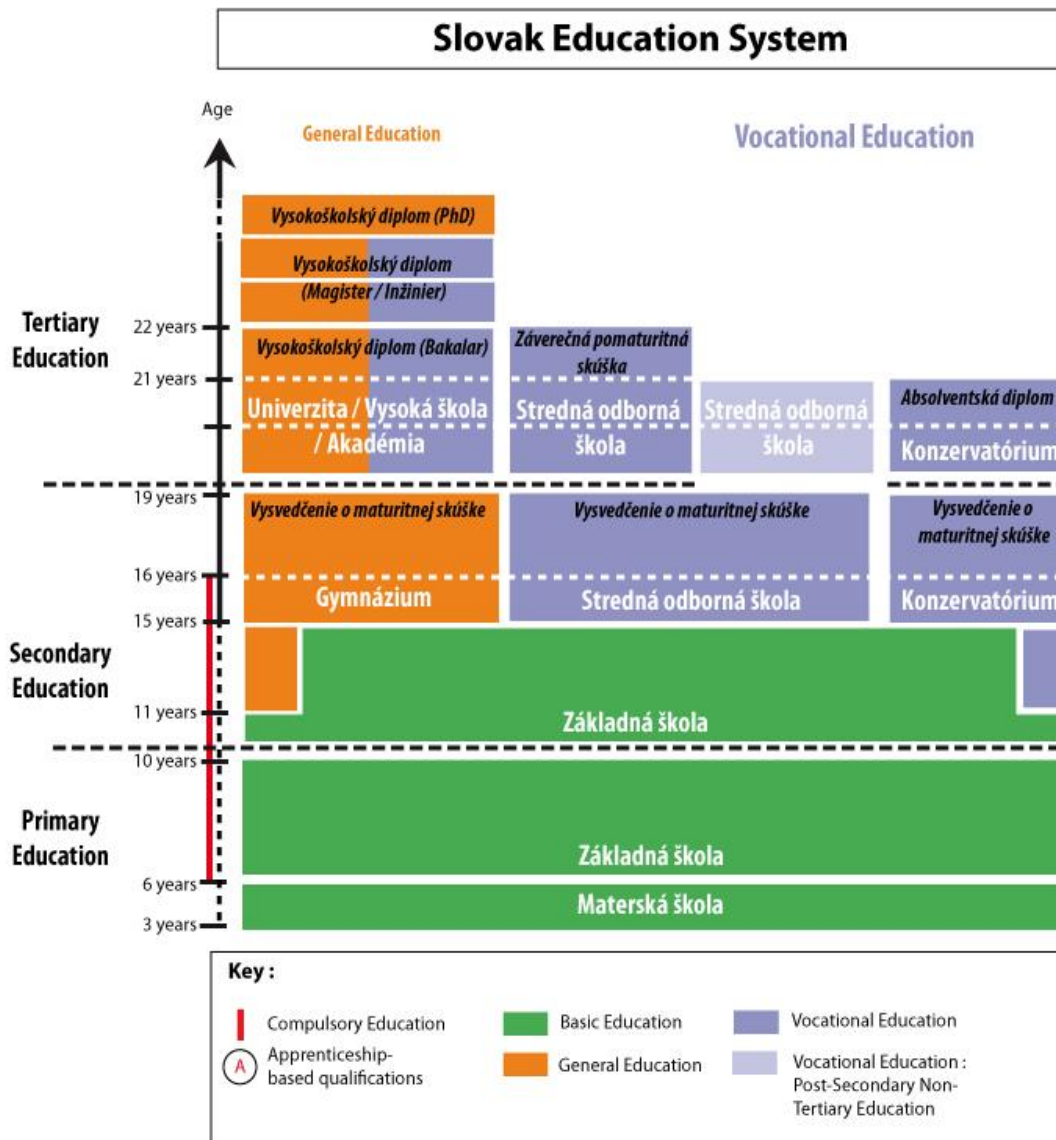
# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1777 – RATIO EDUCATIONIS (Maria-Theresa) – teacher as a civil servant
- 1945 – initial teacher education at higher education level – general rule
  - 1950 – initial education of preschool and primary school teachers back to a higher secondary school level
- 1977 – preschool teachers at higher secondary school level
  - primary school teachers at higher education level (4 years)
  - secondary school teachers at higher education level (5 years)
- 1989 – radical political changes

# Three periods of initial teacher education at higher education level in Slovakia after 1989

- 1989 – 1997 deconstruction, new universities (34 faculties provide initial teacher education), autonomy, concept of child centred education vs. running away from a pedagogical concepts towards a „scientific“ concepts
- 1997 – 2004 conceptualisation, internationalisation, ECTS, concept of a teacher as reflective practitioner, pre-school pedagogy
- 2004 – **TILL NOW** the Bologna process, required core curriculum (60%), standardisation of the teaching profession

# Slovak initial teacher education



## System of teacher education

Secondary school teacher  
(combination of two school subjects) – Bc. (BSc) + Master

Preschool and elementary pedagogy – Bc. (BSc)  
Primary school teacher – Master level

Higher secondary school (70%)  
Preschool and elementary pedagogy – Bc. (BSc)

# Slovak initial teacher education at higher education level

- all the study programs at universities
- since 2005 – all the programs structured = Bachelor (3years) + Master (2years)
  - all the study programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission (advisory body of the government)
- 60% of each study program is based on a centrally given core curriculum
- all the study programs at public universities – free of charge (except „external“ part-time study)

# Slovak initial teacher education (problems)

## 1. System of accreditation

*(based on formal criteria, rigid, eliminating ongoing innovations...)*

## 2. A conceptual approach to an educational process

*(knowledge transmission, lack of teaching competencies development)*

## 3. Teaching practice

*(average time is 5-8% of the study program - EU - 30%)*

## 4. Attraction

*(no interest,, second or third choice of the study programs, very low social status)*

**THANK YOU.**