

NEGOTIATING POSITION OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
CHAPTER 18 - EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND YOUTH

I. SUMMARY OF THE NEGOTIATING POSITION

The Slovak Republic accepts and is prepared to fully implement the acquis under the chapter "Education, Vocational Training and Youth" by 1 January 2004, being set as the reference date of its accession to the EU.

The key legislation in the area of education, vocational training and youth in the Slovak Republic is the Act No. 29/1984 Coll. on the System of Elementary and Secondary Schools, as amended. Full harmonisation of the Slovak legislation with the acquis will be attained with a new law on higher education (university law) with expected effect from 1 September 2001 and a new law on education and training, expected to enter into effect from 1 September 2002. The central State administration authority in charge of education, vocational training and youth is the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.

The Slovak Republic does not request any derogation or transitional periods for the implementation of legislation under this chapter.

II. LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

HARMONISATION OF LEGISLATION WITH THE ACQUIS

The key legislation in this area are the following laws, decrees and ordinances on education, training and youth:

- Act No. 29/1984 Coll. on the System of Elementary and Secondary Schools, as amended
- Act No. 172/1990 Coll. on Higher Education (University Act), as amended
- Act of the Slovak National Council No. 542/1990 Coll. on State School Administration and School Self-government, as amended
- Decree of the Ministry of Education No. 141/1991 Coll. on the Recognition of Diplomas and Other Certificates of Study from Foreign Universities,
- Act No. 279/1993 Coll. on Educational Establishments, as amended
- Act No. 189/1993 Coll. on the Children and Youth Fund, as amended
- Act No. 386/1997 on Further Education.

The Slovak Republic does not anticipate any problems with the adoption and implementation of the acquis under the chapter on Education, Vocational Training and Youth. The legislation in the Slovak Republic is compatible with Council Directive No. 77/486/EEC of 25 July 1977 on the Education of the Children of Migrant Workers. This issue, currently treated by several acts, will be incorporated for in the new law on education and training, with expected effect from 1 September 2002.

The Slovak Republic's educational policy is fully harmonised with those of EU Member States (in the field of foreign language teaching, non-discrimination, quality of education, vocational training reform, etc.). Full harmonisation will be attained by adoption of the new law on higher education (university law), dealing with equal treatment for university students from EU countries as well as for Slovak students, which is expected to enter into effect on 1 September 2001.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Institutional structure in the field of education is comparable with EU countries. It is represented by the Ministry of Education and organisations under its direct competence -

State School Inspection, Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education, State Pedagogical Institute, and State Vocational Education Institute. School departments within regional and district authorities, methodologically directed by the Ministry of Education, are operating on regional level. National Agencies facilitating participation of Slovakia in the Community educational programmes Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth for Europe III have been set up and are fully operational.

The results of the participation of elementary schools, secondary schools, universities and other educational institutions of the Slovak Republic in EU programmes have demonstrated the ability of these institutions to compete with and be equal partners to those in the EU countries. The Slovak Republic belongs to the most successful candidate countries in terms of the number of approved projects per capita. The Slovak Republic is willing to participate fully in the new generation programmes Socrates II, Leonardo da Vinci II and Youth and is ready to take all necessary steps to successfully conclude the procedure for signing of the EU/Slovak Association Council Decision, which will formally open the access to these programmes.

Adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic Bratislava, March 22, 2000