

Slovene schools in Italy

*Educational model and
challenges for the future*



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FVG = REGION WITH A SPECIAL STATUTE



FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE
OF AUTOCHTHONOUS LINGUISTIC
MINORITIES: SLOVENE, GERMAN AND
FRIULIAN



THE ONLY ITALIAN REGION WITH THE
PRESENCE OF THE 3 MAIN INDO-
EUROPEAN LINGUISTIC SUBGROUPS:
LATIN, SLAVIC, GERMANIC

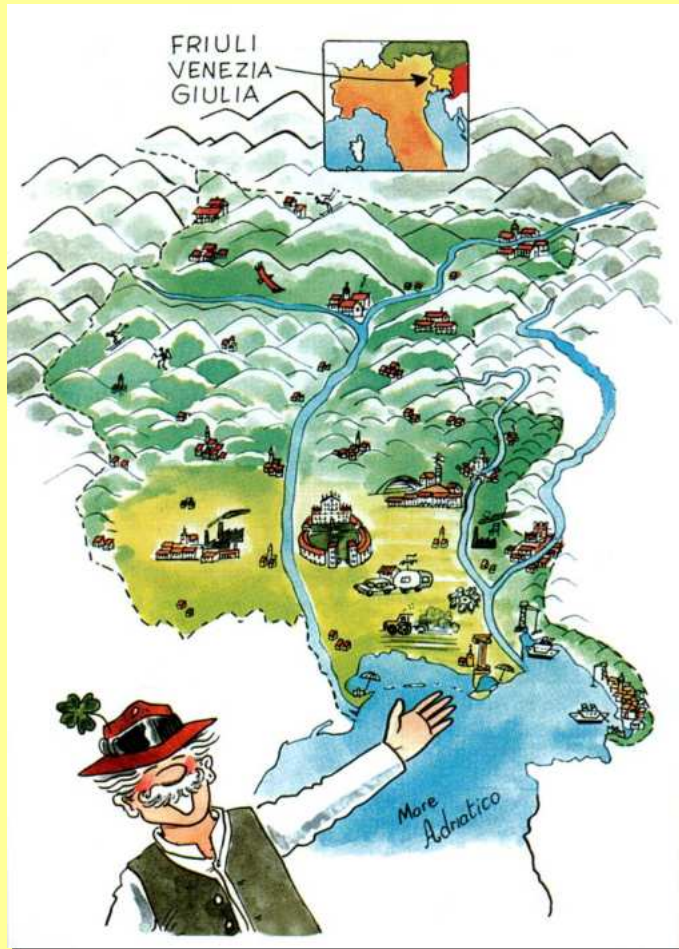


STATUTO SPECIALE
REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA
Legge Costituzionale 31 gennaio 1963 n. 1

Art. 3 - Nella Regione è riconosciuta parità di diritti e di trattamento a tutti i cittadini, qualunque sia il gruppo linguistico al quale appartengono, con la salvaguardia delle rispettive caratteristiche etniche e culturali.

*From: "Glasi od Europe – I suoni dell'Europa", Studenci, 1997
Illustrated by: Moreno Tomasetig*

SLOVENES IN THE FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA REGION, BUT WHERE EXACTLY?



**Along the border with Slovenia
(a belt approximately 30km
wide, for a total of 1500 km²).**

**From Trbiž-Tarvisio till Milje-
Muggia:**

Province of Videm-Udine

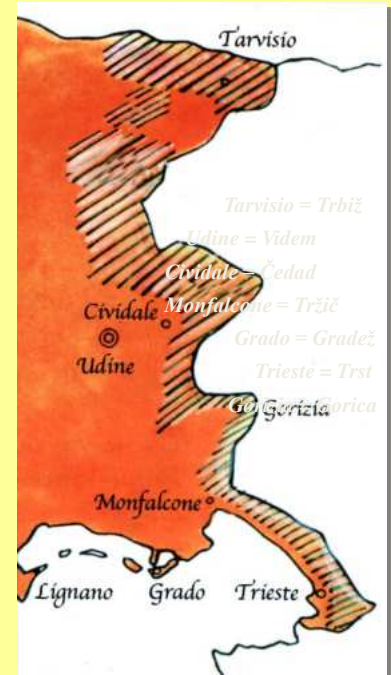
**Kanalska dolina - Canale Valley
(Trbiž - Tarvisio)**

Rezija - Resia Valley

**Beneška Slovenija - Venetian
Slovenia (Terske in Nediške
doline - Torre Valley, Natisone
Valleys)**

Province of Gorica – Gorizia

Province of Trst - Trieste



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The settlement area



THE PROTECTION OF THE SLOVENES IN ITALY

- law 38/2001 = protective law: a specific law, regulating in a unitary way all the aspects regarding the Slovene minority in Italy, especially the public use of the Slovene language and the school system
- for ex.: special offices in the towns of Trst - Trieste, Gorica - Gorizia and Čedad - Cividale with Slovene-speaking personnel
- law 482/1999: protection for all the historical linguistic minorities in Italy
- International agreements: London Memorandum: Special Statute, 1954 + Osimo Agreement 1975
- Specific laws for the schools with Slovene as language of instruction in the provinces of Trst - Trieste and Gorica - Gorizia (law 1012/1961 and law 932/1973)
- Specific laws for the use of the Slovene language in the court – art. 109 Code of criminal procedure + some judgements of the Constitutional court in favour of the use of the Slovene in the court (no. 28/1982, no. 62/1992 and no. 15/1992)

The educational model

- Guarantee the right to education in mother tongue to the minority members
- Specific legislation
- Responsibility: the Italian ministry of education
- Independent Office for Slovene schools at the regional school office
- Autonomy: even if nationwide enrolment standards are not fulfilled

The settlement area



Trieste and Gorizia: especially in the surrounding municipalities

THE FIRST SLOVENE SCHOOLS IN TRST - TRIESTE AND GORICA- GORIZIA?

In 1774: upon order of the Empress Maria Theresa of Austria



*Advertisement
for the Slovene
schools in
Trieste*



*Euroschool in 1995 in Trieste, biennial meeting of
the European minority languages schools*

**SLOVENE SCHOOL IN ITALY +
ITALIAN SCHOOL IN SLOVENIA =**

LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

SLOVENE MEDIUM EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES IN TRIESTE AND GORIZIA



Upper secondary schools with Slovene as language of instruction in Gorica- Gorizia

- **kindergartens**
- **primary schools**
- **lower secondary schools**
- **upper secondary schools**

The programmes = ministerial,

The same as in the Italian schools

+ subject “Slovene Language and Literature”

+ some additions in the programmes of Geography and History

- **Slovene Regional Institute for Vocational Training in Trst - Trieste, Gorica - Gorizia and Špeter - San Pietro al Natisone**

And also: nurseries, halls of residence, SLOVIK – Slovene syndicate for education...

**Essential
mechanism of
reproduction**

No Slovene in Italian mainstream schools and no bilingual schools

- Slovene is not systematically included in the curriculum.
- Sometimes as additional and complementary activities, depending on availability of financial resources
- 2 junior secondary schools include Slovene in the curriculum (as second foreign language)

The settlement area



SLOVENE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF UDINE

ŠPETER- THE PLAIN PART

- Private bilingual pre-school (1984/85) and primary school (1986/87) were nationalised in 2001.
- 2007/2008 junior middle school
- 1 comprehensive bilingual school (age:3-14)
- Local dialect used as well

TARVISIO – TOWARDS THE ALPS

- New project: all the local languages were included as additional medium languages (Slovene, German, Friulian... beside Italian).
- They are not part of the Slovene school network
- Local dialect used as well



Present situation and school population

N° of institutions

	Province of Trieste/ Trst	Province of Gorizia / Gorica	/ Špeter	Total
Comprehensive schools	5	2	1	8
Nursery (1-3 years)	-	1	1	2
Pre-school education institutions	23	10	1	34
Primary schools (6-11)	19	9	1	29
Junior secondary schools(11-14)	7	2	1	10
TOTAL	49	22	4	75
Senior secondary schools (14-19)	4	2	-	6
Numbers of specializations	11	6	-	17

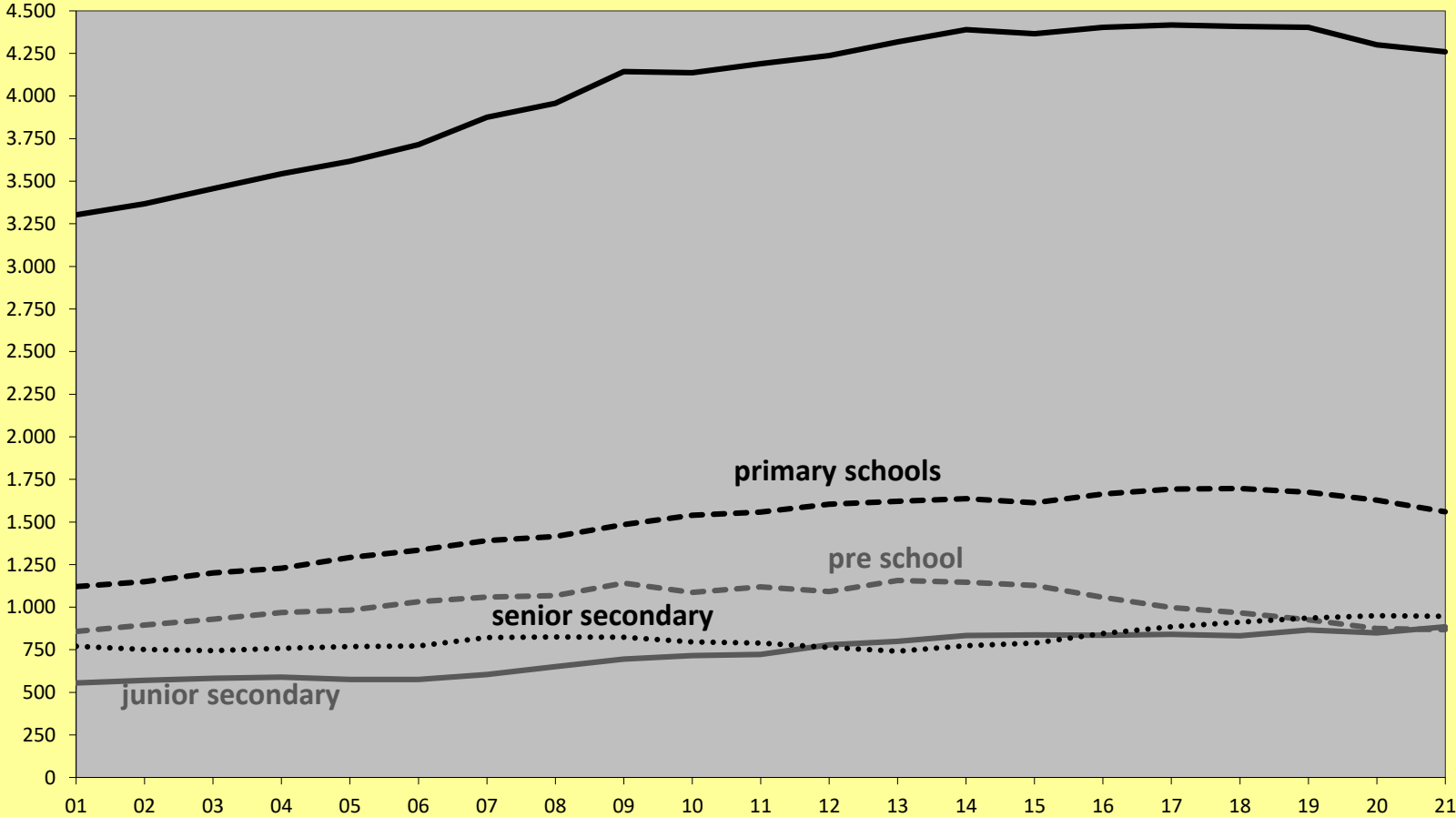
N° of pupils

	Province of Trieste/ Trst	Province of Gorizia /Gorica	Špeter	Total
Pre school	460	357	51	868
Primary schools (6-11)	825	595	140	1675
Junior secondary schools (11-14)	480	328	77	885
Senior secondary schools (14-19)	635	311	-	946
SKUPAJ	2400	1591	268	4259

Source: Norina Bogatec, SLORI



Number of students by educational level (2001-2021)



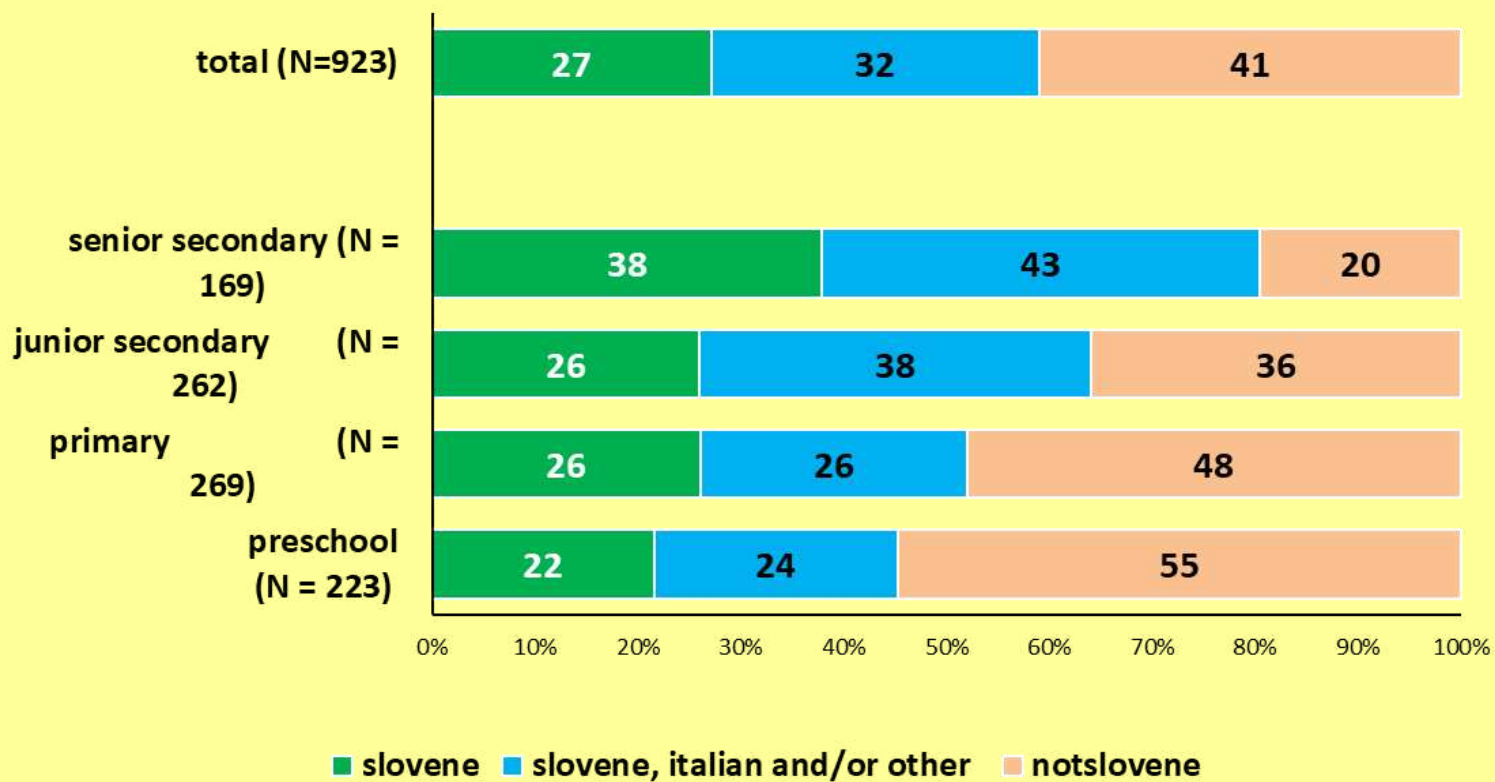
Source: Norina Bogatec, SLORI

Identity crisis: is it still the Slovene school?

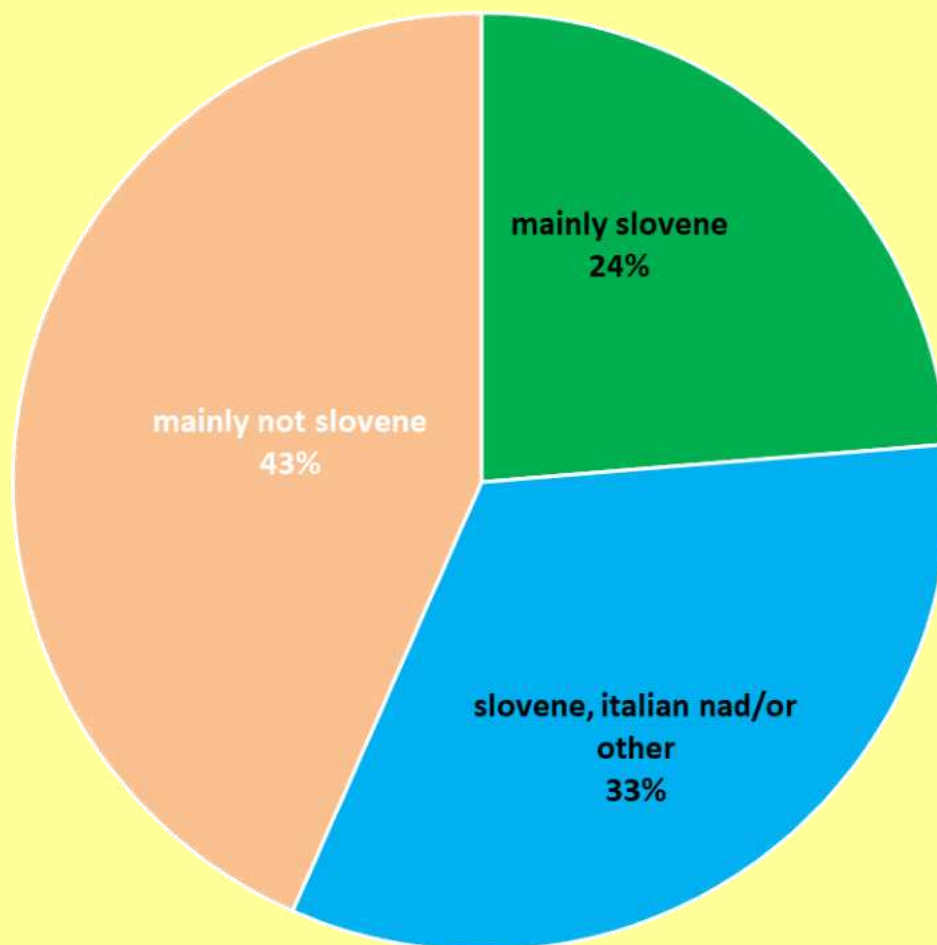
- Significant changes in the ethnic and linguistic characteristics of the school population (Bogatec, 2021).
- Decision for enrolment is up to the family. Self-evident for Slovene families, more difficult for mixed families.
- Increased interest for the minority language/do not reflect an increase in the use of it (Brezigar 2013, Jagodic & Čok 2013).



L1 of first year pupils by educational level (school year 2019/20)



Language use outside school



Challenges



Significant intercultural relations: not always successful

Shift: from institutions that teach **THROUGH** the minority language to institutions that teach **THE** minority language – 2 functions?

Lowering linguistic skills: endangering the minority reproduction (Brezigar 2015)

Switching to majority language during non- guided activities (Bogatec et. al. 2020)

Additional support for those student whose L1 is not Slovene: very limited. Teachers left alone (Brezigar 2019)

Teacher training: acquire new competences

Lack of teaching materials

Identity issues & ethnic affiliation



Teacher training

- Faculty for teacher training moved from Trieste to Udine. Education partially in Slovene language
- Rising the number of students who decide to enrol to university in Slovenia: after a procedure the qualifications obtained are recognised in Italy.

Evolution



- 2 paralel & separate networks of schools: Slovene language or Italian language.
- Shall Slovene language enter into Italian mainstream schools?
- Number of minority members is falling: assimilation, mobility, brain drain.
- The minority more concerned about it's own protection rather than on promotion widening the speakers



Distance learning experience during the pandemic



Arigato

Mahalo

Grazie

Spasiba

THANK
YOU

Thinks
Moite

Gracias

Merci

Danke

Shukran