Pursuant to the second indent of the first paragraph of Article 107 and the first paragraph of Article 91 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, I hereby issue the following

I hereby promulgate the Assessment and Recognition of Education Act (ZVPI), adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia at its session of 19 October 2011.

No. 003-02-9/2011-20
Ljubljana, 27 October 2011

Dr Danilo Türk, m.p.
President of the Republic of Slovenia

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
(Content of the Act)

This Act shall regulate the assessment of education and designate a body for the assessment of education. The Act shall also regulate the procedure, criteria and designate the body for the recognition of foreign education with a view to further education, except for the inclusion of children holding foreign school certificates in elementary school education.

Article 2
(Definition of terms)

For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall have the following meaning:

- The ENIC-NARIC are networks of national information centres for the recognition of education qualifications, whereas the ENIC (European Network of Information Centres) network connects national information centres of the States party to the Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES, and the NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres) network operates on the initiative of the European Commission and consists of information centres of the European Union Member States and of other countries;

- 'education institution' means a school or any other education organisation, higher education institution or any other institution that competent authorities of the country of origin of education recognise as education institution that belongs to its school system in accordance with individual types of education;

- 'education certificate' means a certificate, diploma or other document attesting that its holder (hereinafter: holder of an education certificate) has completed an education programme
that a competent authority of the country that issued the certificate recognises as education that is part of its school system: an education certificate may be a certificate of fully completed education or a certificate of partly completed education:

- 'education certificate of partly completed education' means a certificate attesting that its holder has completed part of the education programme for obtaining the certificate of fully completed education, or attesting to the allocation of study credits, the completion of grades, years of study, semesters, examinations, and modules of the relevant education programme:

- 'education certificate of fully completed education' is a certificate attesting that its holder has successfully completed an education programme;

- 'field of study' or 'discipline' means teaching or study contents in connection with individual professions, scientific or artistic disciplines or their parts narrowly or more generally defining the education programme, and is evident from education certificates:

- 'recognition of education with a view to access to education' (hereinafter: the recognition of education) means a procedure during which a decision is made, on the basis of the education attained abroad, of an individual's right to apply and to be considered for admission to further education at education institutions in the Republic of Slovenia:

- 'status of the education institution and education programme' means the accreditation or any other outcome of the procedure with which the country that issued the education certificate assesses the quality of an education institution and an education programme by establishing the fulfillment of minimum standards of quality in the field of education in accordance with its national legislation. In the event of transnational education, which refers to all forms and ways of education and where its state-approved education programme is fully or in parts carried out in a country other than that in which the holder of the education programme has its registered office, it also means information on the implementation in the country or countries in which the education is implemented;

- 'foreign education certificate' means a certificate of education by means of which its holder proves a successfully completed, fully or in part, foreign education:

- 'assessment of education' means a procedure in which, with reference to the attained education attested by the education certificate, an opinion is issued about different elements of education defined in Article 8 of this Act:

- 'type of education' means primary, secondary or tertiary education, in accordance with the education system of the country that issued the education certificate.

**Article 3**

*(International agreements)*

Where bilateral international agreements have been concluded between the Republic of Slovenia and another country, the provisions of this Act shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the assessment of education and education recognition procedures for the purpose of the recognition of education and certificates that are subject to such agreements.

**II ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Article 4**

*(Education assessment body)*

(1) The body for the assessment of education shall be the ENIC-NARIC centre, which is, pursuant to the Act Ratifying the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications
Concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Uradni list RS (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia) – Mednarodne pogodbe (International Treaties), No 14/99), a national information centre and operates within the ministry responsible for higher education.

(2) The ENIC-NARIC centre shall collect and provide information on Slovenian and foreign education systems and shall be included in the network of ENIC-NARIC centres.

(2) The ENIC–NARIC centre shall use its own official stamp or seal.

Article 5

(Subject of education assessment)

(1) The subject of education assessment shall be education which is attested through a certificate of fully completed education, by means of:

- a foreign education certificate,
- a Slovenian education certificate.
- an education certificate issued prior to 25 June 1991 in the former republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, or a duplicate of an education certificate indicating that the original certificate had been issued prior to 25 June 1991.

(2) In the procedure for the recognition of education, an education institution may apply for the assessment of a foreign certificate with respect to a fully or partly completed education.

(3) Education that is attested through the certificate of fully completed education at the tertiary education level shall not be the subject of education assessment if such education lasts less than one semester or half year, or is assessed with less than 30 credits according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

(4) Education which is attested through supporting documents of completed language, computer and other courses, professional examinations, vocational qualifications and other vocational and professional training shall not be the subject of education assessment.

Article 6

(Nature of opinion)

The opinion issued in the procedure for the assessment of education shall be of an informative and counselling nature.

Article 7

(Assessment of education)

(1) An application for issuing the opinion referred to in the preceding Article of this Act may be filed with the ENIC-NARIC centre by the applicant who is a holder of an education certificate or any natural or legal person providing the consent of the holder of an education certificate.

(2) The documents that need to be enclosed with the application shall be prescribed by the minister responsible for higher education.

In the event that the ENIC-NARIC centre, on the basis of the application and the documents enclosed and other sources of information, is not able to issue an opinion containing all the elements defined in Article 8 of this Act, it shall invite the applicant to supplement the application and set a time limit for supplementing it. If the applicant fails to supplement his
application or fails to supplement it entirely, the ENIC-NARIC centre shall issue the opinion on those elements of education that are evident from the application and documents.

(4) The ENIC-NARIC centre shall issue the opinion to the applicant within a period of two months of receipt of a complete application or upon the expiry of the time limit for the supplementation referred to in the preceding paragraph.

(5) Where the assessment of education referred to in the third or fourth paragraph of Article 5 is required to be made, or in a case not involving education that is to be attested through a certificate of fully completed education, the ERIC-NARIC centre shall return the documentation and notify the applicant that such education is not the subject of the assessment under this Act.

(6) Where the request relates to the assessment of education to be attested through a certificate of education that had already been the subject of assessment, the ERIC-NARIC centre shall return the documentation and send a notification informing the applicant that the education is not the subject of assessment unless the applicant submits new information within the meaning of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth indents of Article 8 of this Act.

(7) All documents in the procedure for the assessment of education, including the opinion issued, shall be sent to the applicant by registered mail with the notice of receipt.

(8) Where it is established that the opinion contains an obvious error in writing or numbers, the ENIC-NARIC centre shall, ex officio or at the proposal of the applicant, rectify the error on its own by issuing a corrected, new opinion, which shall replace the preceding one.

Article 8

(Content of opinion)

(2) The opinion issued by the ENIC-NARIC centre shall contain the following:

– full name of the holder of education certificate;

– data on the education certificate;

– information on the status of education institution and education programme;

– information on education attained, field or discipline of education, and its level in the country of origin;

– information on the obtained name, title or designated level of education or education programme in the country of origin;

– information on the rights obtained on the basis of education in the country of origin;

– a short description of the education system in the country of origin, and

– information relating to the comparability of education attested through foreign education certificates with Slovenian education, which is made by a comparison of information on the foreign education referred to in this paragraph with the information on the education system in the Republic of Slovenia, or relating to the comparability of education, attested through the documents referred to in the second and third indents of the first paragraph of Article 5 of this Act with the education carried out in compliance with applicable legislation in the Republic of Slovenia according to the type of education.

(2) In the event that certain data on the individual elements referred to in the preceding paragraph are not available, the ENIC-NARIC centre shall state its opinion regarding which of the aforementioned information cannot be provided.
Article 9
(Objection)

(1) In the event of a disagreement with the opinion issued, the applicant may, within fifteen days following its service date, lodge with the ENIC-NARIC centre an objection in writing with the explanation and any new evidence against the elements referred to in the first paragraph of the preceding Article.

(2) The applicant may also lodge a written objection in the event that the ENIC-NARIC centre fails to issue the opinion within the time limit specified in the fourth paragraph of Article 7 of this Act.

(3) During the objection procedure referred to in the preceding paragraph, the ENIC-NARIC centre may issue an opinion prior to convening the commission. The objection referred to in the first paragraph of this Article may be lodged by the applicant against the opinion issued.

(4) The commission, appointed by the minister responsible for higher education, shall decide on the objection against the opinion issued. The commission shall consist of a chair and two members. The chair of the commission shall be a representative of the ENIC-NARIC who did not take part in the procedure for issuing the opinion that is subject of the objection. The designated members of the commission shall be:

- a representative of the ministry responsible for higher education or a representative of the ministry responsible for education and sport, according to the type of education attested by the certificate of education, and

- a representative of the European Information Network on Education (EURYDICE).

(5) The minister responsible for higher education may adopt rules of procedure specifying in detail the method of the commission's work.

(6) The commission referred to in the fourth paragraph of this Article shall decide on the objection within a period of two months from the date the objection was lodged. The commission shall inform the ENIC-NARIC centre of its decision and instruct that the applicant be notified of the rejection of the objection in accordance with the commission's decision taken on the grounds of its disagreement with the allegations made in the objection. and shall thus uphold the opinion, or shall instruct the ENIC-NARIC centre to supplement or amend its opinion, because it upheld the objection and decided at what points the opinion should be supplemented or changed. The ENIC-NARIC centre is bound by the instructions of the commission.

(7) The ENIC-NARIC centre shall issue a notice upholding the opinion that has already been issued, or shall issue a supplemented and modified opinion within one month of the receipt of the commission's assessment. Another objection shall not be possible.

(8) In the event that the objection referred to in the first paragraph of this Article is lodged after the expiry of the fifteen-day time limit, the ENIC-NARIC centre shall inform the applicant that the objection is not possible.

III. RECOGNITION OF EDUCATION

Article 10
(Recognition of education)
(1) In the procedure for the recognition of education, a decision shall be made about an individual’s right to access, apply and be considered during the procedure for the enrolment with a view to access to education at the education institution in the Republic of Slovenia.

(2) The education institution shall, on the basis of the decision referred to in the preceding paragraph and regulations in the Republic of Slovenia that govern the enrolment and transfers between education programmes, establish the fulfilment of enrolment criteria or conditions for transferring to the education programme in accordance with the request of the holder of a certificate.

Article 11

(Body for the recognition of education)

The body for the recognition of education shall be education institutions.

Article 12

(Subiect of the recognition of education)

The subject of education recognition shall be the education that is attested through a certificate of education.

Article 13

(Applicant)

(2) An application for the recognition of education in the Republic of Slovenia may be lodged by any holder of certificate of education or his legal representative.

Article 14

(Procedure)

(1) The procedure for the recognition of education shall be initiated at the applicant’s request to be lodged in a prescribed form with the education institution in the Republic of Slovenia where the applicant seeks to continue education.

(2) Forms and documents to be submitted in the education recognition procedure by the applicant shall be determined by the minister responsible for higher education.

(3) Where in the procedure for the recognition of education there is doubt concerning the authenticity of the education certificate, the authenticity shall be verified with the authority that issued the education certificate or the competent authority of the country that issued the education certificate.

(4) In the procedure for the recognition of education, the level of education in the country of origin shall be identified by comparing the contents of the criteria referred to in Article 16 of this Act. and the fulfilment of conditions established with a view to access to the requested education programme.

(5) In cases of partly completed education, which part of the education programme that the applicant seeks to pursue in the Republic of Slovenia has already been completed shall be identified.

(6) The education institution shall issue a decision and send it to the applicant no later than within two months of the date of receipt of a complete application.

(7) If a fully completed foreign education programme significantly differs from its Slovene counterpart in terms of its scope and level, applicants shall be given an opportunity to
continue education as if they possessed educational certificates attesting to parts of education programmes completed.

**Article 15**

*(Appeal against the decision)*

(6) An appeal against the decision issued in the procedure for the recognition of education shall be allowed with the education institution within eight days of receipt of the decision.

**Article 16**

*(Criteria)*

(1) In the procedure for the recognition of education under this Act, in addition to the international principles, the following criteria shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to this field:

- education system:
- education programme, syllabus or curriculum:
- academic achievements:
- duration of education:
- rights arising from education.

(2) In making its decision and taking into consideration the type of education, the body for the recognition of education may also take into account other circumstances relevant for the recognition of education, for example: the age of the holder of education certificate, language proficiency, the number of credits allotted, the level of education in the country of origin, and outstanding achievements in the field of education.

**Article 17**

*(Authorised persons)*

(2) Education institutions shall authorise an individual to administer recognition procedures in compliance with this Act and notify the ENIC-NARIC centre thereof within thirty days of the issue of such authorisation.

### IV. EXPERT SUPPORT

**Article 18**

*(Expert support provided to the ENIC-NARIC centre and education institutions)*

(2) The ministries responsible for elementary, secondary, higher and high education shall ensure expert support to the ENIC-NARIC centre and education institutions for performing the tasks under this Act.

### V. USE OF FOREIGN TITLES OR NAMES

**Article 19**

*(Use of foreign title, name or designation of level of education or education programme)*

(1) A foreign title or name obtained by a holder of a foreign education certificate may also be used in the Republic of Slovenia in its original form in accordance with the regulations of the country that issued the education certificate or in its transcription. A foreign title or name that is not translated into the Slovenian language shall be stated together with the indication of the country that issued the education certificate that is translated into the Slovenian language.
(2) The provisions referred to in the preceding paragraph shall also be applied to a foreign designation of the level of education or education programme, which is used in the country of origin in a similar way as a foreign title or name is used in the Republic of Slovenia.

VI. LEGALISATION OF EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

Article 20

(Legalisation of education certificate)

(1) In the procedure for the assessment of education, the legalisation is not required pursuant to Article 3 of the Act Ratifying the Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents (Uradni list FLRJ [Official Gazette of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia] – Mednarodne pogodbe (International Treaties), No 10/62) and the Act on Verification of Documents in International Traffic (Uradni list RS No 64/2001).

(2) Where, in the procedure for the assessment of education, there is doubt concerning the authenticity of the education certificate, the authenticity shall be verified with the authority that issued the education certificate or competent authority of the country that issued the education certificate.

VII. COSTS

Article 21

(Costs)

(1) The costs for the assessment of education shall be paid upon the submission of the application for the assessment of education. The proof that the education assessment costs have been paid shall be enclosed with the application. In the event that the applicant, when submitting the application, fails to produce the proof, he shall be invited to do so within fifteen days of receipt of the request. The amount of costs shall be determined by the minister responsible for higher education.

(2) In the cases referred to in the fifth paragraph of Article 7, the costs that have already been paid shall not be refunded.

(3) No additional costs shall be charged for issuing a supplemented or amended opinion referred to in the third paragraph of Article 9 of this Act.

(4) The costs for the assessment of education shall not be charged to legal persons under public law.

(5) The following persons shall be exempt from the payment of education assessment costs:
- recipients of cash social assistance in accordance with the regulations governing social assistance in cash,
- recipients of income support in accordance with the regulations governing income support,
- recipients of disability benefit in accordance with the regulations governing social care for mentally and physically handicapped adults,
- job seekers who are, in accordance with the regulation governing the labour market, considered unemployed persons.

(6) The status of the beneficiary referred to in the first three indents of the preceding paragraph shall be proved by a final decision of the competent authority, while the status referred to in the fourth indent of the preceding paragraph shall be proved by a certified
statement of the Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia that the person has been entered in the records of unemployed persons.

**VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION**

**Article 22**

(Public information)

The ENIC-NARIC centre's website shall publish information anonymously, in accordance with the elements of the issued opinions referred to in Article 8 of this Act, as information of a public nature. Published public information shall be used for the purpose of employment and in recognition procedures in the same way as opinions issued on the request of the applicant under this Act.

**IX. PUBLIC RECORDS AND A LIST OF AUTHORISED PERSONS**

**Article 23**

(Records)

(1) Education institutions shall keep records of first- and second-degree decisions issued in the procedure for the recognition of education, which contain:

- data on the person to whom the decision relates: full name, year of birth; gender and citizenship;

- data on the decision issued: number and date of issue;

- data on the education certificate: name in its original form or in its transcription, on the basis of which the decision has been issued, date of issue, issuing country and name of the issuing institution;

- data on education programme, field or discipline of study, class, year of study, semester, module, to which the individual to whom a decision relates seeks admission.

(2) The data referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be collected, processed, kept and forwarded with a view to ensuring equal treatment of applicants in recognition procedures.

**Article 24**

(List of authorised persons)

The ENIC-NARIC centre shall keep a list of persons authorised for conducting the procedure for the recognition of education at education institutions. The list of authorised persons shall contain data on the full name of authorised person and the name of education institution.

**X. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 25**

(ENIC-NARIC centre)

Within the ministry responsible for higher education and by the time this Act enters into force, the internal organisation unit, i.e. the ENIC-NARIC centre, shall be put in place as a body for the assessment of education under this Act, which shall also perform other tasks of the national information centre.

**Article 26**
(Implementing regulation)

The minister responsible for higher education shall, within 30 days after this Act enters into force, issue the regulation referred to in the second paragraph of Article 7 and the second paragraph of Article 14 of this Act, and determine the amount of the costs referred to in the first paragraph of Article 21 of this Act.

Article 27

(Cessation of validity)

As of the date of the entry into force of this Act, the following shall cease to apply: the Recognition and Assessment of Education Act (Uradni list RS, No 73/04), the provisions of the first, second and third paragraphs of Article 19 of the Professional and Academic Titles Act (Uradni list RS, No 61/06) and the Rules on forms, documents, fees and record keeping in procedures for recognition and assessment of education (Uradni list RS, Nos 6/05 and 98/09); however the aforementioned shall continue to apply until the application date of this Act.

Article 28

(Completion of initiated proceedings)

In the event of an application being submitted by the date this Act enters into force, the procedures shall be completed in accordance with present regulations.

Article 29

(Extension of the application of regulations that will cease to apply)

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 27 of this Act and for the purpose of employment in regulated professions with respect to which the Slovenian title of vocational or professional education or professional or academic title is legally prescribed, an application for assessing the equivalence of a foreign title with the Slovenian professional or academic title and the equivalence of a foreign title of vocational or professional education with its Slovenian counterpart may be lodged twelve months after the day this Act begins to apply. The following shall apply to this procedure: Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4, the first, second, sixth and seventh paragraphs of Article 11, Article 12, the second, fourth and fifth indents of the second paragraph and the fourth, sixth and seventh paragraphs of Article 17 of the Recognition and Assessment of Education Act (Uradni list RS, No 73/04), the first, second and third paragraphs of Article 19 of the Professional and Academic Titles Act (Uradni list RS, No 61/06) and Articles 1 and 3, the first paragraph of Article 5, Articles 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Rules on forms, documents, fees and record keeping in procedures for recognition and assessment of education (Uradni list RS, Nos 6/05 and 98/09).

With respect to the inclusion of school children, the following shall apply to the procedure for the recognition of education until 31 August 2011: Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4, Chapter II, Article 16, the first, third, seventh paragraphs of Article 17, Articles 18 and 19 of the Recognition and Assessment of Education Act (Uradni list RS, No 73/04), Articles 1 and 2, the first and second paragraphs of Article 5, Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 of the Rules on forms, documents, fees and record keeping in procedures for recognition and assessment of education (Uradni list RS, Nos 6/05 and 98/09).

(3) Applications that are lodged after the expiry of the time limits referred to in the preceding paragraphs shall be dismissed.

Article 30
(Entry into force and application)

This Act shall enter into force on the fifteenth day after its publication in Uradni list Republike Slovenije and shall begin to apply on the thirtieth day after its entry into force.

No. 600-01/11-10/10
Ljubljana, 19 October 2011
EPA 2035-V

National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia.
Ljubo Germič, m.p.
President

APPENDIX:

Uradni list, No 97
Ljubljana, Friday, 2 December 2011

AMENDMENT to the Assessment and Recognition of Education Act (ZVPI)
The date '31 August 2011' referred to in the second paragraph of Article 29 shall be amended to read as '31 August 2012'.
No. 600-01/11-10/14
Ljubljana, 28 November 2011
EPA 2035-V

Secretary-General of the
National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia
Mojca Prelesnik, m.p.

4197 Amendment