**Life in Slovenia**

I don’t know if we are a typical Slovenian family, but I’ll try to describe what family routines you might find in Slovenia.

In the morning my family gets up at around six. One of my parents takes the dog for a walk in the morning and gets up earlier, at about quarter past five. Most adults have a shower in the evening, but my parents both have a shower in the morning. Dad and kids have breakfast at home, usually milk and cereal. Mum doesn’t usually have breakfast, she usually takes something to eat at work. Dad leaves home at about half past six, my sister and my mum leave at about seven and I leave at about quarter past seven. My sister catches the bus to school, I walk to school and my parents drive to work, like most adults. Most primary school students walk to school or take the bus. Some parents take their kids to school by car and some secondary school students take the train to go to school in Ljubljana.

Some people have an afternoon shift or even a night shift, but most go to work in the morning. A lot of people have a job in Ljubljana, some work near Rakek and some don’t go to work, or they have their own small business. Private entrepreneurs, who are quite common in Slovenia, can manage their own working hours, but people who work in companies usually start work sometime between six and nine and finish between two and four or even five in the afternoon. My parents come home from work at about three or four, sometimes later.

School starts between half part seven and twenty past eight and finishes between one and three pm. After the regular classes some students have elective subjects, clubs, musical instrument lessons, choir or sports practice. These students usually have lunch at school, but not everyone does. I have lunch at school, but my sister doesn’t – she prefers to buy something on her way from school.

When we come home from school, my sister and I do our homework except when we have some activities. Then we do it when we get home from training or other activities. When we’re all home, mum makes lunch – pasta, rice or something that’s quickly made, because everyone’s hungry by then. I think most families have a meal together in the afternoon, like a late lunch, but in some families everyone just takes what they want, because they get home at different times and they might have had lunch at school or work. A lot of students have some kind of afternoon activities, like trainings, music lessons, catechesis, fire fighters, scouts, language courses etc. Some popular free time activities for children and young people in Slovenia are playing outside, playing sports like football or basketball, rollerblading, listening to music on YouTube, playing computer games, surfing the Internet, hanging out with friends, riding a bike, jumping on a trampoline. Everyone also loves using their smart phone. Watching TV is also common, but more in the evening.

In my family we all do something different: somebody walks the dog, I hang out with my friends, we ride bikes or play basketball together, my sister plays her instrument and learns for school, my dad works around the house or goes cycling and my mum does the housework, the gardening or goes jogging. Sometimes we help our parents with the work. My mum usually takes us to trainings and other activities in the afternoon by car. A lot of parents do this a lot, especially when there are more kids in the family and if they have a lot of ‘afternoon activities’.

We have dinner at about seven. We eat bread, salami, cheese, or honey. Then we either read, watch TV or we are on our phones or computers. At about nine or ten the kids have a shower and go to bed. I think it’s more or less the same in most families. Some older students study in the evening, but a lot just hang on their phones.

At the weekend we clean the house, meet our friends, go for a work or go somewhere else. We sometimes go shopping and sometimes we go for a trip. We usually cook lunch at home and from time to time we eat out, usually when we’re away from home for the whole day. I think that’s quite typical and most families do things like that. Saturday is usually a day most people want to do some work in and around the house and Sunday is when more people take some time off. Visiting relatives, especially grandparents is also very common. In the winter some families go skiing, in the summer some families go to the sea-side, but I don’t think many families around Rakek often go away for the weekend.

In my opinion, family life in Slovenia is neither very hard or easy but it’s quite good. People often complain that they don’t have any time, but if you look closer, you can see, it’s not that bad and we should be happy with what we’ve got.