

However, objectives are very general. Schools inform their partners mainly about economic targets and needs while information on education strategies is provided only very rarely. Secondary schools included innovative elements which have different effects. According to teachers innovative changes are prevented by often high numbers of students in classes (particularly in secondary general schools). Lack of compliance with curricula was a quite frequently detected deficiency. Secondary schools in the Pilsen Region were involved in the republic-wide project of environmental education - *M.R.K.E.V.*

Enhancing and Extending Foreign Language Teaching

Staffing and material as well as technical conditions often affect support for foreign languages in the Pilsen Region. There are not enough good teachers for teaching foreign languages who have graduated in the language concerned from the relevant faculty. Therefore schools have to offer languages according to the composition of teachers and not according to demand. Secondary schools in the Pilsen Region implemented projects of cross-border cooperation with Germany in order to support language education. Schools were, for example, involved in student exchange programmes organised by Czech and German schools under the name *TANDEM* financed from the ESF.

Further Education of Pedagogical Staff and Enhancing Instruction in Information Literacy

CSI surprisingly found that teachers from small schools outside Pilsen (the towns are often quite far from Pilsen) are more interested in further education. Participants of training courses from such schools provided their colleagues with relevant information and new knowledge was reflected more in teaching. The most visible differences were seen in the development of ICT.

F.3.4 Karlovy Vary Region

Curricular Reform

The 2006 Long-term Policy Objectives in the Karlovy Vary Region set out the principal strategic directions including the detailed development of strategic goals. CSI focused, inter alia, on the situation in meeting selected strategic goals relating to the activities of schools and school facilities. Secondary schools participated in the republic-wide project of environmental education - *M.R.K.E.V.*

Prevention of Pathological Social Phenomena

Three secondary schools were awarded subsidies provided by their founders for drug policies and one school got a subsidy for a project concerning the Roma community.

Gifted Children, Pupils and Students and Children with Special Educational Needs

Special education is ensured through an individual approach towards pupils as well as through integration. When diagnosing special educational needs teachers cooperate with education advisors as well as with parents of the pupils concerned. Problems which usually result in complaints from parents about a school occur especially in schools which do not identify pupils with SEN and thus they do not deal with them.

Enhancing and Extending Foreign Language Teaching

Secondary schools in the Karlovy Vary Region implemented projects of cross-border cooperation with Germany in order to support language education.