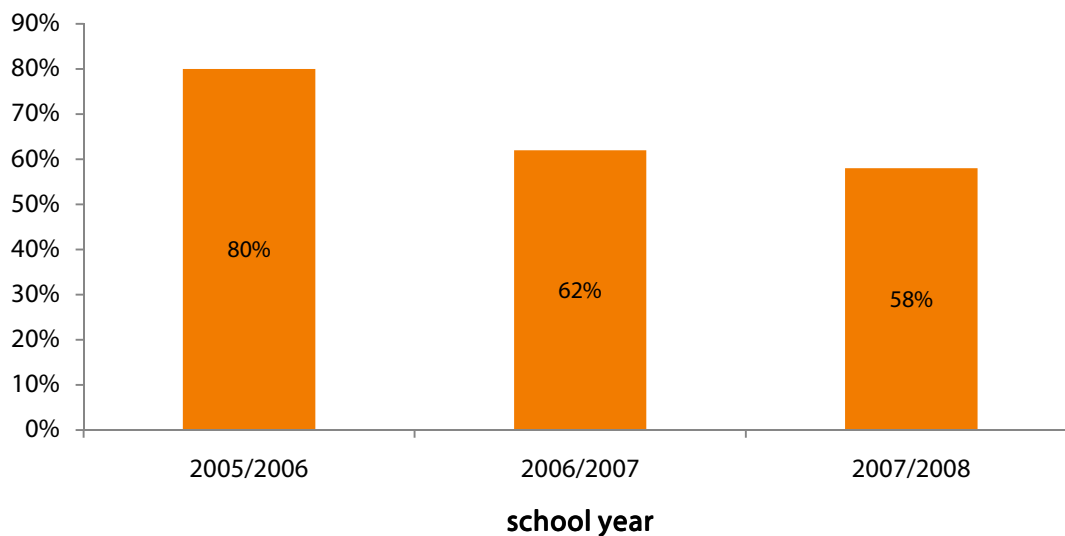


basic schools, in the school year 2006/2007 CSI monitored 175 BSs and in the school year 2007/2008 observations were held in a sample of 60 BSs.

Inspection results gathered from 2005 to 2008 demonstrate that the interest of pupils in learning English was steadily growing but the interest of pupils in learning German displayed a downward trend. In the school year 2007/2008 only one foreign language was taught in 42% of BSs, which corresponds to the content of the National Plan for Teaching Foreign Languages, as this plan set the English language as a priority. The interest of pupils in learning other foreign languages (French, Russian, Spanish, and Italian) was not so apparent, therefore these languages were taught predominantly as optional subjects or within language clubs.

Diagram 7: The share of basic schools providing parallel instruction of two and more foreign languages in 2005-2008



In the school year 2007/2008 all schools were following school education programmes and almost 48% of BSs developed their own concepts of foreign language teaching. Moreover, findings collected in the school year 2007/2008 show that functional guidance bodies, such as guidance associations or guidance committees for specific subjects, cooperated in drawing up school education programmes, unifying teaching material and the classification of pupils, organising events, and supporting pupils with special educational needs. In the school year 2007/2008 the consistency of instruction between the two levels of basic schools was satisfactory in the majority of cases. 16% of schools were evaluated as outstanding. As far as self-evaluation of foreign language teaching is concerned deficiencies were detected in almost 15% of BSs which, with the exception of one school, did not prepare evaluation of foreign language teaching for the school as a whole. 85% of BSs used some of the forms for assessing the level of foreign language teaching according to pupils' results. These schools most frequently used their own comparative tests, which were utilised in more than a half of basic schools. Self-evaluation of the organisation and the course of foreign language teaching was developed by 46% of BSs. Schools mostly evaluated the direct instruction of foreign languages, with the second most frequent subject of assessment being the work of guidance committees for teaching foreign languages.

In compliance with FEP BE the education content arising from the education branch 'Foreign Languages' is included in compulsory education from the 3rd to 9th grade of basic schools whereby pupils must be preferably offered the English language. At the beginning of September 2008 CSI organised an electronic (via e-mail) survey with the aim of finding out