

motivating activities for students. Students of 73% of SSs in 2007/2008 travelled abroad on a school trip aimed at getting to know new things. Students of 42% of SSs were directly involved in international projects. Students of almost two fifths of SSs participated in student exchange programmes. Students of 35% of SSs participated in internship. Students in more than three quarters of SSs took certified examinations – 48% of SSs were involved in English examinations and 29% in certified examinations in the German language.

Secondary schools in **Prague** made use of the *Socrates* and *Leonardo da Vinci* grant programmes and were also involved in an international internet project for teaching foreign languages - *eTwinning*¹⁰ and in a project of Central European secondary schools - *ACES*¹¹. Prague secondary schools draw on subsidies within the *Human Resources Development* (OP HRD) operational programme.

Secondary schools in the **Central Bohemian Region** used funds from the *Education for Competitiveness* operational programme for purchasing new computers and interactive boards for teaching foreign languages. They also organised secondments of their teachers abroad and intensively cared for gifted students.

Staffing and material and technical conditions often affect support of 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 the students' exchange programmes organised by Czech and German schools under the name *TANDEM*, financed from the ESF. The Secondary Technical School and Secondary Vocational School in Horsovsky Tyn implemented a project *Teaching English, German and Mathematics in Secondary Schools in Classes with Integrated Students who have Special Educational Needs by Using Information and Communication Technologies*.

Secondary schools in the **Karlovy Vary Region** and in the **Usti Region** carried out cross-border projects in cooperation with Germany in order to support language education. Schools were also involved in *Socrates* and *Leonardo da Vinci* programmes and in activities carried out in the framework of OP DHR

As regards the **South Bohemian Region** partnership with foreign schools, in particular cooperation in projects (language and environmental), organisation of student exchanges and placements proved to be very beneficial.

The lack of qualified teachers of foreign languages persisted in the **Liberec Region**, where the English language is more and more in demand. Teaching methods, organisational forms and teaching activities which teach pupils more about a language and less to use it as a tool of communication in model authentic situations still prevail.

Secondary schools in the **Hradec Kralove Region** implemented projects of cross-border cooperation with a neighbouring country in order to support language education. As regards other forms of international cooperation schools used mostly EU funds, namely programmes making it possible to utilise grants, such as *Socrates* and *Leonardo da Vinci*. Further resources to cover this area were obtained through grant programmes financed by the Region. Projects aimed at developing international cooperation, the exchange of experience

¹⁰ In the framework of eTwinning students of secondary schools attain knowledge and learn to understand different cultures since they solve different tasks and collect data on a certain topic together with a native speaker.

¹¹ The Project for Central European Schools is coordinated by the Inter-cultural Centre in Vienna. ACES (Academy of Central European Schools) has been held for the second time and was initiated by the Austrian foundation Die Erste Österreichische Sparkasse Foundation. This year's topic is very blistering - To Learn to Live Together: Inter-cultural Dialogue in Europe. The projects offers schools a good chance to get partners from different European countries and at the same time to practice English, which is the common language of communication among all partners.