



Basic Education

All children start compulsory school attendance in basic school (elementary level). During the second level of the basic school (lower-secondary level) pupils can begin secondary study in one of the education branches provided by secondary general schools (gymnázium) or eight-year conservatoires (i.e. secondary schools of music and arts). Although the Education Act lays down that schools be established within one catchment area, the choice of school is not limited. The Framework Education Programme (FEP BE) is a binding document for the education provided in basic schools and the lower grades of six- or eight-year secondary general schools (SGSs) approved by the MEYS in 2004 (the Measure of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports issuing the Framework Education Programme for Basic Education, reference number 31 504/2004-22, as amended). The mandatory number of teaching hours per week is from 18 to 26 hours at the elementary level of basic schools and from 28 to 32 hours at the second level of basic education (lower-secondary level). The average number of pupils in class should be between 17 and 30 pupils.

Schools draw up, in compliance with the FEP BE, their own school education programmes. Schools then exhibit their distinctive differences from other schools through their SEPs. In the school year 2009/2010 class instruction was carried out in accordance with SEPs in the majority of grades of basic schools. In addition to standard subjects, schools also offered their pupils whole day education and after school activities in their school facilities. Schools began to provide, as a priority, teaching English language from the 3rd grade of basic education.

During the school year reviewed the CSI visited 1,928 basic schools (BSs), which accounted for 46.7% of the total number (4,125 BSs), and 68 six- and eight-year secondary general schools (SGSs), which accounted for 21.7% of the total number of 314 SGSs providing lower-secondary education (according to the statistical records of the IIE). Among inspection priorities were the evaluation of SEPs and the evaluation of educational achievement along with the benefits brought about by SEPs in the practice of BSs. As regards thematic inspections, the CSI concentrated on the education area of the FEP entitled “Language and Language Communication” (the Czech language and literature) and “Mathematics and Its Application”. Furthermore, the CSI monitored the preparedness of schools to make use of the “The EU – Money for Schools” project and from January to August the CSI conducted 616 consultations on how to use relevant templates in basic schools. The CSI also attempted to identify and subsequently evaluate the impacts of the Education Act and the results of reform on the education of pupils of former special schools. In the framework of this thematic inspection the CSI visited 171 schools. In basic education the CSI piloted new inspection procedures aimed at evaluating educational achievement, the transit of pupils to a higher level of education and the option to test the level of reading literacy in the 3rd grades of BSs.

In total 4,770 inspections were carried out in 1,928 BSs. Inspection teams evaluated 1,509 SEPs in basic schools and 53 SEPs for lower grades of six- and eight-year SGSs. Thus when analyses from the two previous years are taken into account the CSI had evaluated as of 30 June 2010 in total 3,613 SEPs for basic education.

The summarised evaluation of the situation in basic education also comprises 233 complaints encompassing 474 points and the findings of school inspectors who participated in 173 selection interviews. The summarised findings obtained are based on analyses of all forms of inspection activities carried out in the past school year and are arranged according to the National Criteria Framework.

When processing the data the division into small BSs up to 150 children and large BSs educating more than 150 children is used. Some selected indicators are based on data classified according to the regional structure or according to the founders of individual schools.

In the school year 2009/2010 basic education was implemented, in addition to the FEP BE, (including the Annex regulating the education of pupils with light mental