



for financing pre-school education. The overview of how available capacities are used indicates the local limitation of the availability of pre-school education in Prague and in the Central Bohemian Region.

More detailed research by the Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs (RILSA) also demonstrated the influence of the size of the municipality, where a school is located in relation to the number of rejected applications for admission. In small municipalities of up to 500 inhabitants, about 10% of schools denied applications for admission, whilst in towns with more than 50,000 inhabitants approximately 71% of schools refused filed applications, thus rejecting in total 22% of children whose parents applied for enrolment.

Development in the Structure of Pre-school Education Provision

In the monitored period in total 314,008 children attended kindergartens, which means that their number, when compared with the previous year, increased by 4.11%. The Education Act defines several categories of children whom the school is obliged to provide with specifically focused pre-school education. The care for children suffering from health problems, children with social and cultural disadvantages and foreign nationals was newly separated. The Act also allowed for exceptional pre-school education of children under three years of age and children older than six years whose compulsory schooling had been postponed. The lowest participation of children in pre-school education was detected in the Central Bohemian Region (90.3%), in the Usti Region (91.5%) and in the Karlovy Vary Region (95.2%).

Table 3

Structure of educational provision

Monitored parameter Czech Rep. (according to the IIE)	Situation in the school year 2008/2009	Situation in the school year 2009/2010	Year-on-year change in %
Proportion of five-year old children (%)	29.40	28.80	-0.60
Proportion of children with SEN (%)	1.07	1.04	-0.03
Proportion of children under three years in pre-school education (%)	8.75	9.81	+1.06
Proportion of children whose compulsory schooling was postponed (%)	21.72	21.11	-0.61
Proportion of foreign nationals in pre-school education (%)	1.09	1.18	+0.09

The proportion of five-year old children decreased slightly and therefore the number of five-year old children coming from risky environments who do not attend pre-school education went up.

The proportion of children under three years admitted to pre-school education increased (1.06%); however, the demand of parents exceeds the current supply.

Institutional care for children with special education needs was provided to 1.04% children of pre-school age in special kindergartens. The highest proportion of children in such schools was reported from the Hradec Kralove Region (2%).

The rate of group integration of children with SEN in mainstream schools was 2.29% at the republic-wide level, with the largest proportion being in the Liberec Region (3.8%).

The rate of individual integration of children with SEN in mainstream schools was 0.57%, while most of such children were integrated in the Liberec Region (1.2%).

The proportion of children whose compulsory school attendance was postponed dropped slightly, which could be partially caused by the opportunity to attend pre-

