

As regards natural sciences 77.9 % of teachers were fully qualified at the elementary level. The length of their teaching experiences was 19.1 years and their average age was 44.2 years. 81.1 % of teachers were qualified at the second level of BSs and these had been teaching for 18.2 years; the average age was 44.3 years. At the lower-secondary level of six- and eight-year secondary general schools 100 % of teachers were fully qualified, their teaching experience had lasted for 10.0 years and their average age was 34.5 years. One third of teachers of natural sciences at the elementary level and a half of teachers at the second level of BSs in the course of one school year had an opportunity for further education to enhance either their professional qualifications or to improve the didactics of natural science subjects.

On average, 17.0 students attended classes of natural science at the elementary level, absence was 10.5 %. At the second level of BSs there were 19 pupils in natural science classes, absence was 13.2 %. At the lower-secondary level of six- and eight-year secondary general schools 30.5 pupils were recorded in natural science classes and absence was minimal. The following overview contains an analysis of observations of lessons of natural science subjects and there is also a comparison of the findings resulting from observations of technical subjects and practical training.

Table 38 Assessment of the establishment of skills of basic school pupils in subjects incorporated in FEP in the natural science area (share of occurrence in %)

Monitored indicators	2010/2011	
	Natural science subjects	Vocational and practical training
Democratic environment, mutual communication, interest in instruction	54.9	94.7
Differentiated tasks and requirements according to the abilities and competences of pupils	60.1	92.1
Content correctness	98.1	100.0
Explanation of unknown terms and foreign words	67.4	25.0
Links to practice and life situations	95.2	86.5
Out-of-school events, trips and excursions	22.0	5.4
Search for relations with other subjects	80.8	56.3
Use of new scientific and technological findings	66.1	12.9
Opportunities for use of information found	65.8	22.6
Opportunities for experiments, manipulation and intentional observations	53.0	29.0
Activities relating to OHS	50.9	32.3
Support for a healthy lifestyle	54.9	45.2
Care for neighbouring environment	55.3	16.1
Support for pupils with SEN	58.5	86.5
Opportunities for talented pupils	27.9	2.7

Among the strengths there were the use of technical terminology and symbols, the logical structure and intelligibility of lessons, emphasis put on repetition and the strengthening of topics taught, good time arrangement of lessons, the