

pulsory school attendance. It is stated that there is a lack of speech therapists in kindergartens.

Compulsory school attendance of more than one fifth of children with special educational needs was postponed. The proportion of children with postponement amounted to 22.8 % out of all participants in pre-school education. When compared to other European countries this proportion is still too high. Speech impairments (33.6 %) and attention disorders (31.1 %) were among the most frequent reasons for postponement of compulsory school attendance. There is relatively high proportion of children whose compulsory school attendance was postponed due to overall speech impediments (12.4 %) and underdeveloped graphomotorics (15.7 %). Their postponement is usually proposed by parents.

Although the number of children with special educational needs is relatively high, funds allocated for these children are not sufficient to provide teacher's assistants to the full extent recommended. Also the funds for compensation and rehabilitation aids are insufficient.

2 BASIC EDUCATION

2.1

Statistical data on basic education

In the school year 2012/2013 in total **4095 basic schools** were enlisted in the School Register. The number of **basic school pupils** increased by 1.6 % to **807 950**. The average number of pupils per one class was 19.4. Due to demographic development the number of pupils in first five grades continued to increase (488 106) and the number of lower secondary pupils decreased (319 844). The proportion of pupils with a health disability decreased by one tenth of a per cent point to 8.9 % (i.e. 72 110 pupils). On the other hand the proportion of foreigners increased to 1.8 % (i.e. 14 551 pupils).

52 983.4 mil. CZK were spent on basic education. The funding per capita (normative funding) amounted to 49 825 CZK (1819.09 EUR), the average salary of pedagogic workers in basic education was 26 771 CK (977.4 EUR).

The average age of basic school principals was 50.1 years. The average length of their pedagogic praxis was 25.7 years. The average age of pedagogic workers in basic schools was 44.2 years. The average length of praxis of a pedagogic worker in inspected basic schools was 19.1 years.

2.2

A summary of CSI selected findings on basic education

In the school year 2012/2013 the CSI evaluated 762 schools in basic education, of which 66.12 % represented complete basic schools with grades 1 – 9. School inspectors conducted 7 318 class observations focused mainly on Czech language, foreign language and mathematics lessons.

The share of teachers having a good knowledge of a foreign language belongs to the long-term