



The average teaching period of English language teachers was 8.8 years. There were 19.8% of teachers who were beginners, i.e. they had taught less than three years, and 6.9% of teachers who had taught more than 35 years. 63.2% of schools paid attention to new English teachers and created conditions for their adaptation. 45% of teachers had active knowledge of another foreign language and the majority of English teachers were in possession of an ICT certificate – an extended module which they acquired after having completed further education courses (65.2%); however, only 15.4% of them used ICT when teaching.

### **Teaching of English at the Primary Level of Basic Schools**

The English language is taught as the first foreign language in 3<sup>rd</sup> grades of 98.3% of BSs and 94.6% of the total number of pupils are involved in learning English in this grade. Instruction is implemented in compliance with the obligatory time allotment and so called discretionary lessons determined from foreign language teaching are used mainly in the first and second grades of BSs. 11% of pupils learn a foreign language as an optional subject or in language clubs. Class or school language projects, school trips abroad, school trips aimed at getting know new things or student exchanges are the most typical motivation-led activities. When teaching foreign languages in the grades of primary level of BSs teachers hardly work with the European Language Portfolio and in 20% of schools pupils create their own language portfolios.

From the replies of pupils of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade within a questionnaire-based survey relating to the possibilities of the usage of foreign languages in their personal life it is apparent that 80% of pupils evaluate their knowledge as very good and 88% of them have a positive relation to learning foreign languages. One in five respondents from among pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades attends language courses outside school lessons. As regards the possibility to use the acquired knowledge of a foreign language 60% of 5<sup>th</sup> grade pupils ticked a negative answer, only 22.7% are involved in foreign language activities organised by their schools, 12% of respondents used their knowledge of foreign languages when they met foreign pupils who visited their school and less than 6% communicated in a foreign language abroad.

### **Teaching of English at the Lower Secondary Level of Basic Schools**

31% of pupils of BSs and 39% of students of six- and eight-year SGSs evaluate foreign language teaching as interesting, 58% (BSs) and 50% (six- and eight-year SGSs) of pupils evaluate such lessons as quite satisfactory. Instruction of other subjects in a foreign language, with the exception of one school which launched such activities only last year, was not implemented in the visited schools. 8% of the schools visited were engaged in cross-border cooperation. 9% of schools used an entrance test to find out the level of English knowledge and consistency was declared in 91% of cases, but only 20.4% of schools were able to divide their pupils according to the level of their knowledge. Cooperation between different levels of schools is ensured in 90% of cases.

Within the last three years, 15.8% of pupils were able to apply acquired language competences in English when they travelled abroad within activities organised by schools and two thirds of them travelled abroad with the aim of getting to know new things and places. The European Language Portfolio is used by 23.9% of schools for teaching English.

In the observed schools 29% of students of six- and eight-year secondary general schools and 13% of pupils of basic schools stated that knowledge of a foreign language enables them to communicate fluently in everyday situations. A further 61% students of SGSs and 76% pupils of BSs are convinced that they are able to talk well about certain topics and are able to make themselves understood. Moreover, 28% of SGS students and 20% of pupils of BSs attend also private foreign language lessons.