

6 Facilities for Institutional or Protective Education

School facilities for institutional, protective care or preventive care are generally intended for children and youth aged 3-18 years who need protection due to the adverse effects of a dysfunctional family or other socially disadvantaged environment. They provide foster care in order to ensure the children's healthy development, proper upbringing and education.

Children without educational problems attend mainstream primary and secondary schools while for children with serious behavioural disorders special elementary or secondary schools with appropriate educational programs are set up. Children are placed here on the basis of a court decision or at the request of their legal representatives.

A revolutionary change and an important condition for improving childcare facilities for institutional and protective upbringing is an introduction of....

In this school year, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport issued Standards of Child Care in Institutional and Protective Education serving as guidelines with an aim of setting and regulating quality of care for children in institutional and protective facilities. The issued standards present qualitative criteria and at the same time indicate the desired development of these facilities. The Czech School Inspectorate actively participated in the pilot testing of these standards from September to December 2014.

In the school year 2014/2015, a total of 214 facilities for institutional and protective education and preventive care were registered in the Czech Republic while a total of 6,495 children (most of them in children's homes - 66.4%) were placed in them.

Figure 8

Number of children in various types of educational facilities for institutional or protective education

School year 2014/2015	Facilities		Children and Youth	
	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
Children's Home	144	67,3	4 314	66,4
Children's home with school	29	13,6	679	10,5
Therapeutic boarding school	28	13,1	1 081	16,6
Diagnostic Institute	13	3,1	421	6,5
Total	214		6 495	

Comprehensive inspection activities were performed in 27 facilities in the school year 2014/2015. Children's homes are founded by regional authorities and other institutions are founded by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. Private founders run only a negligible portion of these facilities. In none of the inspected facilities, number of children exceeded the total capacity of the institution. A new trend can be detected, though. The number of children under 3 years of age is rising as well as the number of children 18 years or older that stay in the institution until they finish their initial education.

Summary of Inspection Activity

Positive Findings

- *Increasingly, the institutions and facilities try to resemble or simulate the family and household environment, with areas for dining, relaxing and preparing for classes.*
- *A fairly good representation of workers with psychotherapeutic training can be found in the diagnostic and therapeutic boarding schools.*