

Education of children with migration background

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Cultural Diversity

- Slovakia – a country of Slovaks?
- Minorities – almost 20% of population
- Foreigners – 85 000 (around 1500 children in primary schools)
- School system- inadequately reflects cultural diversity and situation of children with migration background

Children – foreigners in state primary schools (Source: Statistical Year book 2016/2017))

Region	Nr. of all pupils	Nr. of foreigners	%
Bratislavský	41 968	504	1,2%
Trnavský	40 542	174	0,42%
Trenčiansky	39 859	80	0,2%
Nitriansky	47 139	186	0,39%
Žilinský	53 495	94	0,17%
Banskobystrický	46 499	107	0,23%
Prešovský	69 051	132	0,19%
Košický	62 975	175	0,28%
Slovenská republika	401 528	1452	0,36%

Macro level – legislation and institutional framework

- School attendance is mandatory for all children – foreigners included
- School law –paragraph (§146) and methodical guideline 7/2009
- Education of foreigners is provided „according to the same conditions as for citizens“
- Non discriminatory approach
- Practical inequality

- Absence of adequate language education for children
- Low support from the state (teaching assistants, financial support, methodical support for teachers)
- Teachers „left alone“

How to achieve good education for pupils

Individual approach to children

Teachers need to:

- Teach the language of instruction as the second language
- Modify and adapt teaching methods and teaching materials (school aids, school texts) according to the needs of pupils with migration background
- Change the assessment of educational outcomes (progress, not the outcome as such)
- Work with the whole school and class community (peer relations)
- Communicate with parents
- Use individual educational plans for pupils with migration background
- Use peer tutoring and mentoring in the class

Good practice

„Education of children with migration background – training for teachers“

- The Milan Šimečka Foundation and Center for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture
- Accredited in 2010 by Ministry of Education
- Two courses (2010 and 2012)
- Aimed at teachers of primary schools attended by children with migration background
- The main aim of the training was to provide support to teachers in integration of children into educational system
- 80 hours of training (3 intense trainings)

Structure of the training

- **Children of foreigners in Slovak schools** (basic terms, theories, legislation, previous experiences with education of children with migratuon background)
- **Diversity in education and cultural sensitivity in education** (key competences of teachers)
- **Educational needs of pupils** (how to identify the needs of children with migration background)
- **Didactic aspects** – strategies for learning and teaching, strategies for inclusion, working with children with different cultural background
- **Preparation of “model**
- **Monitoring, assessment and evaluation**
- **Good practices**
- **Preparation of individual plans for pupils**

Follow up – study visit in Great Britain

- The Milan Šimečka Foundation and British council
- End of 2013
- 10 teachers (participants of the trainings) + 5 educational experts
- Visit of 5 British schools (muslim, jewish, catholic, church of England schools)
- Workshops with British experts
- Discussions about inclusive education, cultural diversity, integration of children
- After the study visit – teachers updated their individual teaching plans and set future activities with their pupils
- Publication - good practices and inspirations from Great Britain