



M11-Comenius

Education in Europe

We are the world.

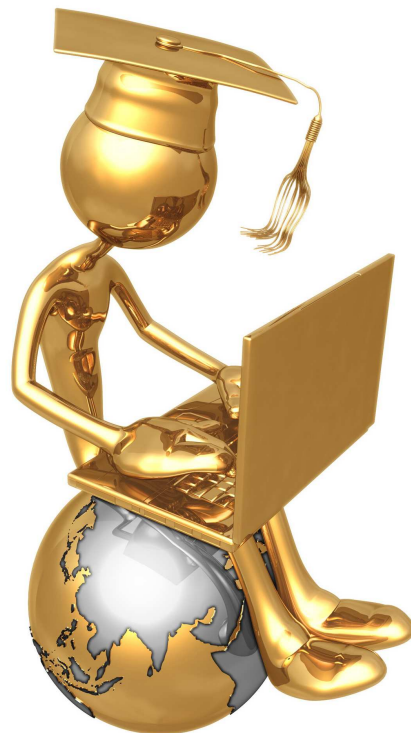
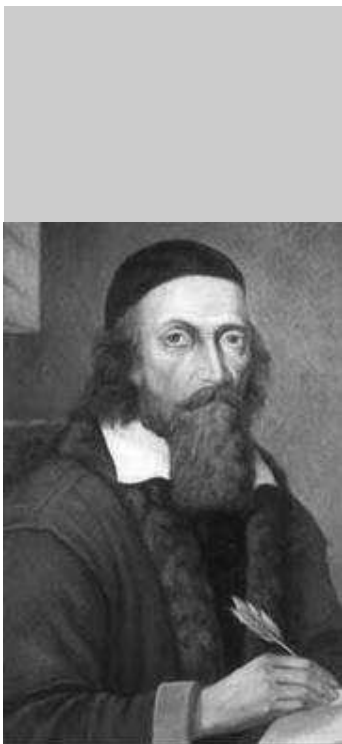
We are the children.



We are the world
We are the world children



Education system from the Czech Republic



At the end of September all our pupils worked on the project about education in Europe. Younger pupils made posters and played small theatres about history of the Czech education, older students made posters, comics and projects about the system of education in the UK, Poland and Bulgaria. You can find out some important information from our video, that was made by pupils aged 12.



EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Basic facts

The Czech Republic has quite different education system than the United Kingdom. Education in the Czech Republic is divided into several stages: pre-school, primary, secondary and higher education. Handicapped children are educated separately from the others. School year starts on the 1st September and ends on 30th July and is divided into two terms. The first term is from September to January and the second term is from February to July. The students are evaluated by marks one to five, where one is the best and five is the worst. Classes usually start at eight o'clock.

Pre-school education

The youngest children in the Czech Republic from the age of three to five may be sent to nursery school to prepare them for the start of compulsory education.

Primary education

Every child in the Czech Republic has to start their compulsory education in the age of six. Most children attend state schools, where are no tuition fees charged. There are also private and church schools. Pupils at primary school gain their textbooks from their school for free and they don't wear any school uniforms. Primary education lasts for nine years. Pupils finish their compulsory education at primary school without any school-leaving exam in the age of fifteen.

Secondary education

Most students go on to the secondary school. There are several types of secondary schools: Grammar school, which prepares students for university and gives them general and academic education. Further there are special schools including technical colleges, business academy and schools specialised in several way like for example chemistry and building. Finally there are vocational schools, which prepare students for practical professions. The students are accepted either according to results of their entrance examination or according to their previous school report. Secondary education lasts for four years and at most schools is usually finished with a school-leaving examination, which is taken in four subjects: Czech, foreign language and two electives. From these subjects is compulsory the examination from Czech, which is divided into written and oral part. Students can finish their studies or for those, who don't want to study at university can attend two-year courses with specialisation for managers, businessmen, language expert, etc.

Higher education

Higher education lasts from four to six years. Every student who studies at the university has to pay tuition fees. Students are accepted after they have successfully passed an entrance examination. This exam consists of written text and interview. The university students can study either for three years for a Bachelor's degree or for four to five years for Master's degree. Students finish their studies at the university with a final state exam and thesis defence.

The most well-known universities in the CZ

Charles University – Charles University is located in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. It was founded in year 1340 during the reign of Emperor Charles IV. It was the first German language university and is among the oldest universities in Europe. Until the Second World War the university consisted of two sections: A German and a Czech language section.

Education system from Poland





In Poland we have the following types of schools:

- Nursery (0-3 years old)
- Kindergarten (3-5 years old)
- Primary school (6-12 years old)
- Secondary school/gymnasjum (13-16 years old)
- High school (17-19 years old)
- University: 3-years (bachelor) and then 2 years (MA) or 5 years MA

Compulsory education starts at the age of 5 – the kids have to go to kindergarten.

At the age of 6 they can go to primary school or they can stay one year in kindergarten and start primary at the age of 7.

Compulsory education lasts up to the end of secondary school.

In primary school in the first three years children learn to write, read and they practise manual skills. They play too.

In the year 4 they start learning different subjects separately. They learn:

Polish – 5 hours per week

English- 2-3 hours per week

Maths- 5 hours per week

Science – 3 hours per week

History -1-2 hours per week

IT - 1 hour per week

Music - 1 hour per week

PE - 4 hours per week

Art - 1 hour per week

Design and technology - 1 hour per week

Religious Education - 2 hours per week

All subjects are compulsory. Each hour lasts 45 minutes. Then there is 10-15 minutes break.

We start lessons at 8.00 am and finish around 1 or 2 pm.

In many schools, especially in big towns or cities, there are school canteens. The children can eat lunch at school but the parents pay for that – usually around 6 zlotys per day (1,5 Euro).

In small schools, in villages the lunch is delivered by catering service.

Secondary school

In secondary school the children have more subjects. Apart from those in the primary school, they also learn:

- The second language (usually German)
- Biology
- Geography
- Physics
- Chemistry

School also offer extra activities like:

- School clubs: sport, art, drama, photography, design etc.

- Pedagogical help for the children with special needs

Bulgarian Education System





Structure

Education in Bulgaria is compulsory until the age of 16. The school year consists of two terms, starts on September 15th and ends in May or June. The education system consists of the following levels: pre-primary education, primary education, secondary education and higher education. Pre-primary education (ISCED'97, Level 0) embraces the children between 3 to 6/7 years old. The attendance of kindergarten is optional. Elementary education (grades 1 to 8 ISCED'97 Level 1, 2 and 2A) comprises primary school (grades 1 through 4) and lower secondary school/second step of basic school (grades 5 - 8). Elementary education can be obtained at state schools, municipality schools or private schools. In addition, at the same education level, vocational training is available in accordance with professional-technical curricula upon completion of grades 6, 7 or 8. School children who have successfully completed grade 4 obtain the *Certificate for Primary Education*. The *Certificate for Elementary Education* is issued for the successful completion of grade 8.

Pre-school education

Pre-school education (ISCED'97, Level 0) embraces the children between 3 to 6/7 years. The attendance of kindergarten is optional. Next to the state-run kindergartens, which prevail (over 95 %), there are also private ones and their number is growing.

Elementary and secondary education

Elementary education (grades 1 through 8) comprises primary school (grades 1 through 4 ISCED'97 Level 1) and junior high school (grades 5 – 8, ISCED'97 Level 2A). Elementary education can be obtained at state, municipality or private schools. In addition, at the same education level, vocational training is available in accordance with professional-technical curricula upon completion of grades 6, 7 or 8. The *Certificate for Primary Education* is issued upon successful completion of grade 4 and the *Certificate for Elementary Education* is obtained for successful completion of grade 8.

Secondary education (ISCED'97 Level 3A) can be divided into comprehensive education (comprehensive and specialized schools) and vocational training. General secondary education can be obtained at comprehensive schools (course duration 3-4 years) and at specialized schools (course duration 4-5 years). The admission in the specialized schools is upon completion of grades 7 or 8 and after exams depending on the profile of the school. (in Bulgarian language and literature, mathematics, humanities etc.)

Secondary education can be obtained also at technical schools after completion of grade 8 and 4 years of training or after completion of grade 7 and 5 years of training. Vocational schools with a three-year curriculum also provide secondary education.

Educational curricula for technical vocational schools (ISCED' 97 Level 3C) are offered after completion of elementary education, the course duration is 2 years. The acquired vocational qualification enables the access to the labor market.

General secondary (comprehensive) education

The general secondary education (upper level) can be divided into secondary comprehensive and secondary specialized education. Secondary comprehensive education can be obtained at secondary comprehensive schools (for 3-4 years), and the secondary specialized education – at specialized secondary schools (for 4-5 years). The admission to the specialized schools is upon completion of grade 7 or grade 8 and successful passage of the entry exams, corresponding to the school profile (in Bulgarian language and literature, mathematics, humanities etc.)

General secondary education (upper level) is offered by:

- **Secondary comprehensive schools**, they cover: primary school level – grades 1 through 4; junior high school – grades 5 through 8 and secondary school level – grades 9 through 11.
- **Specialized schools with emphasis on foreign languages** (language schools) – admission after grade 7 and upon entry exams. They cover grades 8 through 12/13.

- **Specialized secondary schools** – admission upon completion of grade 8 (theses are schools with emphasis either on science and/or mathematics, or on humanities, or sports, or arts etc.) They cover grades 9 through 12/13.

Special needs education

There is a network of state-run boarding schools to support and educate physically or mentally disadvantaged children. The priorities in this area like legal frame for the funding, development of alternative forms of education, system of school preparation for the integration and socialization of the children with special needs, programs for integrated educational forms, individual training etc. are still pending.

School-leaving examinations

The students in the secondary comprehensive schools go in for school-leaving exams in the following subjects:

- Bulgarian language and Literature
- A general subject of their own choice (excluding Bulgarian language and Literature); the subject has to be included in the compulsory curriculum for the last schooling year.
- The students in the specialized/specialized secondary schools sit for school-leaving exams in the following subjects
- Bulgarian language and Literature
- The main subject of the specialized school; if it is Bulgarian language and Literature, the examination is in the second important subject of the school.

Exempt from school-leaving exams are all the students, whose average mark is at least "Very good" (5) on a certain subject from the curriculum for this level and whose annual mark for the last school year on the same (obligatory or optional) subject is at least "Very good" (5) too.

Schools in the system of secondary education in Bulgaria

Secondary education in Bulgaria (upper level) can be divided in general education and vocational training. The general secondary education on its part divides in comprehensive one and specialized one. There are comprehensive schools of general education (3-4 years of attendance) and specialized secondary schools (4-5 years of attendance). The admission to the specialized schools is upon completion of grade 7 or grade 8 and successful passage of the entry exams, corresponding to the school profile (in Bulgarian language and literature, mathematics, humanities etc.)

General secondary education (upper level) is offered by:

Secondary comprehensive schools, they cover: primary school level – grades 1 through 4; junior high school – grades 5 through 8 and secondary school level – grades 9 through 11.

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Specialized secondary schools – admission upon completion of grade 8 (theses are schools with emphasis either on science and/or mathematics, or on humanities, or sports, or arts etc.) They cover grades 9 through 12/13.

Vocational secondary education is available at the vocational-technical and in the technical schools. The vocational-technical schools offer three years of training upon completion of grade 8 and 5 years of training upon completion of grade 7. Both result in specialized secondary education.

These schools offer also other forms of training, such as evening courses, external or on-site training, in order to enable students at the age of 16 and above to acquire qualification. Presence at the evening courses is obligatory, while the organization of the other forms of training is student's responsibility.

HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES IN BULGARIA:

The higher education system in Bulgaria comprises various forms of programs and curricula upon the completion of the secondary level. The legal frame for founding of higher education institutions is set

by the Law of Higher Education. According to Article 9 of this Law, the Parliament (Narodno sabranie) plays the key role in decision making about matters, concerning the network of higher education institutions in the country. The Parliament (Narodno sabranie) is entitled to establish, transform and close the educational organizations on the grounds of a proposal by the Ministry council. In the recent 4 years the higher education network was object of important changes and transformations.

At present the higher education system unites universities, specialized institutions of higher education (academia, institutes) and colleges.

The *universities* are those educational institutions for higher learning, which ensure education in a wide spectrum of specialties, at least in three of the four main scientific areas (humanities, science, social and technological studies). The universities have enough own research capacity and equipment to contribute to the progress in the main areas of science and culture. These institution for higher learning are entitled to teach students to all degrees (ISCED'97 Levels 5A, 6).

The *specialized institutions of higher education* are engaged in teaching and research in one or more main areas of science, art, sports and defense. The name of the specialized higher school indicates the main specialties of its curriculum. This type of educational institutions for higher learning are also entitled to teach students to all degrees (ISCED'97 Levels 5A, 6).

The *colleges* offer a relatively shorter and vocation-oriented training (ISCED'97 Level 5B). These are the former semi-higher institutes, which have undergone different transformation. Actually most of them are part of the universities and use their equipment. There are also some independent colleges, which can meet the necessary academic and material conditions on their own.

The qualifications, acquired at the higher military schools, meet all the requirements of the education at civil institutions for higher education. So beside the title of the military specialty, the qualification encloses also a title, corresponding to the civil specialty.

Educational system in Great Britain

It falls into four stages:

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