

## **4. EDUCATION OF FOREIGNERS**

*Unless stipulated by the law otherwise, foreigners in the Czech Republic enjoy the same rights and duties in education as the Czech citizens do in the area of basic, secondary, higher professional, and university education. Foreigners have the right to education based on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The access to pre-school, basic art and language education under the same conditions as citizens of the Czech Republic and countries of the European Union belongs to persons provided that they have on the territory of the Czech Republic the right to stay for a period over 90 days or if they are persons with the right to stay on the territory of the Czech Republic for the purpose of research or if they have asylum or if they are persons enjoying subsidiarity protection, applicants for international protection or persons enjoying temporary protection.*

*The education of foreigners is governed by the following legal regulations of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR:*

*- Act No. 561/2004 Sb., on pre-school, basic, secondary, higher professional, and other education (the Education Act), as amended, Section 20 Education of foreigners;*

*- Instruction No. 21 153/2000-35 of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR, on the Provision of Czech Language Courses for Refugees (of 4 June 2000, with effect from 1 July 2000, published in the Journal of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR No. 7/2000);*

*- Act No. 111/1998 Sb. on Higher Education Institutions and on the Amendment to Some Other Acts (the Higher Education Act), as amended.*

### **The education of foreigners is based on the following principles:**

- 1) Persons, who are not citizens of the Czech Republic and are rightfully staying on the territory of the Czech Republic, have access to basic, secondary, and higher professional education on the same conditions as citizens of the Czech Republic, including education during their stay in reform and correctional school establishments; they have access also to school catering and leisure education in regular attendance providing that they are pupils of a basic school, a corresponding year of a secondary school, or a corresponding year of a conservatoire;*
- 2) Citizens of the European Union and their family members have access to education and education services on the same conditions as citizens of the Czech Republic;*
- 3) Persons who are not citizens of the Czech Republic, have under the same conditions as EU citizens access to pre-school education, basic art education, language education and school services under the Education Act if they have the right to stay in the Czech Republic for a period longer than 90 days or if they are persons entitled to reside in the Czech Republic for the purpose of research, refugees, persons under subsidiarity protection, applicants for international protection, or persons under temporary protection;*
- 4) Persons, who are not citizens of the Czech Republic and obtained their previous education at a school abroad are at entrance exams to education at a secondary school and a higher professional school upon their request exempt from the Czech language entrance exam provided that it is a part of an entrance exam; knowledge of Czech language that is necessary for education in a given field of education is examined by the school by a personal interview with those persons;*
- 5) For pupils, who are children of a person-citizen of another Member State of the European Union, and who on the territory of the Czech Republic (where such a person performed or is performing working activity in employment or self-employment or is studying on the territory of the Czech Republic or obtained on the territory of the Czech Republic the right to stay due to another reason) are staying for a long-term and are fulfilling their compulsory school attendance according to the Education Act, the Regional Office competent according*

to the place of residence of the pupil in cooperation with the founder of the school will ensure:

- Free preparation for their inclusion into basic education, which will include teaching of Czech language adopted to the needs of those pupils;
- When possible, in cooperation with the country of origin of the pupil, support of teaching of his mother tongue and culture of the country of origin, which will be coordinated with usual education in the basic school.

The Regional Office shall ensure preparation of teachers, who will ensure that education;

- 6) The education of foreigners at public universities is regulated by the **Act No. 111/1998 Sb. on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments to Other Acts (the Higher Education Act)**, as amended; foreigners study under the same conditions as Czech students. They shall pay a fee for study under bachelor's, master's or doctoral programmes, if the university runs a study programme in a foreign language.

### **Methodological notes on the Tables**

Unless stated otherwise, the data refer to schools established by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR, by municipalities, regions, private or church founders, and in the case of secondary and higher professional schools also by other ministries.

In tables for universities, data are for public and private universities (excluding data for state schools, i.e. schools established by the Ministry of Defence of the CR and the Ministry of the Interior of the CR). In order to unify the methodology of outputs on university students, all data are annually recalculated according to this methodology and thus do not correspond to the data published in previous years. Data on university students are headcount as at 31 December, data on the enrolled for the first time and on graduates are headcount for a calendar year. Background data are taken over from the so-called "SIMS" system, which reads in English the "Union Information from Students' Registers" and as universities deliver corrections to the system also retrospectively, it is not possible to add to the time series continuously; it is necessary to recalculate the data every year also for the previous years.

With regards to the calculation methodology, the sum of data for individual categories in the tables may be higher than the "Total". It applies to the headcount and a student (the first-enrolled, graduate) may study (be accepted, graduate) at more universities/faculties or in more programmes. Like in the previous years, individual types of schools comprise data including schools for pupils with special educational needs.

Since 2009/2010, in the case of nursery schools, basic schools, secondary schools, conservatoires, and higher professional schools the data on the number of children/pupils/students with temporary residence have not been reported.

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### **Nursery schools**

Share of foreigners in nursery schools is 1.7% of all children attending nursery schools. An absolute majority of children - foreigners at nursery schools come from Viet Nam (26.7%), the Ukraine (23.1%), Slovakia (17.4%), and the Russian Federation (7.2%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreigners in nursery schools has almost doubled and in 2013/2014 6 307 foreigners attended nursery schools.

## **Basic schools**

Foreigners account for 1.8% of pupils in basic schools in the Czech Republic; they are mostly citizens of the Ukraine (23.8%), Slovakia (22.8%), Viet Nam (19.2%), and the Russian Federation (8.4%). In 2013/2014, 15 109 foreigners were studying at basic schools, which was by 17% more than in 2003/2004.

## **Secondary schools**

As far as secondary education is concerned, the share of foreign students is 2.0%. They are, as in the case of nursery schools and basic schools, especially citizens of Viet Nam (24.4%), the Ukraine (24.1%), Slovakia (18.1%), and the Russian Federation (11.3%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreign students studying at secondary schools has increased 2.6 times. In 2013/2014, 9 147 foreign students were studying at secondary schools.

Foreigners attend mainly secondary schools in the Hl. m. Praha Region, the Jihomoravský Region, the Středočeský Region, and the Ústecký Region. They study most often in the fields of education of a grammar school (40.5% of foreigners), in economic fields of education (12.1%), and gastronomy, hotel services, and tourism (8.5%).

## **Conservatoires**

In total, 185 foreigners are studying at conservatoires; their share in the total number of pupils studying at conservatoires is 5.1%. Most often they are citizens of Slovakia (40.0%), the Ukraine (15.7%), and the Russian Federation (13.5%).

## **Higher professional schools**

In total, 547 students with foreign citizenship are studying at higher professional schools. Foreigners make up 1.9% of all pupils in higher professional schools; they are mostly citizens of Slovakia (47.3%), the Ukraine (20.3%), and the Russian Federation (14.8%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreign students studying at higher professional schools has increased by 42.0%. The foreign pupils are mostly attending full-time studies and more than a third is in distance study courses.

Most foreigners study at higher professional schools in the Hl. m. Praha Region (45.7%), in the Jihomoravský Region (9.3% of foreigners), and in the Středočeský Region (7.9%).

At higher professional schools, foreigners study most frequently in the following fields of education: health service (28.7%), art (15.7%), pedagogy, teacher training, and social services (10.6%), and gastronomy, hotel services, and tourism (10.1%).

## **Universities**

Most foreigners study at universities. Since the 2003/2004 academic year their number at Czech public and private universities has increased about three times. Now they account for 11.1% of all public and private university students (i.e. 40 836 foreign students).

The number of students naturally depends on the number of new enrollees (enrolled for the first time) in individual years. Foreign students make up 13.7% of all students first enrolled to universities (i.e. 9 325 students enrolled for the first time). Of the total number of public and private university graduates, 9.0% (i.e. 8 200 graduates) are foreigners.

Most foreigners attend universities in the City of Praha (51.5% of foreigners studying at Czech public and private universities) and in the City of Brno (28.6%). They are mostly students from the Slovak Republic (57.4%) and the Russian Federation (10.6%) followed by students from the Ukraine (4.9%), Kazakhstan (3.3%), Viet Nam (2.6%), Belarus (1.5%), the United Kingdom (1.2%), Germany (1.1%), and Portugal (1.0%). Students from the EU Member States make up 65.7% of all foreigners studying at Czech universities.

Foreigners mostly study at the public and private universities: technical sciences (18.2%), economic sciences (17.0%), and health services, medicine and pharmacy (16.4%).