

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

META, o.p.s. is a non-profit organization supporting foreigners in having equal access to education and labor integration since 2004. It supports teachers and schools struggling with the specific needs of pupils and children with different mother tongues (DMT). Besides the direct work with foreigners and teachers, META also promotes and forms an education system that would be able to react conceptually, continuously, and appropriately with the educational needs of all pupils in order to develop their full potential. Through diverse activities for the public, META helps to create an open dialogue and understanding between foreigners and the majority of society.

- We help people for whom Czech is an obstacle to education or work
- We offer courses of Czech language of different types
- Thanks to volunteers we help foreigners through private tutoring and preparation for examinations
- We organize accredited seminars and workshops
- Schools can benefit from our methodological support and counseling
- We run the internet portal www.inkluzivniskola.cz
- In cooperation with teachers we create and test methodological and teaching materials
- We provide information to other organizations and institutions in the field of education
- We suggest and press for systematic change to enhance the conditions of children with DMT in education
- In the long term, we engage in the training of teaching assistants and community interpreters as well as in the promotion of their work
- We offer workshops for primary and secondary school pupils
- We organize roundtables and conferences for the professional public

We are members of the Consortium of Migrants Assisting Organizations ([Konsorcium nevládních organizací pracujících s migranty](#)) and the Czech Society for Inclusive education ([Česká odborná společnost pro inkluzivní vzdělávání](#)), employees of META are members of the Association of Teachers of Czech as a Foreign Language ([Asociace učitelů češtiny jako cizího jazyka](#)).

SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS

In 2017, META offered professional counseling focused on the equalization of the approach to the education of children, pupils and students with DMT. We supported the development of their full potential and eliminated intentional or unconscious discrimination in schools. 587 people made use of our services, with many cases cooperating long-term.

Our services are assisted by 35 volunteers, Czechs and foreigners, who provided individual or group tutoring for primary and secondary school pupils as well as for students of the one-year preparation course for secondary school. In this way, we supported 64 clients. In the club Čekuj! volunteers took part in the preparation of 12 free-time activities offered to META's clients and the public. Furthermore, they engaged as teachers in workshops at primary and secondary schools.

182 people were learning Czech at META in 2017. Thereof, 31 children and teenagers in intensive summer courses and 127 adults in 11 semestral courses of levels A0, A0/A1, A1/A2, A2/B1 and B1/B2. The second round of the one-year language course for young foreigners aged between 14 and 18 focused on entry to secondary school and welcomed 24 students from different parts of the world.

META implemented 12 workshops for primary schools in Prague and the surrounding region Středočeský kraj under the name "Even Jan Amos went to school abroad" (I Jan Amos chodil do školy v cizině) dedicated to the integration of foreigners with DMT at Czech schools. Together with the French Institute in Prague, we organized 2 screenings of the documentary film School of Babel watched by nearly 270 primary and secondary school pupils.

SERVICES FOR TEACHERS

In 2017, as in previous years, we engaged in training and counseling teachers at all school levels. We widened the offer of seminars, focused on language training of kindergartners and the use of schooling methods and activities for primary and secondary pupils with DMT. In 2016 we began to engage in supporting secondary school pupils in preparation for the Czech state graduation in Czech language and literature. In 2017 we followed up on this topic by preparing a seminar for Czech language secondary school teachers. The internet portal www.inkluzivniskola.cz was brought up to date and we published a respectable number of 96 new and tested teaching materials followed by piloting language preparation at all school levels. In kindergartens, we introduced the method KIKUS for the second year already. At our partner primary schools, we tested ways of organizing and teaching Czech. For future secondary school pupils, we continued in piloting the one-year preparation course for secondary schools "Click with school". Recently, the e-learning for teaching Czech as a foreign language (www.cestina2.cz) has been extended by 40 teaching lessons.

In 2017, META supported 669 kindergartners, primary and secondary teachers and implemented 49 seminars within the portal DVPP offering further education for teachers. 452 pedagogues of all school levels made use of our methodological support and counseling. From March to December 74.585 users visited the portal www.inkluzivniskola.cz.

SYSTEMATIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2017, we also undertook activities aiming to achieve our long-term goal, namely to establish an education system where cultural and language differences are not considered as obstacles to education. In the long term, we refer to shortcomings in the education system and we make suggestions to key actors on how to change the system to make it fairer. In this regard, we have been successful! Support for pupils with DMT is explicitly mentioned in aid measures. The Concept of Integration of Foreigners in the region of the city of Prague pays special attention to our systematic support. We were devoted to the topic of aid measures, language training for primary schools, and entrance exams and graduation in Czech language and literature.

We were monitoring the implementation of the amendment to the education act at schools. We asked the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Czech School Inspectorate and the National Institute of Education to give their opinions on the explanation of the amendment to the education act. Their opinions helped to improve the approach of school services towards children and pupils with DMT. As part of an expert group, we created and discussed a policy paper focused on the implementation of the amendment to the education act. We organized a meeting of the platform for pedagogical-psychological counseling centers. We also implemented four regional roundtables (in Pilsen, Ústí nad Labem, Kolín, and Prague) on the benefits of the so-called inclusive amendment for the education of children and pupils with DMT.

At the roundtable, we presented the Public Defender of Rights' opinions on the entrance and graduation exams for pupils with DMT. We participated in the implementation of the action plan for the Concept of Integration of Foreigners in the region of the city of Prague. META contributed to the objectives of the expert platform for the formation of the action plan for inclusive education 2019-2020 and it coordinated the work of the group on education.

Information on concrete projects and financial management of the organization in 2017 are contained in the Czech version only. If you are interested, please contact us.

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