

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

META, o.p.s. is a non-profit organisation that supports foreigners in an equal access to education and employment since 2004. We provide methodical support, counselling and education in inclusion of children and students with different mother tongue to teachers and schools. We propose and enforce measures that conceptually, continuously and in a suitable way respond to educational needs of children and students with insufficient knowledge of the Czech language, thus helping with development of their potential and social inclusion. Through a wide range of public activities we help to develop an open dialogue and understanding between foreigners and the majority of the society.

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](#)), the Association of Social Responsibility, 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 2018 we offered counselling focused on supporting the integration and inclusion of children, pupils and students with different mother tongue into the Czech education system. We create conditions for development of their potential and minimising discrimination caused by inadequate knowledge of the language of instruction. 617 clients used our services within professional social counselling; many cases being a part of long term interaction.

A wide spectrum of our services was supplemented by 44 volunteers, Czech nationals and foreigners alike, who provided individual and group tutoring for students from elementary or secondary schools and students of our yearlong preparatory course for secondary education. Overall, they supported 49 clients. Within the ČEKUJ! club the volunteers helped with preparation of 11 free time activities for the clients of META and the general public. The volunteers also helped with other aspects of our work.

225 people learned Czech with our help, of which 147 children and teenagers in the form of semestral and intensive summer courses and 80 adults within 8 semester courses on levels A0, A0/A1, A1/A2, A2/B1 a B1/B2. 24 students from all over the world in aged from 14 to 18 years enrolled into the yearlong secondary education preparatory course. We also provided improvement courses for students in secondary school.

We prepared 14 workshops “Even Jan Amos went to school abroad” for 257 pupils from 4 elementary schools in Prague and the region of Central Bohemia, focused on the integration of foreigners and the inclusion of students with different mother tongue into Czech schools.

Together with The French Institute we organised screening of a documentary “Babylon behind the desk” as an accompanying program for a two-day international conference.

SERVICES FOR TEACHERS

In 2018 we offered a large variety of our services to teachers, which traditionally included methodical support, educational and publication activities. The goal of our services is to mediate experiences, skills and tools that teachers use when working with children with a different mother tongue.

Methodical support and counselling were provided for kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools across the whole Czech republic; a total of 303 teachers were served. We provided answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) on the META website. We updated the internet portal www.inkluzivniskola.cz and published 80 new teaching materials there. The portal traffic is continuously increasing; in 2018 it was visited by 127 070 users.

We extended our offer of courses and we are newly offering an ICT course in teaching students with different mother tongue in elementary school and a course called “How to support students with different mother tongue in secondary schools”. We are adapting the content and activities of current courses to the ever-changing situation in schools. We offered complex 40-hour courses to teachers in kindergartens and elementary schools. In the terms of further education of pedagogical staff, we carried out 70 seminars attended by a total of 612 teachers.

We published 8 books for teachers and students with different first language. We created “Activities for kindergartens – activities for the whole class” with regard to children with different mother tongue and a methodology “Children with different mother language in kindergartens”. For teaching Czech as a second language we published a methodology for elementary schools “Teaching Czech as a second language – teacher’s guide” and “Organising teaching Czech as a second language”. A completely new addition is a textbook “Czech as a second language Easy peasy 1” for pupils of upper primary and secondary school and an Exercise book. We summarised the experience with the year-long preparatory course in our publication “How we organised our preparatory course”. We published 3 editions of the book “How’s school in my homeland” and supplemented it with video interviews with our protagonists and methodical videos for teachers. We revised the Ten Commandments for School Directors and the Ten Commandments for Teachers for the Action Plan of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreigners.

In the first half of the year we prepared four open house days in our partner kindergartens and elementary schools for Prague-based teachers with a panel discussion for language preparation and created videos from these schools. In June two major projects ended with a two-day international conference Teaching Czech Language to Children and Students with Different Mother Tongue - Experience and Inspiration. The conference was so successful, that we held its shortened version in autumn in partnership with the region of Central Bohemia.

ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

In the beginning of the year we focused on processing regional round table outputs from the year 2017. These, together with field suggestions, were published in the document "Strategic goals for development of language training for 2018-2020". We defined systemic recommendations to ensure adequate language support for primary and secondary school pupils and communicated them with key participants in education - the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Defender of Rights, the CSI and the Government Office.

We have opened a delicate topic of education of students with other mother tongue at secondary schools - unified admission, drop-out and graduation from the courses of Czech language and literature. We participated in the submission of a complaint to the Committee on the Rights of Foreigners on admission conditions and discussed the conditions for recognition of foreign education at the entrance to secondary schools with the Ministry of Education.

The second half of the year was noticeable with round tables; we organized a total of five. They took place in the regions of Prague, Ústí nad Labem, Pilsen and Central Bohemia. In cooperation with the Pilsen Region and the Prague City Hall, we prepared and carried out a questionnaire survey on language education for pupils with different mother language and the needs of schools.

Again, in 2018 we have been involved in the preparation of the Action Plan for the Concept of the City of Prague for the integration of foreigners. We communicated with The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports about the upcoming concept of support for foreign pupils, and we managed to incorporate the language training of pupils with OMC into the Action Plan for Inclusive Education 2019-2020.

Information on concrete projects and financial management of the organization in 2018 are contained in the Czech version only. If you are interested, please contact us.

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