



Measures in the field of education taken in relation to the Council's [2012 Country Specific Recommendations](#) for the Czech Republic

Objective/description of recommendation: Establish an improvement-oriented evaluation framework in compulsory education.

Measures taken to meet this recommendation in 2012 (ReferNet report):

Title of measure:

National testing of pupils' results in primary education (within the framework of the *National System of Inspection Evaluation of the Education System in the Czech Republic – NIQES*)

Description of measure:

The Czech School Inspectorate (CSI) implements a transformation project the *National System of Inspection Evaluation of the Education System in the Czech Republic (NIQES)*. Implementation of the project commenced 1. 7. 2011 and its completion is planned for mid 2014. In addition to other activities, the so far lacking comprehensive evaluation tool for national testing and periodic evaluation of knowledge and skills of pupils and students is being developed within the framework of this project. It is also meant to improve educational processes. The aim is to create a technological platform for computer based testing of pupils' results at schools across grades and subjects which would provide pupils, parents as well as schools with effective feedback on learning process. The project will also create a sound information base for decision-making within target-oriented budgeting and for monitoring of reform priorities set according to the results of education at all levels.

The outcome will be a universal testing system enabling the implementation of square assessment and evaluation of pupils' results as well as specific surveys of any particular grade or subject. Further on there will also be a system for so-called school testing linked to the school e-learning providing each teacher with a possibility to carry out their own electronic testing of pupils in any grade and subject as a common tool of their own evaluation processes. At the same time, teachers will be able to create their own electronic courses or to use the database of tests compiled for the purposes of national (certified) testing. Finally, there will also be a system created for so-called home testing enabling the parents to use the on-line testing system for home preparation of their children.

All these modules will be provided to schools free of charge, they can be used not only for the purposes of self-evaluation, but thanks to the thorough and analytical outputs they are also suitable for formative development of pupils' skills and knowledge.

In 2012, the Czech School Inspectorate piloted for the first time the system of square testing of learning outcomes of pupils of 5th and 9th grades of basic schools and corresponding grades of six- and eight-year *gymnázia* (secondary general schools) and conservatoires. A total of 3,658 schools (representing 99.8% of schools for which the examination was intended) and 161,653 of their pupils (i.e. 96.4% of all registered pupils) participated in the pilot examination. Testing concerned knowledge and skills of Czech Language, mathematics and English Language in case of 5th grades and knowledge and skills of Czech Language, mathematics, English, French or German Language in case of 9th grades. Test tasks were designed to verify whether a pupil in corresponding grade of primary education masters everything prescribed by the external educational standards.

The pupils as well as the schools could access the results in the administration interface on the Internet immediately upon the completion of testing. The structure of output data generated during the first general examination was still pre-defined; however, in future, the schools should be able to

generate from the results a variety of reports according to their own needs. The outcome reports include not only explanation of what the results show about the skills and knowledge of a particular pupil, but they also bring clear explanation of what kind of conclusions cannot be made based on the outcomes.

In order to obtain a relevant feedback and knowledge from direct teaching experience, the CSI has established an advisory body – the Consultative Council for New Tools of Inspection Evaluation, the Council members are representatives of the most important school associations, the government and the regions (founders of the schools). Their task is to discuss issues and come up with proposals concerning development of new methods, procedures and tools for quality assessment of educational system, particularly in relation to the evaluation of the nationwide pilot examination.

The pilot examination proved that nationwide electronic testing of pupils aimed at assessment of their knowledge and skills in relation to external educational standards is without major problems feasible and that the outcomes are very useful for the pupils and their parents as well as for the teachers, headmasters and the state supervisory authority. The next stage will include, among others, also the following enhancements of the system:

The system shall include specific elements to support testing of pupils with special education needs.

The types of test tasks shall be further extended.

New types of evaluation and assessment shall be introduced (possibility of dynamic evaluation and assessment of the tests at all levels – i.e. nationwide testing, home testing as well as school testing).

The scope of monitoring, evaluation and reporting shall be enhanced; it will secure particularly detailed analysis of all testing outcomes at both individual and school levels including information facilitating accurate interpretation of the results.

In 2013, the second nationwide piloting of the enhanced system will be held and as of 2014, its continuous implementation shall commence.

September 2013 UPDATE:

In May and June 2013, the 2nd pilot examination took place. Its goal was to retest overall functioning of the electronic examination system after some arrangements were made, and to get, for the second time, pupils' results to be compared to external educational standards. This time, 3,759 schools (representing 99.9 % of all schools for which the examination was intended) took part in the testing (i.e. 97.6 % of all registered pupils). For the first time also about 16 thousand pupils with special education needs participated.

The pilot examination was successful and without major problems. Basic results were provided to schools as a feedback. Currently, further detailed evaluation is being developed, comments and suggestions are being processed to improve the examination system.

For the next year, the Czech School Inspectorate is considering also a follow-up inspection activities in schools where the pupils repeatedly showed overall poor results (i.e. achievement within a range of 0 – 20%).

Responsible authorities:

Czech School Inspectorate, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Funding:



The budget for three-year development and piloting of electronic testing system of pupils' results amounts approx. to CZK 92 million. Operational costs of the system after the completion of its development shall represent approx. CZK 7 million per year.

The project NIQES is co-financed by the ESF (85%) and the state budget of the CR (15%).

Legislative background:

Assessment and evaluation of results of education is assigned to the Czech School Inspectorate by the Education Act. In its policy statement in 2010, the Government of the Czech Republic committed itself to establish regular assessment and evaluation of results of education at the level of 5th and 9th grades of primary schools.

Stakeholders involved:

Czech School Inspectorate, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, regions (municipalities), school associations, schools.

Timetable for implementation of measure:

The end of 2011 – The first technological and logistical pilot testing was carried out on the sample of 104 schools.

May/June 2012 – the 1st pilot examination

May/June 2013 – the 2nd pilot examination

Since 2014 – nationwide permanent use of the system

Web page/links to relevant documents:

CSI: *Final Report on Preparation, Course and Results of the 1st Nationwide General Examination with the View of Verifying Results of Pupils in Primary Education* (implemented at the level of 5th and 9th grades of primary schools in the school year 2011/2012). Prague 2012. [Závěrečná zpráva o přípravě, průběhu a výsledcích první celoplošné generální zkoušky ověřování výsledků žáků v počátečním vzdělávání (ve školním roce 2011/2012 pilotovaném na úrovni 5. a 9. ročníků základních škol). Praha 2012.] Available online (17.1.2013):

<http://www.niqes.cz/Niqes/media/Testovani/Zpr%c3%a1vy/Zaverecna-zprava-59-zverejneni.pdf>

Czech School Inspectorate: www.csicr.cz

Project NIQES: www.niqes.cz

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports: www.msmt.cz

Notes: