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**Aktualny stan przygotowania  
uczniów szkół podstawowych do  
bezpiecznej pracy i zdrowego życia w  
Republice Słowackiej**

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## **CURRENT STATUS OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS' PREPARATION FOR SAFE WORK AND HEALTHY LIFE IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

**AKTUALNY STAN PRZYGOTOWANIA UCZNIÓW SZKÓŁ PODSTAWOWYCH  
DO BEZPIECZNEJ PRACY I ZDROWEGO ŻYCIA W REPUBLICIE SŁOWACKIEJ**

### **Abstrakt**

Otázky bezpečnosti žiakov počas ich prítomnosti na výchovno-vzdelávacom procese na školách a v školských zariadeniach nadobúdajú významnú spoločenskú aktuálnosť. Napriek neustále rastúcej závažnosti uvedenej problematiky nie je týmto otázkam zo strany spoločnosti venovaná primeraná a ich významu zodpovedajúca pozornosť. Chýba ucelený systém výchovy žiakov v oblasti BOZP (Bezpečnosť a ochrana zdravia pri práci) a celoživotného vzdelávania pedagógov a výchovných pracovníkov základných škôl s aktívnym pôsobením na rodičov žiakov.

### **Abstract**

Safety issues of pupils during their presence in the educational process at schools and school facilities acquire important social topicality. Despite the ever-increasing seriousness of the problem, society does not give appropriate and adequate attention to the importance of these safety issues. There is an absence of comprehensive system of education and training of pupils in area of OSH (Occupational Safety and Health at Work) and lifelong education of teachers and educators of elementary schools with an active impact on the pupils' parents.

### **Introduction**

One of the main priorities (of European Union) in the care of healthy human development, which has reflected in the research area for the period 2014 to 2021 is a „security”. Security is a very broad term that encompasses a wide range of interests troublesome. When we talk about safety in relation to man, with respect to factors that affect the quality of his life, we are interested in particular his safety at work and in freetime, outside the workplace, at home. (Sinay, J., 2011).

It is thus lawful and justified as a matter of individuals conduct safety education, population education when this started, with what content and what organizational and educational methods applied.

### **Child in preschool**

In the third year of a child's life, a child is emotionally bound to its closest family members, especially the mother. After the third year of life, the child shall take a broader view of family background. It goes beyond the family environment and creates a contact with other children. Child's personality begins to mature. It assumes the independent activities, such as dressing, washing, dining and more. Many of these activities are becoming, on the basis of their adoption, lifelong habits. If a child at this age learns them properly there is a great likelihood that they will follow it throughout its life and will have a positive impact on the development of other activities, habits. Therefore it is natural and necessary to begin to educate and prepare the child to a safe existence, to have a healthy life in this age.

In this period of life of a child, his education, certainly the most important task belongs to the parents. And then there are educators, whether family or educators working in public and private facilities. By law n.124/2006 Coll. about safety and health at work and on amendments to certain laws, which can be applied to conditions and safety and health training and education, the director of the kindergarten obliged to look after the health and safety of children and all who are with the consent of the workplace and its premises. (Act no. 124/2006 Coll.).

A typical feature of the child in his preschool is his physical activity and curiosity. Child in contact with the environment draws inspiration that a parent or educator appropriately and properly develops it and thus contributes to the successful development or suppresses it if it could endanger his health or future development or the immediate safety. (Piaget, J., Inhelder, B., 1993), (Langmeier, J. Krejčířová, D., 1998), (Jakabčic, I., 2002) OSH in the primary and lower secondary level of the elementary school.

At the level of primary education is not taught specific subject that is primarily focused on the issues of health and safety at work, particularly focusing on specific school-age children.

In elementary school, the students become familiar with the school rules and safety regulations at the beginning of the school year in the initial hours. Students with their signature confirm, except for the first year, that they understand the school rules, safety precautions, and they were familiar with the safety behaviour at school.

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In lower secondary education is also in the framework curriculum separate subject with a focus on health and safety. The national education program, which is valid from 2008 introduced the system of teaching cross-cutting themes that can be taught in several subjects. (Www.statpedu.sk).

One such topic is also Traffic education on road safety. The role of education on road safety in school is gradually prepare children for independent movement on the road – as pedestrians or cyclists – and it is necessary to bear in mind the aspect of the education of future motor vehicle drivers. Implementation of a learning activity takes place on the premises of the school, the children's traffic playground or in safe areas around the school. Another cross-cutting theme oriented to the area of safety and health at work is the protection of life and health. Protection of human life and its integrated health attitudes, knowledge and skills of students to protect the life and health in emergency situations that may arise due to unforeseen factors threatening the man and his surroundings. Education is focused on medical training, civil defence, movement and picnics focusing on topography – orientation in the field.

Planning and ensuring the evacuation of schools and school facilities in the Slovak Republic is governed by Methodical guideline n.11/2008-R of 10. September 2008. In addition, to help head teachers there is magazine called civil protection and there is a CD with the information necessary to educate students, which is issued by the Civil Protection of Slovakia.

School strives to prepare each individual to live in an environment in which it is located. The prerequisite for this is constantly learning through movement at the outdoors. Cross-cutting themes focus on mastering situations pupils and their teachers, which arise under the influence of industrial and environmental accidents and natural disasters. Mastering these topics also helps students cope with unfavourable conditions in situations arising from unforeseen circumstances, such as terrorism or other threats to the citizens of our state. The students should meld itself to the problems of the protection of their health and life, also health and life of other people. This is necessary to give students theoretical knowledge, practical knowledge to help them acquire knowledge and skills in self-protection. Train them in assisting others in case of threat to life and health, to develop pupils' moral qualities, forming the basis of patriotic and national feeling, to form the preconditions to achieve greater physical fitness and total body resistance to physical and psychological stress in difficult life situations. (Www.statpedu.sk).

Administratively, the training of cross-cutting themes is addressed in two days under so. Assigned exercises. The first day, the theoretical training in the range of 5-6 hours the next

day practical training. Purposeful exercise is normally organized twice a year – in the fall and spring. At the primary level, pupils once a year have Didactic games and exercises four times a year in nature. Traffic education as a cross-cutting theme is taught throughout the year in lessons objects where the specified topic of teaching precisely fits. The state educational program based on the school in developing educational curricula. They must also be a section entitled conditions to ensure the safety and health education. This section focuses on the general organizational requirements to ensure the safety and health at work of pupils and teachers of the school:

- ensuring appropriate structures work mode and rest of students and teachers, appropriate teaching mode with respect hygiene learning, healthy learning environment (classes) and other school premises under current technical and sanitary standards – equivalent luminosity, temperature, silence, cleanliness, ventilation, sanitary premises equipment, adequate size of seating and furniture work.
- Important is proper dietary and drinking habits of students (by age and individual needs of pupils and teachers).
- Health and Safety provides active protection against accidents of students, availability of first aid material and human terms, including doctors, and other specialists.
- it is necessary to enforce the prohibition of smoking, drinking and use of other harmful substances in and around the school and a significant indication of any dangerous objects and parts of premises and regular security check.

Directive to ensure the health and safety of pupils at the school must develop a school director. In drawing based on the Act 245/2008 Coll. on education and on amendments to certain laws, as amended, Act 124/2006 Coll. as amended by Act 309/2007 Coll. and Act 140/2008 Coll. About OSH, Ministry of Education Decree no. 320/2008 Coll. about the primary schools.

At lower secondary level, the issue of human security is concentrated in five subjects: chemistry, physics, engineering, world of work and physical education.

Most at this stage are discussed issues of safety and health at work in chemical laboratories and related general legislation. Therefore, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, State Institute of Vocational Education and National Institute prepared a teaching aid in the form of publications: „Safety at work with chemical agents for primary and secondary schools – Guidance material to certain legal and technical aspects of the implementation of school chemical experiments. This publication is intended to contribute to solving accumulated problems related to compliance with the new safety rules when working with chemical agents in primary and secondary schools. In this course syllabi appear

two themes focused on work safety: safety rules during experimentation and safety of electrical appliances. The subject Technology also includes theme focused on the principles of safety for electrical equipment and effects of electric current on the human body.

The subject world of work contains safety and hygiene standard classification: able to use working environment and maintain order during the work, to comply with occupational safety and hygiene. Most organizational instructions for building object regarding safety includes PE and Games: safety and injury prevention in different types of physical activity.

Teacher training in OSH.

On teaching faculty, student teachers become familiar with the tasks and role in health and safety subjects and curricula for teaching practice. Isolated object that its content would include OSH in primary schools in a broader context and also with regard to the analysis of practical experience, but not in the curricula of teacher colleges.

We believe that teaching in higher education curricula should familiarize prospective teachers with areas such as – Education Law 245/2008, Decree No. elementary school. 322/2008, the resulting internal rules of the school, school rules, rules of health and safety in laboratories (each for its subject), pre-medical first aid, fire alarm directives, organizational rules of the school, safety school project, school records accidents. It is important that prospective teachers and practicing teachers also knew perfectly working practices in teaching and learning process and thus prevent the development of dangerous incidents or accidents.

In teaching practice in primary schools is renewing and expanding knowledge of students and teachers handled by two forms:

a / own activity of school leading

Educators' schools after studying the regulations and available literature, after becoming aware of the information available on the internet, and if based on their own knowledge and experience, will prepare educational texts for teachers, with which teachers will introduce their students.

b / Participation in seminars organized

Teachers are participating in seminars, which are organized by state institutions. Content of topics of seminars are mostly aimed at brokering information from the amended ordinances and regulations, in the form of lectures activists. Frequent occurrence of these seminars is that lecturer in his speech focuses on the risks that are involved in organizing various school activities and the consequences that may affect teacher or school if the following events occur adverse event. Often under the influence of these courses, teachers and schools to withdraw from preparing and organizing additional activities for

pupils in excess of school curricula because of the prevention of a possible consequence of a security event.

Schools, despite what was said, implement programs aimed at raising pupils' safe life. While teachers use a variety of motivational and activating teaching methods and forms such as: work focused on artistic or literary expression of students in the subject area, which are also applicable to the hours of ethics or civics.

Interpretation of security issues to avoid a teacher in organizing educational trips, educational excursions or outings. Prior to any event with the head teacher must give its consent thereto in writing and approved events. Given that these activities take place outside the school premises, the parent of a special form expresses approval or disapproval of student participation in school events.

Similarly, guidance on safe behaviour of students is required prior to entering students in specialized classrooms such as gym, school workshops, computer lab, chemical and physical laboratories, kitchen and others. Students prior to the operation of these facilities are familiar with the rules of conduct in these classrooms. These rules are placed in classrooms in conspicuous places.

Other safety education activities. Several schools in order to increase the safety of their students at school are involved in the project Safe School. The project is based on monitoring pupils with camera system at arrival and departure from school with possible access pupils' parents to control via Internet. ([Www.bezpecnaskola.sk](http://www.bezpecnaskola.sk)). Another project called Safe kindergarten is focused on traffic education and transport and is addressed especially to kindergartens. ([Www.bezpecnaskolka.sk](http://www.bezpecnaskolka.sk))

Project Healthy School is focused on promoting healthy lifestyles, particularly in relation to eating habits, exercise in the fresh air, sport-related, the personal and social hygiene. ([Www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk) – Development project in the Regional Education).

## **Conclusion**

Education for healthy and safe lifestyles of individuals begins in the preschool child. Responsibility for its successful implementation belongs in the first place especially to parents of children and then, in the second place, to their teachers. The school system of the Slovak Republic is a space for educational treatment for primary school pupils towards learning of the habits necessary for safe behaviour in educational and personal activities at school and outside of school. An open question is whether this system is sufficient in content and method of the execution and if also educators who provide this training are well prepared for the

implementation of activities aimed at the child health and safety and the cooperation with parents.

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