

# SURVEY ON PRIMARY SCHOOLS

## LEGAL BASIS

The Survey is carried out pursuant to the Law on Official Statistics ("Official Gazzete of RS", number 104/2009).

## METHODOLOGICAL BASIS

### Objective and scope of the survey

The objective of the statistics of primary education is to provide data on the situation, structure and development of schools and classes, on gender and age structure and movement of primary school students, as well as on schooling results and teaching staff carrying out the curriculum of primary education.

This survey provides data on the number and type of primary schools, form of ownership, number of classes, full-time students and repeaters, students with disabilities included in the system of regular education, on students attending primary education according to individual educational program, students in specialized schools by type of developmental disabilities, students in music and ballet schools; it also gives data on students by sex and age, completion of schooling, foreign language learning, lectures dispensed in languages of national minorities, teachers and professional assistants by sex and years of service, as well as on computer availability and use in schools for educational purposes.

### Reporting units

The reporting units are all primary schools (regular schools, schools for students with disabilities, primary music and ballet schools and primary schools for adults) carrying out primary education curricula according to educational programs defined by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia in its legal acts.

### Survey coverage

The coverage of the survey ŠO/P, ŠO/K and ŠU is complete. The statistical report has been transmitted by every primary school (public and private) for the main school and classrooms in another place - settlement (if the school carries out its activity away from its seat), every school/class for primary education of students with developmental disabilities as well as primary schools for adults.

The report ŠU is completed by every art (music and ballet) school, whether for the main school or every satellite classroom.

### Data sources

Data on primary education are obtained from regular annual surveys carried out at the beginning and end of every school year. Data are collected via questionnaire Statistical Questionnaire for Primary schools – as of the beginning of school year (questionnaire ŠO/P and ŠU) and Statistical Questionnaire for Primary School – as of the end of school year (questionnaire ŠO/K and ŠU). The data for the beginning of school year are collected as on state at 15 September and those for the end of school year on state at 30 August.

**Questionnaire ŠO/P** contains five tables to be filled in by regular schools and schools for students with disabilities (11, 12, 13, 14 and 15), two tables to be filled in by schools for adults (11a and 14a), as well as one common table to be filled in by all schools (10), regardless of the type of institution. Table 19 on inclusive education is to be filled in only by regular schools.

**Questionnaire ŠO/K** contains eleven tables to be filled in by regular schools (11, 12, 12a, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 19a and 20), six tables to be filled in by schools/classes for students with disabilities (11, 12, 12a, 13, 16 and 18), two tables to be filled by schools for adults (11a и 18), as well as one common table to be filled in by all schools (10), regardless of the type of institution. Tables 19, 19a and 20 concerning inclusive education are to be filled in only by regular schools.

**Addendum ŠO/K** is a separate mini-questionnaire that provides data on instructions dispensed in languages of national minorities. This sheet is to be filled in only by the schools where, whether in the whole school or only in some classes, teaching are dispensed in any of the languages and alphabets of national minorities. If in any school teaching are dispensed in several languages, a separate questionnaire is to be completed per language. If in the whole school teaching are dispensed in a

language and alphabet of national minorities, the data provided in this sheet shall equal those given in the main questionnaire (ŠO/K). When teaching are dispensed in Serbian, and only in some classes in a language and alphabet of national minorities, the questionnaire is to be filled in only for those classes, and all the data on classes where teaching are dispensed in languages of national minorities are to be included and presented in the main questionnaire.

This addendum is to be distributed to all schools located in areas with mixed ethnic structure (parts of Vojvodina and South Serbia).

## Obligation to protect individual data

The data received from reporting units are subject to professional secret, used only for statistical purposes and cannot be published or made available to users. The data being aggregated by territory, type of education, type of school, etc. can be made accessible to external users.

## Explanations of the main concepts and characteristics

**Primary education** and up-bringing, which is **compulsory**, provide knowledge and develop skills for employment and further education.

**Primary school** is an institution where the activity of primary education is performed. Its main duty is to enable good quality education and up-bringing to every child and student, under the same conditions, regardless of where teaching are dispensed.

Primary school can function as complete (eight grades) and incomplete (less than eight grades). Students from the first and fourth grades attend general class teaching, and those from the fifth and eight grades attend subject teaching.

In **lower art** schools students receive the fundamentals of music and ballet arts, after which they can pursue education in upper secondary art schools.

**School or class for primary education of students with disabilities** is a specialized school or class within a regular primary school where a person is enrolled according to the decision establishing the type and degree of disability, made by municipal administration in line with the law.

**Primary school for adult education** is a school where all persons have not acquired compulsory education aged under **15**, continue their primary education under a special program.

**Class** is a group of students taught during the school year by several teachers successively. **Grade** is the level of education providing students with a range of knowledge foreseen in the curriculum of a selected type of school during a certain period of time, at most during one school year.

**Student** – to become a full-time, i.e. part-time student one has to enroll every school year in a school, under conditions stipulated by the law.

**Regular student** is enrolled in the first grade after completing the age of six and a half years and cannot be older than seven and a half years. As for enrolment at art schools and schools for students with disabilities a different age limit could be defined.

**Repeater** is a student who is enrolled in the same grade for the second time or multiple times.

**Teacher** provides teaching/instructions and other forms of educational work foreseen in the curriculum.

**Professional assistant** implies psychologist, school counselor, librarian, which work is significant for the realization of the educational programme.

**Inclusive education** is education based on children's rights to have access to education focused toward her/him and her/his specific needs.

**IEP 1** is an *adapted* program that plans the provision support to adapt the space and conditions in which learning takes place, the adaptation of working methods, textbooks and educational resources, activities and their timetable, as well as the persons providing support.

**IEP 2** is a *modified* program that plans the adaptation of general educational and up-bringing outcomes, the adaptation of special standards of students' achievements in relation to regulated; the adaptation of the content of one, several or all the subjects.

**Intersectoral commission** (ISC) is a body in charge of estimating the needs for additional educational, health and social support to a child and student.

## Level of data representativeness

As far as territorial representativeness is concerned, the data are collected on the level of municipalities, administrative districts, AP Vojvodina and for the Republic of Serbia. Data aggregation is possible according to the type of school and form of ownership.

## Harmonisation with international recommendations and standards

The questionnaires ŠO-P, ŠO/ and ŠU have been harmonised with international statistical standards. Thus, they facilitate the presentation of data on primary education in compliance with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-2011, level 1, 2).

## SURVEY MANAGEMENT

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### Bodies responsible for survey management

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – Sector of Social Statistics – Group of Pre-university Education and Lifelong Learning, Sector of Statistics for the regional unit for AP Vojvodina and regional offices prepare and carry out the survey.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia defines and produces unique methodological basis and instruments for the survey, prepares address books and code lists for the survey, prepares and prints the questionnaires and distributes the latter to regional offices.

The Sector of Statistics for the regional unit for AP Vojvodina collects questionnaires from regional offices in the territory of AP Vojvodina, controls the data coverage, accuracy and completeness, corrects the materials, processes and analyses the materials. Regional offices distribute the questionnaires to the reporting units in their territory, collect the questionnaires, control the data coverage, accuracy and completeness. They also send corrected questionnaires to the SORS for data entry.

### Obligation to provide data

The obligation to provide data is laid down in Article 26a of the penalty provision in case of refusal or provision of incomplete or erroneous data and in Article 52 of the Law on Official Statistics ("Official Journal of the RS", number 104/2009).

### Timetable of the main stages of the survey

**Survey preparation** – preparation and printing of the questionnaire, up-date of the address book and code list – July and August.

**Data collection** – transmission of the questionnaires to regional offices - August.

**Preparation of materials** in regional offices, correction of materials and transmission of corrected materials to the SORS – September and October.

**Data entry, data editing and computing control** in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – end of February.

Tabulation and production of results - March.

**Production of Statistical Release** "Regular Primary Education – beginning of school year" – the last week of March.

## SURVEY TOOLS

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The surveys use:

- Questionnaires: ŠO/P, ŠO/K, ŠO/K addendum and ŠU (annexed);
- List of municipalities by districts.

### Publication of the results

The results are published in the statistical release „Regular Primary Education – beginning of school year”, Statistical Yearbook of Serbia, publication Municipalities in Serbia and on the website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

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