

# PRESCHOOL EDUCATION – ANNUAL STATISTICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

## LEGAL BASIS

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The survey is carried out pursuant to the Decision on the Programme of Official Statistics over 2011 -- 2015 ("Official Journal of the RS, number 23/11, since 1 January 2011, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in line with Article 18, paragraph 2 of the Law on Official Statistics ("Official Journal of the RS", number 104/2009).

## METHODOLOGICAL BASIS

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### Objective and scope of the survey

The objective of the statistics of preschool education is to provide data on the number and capacity of preschool institutions, number of educational groups and employees that realize preschool educational programme. The statistics of preschool education aims particularly at furnishing data on children covered by the compulsory preparatory preschool programme (PPP).

This survey provides data on the number and type of preschool establishments, form of ownership, working language, children's native language, number of educational groups, children's by age and sex, duration of programme and use of meals, children by parents' socio-economic status, children in mixed groups, groups at prolonged hospitalization and on developmental groups, as well as on the number and age of children with developmental disabilities for whom an individual educational plan (IEP) has been made and on children for whom an individual support plan (ISP) has been made, employees by age, sex, educational level and working hours; on special and specialized programmes organized by establishments; on parental participation in the costs of preschool education as well as on preschool establishment income by sources.

### Reporting units

Reporting units are all preschool establishments (PE) realizing the preschool educational programme, as well as primary schools where the preschool preparatory programme (PPP) takes place.

### Coverage of the survey

The coverage of the survey of preschool establishments authorised to work by the relevant ministry is complete. The questionnaire is to be filled in by every preschool establishment, primary school and other organization for the base establishment, i.e. school and detached unit (if PE/school undertakes the activity away from the seat). There are 400 reporting units and 2500 questionnaires.

### Data sources

Data on educational preschool are the result of the regular annual survey, which is carried out at the beginning of every school year. Data are collected by means of the questionnaire Preschool Education – annual statistical report (form PŠV). The questionnaire is also available electronically (web-application). The data are published as of 1 December of the current year.

### Obligation to protect personal data

The data received from reporting units are considered confidential, used exclusively for statistical purposes and cannot be published or made available to users. Aggregated data by territory and children's age, etc. are available to external users.

### Explanations of the main concepts and characteristics

Preschool education is part of a unique educational system, an activity of direct social interest and is realized as public service. Preschool education is the education of preschool children. Preschool children are children aged from 6 months to the age of entry to primary school.

The activity of preschool education is undertaken in PE, and exceptionally in primary schools. PE can be created by the Republic of Serbia, autonomous province, unit of local authorities and other legal or physical person in line with the law. The working hours of a PE are defined by the PE according to children's and parents' needs, with the consent of the founder.

PE carries out its activity in its seat and away from it in a detached unit – establishment of preschool education, school or other premises.

Educational work is performed in Serbian and for members of ethnic minorities in the related native language, but it can also be performed bilingually or in Serbian if at least 50% of parents, i.e. guardians decide so.

Educational preschool programme contains: basics of care and education of children aged from 6 months to three years, basics of preschool programme for children from three years to the age of entry to school, including the PPP basics. Regular educational programmes in full day care and part-time care as well as special and specialized programmes are carried out in the

scope of the preschool programme. The preschool programme is realized during the working year, from 1 September of the current year to 31 August of the next year.

PPP is part of the regular preschool programme of the preschool establishment in full-time or part-time day care, which is realized in the year preceding the entry to school.

The educational work with children is organized in educational groups. Educational groups may be nursery groups for the age from 6 months to three years, and kindergarten groups for the age from three years to the age of entry to school. Educational groups may be organized for children of the same or different age.

Children with developmental disabilities realize their right to preschool education in an educational group with additional support and individual educational programme (IEP) and in a developmental group. In order to overcome physical and communication obstacles, the establishment adopts a special document (IEP) which plans additional support in the education of a selected child, according to her/his abilities and possibilities.

Preschool teachers (preschool teacher, nurse-teacher and special education teacher) and professional assistants perform educational work. Professional assistants carry out professional work that enhances the educational work. Professional assistants are: school counselor, psychologist, school counselor for art, music and physical education and speech language therapist.

Assistants are in charge of work relative to the care, food, prevention, health and social protection in a preschool establishment.

## Level of data representativeness

As for territorial representativeness, data are collected on the level of municipalities, administrative districts, AP Vojvodina and for the Republic of Serbia. Data can be aggregated according to the form of ownership, children's age, duration of day care and place where the preschool educational programme takes place.

## Harmonization with international recommendation and standards

The form PŠV has been modified and harmonised with international statistical standards and is used for the purpose of presenting data on preschool education according to the International Classification of Education (ISCED-2011, level 0, subcategories 01 and 02).

## SURVEY MANAGEMENT

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### Bodies in charge of carrying out the survey

The preparation and carrying out of the survey are tasks executed by: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – Department of Population Statistics and Data Collection – Group of Education and Social Welfare Statistics, Department of Statistics for the regional unit for AP Vojvodina and regional offices.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of the Republic of Serbia defines and produces uniform methodological basis and tools for carrying out the survey, prepares address books and code lists for the survey, prepares and up-dates the WEB application for data entry, prepares and prints the questionnaires which it distributes to regional offices.

The Division of Statistical and Information Support in the Department of Statistics for the regional unit for AP Vojvodina, controls the data entered via the WEB application, enters the data from questionnaires that have not been entered electronically from the territory of AP Vojvodina but have been subsequently collected in paper form, controls the coverage, accuracy and exhaustiveness of data.

Regional offices control the materials entered via the WEB application, transmit the questionnaires to reporting units from its territory, collect the questionnaires, control the coverage, accuracy and exhaustiveness of data, and the data entered from the paper questionnaire.

### Obligation to provide data

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

### Timetable of the main stages of the survey

**Preparation of the survey** – preparation and printing of questionnaires, up-dating of address books and code list – October/November.

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

**Reception of materials** in regional offices, control of materials and transmission of materials to SORS – 25 December – 25 January

**Control of materials** in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – 20 March

**Tabulation and production of results** - April

**Production of Statistical Release DC 20** „Establishments for Preschool Children in the Republic of Serbia” – 20 April.

## SURVEY TOOLS

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The tools used in the survey are:

1. Questionnaire PŠV
2. Instructions for filling in and controlling questionnaires
3. Address book of PE that have the authorization of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.

### **Publication of results**

The results are published in the statistical release DD20 "Preschool establishments for the current school year", Statistical Yearbook of Serbia, publication Municipalities in Serbia, on the website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and DevInfo database.

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