

## THE REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING TEAM OF THE SCHOOLS SUPPORTING THE HEALTH

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**Abstract:** *The article gives a concise assessment of the current activity of the Regional Co-ordination Team for Health Promoting Schools.*

*Information will be provided principally about expansion of the team to take in secondary schools and the support activities of the Department of Education of the South Moravian Region.*

*The second part of the article is to focus on information about the project “Criteria and Indicators for the Evaluation of Conditions at Schools within the Health Promoting Schools Network”. The project is to be implemented in the second half of 2008 with the aid of a grant from the South Moravian Region.*

**Keywords:** *Health Promoting School, strategies of Health Promoting Schools, project, evaluation, individualised study plan, certificate*

In March 2006, PhDr. Miluše Havlínová gave a presentation of the aims of the project Health Promoting Schools (HPS) at the National Institute of Public Health, including the task of transferring the jurisdiction of the project to regional structures.

At the first sitting of representatives of the Regional Network of Health Promoting Schools in the South Moravian Region on 19 April 2006, those attending were acquainted with the procedure for the acceptance of schools to the HPS network, which consists of the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- The formulation of a project on the promotion of health at school
- A visit to the school by a consultant
- A “round table” with joint talks with a consultant for new schools accepted to the network
- The issuing of a certificate valid for 4 years
- Evaluation of the project at the school at the end of 4 years

Those attending this first sitting approved an outline programme for a regional network in the form of principal tasks, including proposals of means and specific tasks:

- Incorporate the philosophy of health promotion into the region’s strategic documents

- Await a precise definition of jurisdictions in relation to the acceptance of schools into the HPS network
- Take advantage of the support of the Czech School Inspectorate, which contributed to the creation of the HPS project
- Engage representatives of Brno City Municipality, the Department of Education of the South Moravian Region and the Czech School Inspectorate in the programme
- Engage representatives of secondary schools and the Faculty of Education at Masaryk University in the programme

The Regional Co-ordination Team (RCT) currently operates at the level of the region in a composition corresponding to the original aims and future aims of the programme. The members of the RCT represent individual areas of education, the state administration, local government and inspection bodies. It includes representatives of nursery, primary and secondary schools, Masaryk University in Brno, the National Institute of Public Health, the Regional Hygiene Station, the Czech School Inspectorate, and the Regional Authority of the South Moravian Region.

The network of Health Promoting Schools in South Moravia is currently comprised of 25 nursery schools, 9 primary schools and 1 secondary school.

The Regional Co-ordination Team is now working on the integration of the Health Promoting Schools project with school educational programmes. The essence of the project is *“creation of conditions that will increase the effectiveness of education, facilitate the learning process, and provide social experience for responsible behaviour in relation to oneself and others”*.

This goal corresponds extremely precisely with the content of outline educational programmes for pre-school, primary and secondary education. The single secondary school within the network of Health Promoting Schools in the South Moravian Region – the Slovanské Náměstí Grammar School in Brno – has a basic strategy defined within its school educational programmes that directly corresponds with the Health Promoting Schools programme, and specifically with its three fundamental pillars – a pleasant environment, healthy learning, and open partnership.

## **Examples of a number of basic strategies within school educational programmes:**

- A range of optional subjects
- Study variability
- A high standard in the teaching and use of languages, following on from the standard attained during the pupils' preceding education
- Preparing Czech pupils for international language examinations
- Possible participation in foreign projects
- A liberal approach to pupils and teachers
- An open relationship with pupils
- A Student Senate

- The informal climate of the school
- A cosmopolitan and multi-cultural atmosphere – foreign pupils
- A range of courses (see the system of courses described in the chapter Curriculum)
- The internal division of tuition into groups according to levels of difficulty
- Teamwork
- Project tuition taking advantage of courses and workshops in all years of the study programme
- Participation in long-term projects and international projects
- The chance of influencing the running of the school and the education provided through the Student Senate
- Activation methods
- The chance of working with foreign pupils and teachers
- An individual approach allowing smooth integration into the life of the school

Following on from the work of the RCT, the Slovanské Náměstí Grammar School has drawn up a project within the framework of a Ministry of Education programme to support activities in the prevention of socio-pathological phenomena among children and young people within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education.

### **The aims of this project are:**

- To create indicators for the evaluation of the three fundamental pillars of the programme of health promotion at school
- To monitor the fulfilment of these criteria and indicators at HPS in the South Moravian Region
- To implement criteria and indicators for the self-evaluation of schools
- To create a motivational tool targeted at schools for expansion of the HPS network in the South Moravian Region
- To create basic criteria for the evaluation of primary and secondary schools in the South Moravia HPS network established by the region

The key task within the project will be the creation of indicators for the self-evaluation of Health Promoting Schools. An example of possible indicators in the area „Healthy Learning – The Possibility of Choice and Suitability” is given in conclusion:

- A sufficiently wide range of compulsory elective subjects and optional subjects is available to pupils
- Pupils are allowed to follow individualised study plans where necessary
- Teachers show sufficient respect for the individual needs of pupils during tuition
- Teachers have sufficient opportunities to choose their own teaching methods and approaches
- The educational content included in the school educational programme is appropriate and well-balanced
- Teachers have sufficient opportunities for further education

## **KRAJSKÝ KOORDINAČNÍ TÝM ŠKOL PODPORUJÍCÍCH ZDRAVÍ**

**Abstrakt:** Příspěvek je zaměřen na stručné zhodnocení aktuální činnosti Krajského koordináčního týmu škol podporujících zdraví.

Budou poskytnuty informace zejména o rozšíření týmu o střední školy a o podpůrných aktivitách odboru školství Jihomoravského kraje.

Druhá část příspěvku bude zaměřena na informace o projektu „Kritéria a indikátory evaluace podmínek na školách v síti škol podporujících zdraví“. Projekt proběhne ve druhé polovině roku 2008 díky grantu Jihomoravského kraje.

**Klíčová slova:** škola podporující zdraví, strategie škol podporujících zdraví, projekt, evaluace, individualizovaný studijní plán, certifikát