

# INTRODUCTION

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The anthology of papers we are publishing under the title *School and Health: Education and Healthcare* provides a summary of papers produced for the research project implemented by the Faculty of Education at Masaryk University in the years 2005 – 2011 under the title *SCHOOL AND HEALTH FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY*. The principal aim of this wide-ranging concept was to get to the heart of issues in education and health leading to more effective and fundamental education and healthcare.

Schools have a fundamental role to play in health education as they provide institutional and specialist education and shape the young generation, while focusing on pan-social educational goals and values, among which health takes an important place.

The concept of our research project as a whole is extremely broad, and as soon as the first theoretical and research results had been obtained, we came to the conclusion that we should place no restrictions on the scope of the topics studied, even at the cost of greater diversity (or even fragmentation) of the areas to which those interested in the given issues would devote themselves. The mutual interrelations between school and health result in a large number of topical questions and tasks that are often difficult to evaluate according to their seriousness and urgency. Issues in health education represent another extremely lively area responding to social, political, economic and local problems, and the alternative experiences of the layman sometimes come to the fore here alongside scientific knowledge.

This anthology shows views of health and school from the philosophical and historical aspect and highlights a number of school problems. Attention is also devoted to questions of diet, specific age timeframes and views of pupils with special physical, psychological and social problems.

In addition to authors who are members of the basic research team working on the research project, further contributions to the anthologies are also made by other people with an interest in the issue of health education, including contributors from abroad.

All the authors are fully responsible for the content of their own contributions, which were for the most part tested at the international conference *SCHOOL AND HEALTH 21*, which we hold every year as part of the project. The authors also offer complete contact details for the purpose of discussion of their studies. The diversity of the papers in the anthology is the result not merely of the diversity of the topics considered, but also the various professions and focus of interest of the individual authors. The anthology *School and Health: Education and Healthcare* presents working and contemporary texts for those interested in health education. Our wish as editors is for the largest possible number of people working in education and health to find ideas here that they will want to take a position on.

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