

Two Key Projects Aimed At Czech Pupils, Students and Teachers

The growing popularity of information and communication technologies in all areas of human activity has increased the demand not only for IT experts, but also for employees with general knowledge of informatics. Therefore, IT instruction needs to be improved, which should lead to improving digital literacy of teachers. Two national projects, in which every single pedagogical department in the Czech Republic participates, are aimed at improving the current situation.

The project titled “Activities for Developing Computational Thinking” is aimed at updating the subject Informatics at all educational levels, from kindergarten to high school. Conducted between the years 2018 and 2020, the project will result in the following:

- School curriculum
- Open source materials
- Teacher training
- Updated teacher education in pedagogical departments
- Massive e-courses for the general public
- Updated informatics (school subject):
 - University student competitions
 - Professional didactic conferences
 - Teacher competitions (in which those teachers who create study materials will participate)
- Making informatics and author access to the computer more popular

The second project titled “Developing Digital Literacy” is aimed at creating didactical and methodological support to both new and experienced teachers, helping them implement activities aimed at developing digital literacy into the instruction of general subjects in elementary schools and high schools, in accordance with the planned revision of the national curricular documents. The following are the expected project outcomes: a set of digital educational resources for primary and secondary education, including methodological materials, aimed at developing digital literacy consisting of at least 75 digital resources for ISCED levels 2 and 3 and at least 12 digital resources for ISCED level 1; and a set of activities, tools and methodologies for preschool teachers aimed at developing children’s digital (pre)literacy consisting of 6 model activities (including tools and methodologies) aimed at different areas of digital literacy, with regard to the appropriateness of their development in preschool education.

Another contribution of the project is the creation of a sophisticated structure of accredited courses (the majority of which will be e-courses) for kindergarten, elementary school and high school teachers aimed not only at developing digital literacy of children (kindergarten), pupils (elementary school) and students (high school), but also at the ability to use the acquired skills in pedagogical practice.

The data provided by the Czech School Inspectorate and other institutions prove that both projects will be beneficial. The data show that teachers’ technology skills are limited to using MS PowerPoint and that students do not have skills related to the effective and safe use of digital technology.

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