

Introduction

Dear readers,

even though according to some analyses our society is divided, for the second year Czech schools, teachers and special educators have been trying to meet the requirements of the amendment to the Education Act which contains rules on inclusion related to changing the approach to children with special needs. Leaving aside the discussion about the material and personnel assurance of the process, the very essence of accepting differences remains the priority. This does not concern only pupils with disabilities, it also concerns gifted children and children at risk of social exclusion, which is not caused by the health or physiological nature of the problem, but by varying degrees of individual or social failure. Such a failure may be caused by a difficult situation of lone parents or single mothers, a problematic situation of women returning to work after parental leave or families with children at the poverty line.

What should be the cultural transformation of society in the context of inclusive efforts? Above all, it is necessary to focus on supporting teachers who meet the implications of inclusion in their every-day practice. It is necessary to allow the teachers to work quietly and be focused in the classroom through adequate interventions, such as well-timed diagnostics of the pupil with special needs, assignment of teacher's assistant for the required time, professional counselling and support for activities of the multi-disciplinary team. It is clear that ensuring the above-mentioned actions is economically demanding, yet necessary. As the articles published in this issue demonstrate, there is a high quality theoretical background given by the research tasks. There are texts that correspond to the issues of inclusion in contemporary Czech schools, questions of didactics or health education and the use of ICT (not only) in working with gifted children. These findings and contributions are available to use in everyday practice.

The basic prerequisite for inclusion, however, remains to teach people ways to accept differences and to handle the issue within inter-personal relationships. Only that way the divided Czech society might come together again respecting diversity, mutual tolerance and helping children in need.

Editors