

Education reform ideas presented in the National Council of the Slovak Republic

The two-month long second phase of the consultation process to the National Program for the Development of Education "Learning Slovakia" ended on 15 May 2017. Most of the comments concerned regional education and related to teachers' salaries, technical equipment in schools, addressing individual learners needs, deinstitutionalisation of compulsory education, national testing of pupils, etc., according to the announcement of the education ministry dated 17 May 2017 (www.minedu.sk/pocas-verejneho-pripomienkovania-navrhu-uciace-sa-slovensko-bolo-podanych-takmer-4-000-podnetov). A full list of all 3,975 comments arrived via a public online form is accessible through the same link.

The first phase of the consultation process to "Learning Slovakia" was initiated on 15 October 2016 for regional schooling and VET, and on 15 November 2016 for higher education, by presenting objectives to be achieved until 2030 (link to our earlier news 4/2016 to be placed here). The second phase of the consultation process was initiated by publishing of the 226 pages long document presenting the 2030 objectives, complemented by 458 measures (www.minedu.sk/data/att/10448.pdf). 14 interviews with all authors of the document to pinpoint and explain crucial topics are available at www.minedu.sk/video-expertov.

The education minister, accompanied by the team of authors, presented this document to the parliamentary Education, Youth, Science and Sports Committee on the hearing on 29 May 2017. No objections from the members of parliament were raised concerning the chapter on VET. Less alternatives of future progress and more firm suggestions concerning further transformation of VET were recommended by the head of parliamentary committee representing the ruling coalition. A positive opinion concerning the document with the exception of some parts not related to VET was shared across political parties and the support for the document completion was agreed. The final version of the document should be prepared until 31 August 2016. The same team will come back to the parliament after reflection of comments from the members of parliament and of the aforementioned online comments from public to seek for multi-partisan support before submitting the reform strategy for approval to the government.

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