



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Ministry of Education, Youth and Science

The national policy gradually reaches its aim

The national policy aims to decrease the number of children and pupils who leave the educational system prematurely due to lack of motivation or difficulties in learning (this number has become lower for the last 3 years). In regard to children with special educational needs the national policy aims to integrate them in mainstream schools.



The mainstream schools develop measures and policies in order to provide additional support for children with low achievements and for children with special educational needs. Additional education through national projects is provided for children with low achievements in the conducted external assessments. The inspectorates provide support in the preparation of project proposals, as well as in the preparation of programmes for work with children at risk. The national plan "With care for each student" is being implemented every year and includes children from primary and lower secondary education, thus providing resources to schools in order to provide additional education for children at risk. The criteria for involvement in the plan are related to the low achievements, obtained during the external and internal student assessment.

The regional education inspectorates are committed to carry out at least two inspections of each of the formed study groups. 907 groups for

further learning have been formed during the 2009/2010 school year, as well as 1516 groups during the next 2010/2011.

During the 2009 and 2010 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science implemented OP "Human Resources Development" project which included measures for prevention of early dropping out of school. Children who matched certain criteria were included in groups for further learning. One of the criteria requires the children to have educational difficulties (low achievements, learning and/or behavioral problems – this criterion is not applicable for the children from preparatory group/class).



The table shows the number of children who have left the educational system during the last three school years. The lower table shows the number of children who have left school and their reasons to do so.



The project has developed an informational system, which requires to fill in a profile for each child, the reasons for him/her to be at risk of dropping out of school, as well as the measures taken from the school management in order to provide support. The system has been tested for the project target group and its implementation on national level lies ahead.