



EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR 2013/2014 SCHOOL YEAR

The main results of the yearly exhaustive surveys that characterize the activity of the educational institutions, conducted by the National Statistical Institute (NSI), are:

- The number of children in kindergartens for 2013/2014 was 240.6 thousand as an increase of 2.4% is observed in comparison with the previous school year.
- In 2013, 28.9 and 27.4 thousand students graduated secondary education in respectively general and vocational schools.
- For the 2013/2014 academic year, the number of enrolments in higher education remained almost unchanged in comparison with the previous academic year - 277.2 thousand persons as a decrease in the number of students in private universities is registered.
- Significant increase of the number of Ph.D. students is observed. As of 31.12.2013, 6 055 Ph.D. students were enrolled in the country, or 12.7% more than the previous academic year.

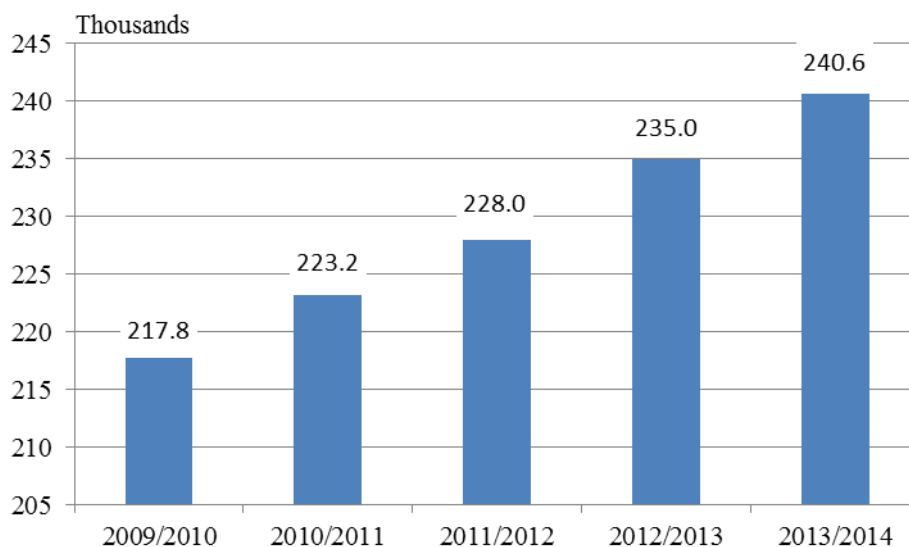
Pre-primary education

The number of kindergartens with director in 2013/2014 was 2 051 or 19 less than in 2012/2013, the decrease was mainly in the rural areas - 30. The number of children in kindergartens for 2013/2014 was 240.6 thousand, 22.8 thousand or 10.5% more than their number in 2009/2010 and increased with 2.4% in comparison with the previous school year. The coverage of children in kindergartens estimated by the group net enrolment rate¹ increased from 82.1% for 2012/2013 to 83.6% for 2013/2014. The achievement of the higher coverage of the children in those institutions is an important indicator, which determinates the efforts of the municipality administrations to attain a better coverage of the children in pre-primary education.

¹ The group net enrollment rate of children in kindergartens is calculated as a percentage of the number of children in kindergartens in the age group 3-6 years to number of population in the same age group.



Figure 1. Children in kindergartens



The average number of children per kindergarten was 117 - in urban areas their average number was larger - 161 and for the rural areas it was 59. The average number of children, that formed one group, was the same as in the previous year – 24. In urban areas the average number of children was 25 and in rural areas - 21.

The teaching personnel employed in kindergartens were 20.3 thousand from which 19.0 thousand were kindergarten teachers. In comparison with the previous school year the total number of pedagogical personnel increased by 254 persons or by 1.3%.

The number of licensed private kindergartens continued to increase, in 2013/2014 there were 75 or 10 more than the previous year, but they were still an alternative for a small part of parents. In private kindergartens were enrolled 2 718 children. Their relative share was only 1.1% of the total number of children enrolled in kindergartens.

General education

In the beginning of the school year 2013/2014 there were classes in 2 026 general education schools². Out of these 149 were primary schools, 1 329 - basic schools, 8 - lower secondary schools, 139 upper secondary and 401 - secondary general schools. Besides this transformation, in comparison with the previous school year, because of closure or modification, the total number of general education schools decreased by 14.

During the current 2013/2014 school year the number of students in all kinds of general education schools was 606.3 thousand, of which 107.4 thousand in rural areas. In comparison with the previous school year the number of students in general education increased by 1.5 thousand or 0.2%.

² Incl. the Bulgarian schools abroad, financed by state.



Figure 2. Enrolments in general education schools by group of grades



During the previous 2012/2013 school year for different reasons 13.5 thousand students left the general education schools, of which 11.6 thousand were in basic education. The largest relative share was the share of students who left for family reasons – 6.5 thousand or 47.9% of the total number of leaving students, followed by those who left because had gone abroad – 35.2% and those who left because of unwillingness to study was also considerable – 10.7%.

The early teaching of foreign languages becomes more common for the beginning stages of the primary education. The relative share of children in general education schools who studied foreign languages in the primary grades (I - IV) was 82.8 %. The largest share comes from those who studied English - 89.2% of the students who studied foreign languages.

In 2013, 42.7 thousand students graduated from basic education and 28.9 thousand persons graduated secondary education in the general education schools.

The total number of the teaching staff (incl. directors and deputy directors with teaching activity) employed in general education schools during the 2013/2014 school year was 45.1 thousand or 21 more than in the previous school year. Teachers were high educated - 92.1 % of them had tertiary education – an education-qualification degree of ‘Bachelor’ or ‘Master’ and 7.6% - had education-qualification degree - ‘Professional Bachelor’ (or the equivalent degree in past).

Women were predominant in the teaching profession (85.0% of the total number of teachers).

There were 22 pupils on average for one class in the general education schools.

As of 1.10.2013 there were 68 active private general education schools in the country. Out of these there were 4 primary schools, 29 basic, 2 lower secondary, 27 secondary schools and 6 secondary general



schools. There were 6 451 students who studied in private general education schools. The number of students in the private sector was only 1.1% from the total number of students.

In schools and classes for students with special educational needs were enrolled 3.8 thousand pupils or 1.2% less in compassion with the previous school year. 856 specialist teachers and 370 educators were taking care of their education and upbringing.

Vocational education and training (VET)

Vocational education and training during the school year 2013/2014 was carried out in 23 art schools, 24 sport schools, 402 vocational gymnasiums and 39 vocational colleges with enrolment after secondary education. The total number of the students in vocational education and training during the current school year was 140.9 thousand, and compared with the 2009/2010 school year decreased by 24.0 thousand or 14.5% and compared with the previous one – decreased by 1.9 thousand or 1.3%.

Boys were predominant in vocational education and training and were 60.3% of the total number of students.

The highest relative share in programmes for attainment of a third level professional qualification was for students who studied specialties in the field of ‘Engineering and engineering trades’ - 30.3%, followed by share of those in the field of ‘Business and administration’ – 18.0%. In the programmes for attainment of a second level professional qualification the share of students was highest in the field of ‘Engineering and engineering trades’ (28.1%) and ‘Personal services’ (22.1%).

During the present school year the total number of teachers working in VET schools was 12.6 thousand, of which 94.0% were high educated with education-qualification degree ‘Bachelor’ or ‘Master’.

In 2013, 27.4 thousand persons graduated with attainment of diploma for secondary education in art schools, sport schools, vocational gymnasiums and vocational schools.

In 2013, second and third levels of professional qualification were acquired respectively by 6.7 and 15.4 thousand persons.

549 students acquired first level of professional qualification in vocational schools and classes with enrolment after VI, VII and VIII grade.

In vocational colleges with enrolment after completed secondary education, 1 153 people acquired fourth level of professional qualification.

During the 2013/2014 school year 2 493 students were enrolled in 58 private VET schools, which was only 1.8% of the total number of enrolments in the vocational education.

In 2013/2014 the number of enrolments aged 16 or more years in programmes for vocational training against payment in Vocational Training Centers, vocational gymnasiums and vocational colleges, significantly increased. According to the level of professional qualification, their distribution was the following: first level - 11.2 thousand, second level - 7.3 thousand, third level – 10.3 thousand and forth – 165 persons.

In comparison with the previous school year the number of enrolled students increased with 4.6 thousand persons or 18.9%. Indicative is the willingness of the individuals to improve or acquire new qualification, providing an advantage in the labour market.



Tertiary education

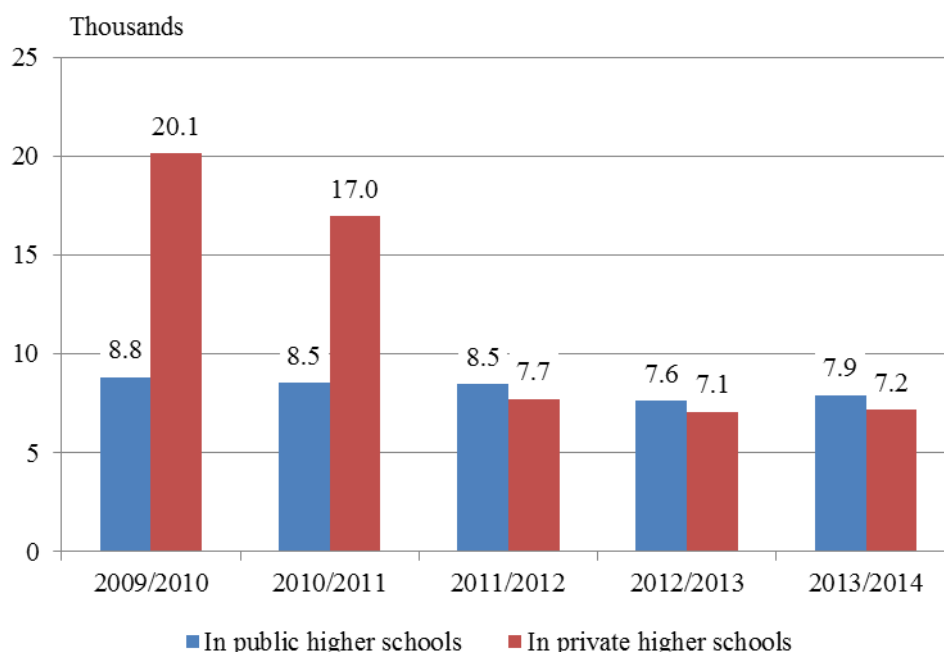
The total number of the students in Bulgaria enrolled in the four educational-qualification degrees ('Professional bachelor', 'Bachelor', 'Master' and 'Doctor') in the academic year 2013/2014 was 283.3 thousand, which is 3.8 thousand, or 1.3%, less in comparison with the 2009/2010 academic year and 0.2% less compared with the previous academic year.

Colleges ('Professional bachelor' educational-qualification degree)

During the 2013/2014 academic year, for acquiring of the degree 'Professional bachelor', in colleges were enrolled 15.1 thousand students totally, of which 14.8 thousand, or 98.1%, were Bulgarian citizens. From the total number of the students in colleges, 7.2 thousand or 47.5% were enrolled in private colleges.

In 2013/2014 the number of students in colleges had increased with 0.4 thousand, or 2.6% in comparison with the previous academic year.

Figure 3. Students in colleges³



In the structure of the students by narrow fields of education, the highest relative share was found in the field of Business and Administration - 33.3%, followed by the field of Personal Services - 20.7%, Health - 16.3% and Engineering and Engineering Trades - 16.1%.

³ Since 2011/2012 academic year, the number of students in private colleges has decreased significantly due to the conversion of an independent private college into university and pass over the relative students from educational-qualification degree 'Professional Bachelor' into 'Bachelor' degree.



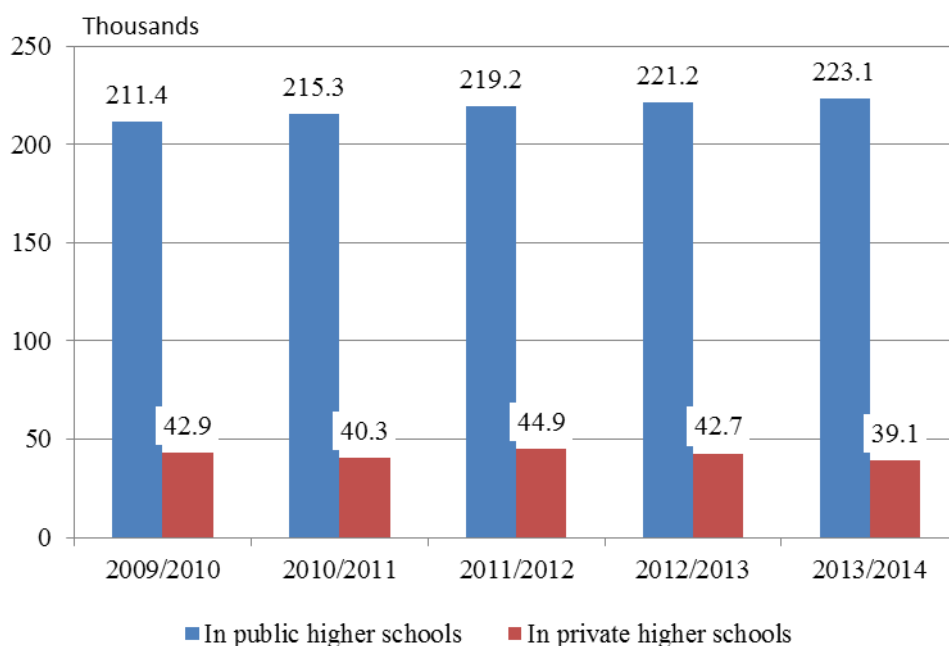
In 2013 the degree 'Professional bachelor' was acquired by 3.5 thousand students of whom 98.4% were Bulgarian citizens. Among graduated students the highest number was found in the field of Business and Administration - 1.3 thousand, or 38.7% of the total, followed by the field of Health - 0.6 thousand, or 16.1%, Personal Services - 0.5 thousand, or 15.3%, and Engineering and Engineering Trades - 0.5 thousand or 14.8%.

The number of the teaching staff in colleges was 1 070 persons, of whom 598 or 55.9% were on a full time employment.

Universities and equivalent higher schools ('Bachelor' and 'Master' educational-qualification degrees)

During the 2013/2014 academic year the number of students, in the two educational-qualification degrees 'Bachelor' and 'Master', in universities and specialized higher schools was 262.2 thousand. Of them, in private higher schools were enrolled 39.1 thousand students or 14.9% of the total number. The number of enrolled students in private higher schools declined with 8.4% in comparison with the previous academic year.

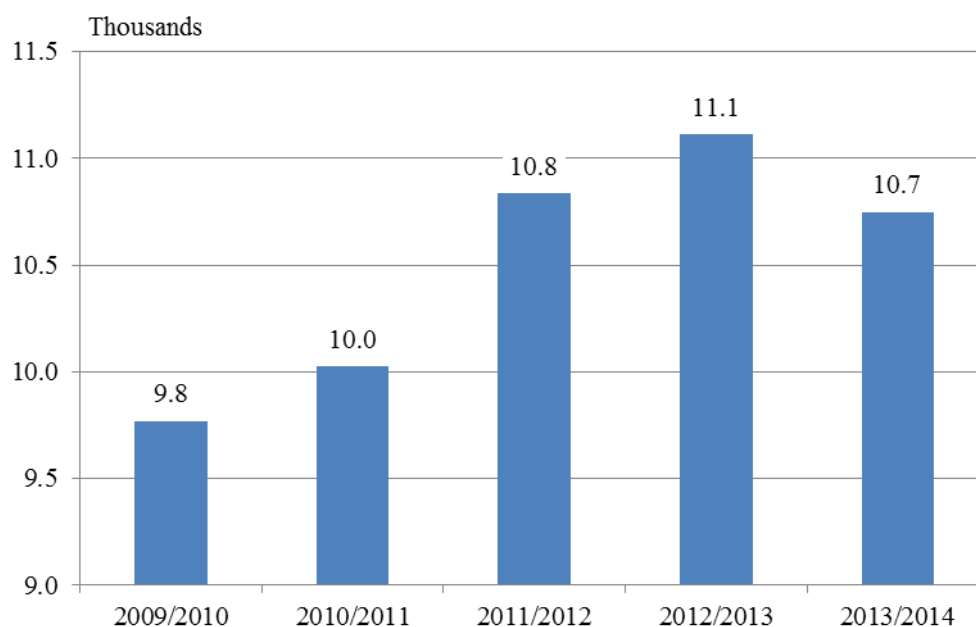
Figure 4. Students in universities and specialized higher schools



In the 2013/2014, students - Bulgarian citizens in universities and specialized higher schools were 251.4 thousand, or 95.9%. Their number had decreased by 1.4 thousand in comparison with the 2012/2013 academic year or by 0.5%. The number of the foreign students in the country, studying in universities and specialized higher schools, was 10.7 thousand, which is 3.3% less than in the previous year.



Figure 5. Foreign students in universities and specialized higher schools



The largest share of foreign students in the country came from Turkey - 36%, followed by Greece - 22.7% and the Republic of Macedonia - 4.7% of the total number of foreign students.

A gradual increase in the number of students from Greece is observed - from 1.0 thousand in 2009/2010 to 2.4 thousand in the current academic year, or 2.6 times. At the same time the number of students from the Republic of Macedonia decreased from 1.7 thousand in 2009/2010 to 0.5 thousand in 2013/2014, or by 69.6%.

The number of mobile students⁴ enrolled in universities and specialized higher schools had increased from 9.7 thousand in 2009/2010 to 10.7 thousand in 2013/2014 or by 10.4%. Compared to the previous academic year there was a decrease in their number from 4.1%.

'Bachelor' educational-qualification degree

During the 2013/2014 academic year the number of students in the educational-qualification degree 'Bachelor' was 176.3 thousand, of whom 52.7% were women. Bulgarian citizens represented 97.2% of the enrolments and 15.6% were enrolled in private higher schools.

The structure of students by narrow fields of education shows that the highest proportion of students were studying in the field of Business and Administration (22.3%), followed by the field of Engineering and Engineering Trades (15.8%) and Social and behavioural science (12.7%). The lowest shares were

⁴ According to the Eurostat methodology the student mobility is measured by 'country of prior education' which means that mobile student is a student who has graduated secondary education abroad.



registered in the fields of Transport services (1.1%), Life sciences (0.7%), and Mathematics and Statistics (0.2%).

In the academic year 2013/2014, the number of newly enrolled students for acquiring the educational-qualification degree 'Bachelor' was 46.2 thousand. Out of them 45.3 thousand, or 98.1%, were Bulgarian citizens.

In 2013, 34.8 thousand students graduated with the degree 'Bachelor', of which 33.4 thousand were Bulgarian citizens.

The relative shares of graduated students were highest in the fields of Business and Administration (27.8%), Social and Behavioural Sciences (18.6%) and Engineering and Engineering Trades (13.7%).

19.6% of all graduates in the degree 'Bachelor' had graduated in private universities.

'Master' educational-qualification degree

During the 2013/2014 academic year the number of students in the educational-qualification degree 'Master' in universities and equivalent higher schools was 85.8 thousands of whom 53.7% were women. Bulgarian citizens represented 83.9% of the enrolments and 11.5 thousand, or 36.0%, were enrolled in private higher schools.

The structure of students by narrow fields of education shows that the highest proportion of students were studying in the field of Business and Administration (24.9%), followed by the field of Health (16.5%) and Law (12.9%). The lowest shares were registered in the fields of Journalism, mass communication and information (0.4%), Life sciences (0.3%), and Mathematics and Statistics (0.1%).

In the academic year 2013/2014, the number of newly enrolled students for acquiring the educational-qualification degree 'Master' after completed secondary education was 5.7 thousand. Out of them 4.7 thousand, or 83.7%, were Bulgarian citizens.

Students, who continuing their education in Master programmes after completed 'Bachelor' educational-qualification degree, were 27.9 thousand. Out of them 2.1 thousand, or 7.4%, were enrolled in post Professional bachelor programmes.

In 2013, 26.9 thousand students graduated with the degree 'Master', of which 97.3% were Bulgarian citizens.

The relative shares of graduated students were highest in the fields of Business and Administration (38.0%), Social and Behavioural Sciences (10.6%), Engineering and Engineering Trades (8.4%). The lowest relative shares were found in the fields of Social services and Life sciences - by 0.6% of the total number of graduates in Master degree and Mathematics and statistics - 0.1%.

12.0% of all graduates in the degree 'Master' had graduated in private universities.

Educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'

As of 31.12.2013, 6 055 Ph.D. students were enrolled in Bulgaria, of which 50.7% were women. Compared to the previous year the number of Ph.D. students had increased with 684 persons or by 12.7%.

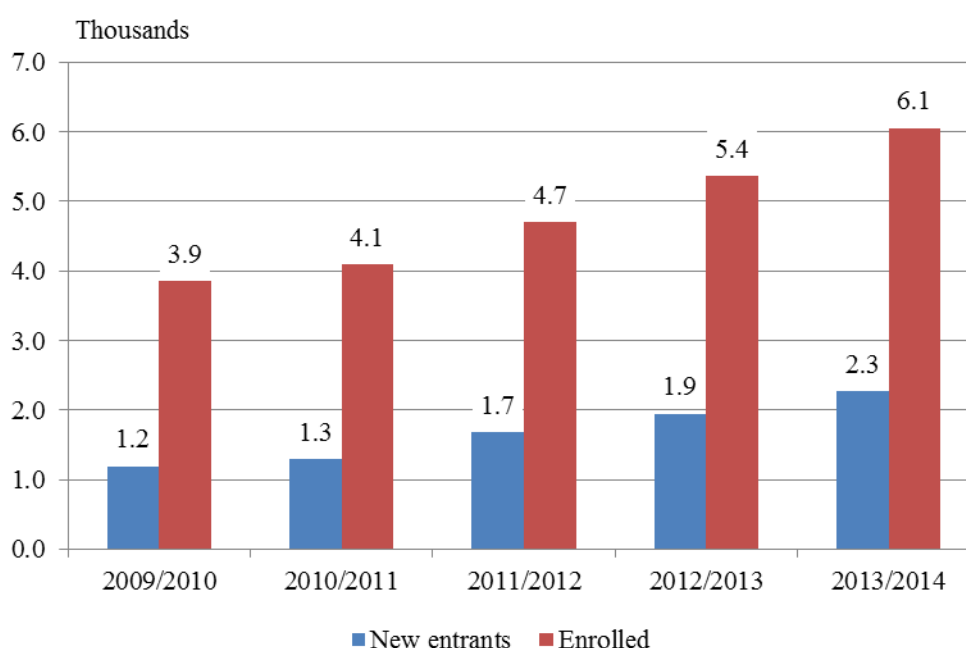
The Ph.D. foreign students enrolled in Bulgaria were 252 persons, or 4.2% of the total.



According to the distribution by age, the share of Ph.D. students aged 25-29 was highest - 35.7%, followed by those aged 40 years and over (24.5%) and those aged 30-34 who represented 21.8% of the total number of Ph.D. students.

During the 2013 the number of newly enrolled Ph.D. students was 2 277, of which 1 113 or 48.9% were women.

Figure 6. New entrants and enrolled in Ph.D. degree



In 2013 a 'Doctor' degree was acquired by 1 202 persons of whom 616, or 51.2%, were women. 45.1% of the total number of graduates was older than 40 years.

The number of graduated males was highest in narrow field of education Engineering and Engineering Trades – 19.3% of the total number of graduated males, followed by the fields of Health (13.5%) and Business and Administration (8.9%). In the structure of the graduated females by narrow fields of education, the highest relative share was in the field of Health (15.3%), followed by the fields of Social and Behavioural Sciences and Humanities (12.3%) and Teacher training and education science (11.5%).



Methodological notes

Education statistics is developed on the basis of the Regulation N 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, the current legal basis in Bulgaria in the area of education, the International Standard Classification of Education - revision 2011 (ISCED 2011) and the concomitant methodological instructions.

ISCED is designed to serve as a framework to classify educational activities as defined in programmes and the resulting qualifications into internationally agreed categories. The basic concepts and definitions of ISCED are intended to be internationally valid and comprehensive of the full range of education systems. The classification rests on three components: internationally agreed concepts and definitions; the classification systems and mappings of education programmes and related qualifications in countries worldwide. ISCED 2011 was adopted at the 36st session of the General Conference of UNESCO and the current year was defined as the first year for obligatory dissemination of statistical data distributed by the revised classification.

The National Statistical Institute conducts yearly exhaustive surveys that characterize the activity of the educational institutions.

Educational institutions - directly conduct teaching via educational programmes to the enrollments in organized classes (groups) or via distance mode of learning. Those programmes lead to attainment of the educational degree and/or level of professional qualification.

Non-formal training and informal learning are not covered by the scope of the educational system according to the used definitions in ISCED 2011.

NSI with its surveys is aiming to determine the number of students in the educational system as of a given date of observation. This is the basis for calculating the internationally accepted indicator 'Participation Rate of the Population in the Educational System', which represents the relative share of students enrolled from a certain age group in relation to the number of the constant population of the country in the same age group.

For more information and data on education, visit NSI's web page (<http://www.nsi.bg/en>), section 'Education and Lifelong Learning'.



Annex

Table 1
Educational institutions by type

	(Number)				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Total	5298	5200	5164	5067	5060
Kindergartens	2262	2138	2112	2070	2051
General and special schools	2201	2175	2144	2112	2097
Primary (I - IV grade)	156	156	156	153	150
Basic (I - VIII grade)	1453	1429	1431	1402	1393
Lower secondary (V - VIII grade)	14	13	12	11	8
Upper secondary (IX - XIII grade)	165	166	139	140	140
Secondary general (I-XIII grade)	413	411	406	406	406
Vocational	487	484	499	494	488
Art schools	21	21	22	22	23
Sport schools ¹	X	X	22	19	24
Vocational gymnasiums	422	422	414	416	402
Vocational colleges	39	36	36	37	39
Vocational training schools	5	5	5	-	-
Vocational Training Centres ²	295	350	356	338	371
Higher ³	53	53	53	53	53
Independent colleges	10	9	8	8	8
Colleges, at the universities	23	22	21	20	19
Universities and equivalent higher schools	43	44	45	45	45

¹ Since 2011/2012 school year, all sport schools have been providing education on vocational programmes instead of general programmes (alteration to the Law on Vocational Education and Training - SG, N50/2010)

² Centres conducting programmes for attaining of professional qualification.

³ Includes universities and equivalent higher schools and independent colleges.



Table 2

Pupils and students by level of International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011)

	(Number)				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Total	1314836	1307705	1293961	1294682	1303836
Pre-primary education (ISCED-0)	217804	223186	227971	235015	240622
Primary education (I-IV grade, ISCED-1)	260340	255086	252372	253675	258840
Lower secondary education (V-VIII grade, ISCED-2)	225055	219980	221274	221839	220934
Vocational training for adults - first level professional qualification (ISCED-2) ¹	4640	8403	11219	13637	11176
Vocational training - first level professional qualification, after VIII grade (ISCED-3)	785	691	841	1011	831
Upper secondary education (IX-XIII grade, ISCED-3)	306140	302684	281671	272487	268395
Vocational training for adults - second level professional qualification (ISCED-3) ¹	4620	4737	4062	4272	7300
Vocational training for adults - third level professional qualification (ISCED-3) ¹	3529	4353	6660	6323	10278
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED-4)	4716	3224	2804	2381	2001
Vocational training for adults - fourth level professional qualification (ISCED-4) ¹	121	96	92	83	165
Tertiary education (ISCED-6, 7, 8)	287086	285265	284995	283959	283294
Education in colleges - Professional bachelor degree (ISCED-6)	28947	25511	² 16210	14688	15072
Education in universities and equivalent higher schools - Bachelor degree (ISCED-6)	177904	178728	184069	180949	176344
Education in universities and equivalent higher schools - Master degree (ISCED-7)	76385	76931	80013	82951	85823
Educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' (ISCED-8)	3850	4095	4703	5371	6055

¹ Incl. students in vocational gymnasiums and colleges.

² The number of students decreased significantly due to the conversion of an independent private college into university and pass over the relative students from educational qualification degree 'Professional Bachelor' into 'Bachelor' degree.



Table 3

Teaching staff by level of International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011)

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Total	106024	104078	102925	102488	101828
Pre-primary education (ISCED-0)	19466	19579	19729	20015	20269
Primary education (I-IV grade, ISCED-1)	15054	14780	14666	14565	14767
Lower secondary education (V-VIII grade, ISCED-2)	20122	19867	19504	19315	19277
Upper secondary education (IX-XIII grade, ISCED-3)	28169	26903	25539	24684	24121
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED-4)	551	517	532	453	382
Tertiary education (ISCED-6, 7)	22662	22432	22955	23456	23012
Education in colleges (ISCED-6)	1385	1375	1079	1091	1070
Education in universities and equivalent higher schools (ISCED-6, 7)	21277	21057	21876	22365	21942