

INFORMATION

From the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science

Regarding the review of the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace

The Ministry of Education and Science implements the “ICT in the pre-school and school education” national programs each year. By means of these programs the goals set in “The Strategy for effective implementation of ICT in education and science of the Republic of Bulgaria (2017-2020)” are realized /achieved/.

Providing high-speed internet connection between educational institutions is one of the main activities of the Strategy. Over the past year, under the “ICT in the pre-school and school education” national programs for 2017, earmarked funds have been provided to all Bulgarian schools on budget support and to Regional education management for Internet access and communication connectivity. In this way the completion and expansion of the optical network support for education and science towards research and science centers were carried out with the assistance of the State Agency „Electronic Management“. The aforementioned activity includes accompanying actions related to securing network activity, warranty support for network devices, researches, engineering activities, etc.

During this year’s “ICT in the pre-school and school education” national program (2018) funds are also provided for expanding the opportunities of the Ministry’s data centers for providing services for the needs of Bulgarian education, as well as activities related to ensuring their working capacity.

Another priority of the Strategy is the implementation of educational platforms, creating and publishing of open educational resources on all school subjects aiming to improve the quality of education and to ensure equal access to education. This will ensure the improvement of the quality of education; it will optimize the process of education and will assure equal access to education to all students, regardless of the place where /in which/they live and study.

Over the past year, under the “ICT in the pre-school and school education” national program (2017), earmarked funds were provided for the purchase, development and use of electronic content by schools in the

Republic of Bulgaria. In 2017, 1005 out of 1107 schools were approved, and the sum earmarked for this amounts to 1 658 045 BGN.

Under the operational program “Science and education for intelligent growth” an ambitious project is forthcoming /is to be realized/. It will include the establishment of an “educational digital cloud” – cloud structure, containing educational resources as well as providing educational platforms for the needs of the education in Bulgaria.

During this year within the “ICT in the pre-school and school education” national program funds are provided for the insurance of internet connectivity of all schools on budget support and establishing WiFi connections. By the end of March 2019, with the funding of 7 065 800 BGN, secure wireless networks will be established, which will assure full coverage in 550 state and municipal secondary schools and professional high schools. This will encourage the usage of personal mobile devices in accordance with the “Strategy for effective ICT implementation in the education and science of Republic of Bulgaria (2017-2020)”.

The Ministry of Education and Science, together with the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications participated in a campaign for promoting information security and counteract cyber threats in the Internet. This includes live conversations with experts from different institutions, discussing cyber threats and the ways of their prevention. Tests and school material related to information security were created /elaborated/for both students and teachers

These are /the above mentioned/ is only a part of the activities, through which the Ministry of Education and Science supports and promotes universal access to cyberspace.