

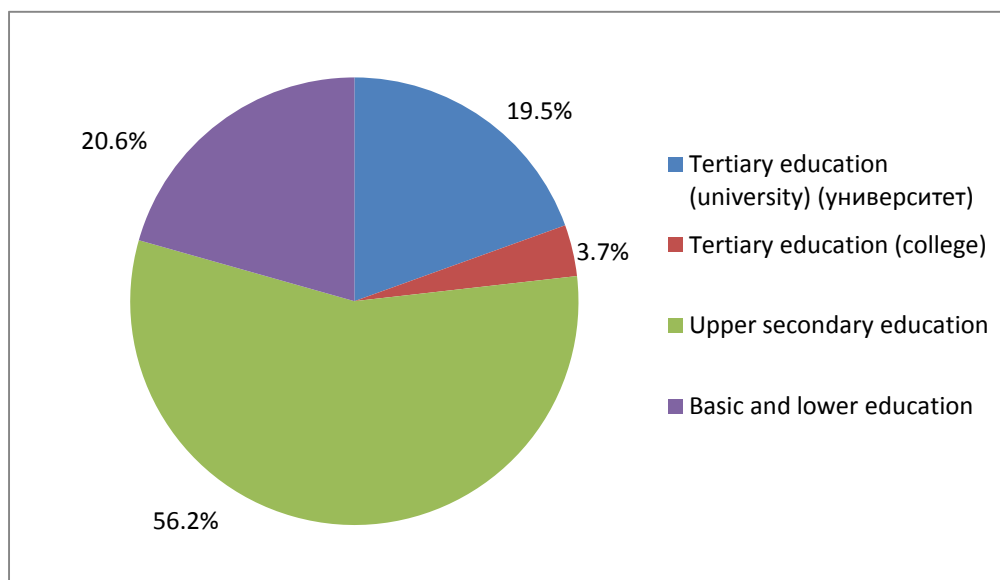


EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR 2010/2011 SCHOOL YEAR

One of the main headline targets of the mutual European strategy ‘Europe 2020’ is to improve educational attainment levels of the population, especially to reduce the school dropout rate and to increase the number of young people with university degree or equivalent degree.

During the 2006 - 2010 period the educational attainment of the population¹ aged 25 - 64 continues to improve following the clear-cut tendency towards an increase of the number and share of the population with tertiary and secondary education together with the decrease of the number and share of people with primary and lower education. The relative share of the population with tertiary education (college and university) increased from 21.9% in 2006 to 23.2% in 2010 or by 1.3 points and the share of the population with secondary education increased from 52.5 to 56.2% or by 3.7 points. Parallel to this, the relative share of persons with primary and lower education decreased by 5.0 points - from 25.6 to 20.6%. This means that 79.4% of the population at the most active working age (25 - 64 years of age) is with secondary or higher education.

Figure 1. Educational attainment of the population aged 25 - 64 years in 2010



Changes in the educational attainment of the population show the results of educational system functioning and the attitude of the young people towards education.



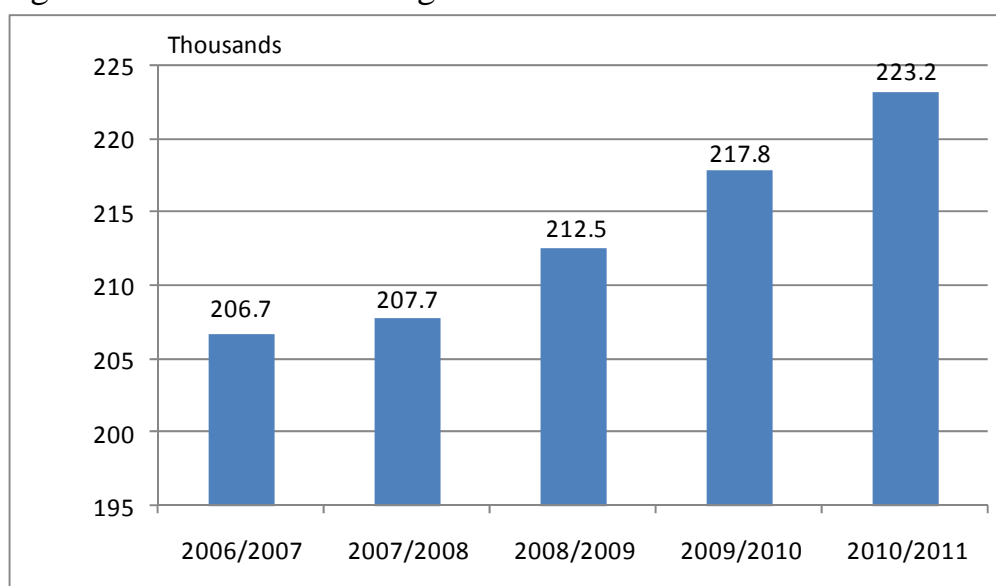
Positive trend comes into view about the share of drop-outs among the population aged¹ 18 - 24, which has decreased from 17.3% in 2006 to 14.8%, through 17.3 in 2009 to 13.9 in 2010.

Relative share of the young people (aged 20 - 24) who have completed at least secondary education increases to 84.4% in 2010, as the increase compared to the previous year is 0.7 points².

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

The number of kindergartens in 2010/2011 is 2 138 or 124 less than in 2009/2010, the decrease is mainly in the rural areas - 112 or 90.3% of the total decrease. The number of children in kindergartens for 2010/2011 is 223.2 thousand, 16.4 thousand or 8.0% more than their number in 2006/2007 and has increased with 2.5% in comparison with the previous school year. The coverage of children in kindergartens estimated by the group net enrolment rate has increased, from 74.3% in 2009/2010 to 74.9% in 2010/2011. A better coverage of the children in these institutions is achieved. This is an important indicator, which determinates the efforts of the municipality administrations to attain a better coverage of the children in pre-primary education.

Figure 2. Children in kindergartens



The average number of children per kindergarten is 104 - in urban areas their average number is larger - 150 and for the rural areas it is 52. The average number of children forming one group is 24, in urban areas - 25 and in rural areas - 21.

¹ Average annual data on the educational structure of the population are from the Labour Force Survey.

² Relative share (%) of the population aged 18-24 with secondary education and below to the population at the same age not participating in the education or training.



The teaching personnel employed in kindergartens is 19.6 thousand from which 1.2 thousand are directors without groups. In comparison with previous school year the total number of pedagogical personnel has increased by 113 persons or by 0.6%.

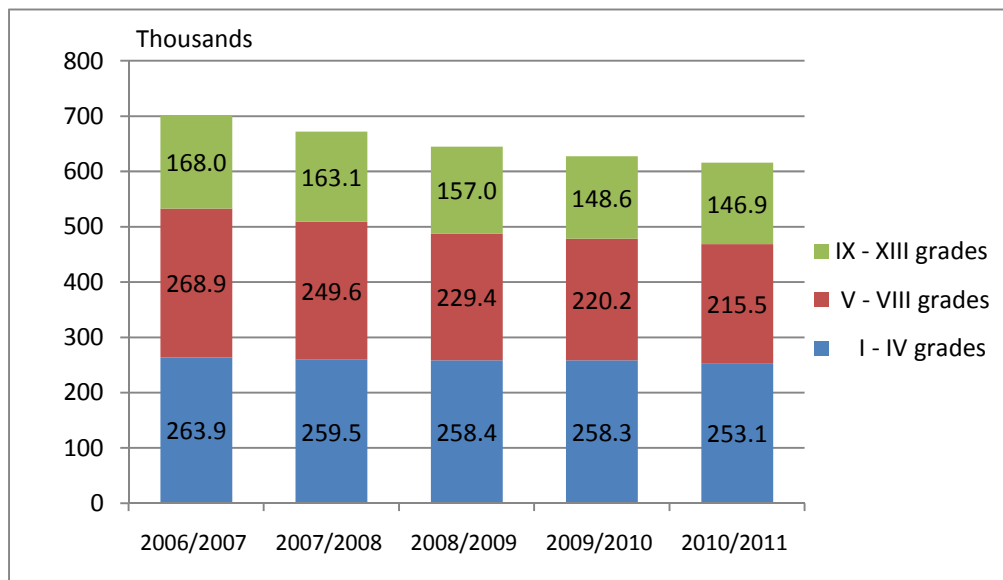
Private kindergartens are an alternative for a very small number of parents. In 2010/2011 there are 48 licensed private kindergartens with 1 784 enrolled children, their relative share is only 0.8% of the total number of children in kindergartens.

GENERAL EDUCATION

In the beginning of the school year 2010/2011 there are classes in 2 096 general education schools³. Out of them 155 are primary schools, 1 360 - basic schools, 12 - lower secondary schools, and 166 upper secondary and 403 - secondary general schools. In comparison with the previous school year because of closure or transformation the total number of general education schools has decreased by 25.

During 2010/2011 school year the number of students in all kinds of general education schools is 615.6 thousand, of which 111.5 thousand in rural areas. In comparison with the previous school year the number of students in general education decreased by 11.6 thousand or 1.9%.

Figure 3. Enrolments in general education schools by group of grades



During the previous 2009/2010 school year for different reasons 19.6 thousand students have left the general education schools, of which 13.5 thousand are in basic

³ Incl. three Bulgarian schools abroad, financed by state.



education. The largest relative share of students who have left is that of students leaving because of family reasons - 9.8 thousand or 50.3% of all leaving students, followed by those who left because had gone abroad - 24.5% and the share of those who left because of unwillingness to study is also considerable - 18.4%.

The early teaching of foreign languages is becoming more common for the beginning stages of the primary education. The relative share of children in general education schools who study foreign languages in the primary grades (I - IV) is 83.4%.

The largest share is towards English, which is learnt by 87.6% of students who is studying foreign languages.

In 2010, 51.2 thousand students graduated from basic education and 32.4 thousand persons graduated secondary education in the general education schools.

The total number of the teaching staff (directors and deputy directors with teaching activity employed in general education schools during the 2010/2011 school year is 47.2 thousand or 1.1 thousand less than the previous school year. Teachers are high educated - 90.9% of them are with tertiary education – an education-qualification degree of ‘Bachelor’ or ‘Master’ and 8.6% - with education-qualification degree - ‘Professional Bachelor’ (or the equivalent degree in past).

Women are predominant in the teaching profession (84.6% of the total number of teachers).

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

As of 1.10.2010 there are 68 active private general education schools in the country. Out of these there are 5 primary schools, 29 basic, 2 lower secondary, 28 secondary schools and 4 secondary general schools. There are 6 179 students studying in private general education schools. The number of students in the private sector is only 1.0% from the total number of students.

In schools and classes for students with special educational needs are enrolled 4.6 thousand pupils or 0.5 thousand (9.1%) less in compassion with previous school year. 996 specialist teachers and 464 educators are taking care of their education and upbringing.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

Vocational education and training during the school year 2010/2011 is carried out in 21 art schools, 422 vocational gymnasiums, 5 vocational schools and 36 vocational colleges with enrollment after secondary education. The total number of the students in vocational education and training during the current school year is 161.5 thousand, and compared with the 2006/2007 school year it decreased by 33.2 thousand or 17.0% and compared with the previous year - decreased by 3.3 thousand or 2.0%.

Boys are predominant in vocational education and training and are 61.0% of the total number of students.



The highest relative share is for students studying specialties in the field of 'Engineering and engineering trades' - 33.0% from the students in programmes for attainment of a third level professional qualification and 30.9% from those of a second level of professional qualification. The students are more interested also in the economic specialties in the field of 'Business and administration' - 16.8% from the students in programmes for attainment of a third level professional qualification and 17.6% from those of a second level of professional qualification.

During the present school year the total number of teachers working in VET schools is 13.8 thousand, of which 92.7% are high educated with education-qualification degree 'Bachelor' or 'Master'.

In 2010, 30.6 thousand persons have graduated with attainment of diploma for secondary education in art schools, vocational gymnasiums and vocational schools.

In 2010, second and third level of professional qualification have been acquired respectively by 14.8 and 9.4 thousand persons.

594 students have acquired first level of professional qualification in vocational schools and classes with enrollment after VI, VII and VII grade.

In vocational colleges with enrollment after completed secondary education, 1 866 people have acquired fourth level of professional qualification.

During the 2010/2011 school year 4 044 students are enrolled in 60 private VET schools, which is only 2.5% of all enrollments in the vocational education.

In 2010/2011 significantly increases 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. According to the level of professional qualification, their distribution is the following: first level – 8.4 thousand, second level - 4.7 thousand and third and forth - 4.4 thousand.

In comparison with the previous year the number of enrolled students has increased with 4.7 thousand persons or 36.2%. Significant is the number of people who wish to increase or to attain additional qualification that gives an advantage in the labour market.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

The total number of the students in Bulgaria enrolled in the four education-qualification degrees ('Professional bachelor', 'Bachelor', 'Master' and 'Doctor') in the academic year 2010/2011 is 285.3 thousand, which is 26.6 thousand , or 10.3%, more in comparison with the 2006/2007 academic year.

In 2006/2007 the total number of the PCs in higher schools, which are used for teaching purposes, was 16.0 thousand and 100 students from the regular form of education was using 9.1 PCs. In the 2010/2011 academic year the total number of teaching purposes



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 PCs has increased up to 20.7 thousand, out of which 15.0 thousand are used for teaching students directly in classes and 100 students from the regular form of education are using 10.7 PCs. The share of PCs with Internet access has increased from 85.2% in 2006/2007 academic year to 94.1% in the last academic year.

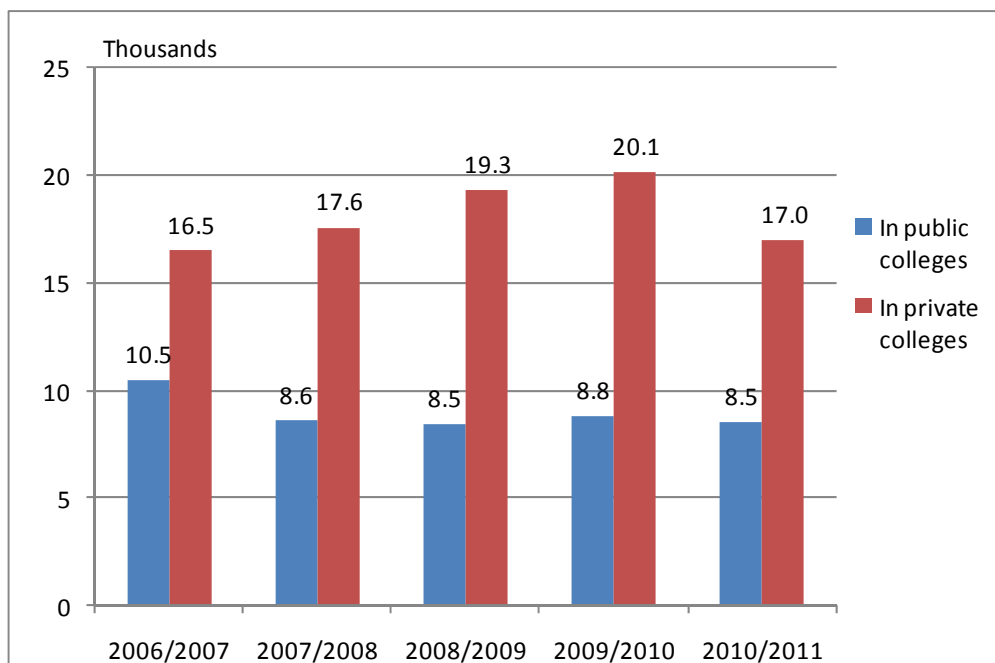
‘Professional bachelor’ education-qualification degree

During the 2010/2011 academic year for acquiring of the degree ‘Professional bachelor’ there are 25.5 thousand students totally, of which Bulgarian citizens are 25.3 thousand, or 99.0%.

From the total number of the students in colleges, 17.0 thousand or 66.5% students are enrolled in private colleges.

The number of the students in colleges has decreased with 3.4 thousand in comparison with the previous academic year.

Figure 4. Students in colleges



In the structure of the students by narrow fields of education, the highest relative share is that of students in the field of Business and Administration - 40.3% followed by the field of Social and Behavioural Science - 17.8% and Personal Services - 13.4%.

In 2010 the degree ‘Professional bachelor’ has been acquired by 6.9 thousand students of whom 99.3% are Bulgarian citizens. Among graduated students the highest number is that of the graduates in the narrow field of Business and Administration - 3.2 thousand or 45.6% of the total, followed by graduates in the field of Social and Behavioural



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science - 1.4 thousand or 20.2% and Personal Services - 0.7 thousand or 10.6% of the total number of graduates.

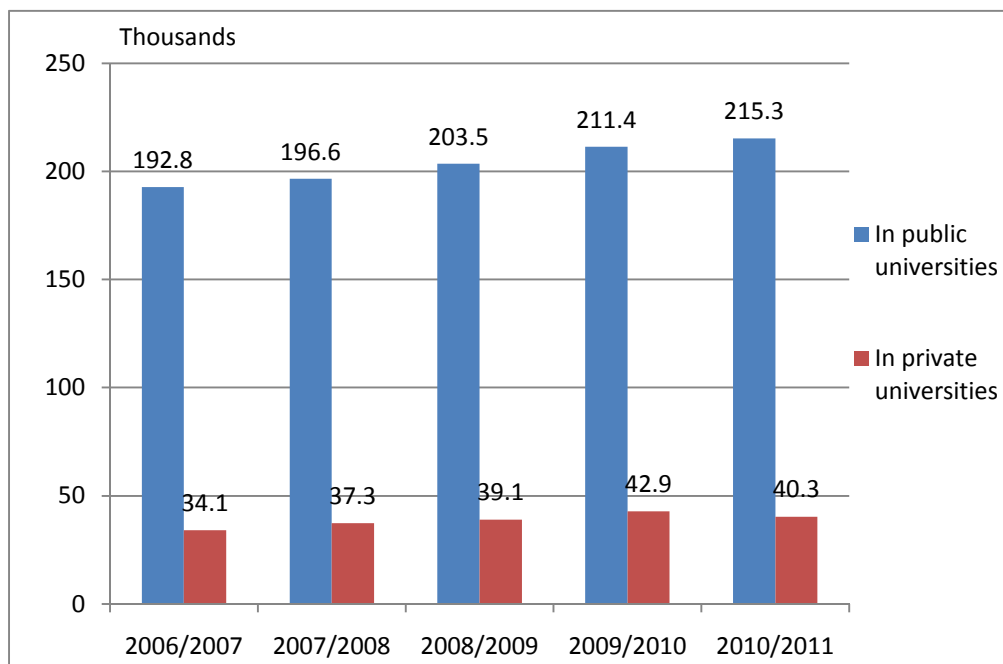
The number of teaching staff in the colleges is 1 375 persons, of whom 605 or 44.0% are on a full time employment.

‘Bachelor’ and ‘Master’ education-qualification degrees

During the 2010/2011 academic year the number of the students, in the two education-qualification degrees ‘Bachelor’ and ‘Master’ is 255.7 thousand.

In private universities are enrolled 40.3 thousand students or 15.8% of the total number. After a period of constant increase of the number of students in private universities during the past years, in 2010/2011 a decrease of 5.9% is being observed in comparison with the previous academic year.

Figure 5. Students in universities and specialized higher schools

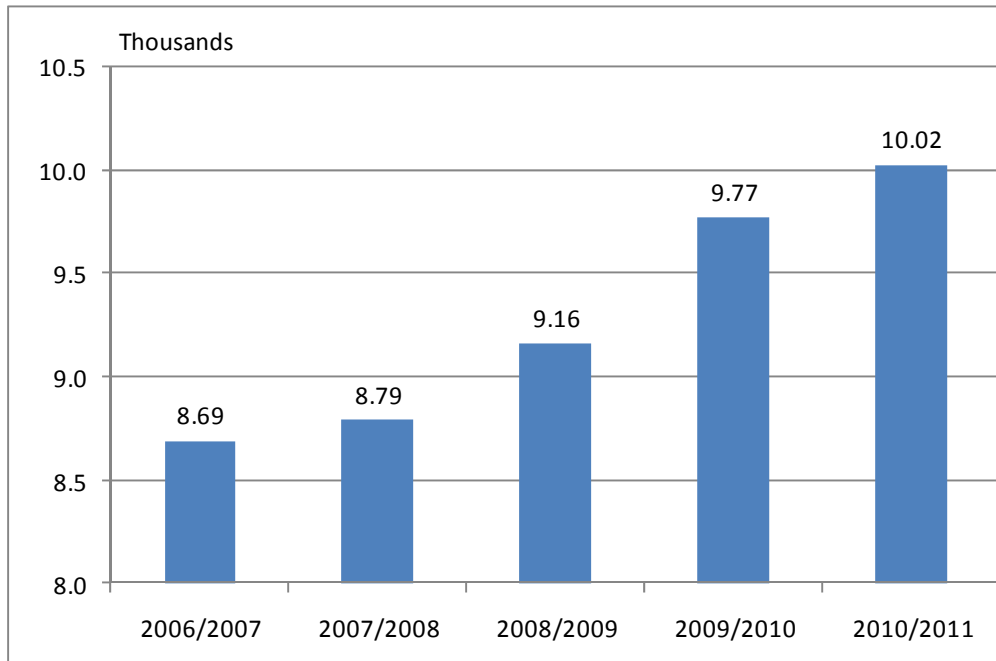


Bulgarian citizens in universities are 245.6 thousand or 96.1% from all students. The number of the students - Bulgarian citizens, has increased slightly by 1.1 thousand in comparison with 2009/2010 academic year or by 0.5%.

During the 2010/2011 academic year the number of foreign students in universities and specialized higher schools is 10.0 thousand or 2.5% more than the previous academic year. Their number is slightly increased for the observed period.



Figure 6. Foreign students



The highest increase comes from the students from Turkey – from 2.0 thousand in 2006/2007 to 4.6 thousand in the present academic year. In 2010/2011 they represent 45.7% of the total number of foreign students in Bulgaria, followed by the students from Greece - 12.5% and Macedonia - 11.6%. At the same time the number of the students from Macedonia has decreased by 66.1% from the beginning of the period.

In the structure of the students by narrow fields of education, the highest relative share is that of students in the field of Business and Administration - 22.3%, followed by the field of Engineering and Engineering Trades - 14.0% and Social and behavioural science – 11.8%. The shares of students are lowest in the fields of Veterinary - 0.6%, Life sciences - 0.5% and Mathematics and Statistics - 0.3%.

The number of newly enrolled students - Bulgarian citizens for 2010/2011 academic year is 48.3 thousand and it was 49.3 thousand in previous year.

The students, who continuing their education in Master programmes after an educational-qualification degree graduation (Professional Bachelor or Bachelor) is 23.4 thousand. Of them 2.3 thousand, or 9.9%, have been enrolled in post-professional-bachelors' programmes.

In 2010, 53.0 thousand students have graduated with the degrees of 'Bachelor' and 'Master', of which 51.3 thousand are Bulgarian citizens. The relative shares of students who have graduated are highest in the fields of Business and Administration – 32.0%, Social and Behavioural Sciences - 13.7%, Engineering and Engineering Trades - 12.4%. In the fields



of Veterinary and Mathematics and Statistics have graduated only by 0.3% of the total number of the students.

In private universities have graduated 13.0% of the total number of the students graduated with the degrees of ‘Bachelor’ and ‘Master’.

The teaching staff in the universities and specialized higher schools is 21.1 thousand during 2010/2011 academic year. Regularly employed are 13.1 thousand or 62.4% of the total.

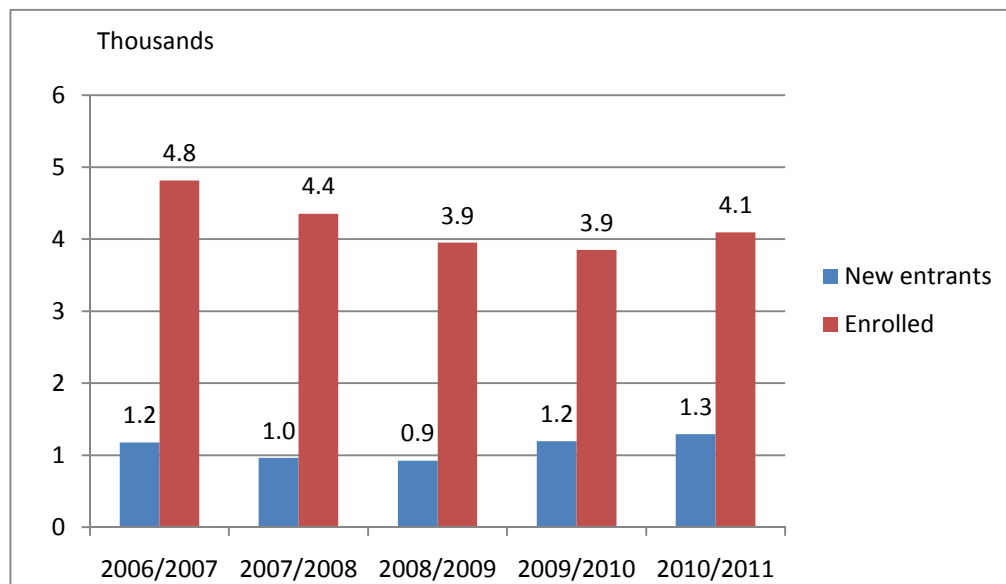
‘Doctor’ qualification and scientific degree

As of 31.12.2010, 4 095 Ph.D. students are enrolled in Bulgaria, as 50.6% of them are women. In comparison with the previous year 2009/2010 their number has increased with 245 persons or 6.4%.

The Ph.D. foreign students enrolled in Bulgaria are 220 persons, or 5.4% of the total number of Ph.D. students. The highest share of foreign students comes from Macedonia - 20.0% of the total, followed by the students from Greece – 16.8% and Turkey – 9.1%.

During the 2010 the number of newly enrolled Ph.D. students is 1 292 from which 621 or 48.1% are women.

Figure 7. New entrants and enrolled in Ph.D. degree



In 2010 a ‘Doctor’ degree has been acquired by 596 persons from which 285, or 47.8%, women. The number of graduated males is the highest in the narrow field Engineering and Engineering Trades – 25.1% of the total number of graduated males and for females it is in the field of Humanities - 12.6%.



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 1997 (ISCED '97) and the concomitant methodological instructions.

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, enterprises conducting courses for qualification, language courses and etc., are not covered by the definition educational institutions.

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/otrasalen.php?otr=36> .

Table 1

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY TYPE
IN 2010/2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

	(Number)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
TOTAL	5838	5782	5303	5298	5200
Kindergartens	2470	2456	2291	2262	2138
General and special schools	2654	2563	2254	2201	2175
Primary (I - IV grade)	252	226	169	156	156
Basic (I - VIII grade)	1791	1729	1487	1453	1429
Lower secondary (V - VIII grade)	20	18	16	14	13
Upper secondary (IX - XIII grade)	170	176	167	165	166
Secondary general (I-XIII grade)	421	414	415	413	411
Vocational	506	503	487	487	484
Art schools	20	21	21	21	21
Vocational gymnasiums	458	449	433	422	422
Vocational colleges	23	28	28	39	36
Vocational training schools	5	5	5	5	5
Vocational Training Centres ¹	155	207	218	295	350
Higher	53	53	53	53	53
Independent colleges	10	10	10	10	9
Universities and equivalent higher schools	43	43	43	43	44
Colleges, at the universities	36	31	28	23	22

¹ Centres conducting programmes for attaining of professional qualification.



Table 2

**PUPILS AND STUDENTS BY LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION (ISCED '97) IN 2010/2011 SCHOOL
YEAR**

	(Number)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
TOTAL	1381948	1349508	1322952	1314836	1307705
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	206745	207682	212454	217804	223186
Primary education (I-IV grade, ISCED-1)	267584	262701	261007	260340	255086
Lower secondary education (V-VIII grade, ISCED-2A)	276057	256231	235022	225055	219980
Vocational training for adults - first level professional qualification (ISCED-2C) ¹	4984	8615	5992	4640	8403
Upper secondary education (IX-XIII grade, ISCED-3A, 3C)	357286	337090	319813	306925	303375
Vocational training for adults - second level professional qualification (ISCED-3C) ¹	4181	5283	6441	4620	4737
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED-4C)	3984	4020	4368	4716	3224
Vocational training for adults - third and fourth level professional qualification (ISCED-4C) ¹	2435	3423	3608	3650	4449
Tertiary education (ISCED-5B, 5A, 6)	258692	264463	274247	287086	285265
Education in colleges (ISCED-5B)	26953	26169	27724	28947	25511
Education in universities and equivalent higher schools (ISCED-5A)	226923	233941	242574	254289	255659
Qualification and scientific degree 'Doctor' (ISCED - 6)	4816	4353	3949	3850	4095

¹ Incl. students in vocational gymnasiums and colleges.



Table 3.

**TEACHING STAFF BY LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION (ISCED - 97) IN 2010/2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

	(Number)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
TOTAL	119694	115962	108305	106024	104078
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	19305	19456	19348	19466	19579
Primary education (I-IV grade, ISCED-1)	17054	16586	15259	15054	14780
Lower secondary education (V-VIII grade, ISCED-2A)	25567	24023	21132	20122	19867
Upper secondary education (IX-XIII grade, ISCED-3A, 3C)	33927	32202	29412	28169	26903
Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED-4C)	405	488	482	551	517
Tertiary education (ISCED-5B, 5A, 6)	23436	23207	22672	22662	22432
Education in colleges (ISCED-5B)	2136	1882	1566	1385	1375
Education in universities and equivalent higher schools (ISCED-5A)	21300	21325	21106	21277	21057