

## Abstract

**Title:** Athletics in physical education lessons of elementary schools in Czech Republic and in Slovak Republic

**Aims:** The aim of this paper is to find out and to compare the level of teaching athletics in elementary schools in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and consequently, to provide an overview on how athletics is taught, what is the education level of PE teachers, how long is their experience in the education system, what is their sports focus, what is their relationship to athletics like, and how many hours of PE classes is devoted to athletics. Next, it is researched to what extent are teachers influenced by material and spatial conditions, to what extent are pupils interested in athletics in PE classes and how much it influences the content of the class.

**Methods:** This thesis is based on the methodology of conducting a survey. It was conducted online with the use of Google Forms. The survey was sent out to elementary schools whose PE teachers were asked to provide answers. The questionnaire was sent out to Czech (n=19) and Slovak (n=26) elementary schools. For representativeness of the sample, Facebook was also used to share the survey. Results were analysed and basic statistical characteristic was used to interpret final questionnaire data, which were compared between the two countries.

**Results:** Analysis of the questionnaire revealed the following results. On average, 27% of PE classes is devoted to teaching athletics in elementary schools in the CZ and 28% in SK. Two classes of PE per week is prevalent in both countries. Teaching is mostly influenced by spatial conditions of the school, material and technical equipment, relationship of the teacher to athletics, number of pupils in the classes, their interest in athletics, and difficulty of motivation. In terms of teaching athletics in PE classes, the situation is very similar in the CZ and SK. In some instances, the CZ got better results (e.g., spatial conditions and teachers' approach to teaching) and in others, SK performed better (e.g., number of pupils in classes and frequency of school's attendance in competitions).

**Keywords:** comparison, education, athletics, elementary school, teachers