

Key words: Scotland, Czech Republic, education system, Chemistry education, Chemistry teaching, National Qualifications, Standard Grade, Intermediate, Higher, Advanced Higher

Abstract: The education system in the Czech Republic is currently undergoing many changes. Education systems of foreign countries are often what inspire us to make these changes. The aim of this thesis is to describe the education system in Scotland and the way chemistry is being taught at secondary schools in this country. Further it tries to compare these to the education system and chemistry teaching in the Czech Republic and consider whether we can adopt any aspects of Scottish education.

Apart from analysis of study plans and educational documents, research for this thesis included visits to chemistry lessons at three secondary schools in Scotland and interviews with teachers at these schools.

In the text, cultural and historical context of Scotland related to the education system is mentioned briefly. Then the Scottish education system is explained and Chemistry teaching at secondary schools is described from the point of study plans and requirements. The following chapter contains a description of schools that have been visited, together with reports from selected chemistry lessons. Last chapter then compares various aspects of education and the approach towards chemistry education in the Czech Republic and Scotland.

The overall structure of education systems in the Czech Republic and in Scotland is very different and this fact influences the way topics are organized in particular subjects. In Scotland, pupils take several exams during their secondary school studies and are allowed to leave school after each of these exams. Therefore, topics are often repeated and developed each year, while in the Czech Republic topics are arranged in a linear manner. Compared to the Czech Republic, Chemistry education in Scotland is focused more on explaining general context, guiding students to learn exact evaluation of experiments and showing them connections between chemistry and everyday life as well as the chemical industry and scientific research.

Education in Scotland can be an inspiration for us in many ways. However, when adopting methods from abroad, we have to keep in mind wider cultural and historical context of both countries in question.