



DETERMINANTS OF PRIMARY MATHEMATICS EDUCATION – A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT. *The results of the international survey TIMSS indicate average or even below average performance of Slovak students in mathematics compared with the OECD countries and other partner countries. What are the factors that determine the mathematical education in primary school? During the last twenty years, teaching mathematics in Slovakia was affected by the two curricular modifications. A new curriculum for the year one of primary school was introduced in 1995 followed by the State Program Education for primary stage in 2008. They brought, on the one hand, a certain reduction in the scope of traditional mathematical curriculum in the first four years of primary school but, on the other hand, the mathematical instruction was enriched by some new topics. The teacher is an equally important factor, since he is responsible for implementation of mathematical education in school. Undergraduate training of prospective teachers - elementarists - builds on the mathematical training which they received in previous stages of education. In this view, it is important to consider the type of secondary school at which a teacher trainee had studied. Comparative analysis of the situation in Slovakia and abroad can yield new ideas to enhance the mathematical education.*

KEY WORDS: *Mathematics. Primary Education. Curriculum. Teacher.*

CLASSIFICATION: *B50, B70, D10*

Received 20 April 2014; received in revised form 25 April 2014; accepted 1 May 2014

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In. (Eds.) Šedivý, O., Švecová, V., Vallo, D., Vidermanová, K. Acta Mathematica 17: Proceedings of international conference 12th Mathematical Conference in Nitra, Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia, June 19, 2014. Edition Prírodovedec No. 578. Nitra: CPU (2014). P. 15-21. ISBN 978-80-558-0613-6