

## Comenius Regio Project:

*“Education in the focus “The EU strategy 2020” in regions with lack of access to infrastructure and high qualification jobs”*

### **A survey concerning the demand for extra-curricular activities preparing for the school leaving exams (Matura Exam) conducted among the school leaving students in Szybinski Secondary School and Technical College in Cieszyn.**

The survey was conducted among all school leaving students from Szybinski Secondary School and Technical College. 130 students took part in the survey. It focused on various forms of activities offered both at the school and outside of it, and on the students' needs and expectations in terms of the teachers' support in the exam preparation for the Matura Exam.

The vast majority the students would like to participate in extra-curricular activities preparing for the Matura Exams (80%). 72% of those students think that these activities should be available in the final year, the others that a year earlier.

Most of the students (63%) believe that mere participation in the lessons is not enough to pass the Matura Exam well, while 37% believe that on the contrary - it is enough to actively participate in the lessons to do well in the school leaving exams.

At the same time 73% of the students would like to take or take private lessons to prepare for the school leaving exams.

73% of respondents state that they can independently revise the material covered in previous school years. However, 63% of the students would like the teacher to prepare a study plan for revising the material.

The students were also asked about the usefulness of practice Matura Exams. 87% of them consider the practice exam as a useful means of testing their knowledge and getting familiar with the structure of the exam.

The last question concerned the results of the Matura Exam which would be satisfactory for the students at the basic level. The range of the satisfactory results is as follows: Polish:50-80%, Mathematics 50% -70%, a Modern Foreign Language: 50% -90%.

Which gives following average results: Polish: 65%, Mathematics: 60%, a Modern Foreign Language: 70%.

### **Conclusions:**

According to the survey, although the majority of students feel confident that they are capable of revising for the Matura Exam on their own, they want to participate in activities preparing for the Matura Exams both at school and outside of it.

Besides, they need the teachers' support with organisation, monitoring and testing of the revised material. The students also believe they benefit from a study plan for revising the material prepared by the teacher, as well as from the practice Matura Exams. For most students satisfactory results which might be achieved at the Matura Exam are higher than the required minimum of 30%. The highest expected average results are the modern foreign language results, the lowest – mathematics. It shows that the most difficult and easiest exams are Mathematics and Modern Foreign Language exam, respectively.

### **Recommendations:**

Due to the great interest of students regarding extra-curricular activities preparing for the Matura Exams, it is advisable to continue them. It is recommended that they should be clearly and permanently included in the weekly schedule. In order to increase students' attendance at the extra-curricular activities and the regularity of their participation students' motivation should be increased and they should be encouraged to continually improve their skills and knowledge. Preparing a study plan study for revising the material by the teachers help students in their self-study, therefore introducing such a study plan for different subjects would be beneficial. This could be done by subject departments for each subject. It is not necessary to prepare such calendar by individual teachers for each class, as the scope of the required material is identical. The vast majority of students consider the practice Matura Exam as a useful means of testing their knowledge and getting familiar with the structure of the exam. It is therefore advisable to continue setting it. In order to ensure that students get accustomed to the formula of the Matura Exam and help them master the skills to write exams effectively, it is recommended to set cumulative tests,

for example, after each term or annually throughout the educational cycle.