

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE TUITION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AFTER 1990

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This contribution presents a brief survey of the conditions at the outset of the reforms of foreign-language tuition in the Czech Republic. The author explains the situation as it existed under the communist régime as well as the directives published in 1991 by the Ministry of Education. The principal change was that, as of September 1991, pupils right from the elementary stage have been offered free choice between English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, and Italian, and that enabling pupils to communicate in a given language has become the overriding goal. The article also briefly sketches the practical experience with the reforms so far, which points to only German and English really asserting themselves and to communication as a goal of foreign-language tuition taking priority also at grammar schools, with didactic and cultural aspects ranking lower.