In November 2015, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic issued the Practical Guide to Protecting Teaching Staff and Professional Staff (Praktická príručka k ochrane práv pedagogického zamestnancu a odborného zamestnancu) (2015). The main purpose of the document is the effort to increase the legal consciousness of the teaching staff and professional staff at schools. It also includes model examples as well as concrete examples from practice.

Within protection from attacks on teaching staff and professional staff, it is necessary to specify principles for communication with the external environment and include esteem, regard, and respect for human rights in internal regulations and documents. Attackers can be school pupils, but also their parents, legal representatives or others. The body of laws provides teaching staff and professional staff with general and special protection from attacks that are offences, crimes or infringements on their right for protection of personality and personal expressions, and occur during performance of teaching or professional activities or related thereto.

Schools must pay attention to prevention, implement prevention programmes aimed at harmonization of relations and improvement of the school climate. More attention should be paid to this area also in the higher education of future teachers. In-service teachers should be offered such educational activities and should be motivated to attend them.

In the area of the prevention of the cyber-bullying of teachers, it is required to increase teachers’ awareness of active protection in the Internet environment. The number of professional staff in schools trained in social-educational prevention at a professional level should be increased.

References

The Act No. 317/2009 on teaching staff and professional staff.