

# COMPUTING IN SCHOOLS – SLOVAKIA THE PAST

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- Milestones by Decades
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# The Sixties

## Cybernetics Reconsidered

Computing Curriculum started in **1962**  
(at Five Secondary Schools)

## The Content of *Computing* in the Sixties

calculators, punched cards, first computers, strong math

## Support from the Environment

only hardware departments at the universities

# The Seventies

## Increased Use of Computers in Practice

About 1/6 of Secondary Schools offer Computing Curriculum

## The Content of *Computing* in the Seventies

stressing algorithms, programming, hardware basics, mathematics

## Support from the Environment

first textbooks

first complex computer science university study in 1973

evening refresh courses

# The Eighties

**Computers at Some Secondary Schools, PC's**

**Many Secondary Schools Offer Computing**

**The Content of *Computing* in the Eighties**

adding invariants, program correctness, turtle geometry,  
(debate on languages)

**Support from the Environment**

strong political support, quick courses for teachers  
informatics teacher curriculum at Comenius University  
since 1982

correspondence seminar (1983) and olympiad (1985) in  
programming

informatics became important

# The Nineties

## The Boom of Personal Computers

## Curriculum in Computing, Computing in Other Subjects

## The Content of *Computing* in the Nineties

strong push towards user software

## Support from the Environment

departments of informatics education (1992 at Comenius)

everybody needs informatics (what kind of it ?)

internet

# Key Success Factors

## Enthusiasm of All Involved

secondary school teachers, computer science departments, university students

## Stressing Teacher Education

no good teachers, no good computing in schools

## Building on Mathematics, Algorithms, and Programming

## Stressing *Concepts* as Opposed to Current Vogue

## Working with Talented Students

correspondence seminar in programming  
olympiad in informatics

# Potential Threats

**Perhaps My Colleagues of the Present  
and the Future Shall be More Optimistic :-)**



# Potential Threats – a Personal View

**Who Needs a Well Educated Population?**

**Easy Going Young Generation  
(why should I work hard?)**

**'Make Believe' Society**

# Potential Threats – a Personal View

**Good Computing Teachers are Scarce  
(Brain Drain)**

**Stressing 'How to Teach'  
as opposed to 'What to Teach'**

**Less Concepts, More 'How To' Work with  
Information on the Internet, Collaboration**  
just like stressing user software in the past

# Let's Be Optimistic

## Thank You For Your Attention