

## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis deals with the preparation of early career teachers to work with gifted and exceptionally gifted pupils in primary schools. The aim of the research is to find out how early career teachers are prepared for the education of gifted pupils.

The theoretical part describes the issues of gifted and exceptionally gifted pupils in the context of undergraduate teacher education. The theoretical part defines examples related to good practice from abroad. In the theoretical part there are included the possibilities of further education of teachers in this area.

In the empirical part of the thesis, the research problem was first set and addressed using a qualitative approach. The design of the research was a case study. The research sample consisted of six respondents. The data collection was carried out through six semi-structured interviews with respondents aged 23 to 27 years and content analysis of the data, which examined the documents of the study programmes of the faculties of education of the universities where the respondents of this research had studied or were still studying. These documents were searched for courses taught to gifted students. The research investigation was intended to find out the possibilities of undergraduate teacher preparation for working with gifted pupils.

It was found that the respondents most frequently encountered the topic of gifted pupils in subjects that did not focus on gifted pupils. Only two respondents had a subject oriented towards gifted pupils in their curriculum, one respondent was studying Special Education and the other was studying Primary Education. The interviews revealed that the respondents were aware of working with gifted pupils but would welcome such a focused subject in their studies. Half of the respondents thought that the college did not prepare them to work with gifted pupils. Only one respondent had taken up a further education opportunity dedicated to this subject.

## **KEYWORDS**

gifted pupil, gifted education; teacher education; early career teachers