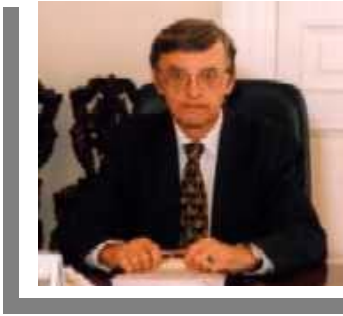


# Czech Republic

**Eduard Zeman**

**Minister of Education, Youth and Sports**



*Born in 1948, Mr. Zeman graduated from the Pedagogical Faculty in Ceske Budejovice. He subsequently became teacher at basic secondary grammar schools (1973-1992). He attended later a postgraduate study programme at Charles University, Prague. Since 1992, he has been repeatedly elected a Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament for the Czech Social Democratic Party. In particular, Mr. Zeman was Member, Secretary and Vice-chair of the Committee for Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, and Chair of the Subcommittee for Education. In 1998, he was appointed Minister for Education, Youth and Sport. For five years before his appointment, he had been a spokesman of the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSDP) for the matters of educational policy. He was the co-author of all educational programme documents of the CSDP and other important documents.*

## **Skills and values of partnership**

We live in a time of rapid and almost unpredictable social changes that necessarily influence the role and status of education systems, both on a European and global scale. The present world is affected by negative social phenomena such as violence and lack of understanding. The motto of the Geneva International Conference on Education 'Learning to Live Together' should therefore become one of the main educational aims in 21st century. Indeed, education is an immensely powerful tool that could be utilized for a positive shaping of attitudes of the young generation.

**Nowadays, the mere development of learning skills and cognitive capacity of individuals no longer suffices. Other skills and values – spiritual, ethical and aesthetic – need to be acquired and a positive attitude to other people as well as to the society as a whole should be developed.** It is necessary to raise children's awareness of similarities and interdependence of all human beings so as to prevent any lack of understanding with regard to different ethnic and religious groups that might otherwise persist throughout their adult lives.

The education towards partnership, co-operation and solidarity within the European and globalizing world society has become one of the main targets set out in the National Programme of Development in Education in the Czech Republic. We seek to promote a concept of life without conflicts, life free of negative attitudes not only within the national community but also with respect to other nations, linguistic groups, minorities and cultures. We wish to be able to both accept and respect even considerable differences among people and cultures of our present interrelated world.

I wish that the world community together with UNESCO and other international organizations would achieve all the goals set out for 21st century by the Geneva International Conference on Education in September 2001." 