



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
COURT OF AUDIT

AUDIT REPORT

The system of working with talented children and the system of school competitions

Efficiency of operations

Audit period: 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

The system of working with talented pupils and students

* Data on talented pupils/students for the school respectively academic year 2016/2017 were collected on the basis of questionnaires submitted to primary and secondary schools.



A TALENTED PUPIL/STUDENT is identified:

- as talented **after concluded recognition and identification procedures**
- when included in **educational and schooling activities**



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

409

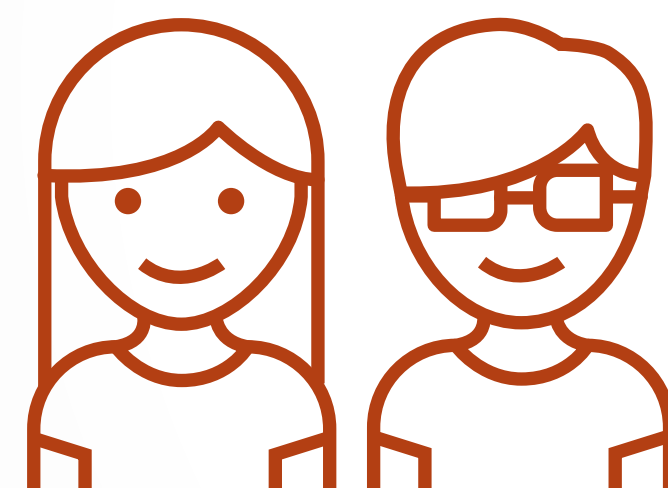
17.1%

(17,376)

of the talented among the pupils the 1st to 4th grade of general upper secondary schools

23.7% of the talented among the pupils of the 9th grade

1 teacher per 1.1 talented pupil on average



114

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

38.5% of the talented among the students from the 1st to 4th grade of general upper secondary schools

4.3% of the talented among the students from the 1st to 4th grade and of the 5th grade of other secondary schools

1 teacher per 1.8 talented student on average

17.9%

(10,884)

of the talented among the students from the 1st to 4th grade and of the 5th grade of secondary schools

— No data on the amount of State funds allocated in 2017 for extra work with talented pupils and students.

— No data on the number of identified talented pupils/students at the national level.*

Equal treatment of the talented in nurturing and developing their talents **was not provided**



Possibilities for **adapting work depend on each individual school**



NATIONAL STRATEGY
promoting work with the talented

?!
under preparation since 2014



No **strategic, legal and professional bases** for working with the talented

- key objectives not set
- the **relevance of the talented for the development of the State** not defined
- not clearly specified **for which special forms of working with the talented additional budgetary funds shall be provided**
- no **systematic monitoring of development** of the talented
- national evaluation study** not carried out



NATIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE SLOVENIA

PROFFESIONAL GUIDANCE
for working with the talented

?!
updates under preparation since 2013

- professional guidance** for adapting the work **non-binding** on schools and **not updated**
- the status and professional qualification of coordinators** for working with the talented **not regulated**
- lack of systematic and compulsory education and training of teachers** for working with the talented
- budgetary funds for extra work with the talented not provided** to schools



Only temporary **project funding** of the interested secondary schools from the EU funds **is not appropriate**

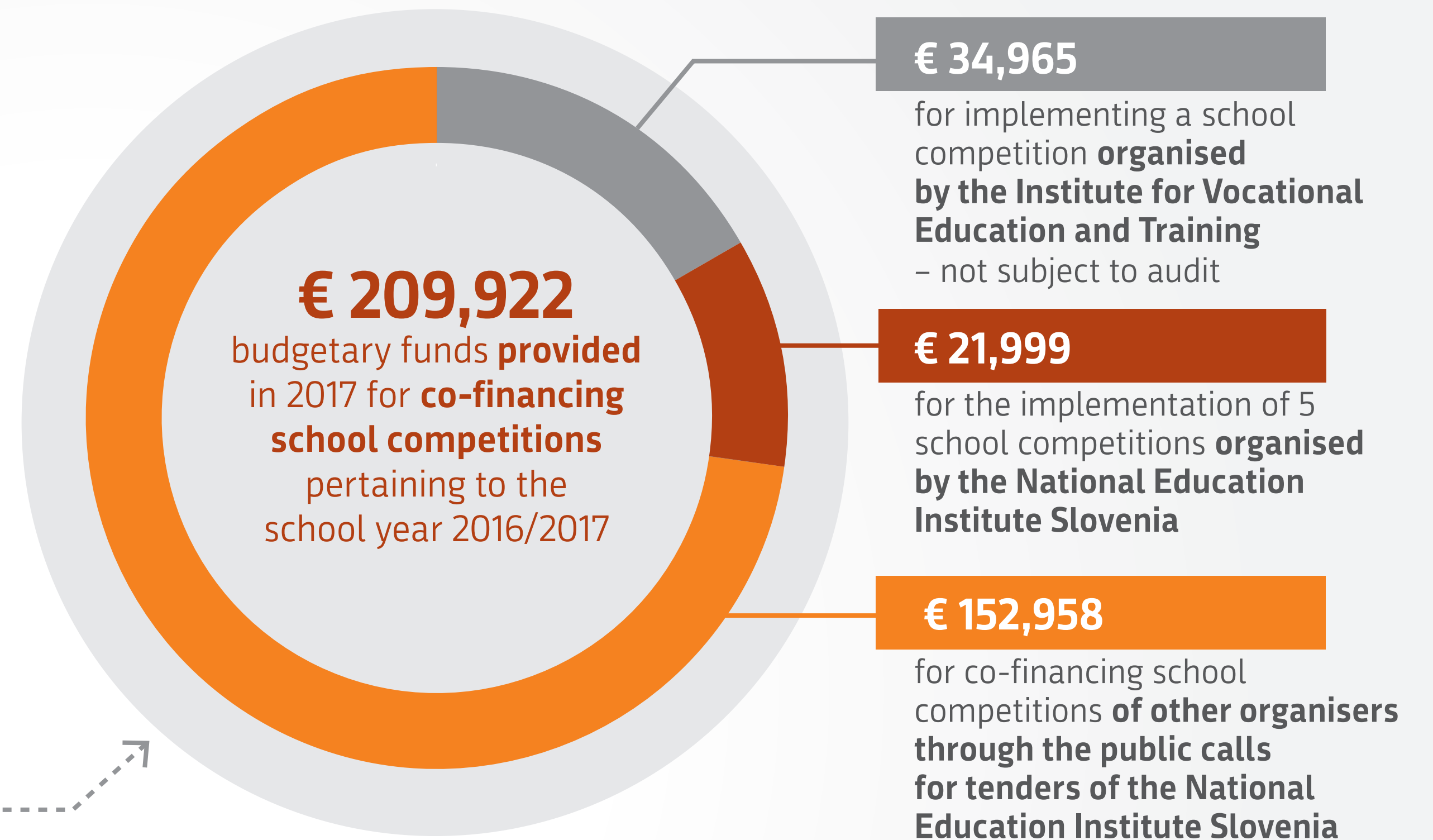
for primary schools from the year 1999 and for secondary schools from the year 2007

The system of school competitions



SCHOOL COPMETITIONS

National **knowledge competitions**, other national competitions and participation in international competitions **co-financed through budgetary resources** by public calls for tenders and directly.



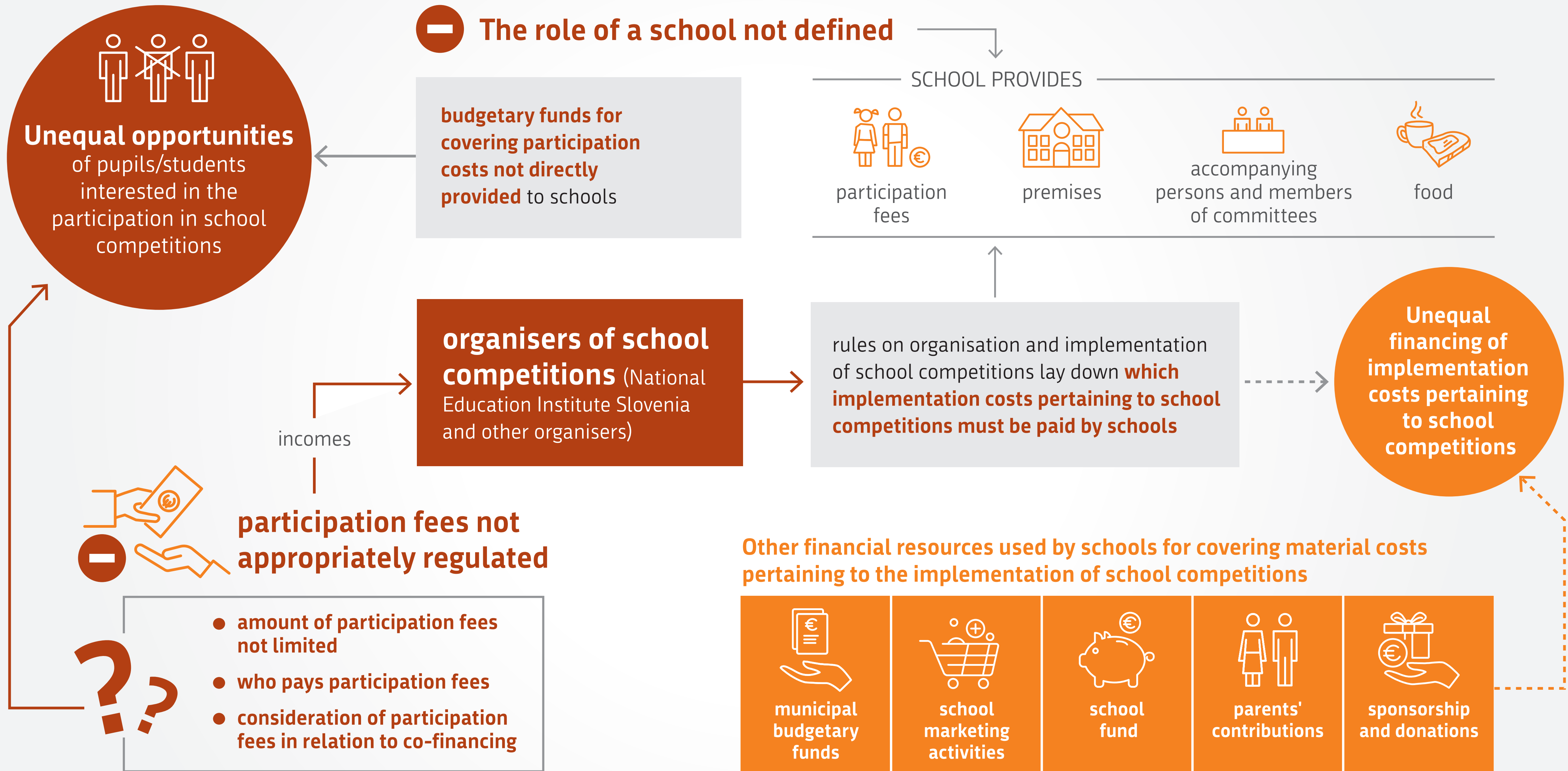
The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport **failed to set up an appropriate system for co-financing school competitions**

the **purpose of organising** school competitions **not defined**

not specified **which competitions should be co-financed from the State budget due to their national relevance** and which objectives the State would like to achieve thereby


lack of clear criteria for **determining the scope of funds for co-financing school competitions**


implementation of public calls for tenders was transferred to the National Education Institute Slovenia **WITHOUT LEGAL BASIS**



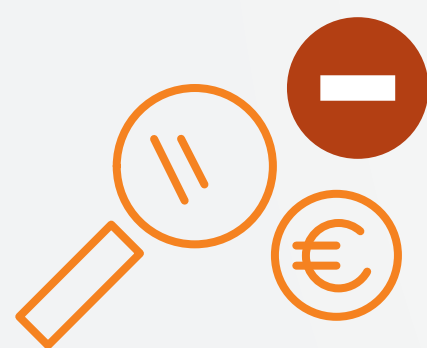
Co-financing school competitions on the basis of public calls for tenders


NATIONAL EDUCATION
INSTITUTE SLOVENIA

 **51**
competitions

 **25**
organisers

16 competitions – Association for Technical Culture of Slovenia (€ 21,452)
6 competitions – Society of Mathematicians, Physicists and Astronomers of Slovenia (€ 15,982)

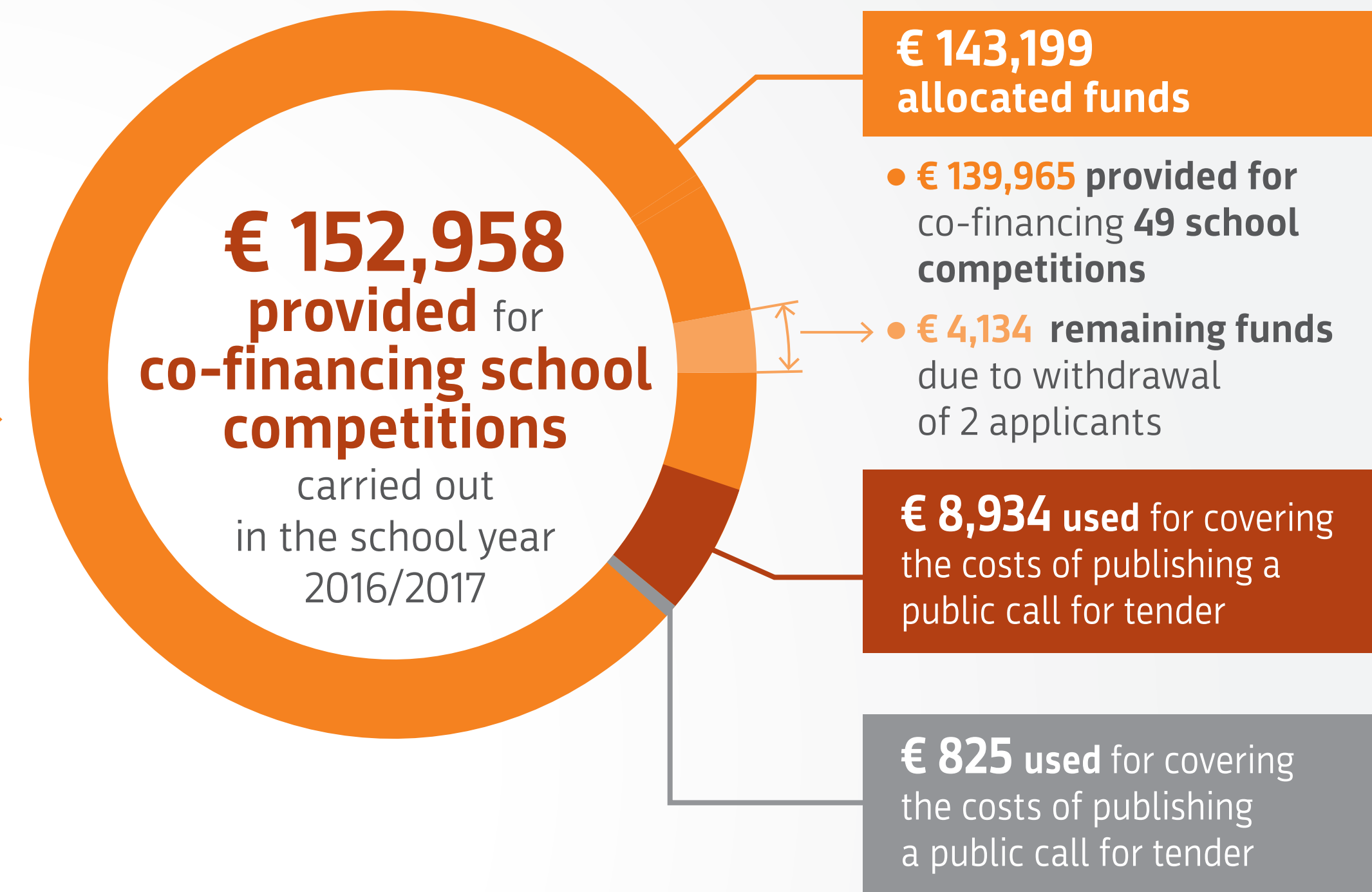


In the school years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 failed **to provide funds** for co-financing competitions of other organisers **in a clear and transparent manner**

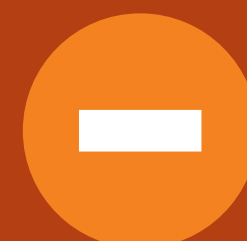
improper conduct and management of a tender procedure 4 applications were rejected	wrong number of points assigned to at least 2 applicants	eligible costs and consideration of participation fees in relation to co-financing not clearly defined	applicants did not have a right of appeal	funds were provided to organisers only after the implementation of competitions	restrictions regarding the number of golden awards at the primary school level were not set among conditions
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FAILED TO ENSURE EQUAL TREATMENT OF APPLICANTS


This restriction was breached by the National Education Institute Slovenia and also by certain other organisers, consequently the participants in different competitions did not have equal opportunities for winning a gold medal.



OPINION OF THE COURT OF AUDIT



The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the National Education Institute Slovenia were inefficient in regulating the system of working with talented children and the system of school competitions in 2017.



DEMANDS

The Ministry of Education, Science and sport must draw up a plan of activities for:



establishing appropriate legal and professional bases for working with the talented



formulating a proposal for regulating the field of school competitions



formulating the proposal for the submission to the Government in order to remedy the current state, which allows the implementation of public calls for co-financing school competitions to be transferred to the National Education Institute Slovenia without specific legal basis

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the National Education Institute Slovenia should examine:

- **advantages and disadvantages of implementing public calls for tenders** for co-financing school competitions **before the beginning of a current school year** for which the funds are allocated
- **possibilities of co-financing only those competitions which are free of charge**, thereby indirectly co-financing costs arisen to schools due to their participation in school competitions

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport together with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities should examine:

- **whether** and to what extent **it is possible to interconnect and harmonise** the system of working with the talented, the system of school competitions and the system of awarding Zois scholarships