

## Primary Education in Serbia

### Serbian transcript:

Значи основна школа је по закону прописана да је обавезна за све. Значи, чиме год да се бавите у животу, основну школу морате законски да завршите. Она траје осам година. Предмети су мање-више исти, мање их је, али у суштини у самим предметима није толико велика разлика. У тих осам година школовања, ми делимо прве четири године и друге четири године, зато што прве четири године су лакше ипак, и предмети су другачији. Имате учитељицу, то је само један наставник, један професор који вам држи све предмете, и за кога се вежете као за неку рођаку, за тетку или за маму, онако просто, овај... Другачији је вид предавања; а од петог до осмог разреда, значи друге четири године, почиње такав вид школовања који јако личи на гимназију. Значи, сваки предмет има свог професора, контролне вежбе, испитивања и тако даље.

Основна школа је уствари највећи период живота кад је образовање у питању; то је осам година, и сада, човек се јако навикне. Међутим, из искуства мог и из искуства мојих другарица, мојих другова, знам да се људи много више вежу за гимназију, без обзира што иду само четири године у гимназију, ваљда су у том неком периоду, пошто наша гимназија траје од наше 15. до 19. године, или од 14. до 18, од зависности од тога кад сте уписали, овај, и тако даље. И просто, много се више вежете за то друштво, ваљда је тај период такав. А у принципу, моје лично искуство између средње и основне школе... Средња школа ми је била тежа доста од основне, али ми је била и много занимљивија, тако да основна ми је остала некако у измаглици, тако, пола је се сећам, пола је се не сећам, а гимназија ми је овде овако.

### English translation:

So, primary education is legally mandatory for everyone. So, whatever you choose to do in life, legally speaking, you have to go to primary school. That takes eight years. Subjects are more or less the same, there aren't that many, but basically there is not that much of a difference between the subjects themselves. During those eight years of education... We differentiate between the first four years and the second four years, because the first four are a lot easier, and the subjects are different. You have a teacher<sup>1</sup>, a single professor<sup>2</sup> who teaches all subjects, and you get emotionally attached to them as if they were your cousin, an aunt or a mother to put it simply, err... It's a different type of

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<sup>1</sup> Orig. *učiteljica/учитељица*: feminine form of *učitelj/учитељ*, teacher. It is sometimes assumed that your first teacher will be a woman because a majority of primary school teachers in Serbia and ex-Yugoslavia were women. However, this is increasingly not the case.

<sup>2</sup> In Serbia and ex-Yugoslavia, the term *profesor/професор* (trans. professor) can be used for a primary or high school teacher in addition to its common use (college professor).

education; and 5th to 8th grade, or the other four years, are more similar to high school. So, each course has its own teacher, written and oral exams, etc.

Primary school takes the longest when it comes to education; it lasts for eight whole years, and one gets very used to it. However, from my experience and from my friends' experiences, I know that people get more attached to their [time spent in] high school, despite the fact that they are in high school for only four years. I guess it's because during that period when you're between 15 and 19, or 14 and 18, depending on when you started going to school, etc... Simply put, you just feel more attached to your friends; I guess you're of that particular age. Practically speaking, my own experience in primary school and high school is... High school was a lot more difficult than primary school, but it was also a lot more interesting; my memory of primary school is hazy and I can remember only parts of it, while high school is right here [points to her heart].

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