

# POLISH EDUCATION SYSTEM

Szkoła Podstawowa nr 7 w Gizycku

ERASMUS +  
*'SCHOOL CAN BE FUN'*

# STRUCTURAL REFORM IN 2017

- Educational reform in Poland is being implemented since the beginning of 2017. Its main goal is to offer students a solid background of general education required for further personal development and the needs of contemporary labour market.
- The reform will be implemented between 1 September 2017 and the school year 2022/23. On the 1 September 2017 pupils graduating from year 6 of the primary school became pupils of grade 7.

# The new structure includes:

- 8-year primary school
- 4-year general secondary school
- 5-year technical secondary school
- 3-year sectoral VET school (stage I)
- 2-year sectoral VET school (stage II)
- 3-year special school preparing for employment
- post-secondary school

# COMPULSORY EDUCATION

- Starting 2017 a new structure of school education is being implemented in which full-time compulsory education will last for 9 years (the last year of pre-school education and 8 years of primary school education).
- Full-time compulsory education (obligation to attend primary school –new structure) applies to pupils aged 7-15 years in the new structure while part-time compulsory education (obligation to be in education) concerns pupils aged 15-18 and it may take place either in school settings (a student attends an upper secondary school) or in non-school settings (e.g. a student follows vocational training offered by employers).

# EDUCATIONAL STAGES

## ECEC:

Institutions for children aged 0-3 years:

- crèche (żłobek),<sup>?</sup>
- kids club (klub dziecięcy)

Attending a crèche is not obligatory, crèches are not a part of education system as they are supervised by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy.

## Institutions for children aged 3-6 years:

- preschool (przedszkole)
- pre-school class in a primary school (oddział przedszkolny w szkołach podstawowych)
- pre-school unit (zespół wychowania przedszkolnego)
- pre-school centre (punkt przedszkolny).

Starting September 2016 pre-schools are optional for 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children and obligatory for 6-year-olds. Every 4- and 5-year-old has an entitlement to a place in a pre-primary setting, and as of September 2017 – every 3-year-old. As of the school year 2016/17 compulsory education in grade 1 of primary school starts at the age of 7. Parents of 6-year-olds have a choice – they can enroll their children in the 1 grade of primary school or keep them in a pre-school institution.

# Primary education

8-year primary school is compulsory for all pupils who are usually aged 6/7-15.

It includes two stages:

- grades 1-3 (early school education),
- grades 4-8 where teaching is done by subject.

The compulsory external exam will take place in grade 8 of primary school and its results will influence admission to secondary schools.

# Upper secondary education

The new reformed structure of upper secondary education envisages the following types of schools:

- 4 -year general secondary school
- 5-year technical secondary school
- 3-year sectoral VET school (stage I)
- 2-year sectoral VET school (stage II)

Students of vocational schools –basic vocational schools and technical upper secondary schools –may take exams confirming vocational qualifications in a given occupation during the course of study or upon completion of school to receive a diploma confirming their vocational qualifications. Graduates of general upper secondary schools and technical upper secondary schools may take the external upper secondary school leaving examination (egzamin maturalny) to obtain the Matura certificate, which gives access to higher education.



# Post-secondary non-tertiary education

- Post-secondary education is considered to be a part of secondary education. Post-secondary schools (szkoła policealna) are intended for graduates of general upper secondary schools who wish to obtain a diploma confirming their vocational qualifications. The schools offer courses lasting from 1 to 2.5 years. The students of post-secondary schools and students of basic vocational schools and technical upper secondary schools take vocational exams of the same type.

# HIGHER EDUCATION

There are two types of Higher Education Institutions:

- university- type (uczelnia akademicka)
- non-university-type (uczelnia zawodowa)

They both offer first-and second-cycle programmes as well as long-cycle Master's degree programmes while only university-type HEIs can offer third-cycle programmes (doctoral studies) and are authorized to award doctoral degrees.

Studies are organized in the form of full-time (studia stacjonarne) or part-time (studia niestacjonarne) programmes.

First-cycle programmes lead to two types of degrees:

- Licencjat (equivalent of Bachelor's degree) – 3-4 year programmes
- inżynier (equivalent of Bachelor's degree) – 3.5 - 4 year programmes.

Holders of the Bachelor's degree can enter second-cycle programmes, which take 1.5-2 years depending on the area of study.

Only several fields of study offer long-cycle Master's degree programmes that last for 4-6 years. First-cycle, second-cycle and long-cycle Master's programmes end with a diploma examination and students who have passed it are granted a relevant degree.



*Przypisy:*

*- [eurydice.org.pl/.../Education-System-in-Poland\\_2017\\_2018\\_EN.pdf](https://eurydice.org.pl/.../Education-System-in-Poland_2017_2018_EN.pdf)*