



# **„Education system in Poland“**

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**Task Force for Training and Human Resources**





## Education - basic principles

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- The right to education and the freedom of teaching in Poland are safeguarded by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland
- The basic legislative act which regulates the functioning of the education system for youths and adults is the *Education System Act of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1991* amended in 1995, 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2003.
- The most important legislative acts for the higher education sector are: the *Act of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1990 on Higher Education* with subsequent amendments; the *Act of June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1997 on Higher Vocational Schools* with further amendments



## Education – basic principles cd.

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- Education in Poland is compulsory until the completion of the age of 18
- The educational obligation is fulfilled by attending a primary school and a gymnasium
- Schools can be of two types
  - Public (state)
  - Non-public schools – can be civic (social), church or private
- Reform of the education system - introduced in 1999



## Responsible Bodies

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- As from January 1, 1999 – public schools and educational institutions have been taken over and run by territorial authorities: *gminas* and *powiats*;
- At the central level: the Minister of National Education and Sport co-ordinates and executes the state educational policy;
- At the regional level – an Educational Superintendent – *Kurator* – carries out the policy of the Minister of Education in a voivodship;
- At the district level – *powiats* authorities are in charge of managing post-gymnasium and post-secondary schools
- At the local level – *gminas* authorities run primary and lower secondary schools
- A School Headmaster – recruited on the basis of an open competition and employed by the body running the school for 5 years.



# New Structure

## of the Education System in Poland

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- **6-year primary school**
- **3-year gymnasium**
  - constitutes the lower secondary level of education, teaching pursues in a broad profiles, introducing pupil to the world of knowledge, helping to develop social skills and abilities



# New Structure

## of the Education System in Poland

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### ■ **Post-gymnasium schools**

- **3-year general secondary school** – leading up to matura examination;
- **3-year profiled lyceum** – providing general education and offering tuition in individual general vocational profiles, leading up to matura examination;
- **4-year technical secondary school** – awarding vocational qualification diploma. Furthermore, the matura certificate can be achieved after graduation from the fourth grade of the school;

# New Structure

## of the Education System in Poland

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- **2-year supplementary lyceum** – leading up to matura examination, for graduates of basic vocational schools who wish to continue their education and obtain a complete secondary education;
- **2-3 year basic vocational school** – awarding vocational qualification diploma, followed up in a supplementary lyceum or supplementary technicum. Completion of the supplementary schools allows graduates to take matura examination;
- **3-year supplementary technical secondary school** – awarding vocational qualification diploma, leading up to matura examination, for basic vocational schools graduates;
- **up to 2,5 year post-lyceum school** – awarding a vocational qualification diploma, for graduates of general secondary education.



# New Structure

## of the Education System in Poland

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- **Schools of higher vocational education** – offers 3-years studies leading to a Licentiate's degree and 4-years studies leading to a title of engineer. Students may continue education on 2-years supplementary Master's Degree courses;
- **3-year teacher training colleges** – colleges for training pre-school and primary school teachers and for training foreign language teachers. Graduates receive a diploma of higher vocational studies and can continue their studies at the Master's level;
- **4,5-6 year schools of higher education** – university type, offering Master's Degree Studies;



# Practical Training

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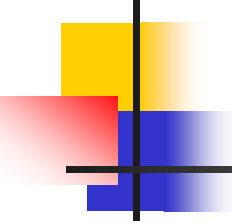
- At present practical vocational training is provided in 2 basic forms:
  - Practical training classes held in:
    - school workshops or
    - Practical Training Centres (CKP) – offering high quality vocational education and training to young people and adults, as well as specialist training for teachers;
  - Vocational placements in enterprises or individual farms, organised one or twice in the educational cycle for 4 weeks.



# Apprenticeship

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- The main condition – completion of a lower secondary school and 16 years of age;
- Based on agreements concluded with an employer. Beneficiaries have a status of juvenile workers;
- Theoretical knowledge completed at basic vocational schools or in out-of-school forms;
- Aimed at acquiring a diploma of skilled worker or an apprentice;
- Takes between 24 and 36 months



# Validation System of Vocational Qualifications

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- Classification of vocational occupations – developed by MoNE, serves to indicate the directions of vocational training in the school system;
- As of September 1999 – vocational school graduation has been separated from acquisition of the vocational title;
- Former system – the school headmasters are responsible for certification, evaluation and issuing of *matura* and vocational title diplomas;
- Reformed system – regional examination commissions are responsible for certification, evaluation of knowledge and issuing diplomas.



# Examination System

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- The educational reform introduces two systems of pupils' performance:
  - **Internal:**
    - to inform about the progress student has made
    - an in-house function (the domain of the school)
  - **External:**
    - to obtain external verification of skills and knowledge
    - closely linked to the standards and requirements of the examination system; it consists of the following elements:



# Examination System

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- *Tests at the end of primary school* – as a result of the test, pupils will receive information about areas they have mastered and which they still need to work on;
- *Pre-orientation examinations at the end of gymnasium* – these exams will sum up all the work of a pupil in gymnasium and will help decide which school he/she should choose;
- *Matura examination (the New Matura)* – it will be given to graduates of lyceums and supplementary lyceums in 2005 and will replace university entrance exams;
- *An examination confirming vocational qualifications* – this exam is given from 2004 for graduates of vocational schools and post-lyceum schools; it confirms qualifications identified in the list of occupations for school system; the exam is held at an accreditation “examination center”, a school, an educational institution, or an employer;
- **Central Examination Commission**



## School Preferences of the Gymnasiums Graduates (2004)

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<b>General secondary schools</b>	<b>– 45,2%</b>
<b>Profiled lyceums</b>	<b>– 14,7%</b>
<b>Technical secondary schools</b>	<b>– 24,9%</b>
<b>Basic Vocational Schools</b>	<b>– 14,7%</b>

# Education System in Poland

## - Quantitative Data

- In the school year 2003/2004, there were more than 6,6 million pupils in all types of schools:

<b>School type</b>	<b>Number of schools</b>	<b>Pupils in thous.</b>
Primary	15 344	2 855,6
Gymnasium	6 927	1 681,2
General secondary	2 603	751,8
Vocational secondary	6 376	852,1
Basic vocational	1 919	204,0
Post-secondary	3171	265,7

- In the academic year 2003/2004, there were more than 1,8 million students at 400 schools of higher education of all types.