

# Participation in national and European professional skills competitions

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 POLAND

## Timeline

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 45038

## Background

The experience of many countries participating in the EuroSkills and WorldSkills competitions confirms that organising national tournaments of practical skills, similar to the European EuroSkills, has a measurable impact on improving the image and attractiveness of vocational education in these countries. It increases interest in vocational education among young people and promotes a positive perception of vocational education within society, including parents.

The second visible effect is the promotion of closer cooperation between schools/vocational training centres and employers, and the improvement of the competences of vocational teachers who prepare students for the competition. Countries participating in EuroSkills have been organising their national competitions for several years. Poland hosted the EuroSkills 2023 competition in Gdańsk.

The Foundation for the Development of the Education System organises the competitions in Poland in cooperation with many enterprises, employers, and higher education institutions.

## Objectives

Main objectives of the activity are:

- (a) promoting a positive image of VET as an attractive career path;
- (b) strengthening cooperation between schools providing vocational training, vocational training centres and enterprises, firms, HEIs, local and regional government.
- (c) increasing the involvement of employers in the practical training process;
- (d) providing learners with opportunities to develop their interests and talents related to the profession;
- (e) support for professional development of teachers of practical vocational training;
- (f) strengthening digital competences and competences related to the green transition and sustainable development.

## Description

The SkillsPoland competition consists of:

- (a) development of organisational and substantive assumptions for the PolSkills competition at the regional and national level;
- (b) conducting study visits as part of professional competitions in other countries;
- (c) implementation of a promotional campaign for SkillsPoland competitions;
- (d) conducting regional eliminators for competitions in 30 sectors;
- (e) organising of three nationwide SkillsPoland competitions in 30 sectors;
- (f) participation of representatives from Poland in European (EuroSkills) and international (WorldSkills) competitions.

The aim of the action is to organise a European competition of professional skills in Poland with the participation of young people and experts in 54 sectors.

### **2022 Implementation**

In 2022, the nationwide SkillsPoland 2022 competition was held in Gdańsk; this was the qualifiers for the international EuroSkills competition. Nearly 200 players took part in the competition.

WorldSkills Poland also visited Białystok, where the first of eleven SkillsPoland Special Edition was held; this aimed at selecting the Polish national team for EuroSkills 2023 in the masonry and mechanical engineering CAD competition.

### **2023 Implementation**

EuroSkills Gdańsk 2023 was the eighth edition of the European skills competition, which brought together over 600 young professionals from 32 countries. They competed in 43 different events, including construction technology, art, fashion, engineering, transport, and logistics. The event was held at the International Gdańsk Fair and the Polsat Plus Arena stadium.

The project was co-financed by the European Social Fund under the Operational Programme Knowledge Education Development. It was part of the European Year of Skills, initiated by the European Commission. Over 132 000 people participated in EuroSkills 2023, both in person and online, while the opening and medal ceremonies were watched by more than 104 000 viewers.

The Polish team won 13 medals, including 3 gold, 1 silver, 3 bronze, and 6 Medals of Excellence. Additionally, studies were conducted to assess the competition's impact on participants, focusing on both professional skills and soft skills. Recommendations were also developed regarding additional professional competencies, such as work organisation, innovation, safety, and customer service.

Plans have been made to organise the SkillsPoland competition in the future, which will promote vocational education in Poland. The winners will represent Poland in the international EuroSkills and WorldSkills competitions.

### **2024 Implementation**

On September 10-15, 2024, Polish students and graduates of vocational schools selected in the SkillsPoland competition represented Poland at the 47th edition of the WorldSkills Lyon 2024 competition. The competition featured 1 500 participants from 65 countries and regions worldwide, who competed in 59 professional competitions. The Polish team won 7 Medals of Excellence in 6 competitions: welding, electrical installations, sanitary and heating installations, cloud computing, cooking, and cyber security (2 competitors).

### **2025 Implementation**

In 2025, a series of regional SkillsPoland competitions was organised nationwide as part of the national qualification process. These events covered a wide range of

vocational skills and identified the best young professionals who advanced to the national SkillsPoland 2025 competition in Gdańsk.

The regional competitions included skills in 20 areas related to construction and building technologies, hospitality and culinary arts, creative and personal services, and sustainable technologies and smart industry.

In September, EuroSkills Herning 2025 brought together 597 competitors from 32 countries, who competed in 38 skill areas. The Polish national team achieved five Medals of Excellence in the following categories:

- (a) Cooking
- (b) Electronics
- (c) CNC Milling
- (d) Hairdressing
- (e) Bakery

These results confirmed the high quality of vocational education and training in Poland and demonstrated the ability of Polish competitors to perform at the level of the best young professionals in Europe.

The national SkillsPoland 2025 competition was planned to take place in Gdańsk in December. It was expected to bring together the best regional competitors in 20 vocational sectors and serve as the key stage in selecting and preparing the Polish national team for upcoming EuroSkills and WorldSkills competitions.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

### **Education professionals**

Teachers

Trainers

### **Entities providing VET**

Companies

VET providers (all kinds)

## **Thematic categories**

### **Governance of VET and lifelong learning**

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

### **Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences**

Attractiveness of the teaching and training profession/career

### **European and international dimensions of VET**

## European priorities in VET

### VET Recommendation

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

### Osnabrück Declaration

European Education and Training Area and international VET

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[WorldSkills Poland](#)

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[WorldSkills Poland](#)

## Related policy developments

### 2025 Implementation

### Vocational education and training action plan for 2022-25

The action plan includes the following five specific measures:

 POLAND

#### Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

#### “ … ” Cite as

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