

Vocational teacher competition (Zawodowiec Roku)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 POLAND

Timeline

2022 Implementation 2023 Completed

ID number 44980

Background

The task of a modern vocational school is to prepare future graduates for mobility and flexible functioning in the dynamically changing labour market. The needs of well-prepared young people about to enter the labour market are provided through the provision of vocational education, in particular practical education, by outstanding teachers. Thanks to this practice, young people can gain the skills and experience needed to function in enterprises. Cooperation between teachers and employers is important, but also teachers' participation in broadening their knowledge of modern practices in the industry in which they teach.

A teacher who stands out in the school environment will be a source of inspiration and a model for other teachers of the profession.

Objectives

The aim of the initiative is to promote:

- (a) teachers of theoretical and practical subjects in vocational education achieving the best results at work;
- (b) a positive image of vocational education and training.

Description

The aim of the competition is to select the best teachers from vocational education in Poland in the 100 fields covered by the competition, who can serve as role models for other teachers, by their commitment and passion in their work; support for the professional interests of learners, including gifted learners; recognition as authorities by their schools and local environments; and special teaching and/or educational achievements in VET.

Winners and featured participants receive the title of Professional of the Year 2022 in a given field, diplomas and vouchers to be used in an electronic equipment store.

Applications for participation in the competition are submitted by the directors of the schools or training centres, with the candidates' consent. Candidates are nominated in cooperation with existing councils in each school; employers working with the VET

institution may also be involved. Only one candidate from each school is allowed in each field.

In the application form, participants must present at least one initiative (achievement) in each of the following areas: actions to promote VET; introducing proprietary didactic and methodological solutions (including pedagogical innovations, ICT and activating methods) in VET; cooperation within the socio-economic environment, in particular with employers; supporting students' vocational interests, including working with gifted students; and participation in continuing professional development.

The competition is organised by the Ministry of Education and Science and the Foundation for the Development of the Education System, in cooperation with a large Polish private company as a sponsor.

2022 Implementation

The competition was conducted from 15 October 2022 to 31 December 2022, with winners announced in 2023. 537 teachers of VET in 62 fields were entered in the competition. The competition commission selected 118 nominated participants in 52 fields.

2023 Completed

A total of 537 VET teachers in 62 fields entered the competition. In the end, 118 nominees in 52 fields were awarded prizes and laureate titles.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Science (from 2021 until 2024)
- Ministry of National Education
- Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE)

Target group

Education professionals

Teachers

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Attractiveness of the teaching and training profession/career

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

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

Osnabrück Declaration

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Competition webpage](#)

[Competition rules](#)

[Competition fields](#)

Related policy developments

2024 **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

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Vocational teacher competition (Zawodowiec Roku): Poland. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/44980>