

Providing support to Ukrainian VET students

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 POLAND

Timeline

2022 Approved/Agreed

2023 Approved/Agreed

2024 Approved/Agreed

2025 Approved/Agreed

ID number 44971

Background

Armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine was followed by a large influx of Ukrainian citizens, with a consequent need to adjust the functioning of the education system, including VET.

Objectives

To provide education and care to Ukrainian students migrating to Poland due to armed conflict in Ukraine.

Description

As a result of the armed conflict in Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science issued several regulations in response to the need to provide adequate education and care for Ukrainian children and young people migrating to Poland.

The regulations allowed:

- (a) the head of a unit of the education system in the area of selected districts (*poviats*) of the eastern border to suspend all or individual classes (with the consent of the body managing the unit and the body exercising pedagogical supervision). In the case of suspension of classes, students will continue their education using distance learning methods and techniques;
- (b) facilitating the admission to schools of pupils from Ukraine who do not have documents issued by Ukrainian schools, by allowing the persons responsible for the pupil to submit statements to the school;
- (c) the organisation of learning in classes and increase the maximum number of pupils in preparatory classes;
- (d) increase in the minimum number of weekly hours devoted to learning Polish in preparatory classes from 3 to 6 hours;
- (e) adapting the organisation of State examinations for pupils from Ukraine;
- (f) modifying educational and preventive programmes in schools to meet the needs of students from Ukraine;
- (g) the exemption of students educated in Ukrainian schools or kindergartens with the

- use of distance learning from the compulsory one-year pre-school preparation, compulsory schooling and compulsory education;
- (h) increase in the number of pupils per class;
 - (i) changes to programmes and methods of teaching;
 - (j) employing non-teaching staff or staff without the necessary qualifications to teach;
 - (k) making use of distance learning or exempting Ukrainians from distance learning;
 - (l) using other venues for school activities;
 - (m) improving the efficiency of Polish language teaching;
 - (n) introducing selected topics in vocational education;
 - (o) facilitating the qualification of Ukrainian students for the appropriate class in the following school year;
 - (p) providing a certificate of attendance at the preparatory classes instead of school certificate when needed;
 - (q) establishing preparatory classes for Ukrainian students in sports schools and schools of sports mastery;
 - (r) enabling students who are citizens of Ukraine to take the eighth-grade exam in a modern foreign language they speak best, so that they have an equal chance to get good results in the exam.

2022 Approved/Agreed

Six regulations of the Minister for Education and Science were approved and put in effect.

The regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 25 February 2022 on the temporary limitation of the functioning of education system units in connection with the situation on the Polish-Ukrainian border entered into force on 26 February 2022 and expired on 30 April 2022.

On 11 March 2022, the regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 10 March 2022 amending the regulation on the education of persons who are not Polish citizens and persons who are Polish citizens who studied in schools operating in the education systems of other countries entered into force.

On 21 March 2022, the regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 21 March 2022 on the organisation of education, upbringing and care of children and young people who are citizens of Ukraine came into force.

On 12 April 2022, the regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 8 April 2022 amending the regulation on the organisation of education, upbringing and care of children and young people who are citizens of Ukraine entered into force.

On 18 May 2022, the regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 13 May 2022 amending the regulation on the organisation of education, upbringing and care of children and young people who are citizens of Ukraine came into force.

On 15 October 2022, the regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 11 October 2022 amending the regulation on the organisation of education, upbringing and care of children and young people who are citizens of Ukraine entered into force.

2023 Approved/Agreed

An amendment to the Minister of Education and Science's regulation on the organisation of education, upbringing and care of children and young people who are citizens of Ukraine was approved, extending previous provisions into the 2023/2024 school year.

2024 Approved/Agreed

An amendment was published in August. It extended various provisions of the previous regulation into the 2024/25 school year and introduced several updates:

- (a) all Ukrainian students living in Poland are subject to compulsory annual pre-school preparation, compulsory schooling and compulsory education, including those enrolled in distance learning programmes within the Ukrainian education system. This is to ensure that students are not marginalised in their education or social integration. An exception applies to students in their final year of Ukrainian distance-learning schools during 2024/25, allowing them to complete their studies and take the Ukrainian matriculation exam in 2025;
- (b) the eighth-grade exam for Ukrainian students in Poland has to include mathematics and a foreign language (even if not studied at school), with Polish language testing being optional;
- (c) weekly Polish language lessons are reduced by two hours to ease students' workload.

2025 Approved/Agreed

In August 2025, the regulation extended the application of key provisions only until 30 September 2025 and maintained additional Polish language classes in groups of up to 15 students, while lowering the minimum to two lessons per week.

In September 2025, the education ministry extended the relevant time limits to 4 March 2026 and introduced dedicated procedures for late-arriving students to enable their timely registration for and participation in national examinations (eighth-grade exam, matura and the vocational exam).

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Science (from 2021 until 2024)
- Ministry of National Education

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)
Learners with disabilities

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
School leaders

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Diversifying modes of learning: face-to-face, digital and/or blended learning; adaptable/flexible training formats

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Supporting teachers and trainers for and through digital

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 25 February 2022 on the temporary limitation of the functioning of education system units in connection with the situation on the Polish-Ukrainian border, (Journal of Laws 2022, item 477); expired

Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of March 2022 amending the regulation on the education of persons who are not Polish citizens and persons who are Polish citizens who studied in schools operating in the (Journal of Laws 2022, item 573)

Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 21 March 2022 on the organisation of education, upbringing and care of children and young people who are citizens of Ukraine (Journal of Laws 2022, item 645)

Announcement by the Minister of Education and Science of 21 August 2023 on the consolidated text of the Regulation on the organisation of education, upbringing, and childcare.

Regulations of the Minister of Education amending the regulation on the organisation of education, upbringing and care for children and youth who are citizens of Ukraine (Journal of Laws)

“ … ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/44971>