

# Act enabling vocational higher education institutions (uczelnie zawodowe) to prepare future teachers for the teaching profession

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 POLAND

## Timeline

2021 Approved/Agreed

2022 Implementation

2023 Approved/Agreed

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 42312

## Background

The vocational higher education institution (HEI) provides education that takes into account socioeconomic needs by offering courses with a practical profile, where more than half of the European credit transfer and accumulation system's (ECTS) points are obtained in classes that shape practical skills. A vocational HEI, apart from first cycle studies, can also provide second cycle studies, uniform master's studies and specialist courses.

## Objectives

The aim of the regulation is to distinguish vocational HEIs that meet the conditions set by the Act of 23 July 2021, which amended the Law on Higher Education and Science and the Introductory provisions to the Law on Higher Education and Science. The Act enables them to use the title of practical academy, and to educate future teachers without the need to sign an agreement with an authorised university. These solutions aim to provide vocational HEIs with greater recognition and reputation in local communities, to constitute an additional incentive to further develop their organisational potential and to improve the quality of education.

## Description

If they meet specific conditions, the changes enable vocational HEIs with a vocational higher education institution (*uczelnia zawodowa*) status, to:

- (a) offer courses preparing future teachers for the teaching profession without entering a cooperation agreement with a university, which has scientific achievements in the respective course discipline;
- (b) use the words practical academy (*akademia praktyczna*) in its title.

2021 Approved/Agreed

A draft Act was submitted to the parliament on 6 May 2021; the Act was passed on 23 July 2021 and entered into force on 21 September 2021.

### **2022 Implementation**

There were no substantial legal changes concerning the ability of vocational HEIs to offer teacher-education programmes.

No changes were made to the statutory conditions for using the “Academy of Applied Sciences” name (e.g.  $\geq 10$  years of operation;  $\geq 250$  students, incl.  $\geq 100$  full-time; no negative accreditation ratings). Ministerial decisions were made applying these unchanged criteria to specific vocational HEIs.

### **2023 Approved/Agreed**

Act of 28 July 2023 on the amendment of the Teachers’ Charter and certain other acts removed the requirement for vocational HEIs to conclude a cooperation agreement with an academic university to launch teacher-education programmes (amendment in force 6 Sep 2023).

### **2024 Implementation**

Previous regulations were in force.

### **2025 Implementation**

Previous regulations were in force.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of National Education
- Ministry of National Education (until 2021)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

### **Education professionals**

Teachers

### **Entities providing VET**

VET providers (all kinds)

## **Thematic categories**

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

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

Attractiveness of the teaching and training profession/career

## **Subsystem**

IVET

## Further reading

Act of 23 July 2021 amending the Law on Higher Education and Science and the introductory provisions to the Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws 2021, item 1630)

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Act of 28 July 2023 on the amendment of the Teachers' Charter and certain other acts (Journal of Laws 2023, item 1672)

### “ … ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/42312>