


Strategies supporting pupils and students with disabilities

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 POLAND

Timeline

2021 Implementation 2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation 2025 Implementation

ID number 42294

Background

Sustainable development should focus equally on economic issues and social solidarity, improving the quality of life of all inhabitants, particularly people with special needs or those threatened by social exclusion.

The results of a 2018 audit conducted by the Supreme Chamber of Control revealed that half of all education units for pupils with disabilities do not provide the proper conditions for meeting their needs. This included the lack of support from teaching assistants, large groups, the absence of qualified specialists, infrastructure barriers and the lack of appropriate facilities.

Improving social cohesion requires legal, organisational, institutional and financial actions that foster equal opportunities for all.

The Accessibility Plus programme (*Program Dostępność Plus 2018-25*) was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2018 to coordinate those activities that aimed to improve the quality of life for people with special needs, including young and adult learners.

Additionally, to create a coherent intersectoral framework for programmes and actions for people with disabilities, including learners in VET, and to strengthen the coordination of public policies in this area, the Strategy for persons with disabilities 2021-30 was drafted. The strategy was adopted by the Council of Ministers in February 2021.

Objectives

The Accessibility Plus programme provides multifaceted, systemic and coordinated activities aimed at improving the quality of life and providing greater independence for people with special needs, including young and adult learners. It will be achieved through the large-scale improvement in public environment accessibility, such as infrastructure, transport, products and education services.

The main aim of the Strategy for persons with disabilities is the social and professional inclusion of people with disabilities. By actions directed at improving the quality of life of people with disabilities, it creates a coherent and comprehensive policy for implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Description

The Accessibility Plus programme indicates the following actions for vocational education:

- (a) developing, testing and implementing the financial and organisational model of individual support for pupils with special educational needs;
- (b) creating a system of specialised, continuing support for teachers, including support for adapting schools to the needs of pupils with disabilities.

The Strategy for persons with disabilities 2021-30 involves the following education measures including VET:

- (a) legislative projects on improving access to education and augmentative and alternative communication (ACC);
- (b) supporting the education and training of ACC specialists;
- (c) providing pupils with disabilities with access to communication using SKOBN (such as, the Lorm alphabet) and easy-to-read (ETR) texts;
- (d) introducing Polish language curricula for deaf and hearing impaired people, curricula for sign language and curricula for the bilingual education of pupils with disabilities;
- (e) creating an initial and continuing education offer for people with disabilities;
- (f) creating partnerships between vocational schools, higher education institutions, employers and labour market institutions;
- (g) piloting support projects for pupils with disabilities before and after school graduation;
- (h) strengthening career guidance for pupils with disabilities;
- (i) creating e-resources adapted to the needs of disabled pupils, including e-school books for required school reading;
- (j) providing anti-stereotype training for education professionals;
- (k) piloting the implementation of a model of Specialised Centres for the Support of Inclusive Education (*Specjalistycznych Centrów Wspierających Edukację Włączającą - SCWEW*) in schools and education institutions and establishing a national coordination centre (ORE - Centre for Education Development);
- (l) developing resources and training education professionals on inclusive education.

Both the strategy, and the programme are in line with the National strategy for the deinstitutionalisation of social services, aimed at better matching the care and support of dependent people with their needs, and with the National strategy for responsible development, which is aimed at increasing social cohesion.

Institutions involved in the Programme implementation are, amongst others, selected ministries, e.g. the ministries responsible for education, labour market, and sport. Many actions of the Strategy are coordinated by the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy in cooperation with other central government institutions such as the Ministry of Education and Science.

2021 Implementation

Several European Social Fund co-financed projects support pupils and students with disabilities, including VET:

- (a) the education ministry started the Assistant for pupils with special educational needs - pilot project. It aims to create a service model directed at individual support for pupils with special educational needs. In 2021, a contest for grants to support the employment of pupils' assistants in all types of schools in all regions was opened;
- (b) The Centre for Education Development (ORE) is piloting the implementation of a model of specialised centres for the support of inclusive education (*Specjalistycznych Centrów Wspierających Edukację Włączającą - SCWEW*) in schools and other education institutions. These institutions will support schools in implementing high-quality, inclusive education. It is planned to establish 16 such centres by mid-2023;
- (c) the Creating e-resources for general education project (*Tworzenie e-zasobów*

dydaktycznych do kształcenia ogólnego), also implemented by ORE, aims to increase the opportunities offered by new technologies and on-line education to individualise teaching and the learning process to better fit the needs of pupils, including pupils with disabilities.

The total funding for all three projects is over EUR 15 million.

2022 Implementation

The projects supporting pupils started in 2021 were continued, including: the Assistant for pupils with special educational needs – pilot project; the implementation of a model of specialised centres for the support of inclusive education; and Creating e-resources for general education project.

2023 Implementation

Comprehensive training for pedagogical staff on inclusive education started in the regions. By the end of 2023, 55 000 education professionals from schools and higher education institutions received training.

Projects co-financed by the European Social Fund to support pupils and students with disabilities continued to be implemented in 2023:

- (a) 'Assistant for pupils with special educational needs – pilot project': during the implementation phase, a call for grants was issued to support the employment of assistants for pupils in all types of schools in all regions. Within the project, 640 assistants were trained. Training materials on various aspects of supporting pupils with disabilities were published on the project website;
- (b) implementation of a model of specialised centres for the support of inclusive education project: By early 2023, 23 such centres were created in most regions of the country. They support 160 kindergartens and schools, including VET schools. Centre staff were trained and had access to external consultants;
- (c) creation of e-resources for general and VET education projects: The e-resources were published on the Integrated Education Platform.

2024 Implementation

The projects supporting SEN learners and fulfilling the aims of the strategy include actions aimed at improving the competences of specialist teachers (pedagogues, psychologists, special educators, speech therapists) in providing support to SEN learners and their families, financing postgraduate studies in the field of accessibility of education, conferences on accessibility of education and psychological and pedagogical support to learners, parents and teachers.

2025 Implementation

The projects supporting SEN learners and fulfilling the aims of the strategy continued. A wide range of materials, webinars, and publications on SEN learners were made available to teachers and school leaders. Additionally, a comprehensive set of activities, including training, development of educational materials, activities targeting the entire school community, research on students' attitudes towards professional activity, and formulation of recommendations on effective forms of support, was being implemented to support students in preparing to enter the labour market.

Bodies responsible

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

Target group

Learners

Learners with disabilities

Education professionals

Teachers

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

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

VET promoting equality of opportunities

Osnabrück Declaration

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

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[The Accessibility Plus programme webpage](#)

[Resolution No 27 of the Council of Ministers of 16 February 2021 on the establishment of the Strategy for persons with disabilities 2021-30](#)

[The web page of the Assistant for pupils with special educational needs - pilot project](#)

[The web page of the Piloting the implementation of a model of specialised centres for support of inclusive education project](#)

[The web page of the Creating e-resources for general education project](#)

[The web page of the Creating e-resources for vocational education project](#)

[The web page of the Designing a model of specialised centres for support of inclusive education project](#)

[The Integrated Education Platform](#)

[Accessible School for All \[Szkoła dostępna dla wszystkich\] project information](#)

[A career without barriers \(Kariera bez barier\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Support for SEN learners in transition to the labour market

Changing the system of vocational preparation of SEN learners (including disabilities) for active participation in social and professional life by:

 POLAND

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2022 Approved/Agreed

National strategy for the deinstitutionalisation of social services

Since 2020, work has intensified on the preparation of a national strategy for the deinstitutionalisation of social services in Poland.

 POLAND

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Development of e-resources for VET

The initiative is expected to increase the use of ICT in VET (and also for students with disabilities), developing the digital competences of students, individualising the didactic process and implementing teamwork.

The initiative includes two phases:

 POLAND

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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