

Actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 POLAND

Timeline

2020 Implementation

2021 Implementation

2022 Implementation

2023 Completed

ID number 39765

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic made it necessary to introduce temporary lockdowns, which particularly affected schools, as well as other restrictions on a regular basis, regulated by relevant legal acts.

Objectives

The regulations introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic aim to ensure the safety and health of citizens and promote learning within the current limitations.

Description

Regulations addressed to schools, including VET schools, in 2020 and 2021 (until February) mainly concerned the temporary closure of institutions and the easing of the transition to distance learning. More than 23 regulations were issued by the education minister for these purposes.

EU funded projects have been implemented aiming to solve problems resulting from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools, including VET providers. For example, computers and software were delivered to learners from disadvantaged groups (e.g. those living in foster care institutions). Within the project 'Remote school support of the national educational network' a total budget of EUR 42 million (PLN 187 million) was allocated to provide learners and teachers with computer equipment necessary for conducting distance learning. The project also covered the cost of internet access.

Different legislative and organisational steps have also been undertaken to facilitate the organisation of the national exams. Theoretical and practical VET exams in 2020 and 2021 were conducted following specific sanitary rules specified in the guidelines issued by the Central Examination Board. Learners who were not able to attend practical training in companies due to the COVID-19 pandemic also took practical exams.

2020 Implementation

Regulations designed, approved and implemented

regulations designed, approved and implemented.

2021 Implementation

In total, 16 amendments were issued to the regulation of the Minister for Education and Science amending the regulation on special solutions, during the temporary limitation of the functioning of education system units, for preventing, counteracting and combating COVID-19.

The purchase of ICT equipment for schools enabling distance learning during the pandemic was continued in 2021 within the national Active Blackboard 2020-24 programme, which was modified to meet the needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The legislative process for the draft act amending the Act on the Education System, and the act for implementing its provisions, along with other relevant legislation, was launched on 9 July 2021. The Act specifies the method for conducting external examinations for the 2021/22 school year and for subsequent school years, and for considering the effects of remote education on learners during the pandemic.

In the 2021/22 school year, as in 2020/21, the eighth-grade exam and the *matura* exam will be conducted according to the separate requirements. Similar to the previous school year, authorities plan to conduct only the written part of the matriculation examination in 2021/22.

On 15 April 2021, an act was introduced amending the Act on specific solutions to prevent, counteract and combat COVID-19, other infectious diseases and the crisis situations they cause, and other acts. It provides local government units with additional funds for the payment of teachers who conducted additional support classes to fill the gaps in learners' mastery of the requirements set out in the core curriculum.

In 2021, teachers were included in the first stage of preventive vaccination against COVID-19 to enable schools to reopen, providing face-to-face learning.

2022 Implementation

Regulations designed, approved and implemented.

In 2022, the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Science amending the regulation on special solutions in the period of the temporary limitation of the functioning of education system units for preventing, counteracting and combating COVID-19 was amended on 6 occasions.

In view of COVID-19 restrictions and distant learning a draft act preparing solutions for national examinations, including secondary school matriculation certificate (*matura*) in VET schools, was submitted to consultations in February 2022 (The Act amending the Act on the Education System and the act - Provisions introducing the Act - Education Law and some other acts).

2023 Completed

No new legal acts were issued to regulate the operation of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bodies responsible

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

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
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 infrastructure

Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

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 CVET

Further reading

[Poland: response to the Covid-19 outbreak](#)

[Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 2 March 2021 amending the Regulation on special solutions for the educational information system during the period of the temporary limitation of the functioning of education system units in \(...\)](#)

[Regulation of the Minister for National Education of 20 March 2020 on special solutions during the temporary limitation of the functioning of the education system for the prevention and combatting of COVID-19 \(...\)](#)

[Support for children placed in foster care during the COVID-19 epidemic](#)

[Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 14 January 2021 amending the regulation on the establishment of certain restrictions, orders and prohibitions in connection with the](#)

[pandemic \(Journal of Laws 2021, item 91\)](#)

[Guidelines for organising and conducting national exams in 2021](#)

[Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 27 August 2021 amending the regulation on the detailed conditions, forms and procedures for the implementation of the government programme \(...\) Active Blackboard, \(Journal of Laws 2021, item 1602\)](#)

[Draft act of 9 July 2021 amending the Act on the Education System and the act for implementing its provisions - the Education Law and some other acts](#)

[The Act of 15 April 2021, amending the Act on specific solutions to prevent, counteract and combat COVID-19, other infectious diseases and the crisis situations they cause, and other acts \(Journal of Laws 2021, item 981\)](#)

[Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 21 December 2021 amending the regulation on specific solutions during the period of temporary restrictions on the functioning of the education \(...\) combat COVID-19 \(Journal of Laws 2021, item 2394\)](#)

[Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 17 February 2022 amending the regulation on specific solutions during the period of temporary restrictions on the functioning of the education \(...\) combat COVID-19 \(Journal of Laws, 2022 item 421\)](#)

[Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 8 February 2022 amending the regulation on temporary restrictions on the functioning of the education \(...\) combat COVID-19 \(Journal of Laws, 2022 item 335\)](#)

[Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 8 February 2022 amending the regulation on specific solutions during the period of temporary restrictions on the functioning of the education \(...\) combat COVID-19 \(Journal of Laws, 2022 item 339\)](#)

[Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 11 February 2022 amending the regulation on specific solutions during the period of temporary restrictions on the functioning of the education \(...\) combat COVID-19 \(Journal of Laws, 2022 item 367\)](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

Developing ICT infrastructure of schools

The programme for 2017-19 was established by Resolution 108/2017 of the Council of Ministers of 19 July 2017. According to the programme evaluation, performed by the Educational Research Institute, positive results for both pupils and teachers were observed.

 POLAND

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/39765>