

# Revising VET exams

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT**    **REGULATION/LEGISLATION**     POLAND

## Timeline

2018 **Approved/Agreed**    2019 **Implementation**    2020 **Implementation**  
2021 **Implementation**    2022 **Implementation**    2023 **Implementation**  
2024 **Implementation**    2025 **Implementation**

**ID number 28752**

## Description

Changes to VET examinations were introduced in November 2018 as part of the broader changes to Poland’s VET system. According to the Law of 22 November 2018, all students are required to take a State vocational examination or a journeyman's examination as a condition of school graduation (until now this has been optional). Changes were also introduced to the form of exams (e.g. theoretical part in an online form), the process of preparing examination tasks (e.g. possible participation of employers) and procedures relating to the examination, the requirements set for examiners and releasing some examination tasks to the public. The changes are intended to increase the attractiveness and quality of the exams and to strengthen their role as a quality assurance mechanism, and, as a consequence, are expected to have a positive impact on teaching quality. For instance, the obligatory exam will allow for a more complex diagnosis of the quality of teaching, while schools/teachers will not be able to discourage weaker students from taking the exams.

<b>2018 Approved/Agreed</b>
<b>2019 Implementation</b> In August 2019, the Ministry of National Education introduced a new Regulation providing the detailed conditions and manner of conducting vocational examinations, which reflects the changes in the VET system introduced in November 2018.
<b>2020 Implementation</b> The measure was operational and ran as a regular practice.
<b>2021 Implementation</b> The measure was operational and ran as a regular practice.
<b>2022 Implementation</b>

The measure was operational and ran as a regular practice.

### 2023 Implementation

Regulation on the detailed conditions and manner for conducting vocational examinations and for confirming vocational qualifications was amended in 2023. It provides that Sectoral Skills Centres (SSCs):

- (a) will have the capacity to serve as examination centres for both the theoretical and practical components of vocational assessments;
- (b) will not operate as centres for examinations that certify professional qualifications;
- (c) will not be authorised to conduct qualifying vocational courses, where participants, upon course completion, also undertake a vocational examination.

### 2024 Implementation

Regulation on the apprentice exam, master craftsman exam, and verification exam conducted by craft examination boards was amended in 2024.

The update adapts the templates for journeyman certificates, master diplomas, verification exam certificates, and duplicates to meet anti-counterfeiting standards required for public documents.

The consolidated text of the regulation on detailed conditions and manner of conducting vocational examinations was published (Journal of Laws 2024, item 552). This was a codification only and did not introduce substantive changes.

### 2025 Implementation

In 2025, the Polish government updated the regulation on vocational examinations (Journal of Laws 2025, item 542) to align with a 2024 law that introduced a legal framework for using IT systems in external exams (Journal of Laws 2024, item 1933). The previous electronic system was replaced with the Information System for Administering Vocational Examinations (System Informatyczny Obsługujący Egzaminacje Zawodowe, SIOEZ). Initially used for the written part of the exams, SIOEZ enabled examination centres to manage candidate registration, schedule exams, assign workstations, track attendance, manage access codes, and handle exam responses and results digitally. Plans were made to expand its use to the practical part of the exams, starting no earlier than the 2027/2028 school year.

The amendment also formalised the role of the IT lab operator (responsible for supporting the technical side of exam administration), including their appointment and training, and how their data was shared with regional examination boards. The amendment reduced the document retention period at regional boards from 6 to 3 months and introduced new rules for using SIOEZ in practical exams, such as assigning candidate IDs and electronically submitting and archiving output files. All previous system functionalities were preserved in the transition to SIOEZ.

In September 2025, a separate regulation issued by the Minister of Education further aligned vocational examination procedures with the updated legislation (Journal of Laws 2025, item 1347). It introduced new provisions under the Act on the promotion of employment and labour market institutions for individuals undertaking internships, enabling them to submit declarations before completing their internships and to provide documents afterwards. It also clarified that the regional examination board director was responsible for selecting exam venues. Importantly, none of these changes affected the content or standards of the exams themselves.

## Bodies responsible

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

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Young people (15-29 years old)

### Education professionals

Teachers

### Entities providing VET

Companies

### Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

## Thematic categories

### Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET  
Further developing national quality assurance systems

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

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

## Subsystem

IVET

## Further reading

[Act of 22 December 2018 amending the Education Law, the Act on the Education System and other acts \(Journal of Laws 2018, item 2245\)](#)

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[VET reform continues](#)

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[Regulation of the Minister for National Education of 28 August 2019, on the detailed conditions and manner for conducting vocational examinations and for confirming vocational qualifications \(Journal of Laws 2019, item 1707\)](#)

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[Regulation of the Minister for National Education of 16 December 2019 amending the Regulation on the apprentice exam, master craftsman exam and test exam \(egzamin sprawdzajacy\) conducted by craft examination boards \(...\) \(Journal of Laws 2019, item 2468\)](#)

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[Regulation of the Minister for Education of 16 April 2024 amending the Regulation on the apprentice exam, master craftsman exam and test exam \(egzamin sprawdzajacy\) conducted by craft examination boards \(...\) \(Journal of Laws 2024, item 600\)](#)

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[Regulation of the Minister for Education and Science of 27 September 2023, amending the Regulation on the detailed conditions and manner for conducting vocational examinations and for confirming vocational qualifications \(Journal of Laws 2023, item 2058\)](#)

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Announcement by the Minister for Education of 27 February 2024 on the publication of the consolidated text of the Regulation of the Minister for National Education on the detailed conditions and manner for conducting vocational examinations and for (...)

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Regulation of the Minister of Education of 29 September 2025 amending the regulation on the detailed conditions and manner for conducting vocational examinations and for confirming vocational qualifications (Journal of Laws 2025, item 1347)

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Regulation of the Minister of Education of 22 April 2025 amending the regulation on the detailed conditions and manner for conducting vocational examinations and for confirming vocational qualifications (Journal of Laws 2025, item 542)

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Act of 21 November 2024 amending the Act on the Education System and certain other acts (Journal of Laws 2024, item 1933)

## Related policy developments

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**2018 Approved/Agreed**

### 2018 law reforming VET

The new act:

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**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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**2023 Completed**

### Strengthening employers' participation in the examination process

In 2016, the education ministry started an ESF co-funded project to develop new vocational test items with employers' support. The objective of the project was not just to develop the items but to strengthen the participation of employers in the examination process.

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**Type of development**

Practical  
measure/Initiative

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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