

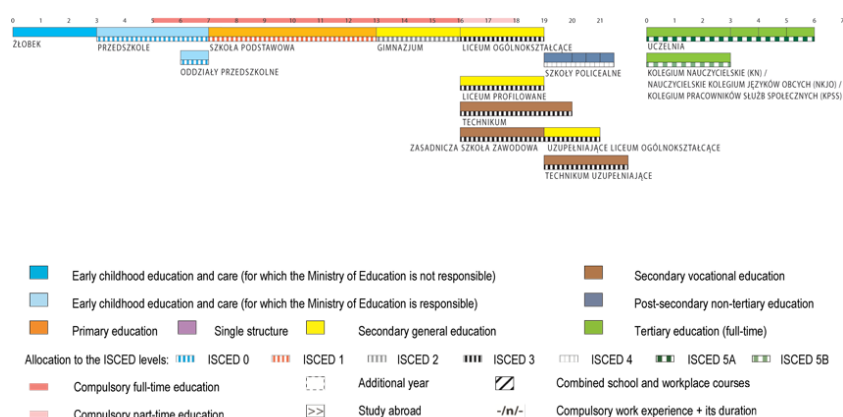
Poland: Overview

The education system in Poland is centrally managed by the **Ministry of National Education** and the **Ministry of Science and Higher Education**. Full-time compulsory education (to be received in school) covers children and young people aged 6-16 years, whereas part-time compulsory education (to be received in school or non-school settings) concerns young people aged 16-18 years. Compulsory education includes the final year of pre-primary education, 6-year primary education and 3-year lower secondary education. **Nursery schools** (przedszkole), **primary schools** (szkoła podstawowa) and **lower secondary schools** (gimnazjum) are administered by commune (gmina) authorities. **Upper secondary schools**, which are not compulsory, are attended by the vast majority of the population in the age group 16-19/20 years and are administered by district (powiat) authorities. Autonomous **higher education institutions** offer mainly first-, second- and third-cycle programmes (long-cycle Master's degree programmes are available only in a few fields of study). **Adult education** is provided by continuing education centres, practical training centres and further and in-service training centres.

For a brief description of the different levels of the education system and other related topics such as the teaching profession and special needs education, please refer to the [Eurydice National System Overview](#).

While Eurypedia provides comprehensive and comparable information on the Polish education system, further information may also be found on the websites of the [Ministry of National Education](#), the [Ministry of Science and Higher Education](#) and the [Central Statistical Office](#) (statistical data).

Structure of the national education system 2012/13



Source: Eurydice

Common European Reference Tools Provided by the Eurydice Network

- [National Student Fee and Support Systems](#)
- [Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education](#)
- [Organisation of School Time in Europe](#) (Primary and general secondary education)
- [Recommended Annual Taught Time](#) in Full-Time Compulsory Education in Europe (Presented by grades/stages for full time compulsory education as well as by subject and country.)
- [Teachers and School Heads Salaries and Allowances in Europe](#) (Salaries and allowances of teachers and school heads at pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education levels.)

