




Guidance System in Poland

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- Vocational guidance in Poland is based upon a doctrine according to which the process of human being's vocational career planning and development starts in early childhood and lasts the whole life period.



Two ministers are responsible for vocational guidance in Poland:

- the Minister of National Education
- the Minister of Labour and Social Policy




Vocational guidance in the Ministry of Education

- Vocational guidance tasks are performed in the Ministry of National Education by psychological and pedagogic services.
- **560 Psychological and pedagogical counselling centres** function presently in Poland, including 26 special services focused on assisting youth in the choice of occupation.



The main activities carried out by the centres include:

- gathering and providing access to educational and vocational information,
- diagnosing intellectual capacity, skills, vocational interests and preferences with the use of various measurement tools, paper and instrumental tests,
- issuing opinions for upper secondary schools in the case of candidates with health problems,
- issuing opinions on the need for special education of disabled students applying to general, special and integrated upper secondary schools,
- activities addressed to groups of students at different levels of education, including lectures, workshops, surveys regarding selection of school and vocation,
- activities addressed to parents, including counselling, consultations and lectures.



Schools and educational institutions may employ vocational counsellors. The tasks of vocational counsellors and teachers performing their tasks include e.g.:

- systematic diagnosing of the students' need for educational and vocational information , as well as for assistance in planning further education and career,
- gathering, updating and providing access to educational and vocational information relevant for respective levels of education,
- providing students and parents with individual consultations,
- conducting activities that prepare students for planning career and taking up vocation in a well-considered manner,
- coordination of information and counselling activity carried out by the school or institution,
- cooperation with other teachers in creating and ensuring continuity of actions regarding vocational counselling.



Certain schools offer the so-called School Career Centres (*Szkolne Osrodki Kariery, SzOK*).

They implement the following tasks:

- conducting courses on vocational qualifications,
- informing on health requirements and contraindications in specific industries and at specific positions,
- group diagnosing of important skills in professional life,
- providing information about the local and regional labour market,
- providing assistance in preparation of application documents,
- lectures and workshops on interpersonal skills,
- informing on recognition of education in Poland and abroad.

There are also:

- Vocational guidance at universities Academic Career Services (*Akademickie Biura Karier*, approx. 200)
- National Center for Supporting Vocational and Continuing Education (*Krajowy Ośrodek Wsparcia Edukacji Zawodowej i Ustawicznej*)

Vocational guidance in the domain of labour

- Powiat Labour Offices (*Powiatowe Urzedy Pracy, PUP*) (341)
- Voivodeship Labour Offices (*Wojewódzkie Urzedy Pracy, WUP*)(16) *The Voivodeship Labour Offices include operations of Information and Career Planning Centres (Centra Informacji i Planowania Kariery Zawodowej)*(51)
- Voluntary Labour Corps (*Ochotnicze Hufce Pracy, OHP*)



Vocational guidance in the domain of national defence

- National Professional Activation Centre (*Centralny Ośrodek Aktywizacji Zawodowej*)
- Professional Activation Centres (*Centralny Ośrodek Aktywizacji Zawodowej*, 7) Bydgoszcz, Gdynia, Kraków, Lublin, Olsztyn, Szczecin and Wrocław



Non-public sector

- Vocational guidance agencies