VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN POLAND
Lower secondary school

- General upper secondary school - 16-19 years of age
- Specialised upper secondary school - 16-19 years of age
- Technical upper secondary school - 16-20 years of age
- Basic vocational school – 16-18/19 years of age
- Supplementary general upper secondary school – 18/19-21/22 years of age
- Supplementary technical upper secondary school – 18/19-21/22 years of age
- Post–secondary school – 19-21 years of age (very rarely 20)
Vocational upper secondary education

-The main objective of vocational upper secondary education is to prepare young people for the world of work.

-The functioning of upper secondary vocational schools is regulated by the following legislation:
  * Regulation by the Minister of National Education of 26 June 2007 (with further amendments) on occupational classification in vocational education
  * A series of regulations by the Minister of National Education on core curricula for training in particular occupations (issued gradually)
Vocational upper secondary education

* Regulation by the Minister of National Education and Sport of 1 July 2002 (with further amendments) on practical vocational training
  
  • Regulation by the Council of Ministers of 28 May 1996 (with further amendments) on vocational preparation of youth and their remuneration.
Vocational upper secondary education

- The following post-gymnasium vocational schools are open to candidates who have successfully graduated from gymnasium:
  - 4-year technical secondary school – institution offering 4 years of full-time technical and vocational upper secondary education for students aged 16 to 20
  - It offers the *Matura examination necessary for admission to* higher education and an external vocational examination leading to vocational qualifications
Vocational upper secondary education

- 2 to 3-year basic vocational school
- institution offering 2 to 3 years of full-time upper secondary vocational education for students aged 16 to 18/19 upon passing the external vocational examination leavers have access to a trade or occupation or to the supplementary general upper secondary school or supplementary technical upper secondary school
At the level of upper secondary education in Poland there is:

- 3-year supplementary secondary technical school – an institution introduced in 2004/05 offering 3 years of full- or part-time vocational upper secondary education for students aged 18 to 21 in preparation for the Matura examination

This school is intended for the leavers of the 2/3-year vocational school. On the basis of a decision of the Ministry of National Education this institution is considered to be at the level ISCED 3
Division of trades /occupations

- Technicians and middle personnel
- Office staff
- Service and sales personnel
- Agricultural, gardening, forest and fishing workers
- Industrial workers and craftsmen
- Machine and appliance operators, assembly and maintenance
Division of occupations

Vocational training is offered in 208 occupations listed in the Classification of Occupations for Vocational Schooling and in non-school occupations covered by the classification of occupations and specializations for the labour market.

The most common occupations were: hairdresser, carpenter, baker and confectioner.
Assessment at this level of education is similar to the arrangements in compulsory education. At the end of the course, all schools (except for the basic vocational school) organize final – matriculation examinations.

- the general upper secondary school,
- the specialised upper secondary school,
- the supplementary general and the technical upper secondary school

may issue a certificate for those who sat for and successfully completed the final examination, which is required for admission to higher education.
Qualifications

- The *matura examination* entitling pupils for admission to higher education is
- made up of two parts: external written
- prepared and assessed by Regional Examination Commissions
- and internal oral - assessed by school teachers
The vocational examination in basic vocational schools, technical, upper-secondary schools and post-secondary schools consists of two parts:

- written, which examines the knowledge and abilities connected with a specific job and running a business activity
- and a practical one, which examines the skills necessary to perform the job
Qualifications

- The *basic vocational school*
- *issue* leaving certificate that gives students access to the job market
- Post-secondary schools prepare their students for professional life

- All tests and examinations are organised by agencies – 8 Regional Examination Boards supported and supervised by the Central Examination Board
The first cycle studies – according to the Act of 27 July 2005 'Law on Higher Education' - last from 3 to 4 years and finish with the vocational qualification diploma and the title of *bachelor’s degree or engineer* which gives access to the job market or to the second cycle studies and obtaining the title of *magister or equivalent*. *Only full-time daytime studies at state HEIs are free of charge.*
Uniform master degree studies at the universities and other university-type institutions last from 4.5 to 6 years.

They finish with the *the university higher education diploma*. Students are awarded the title *Master of Art, Master of Science*, *a family doctor, veterinarian*……

*It's depending on the field of studies they have followed.*

*Master degree holders* can apply to do a doctorate (the third cycle studies).
In the process of harmonising Polish higher education with the recommendations of the Bologna process, the following changes have been introduced:

- Three-cycle studies (described above),
- Diploma supplement (as of January 2005 compulsory in all HEIs),
- The system of ensuring quality and issuing accreditation (State Accreditation Committee),
- ECTS.
Apprenticeship

- Apprenticeships are considered to be at the same level as the basic vocational school.

- Admission

  - Since the 1st of September 2002 a person is considered to be a young worker if he/she is over 16 years of age and, has completed a lower secondary school (*gimnazjum*). He/she is obliged to continue the training until the age of 18 and is to undertake work which does not threaten his/her health.
There are two forms of vocational education and training in the form of apprenticeship:

1. The most popular form is based on an employment contract between an employer and a young worker. The employer is responsible for the organization of training.
Apprenticeship

- The practical training is organized either at the employers’ enterprise or,
- if the employers cannot assure suitable conditions for such training,
- at the Continuing Education Centre, Practical Training Centre, at a school farm, school workshop, school laboratory or at an individual farm.
- The training is implemented on the basis of a contract concluded between the employer and a particular training institution.
2. School based form of training which can be considered as apprenticeship in the case when practical training takes place outside school, at the employer’s place and is based on a contract between the employer and the school head. In this case the school is responsible for the organization of training.
Apprenticeship

- The young employee is paid for his/her work and has to comply with the Labour Charter regulations as well as with his/her individual employment contract.
- In Poland the majority of young workers are employed in the private sector (e.g. artisans).
- Vocational training in crafts is supervised by the chamber of artisans and the relevant guild.
- The contracts between the employer and the trainee can be concluded for an indefinite or a limited period of time (e.g. for the time required for training in a particular vocational area).
The signing of the agreement on the co-operation in promoting vocational, continuing and practical education between the Ministry of National Education and Sport with both the Polish Association of Crafts and the Federation of Polish Employers in 2003 created a very important basis for further development of vocational education and training in apprenticeship forms. This agreement has initiated the process of establishing networks of artisan workshops and companies where the practical training of students enrolled in schools and educational institutions take place.
The following institutions organize education and training in apprenticeship forms:

- Vocational schools, out-of-school education institutions and employers.
- The out-of-school education institutions are: Continuing Education Centres, Practical Training Centres and Voluntary Labour Corps (OHP), which enable people with learning difficulties to obtain vocational qualifications.
- Continuing Education Centres and Practical Training Centres are public out-of-school educational institutions.
Entrepreneurship

Elements of entrepreneurship are included in the curriculum for Social Science.

- Pupils learn:
  - to define the qualities and skills of an enterprising person
  - and study:
    - basic principles of work organization
    - principles of self-employment
Entrepreneurship

- how a company works (they calculate gross receipts, revenue, overheads and profit)
- elements of marketing (product price advertising)
- employment possibilities in local regional and national job market and a cover latter.
- Pupils are also taught about the main courses of unemployment and its consequence locally, regionally and nationally.
Entrepreneurship

- Alongside core subjects introduction to entrepreneurship is included as a separate subject.
- Emphasis is on practical sides of the issue. Students can run a school company play simulation economic games (with use of IT technology, carry out market analyses or other economic project.
- From the academic year 2011/2013 the introduce of the subject Applied Economist is planned.
- Students will be continuing and deepening their knowledge of the issues tackled within Introduction to entrepreneurship.