



Access to education in Poland for children and youth from Ukraine

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Anna Górska

Institute of Public Affairs (PL)

Forced migration from UA to PL

- between 24/02-17/05 **3,42 mln people from UA entered Poland** (c. 95% UA citizens)
- 1,33 mln entered UA
- c. 50 % entrances - children and youth under 18 years

Source; Border Guard

Temporary protection - registration

CITIZENSH IP	WOMEN			MEN			TOTAL		
	<18 YRS	ADULTS	TOTAL	<18 YRS	ADULTS	TOTAL	<18 YRS	ADULTS	TOTAL
UKRAINE	252 578	509 889	762 467	250 943	50 286	301 229	503 521	560 175	1 063 696
RUSSIA	26	464	490	27	196	223	53	660	713
BELARUS	16	135	151	13	143	156	29	278	307

Source: Prime Minister Office / Office for Foreigners (beginning of May)

Children from abroad in schools in Poland – before the war

School year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	09.2021
Number of students	10 098	14 472	20 286	29 394	39 858	69 231

Source: System of Information on Education (Pol. SIO)

Instruments in educational legal framework:

- ❖ additional, free of charge **Polish language classes** (2-5 hrs/week) until language level is sufficient for education [27 783; 40 %]
- ❖ **support from teacher's aid** (cross-cultural assistant) for up to 12 months [19 persons as TAs]
- ❖ **preparatory classes** [113 classes, 1359 children]
- ❖ additional, free of charge compensatory classes (+ Polish language not more than 5 hrs/week) for up to 12 months
- ❖ language and culture classes of a country of origin (organized by diplomacy or cultural institutions) [737]



Access to education in Poland during the war - modes

- Polish educational system (c. 200k students)
 - Regular classes (158k = 84%)
 - Preparatory classes (38k = 16%)

- Ukrainian educational system (assumption: the rest):
 - Ukrainian schools in Poland (approved by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education – up to 2k)
 - Online

- ❖ Outside both systems



Polish government's policy

- MES recommended enrolling to preparatory classes in public speeches (vs. practice)
- MES started to popularize hiring teacher's aid (vs. practice)
- Enrolling students from Ukraine „should not disrupt education of Polish students”

Changes in legal framework

- ❖ Extended limits of children in classes (PC 15=> 25; RC 25=29)
- ❖ Possibility to organize classes outside school buildings (with strict rules for safety)
- ❖ Extended minimum hours of Polish per week (2=>6)
- ❖ Preparatory classes in new school types
- ❖ A bit more flexible rules for hiring school staff (especially from UA)



Challenges

- ❖ Neglected issues in the time of crisis
- ❖ Limited resources, especially of local govts (financial, staff, infrastructure)
- ❖ Crisis in educational system in PL before the war
- ❖ Not enough prepared school staff (working with children with the migrant background - language, cultural sensitivity, antidiscrimination etc.)
- ❖ Exams' adjustments
- ❖ Lack of clear guidelines for schools and local govts from the Polish MES (grades, enrolling)



Challenges

- ❖ Poor cooperation of Polish MES with CSOs and local govts
- ❖ Unequal distribution of new educational needs (big cities, smaller communities)
- ❖ Uncertainty and lack of clear strategy for next school year
- ❖ Tensions between Polish part of school community and Ukrainian part (and others)
- ❖ Leaving behind other groups of foreign children



Resources

- ❖ People and collaborative attitudes; grassroots activities
- ❖ Platforms for networking, coordination, exchange, sharing experiences
- ❖ Growing number of materials for educators

Thank you for your attention!

Contact details:

Anna Górska

NIEM Leading researcher

anna.gorska@isp.org.pl

Webpage

www.isp.org.pl

www.forintegration.eu

<https://www.facebook.com/allinforintegration/>

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