

Special educational needs - Poland





Educational Structure

Polish law guarantees the equal rights for education to everyone. The Polish education system, under supervision of the **Ministry of National Education and Sport /MENiS/**, is supposed to enable education of children and young people with activity limitations – on an equal footing with others – in all types of schools. In the light of provisions of the Act of 7th September 1991 on the Education System, they can get their education in mainstream schools and in integrated (inclusive) schools, as well as in special schools. Those provisions specify the principles of integrated and special needs education. In integrated classes often the number of pupils is smaller than regular classes (less than twenty). There can only be between three and five SEN children in each class.



There are 13 categories of disabilities that exist in the educational system:

- Visually impaired: profound
- Visually impaired: severe, moderate
- Hearing-impaired: profound
- Hearing-impaired: severe, moderate
- Developmentally disabled: profound, severe
- Developmentally disabled: mild
- Autism
- Long term illnesses
- Motor Disabilities
- Multiple Disabilities
- Socially Disadvantaged
- Behavioral Disorders
- Threatened with
- Addiction

According to the Ministry of Education and Sport 3% of

Polish student's population has special needs.

Students with special needs
may attend:

Public special education units
(primary schools,
lower secondary schools,
basic vocational schools,
vocational secondary schools,
general secondary schools,
post-secondary schools).

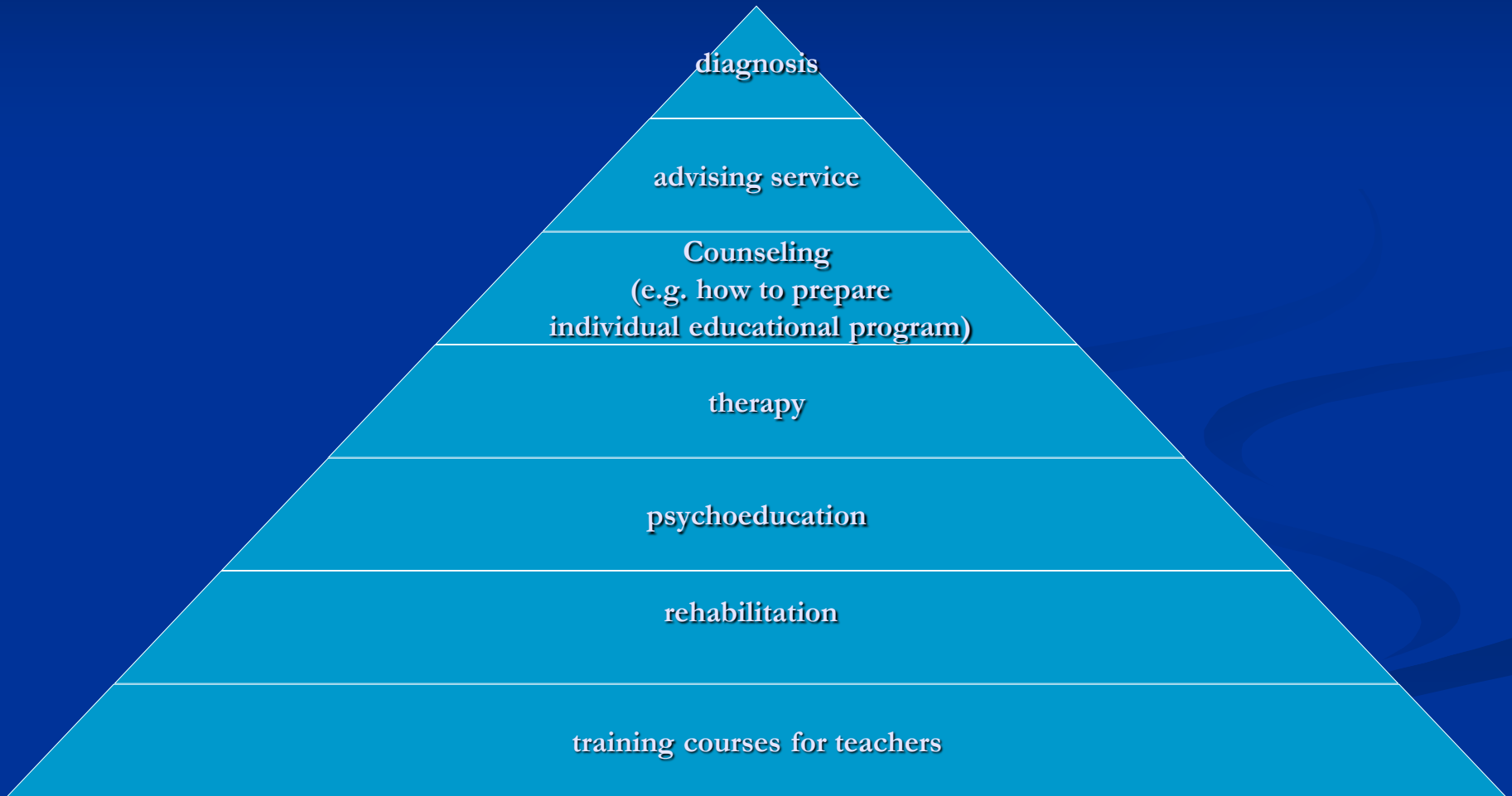
Public education units
(regular, integrative,
special or therapeutic
classes)

Individual education
programs at home.



The regulation of the Minister of Education dated 15 th January 2001 on the detailed principles of the operation of Public Psychological and Educational Guidance Centers and other Public Specialized Guidance Centers as well as on the framework by laws of those guidance centers specifies tasks that take into account students with special educational needs (SEN).

Those tasks are implemented through, among other things:





What psychological and educational assistance consist in and how it is organized has been defined in the regulation of the Minister of Education dated 15 th January 2001 on the principles of administering and organizing psychological and educational assistance in public kindergartens, schools and institutions.

The use of assistance provided by guidance centers and the use of psychological and educational assistance is voluntary and free of charge.

Government prepared program of additional financial support for integrative and special schools.



Education for trainers/ teachers

In the initial teacher training there are some elements for Special Education Needs (SEN). The Academies of Physical Education are responsible for preparation of Physical Education teachers. At present only a part of graduates of Physical Education Faculty have courses of special physical education and is prepared to provide physical education classes with children with SEN.

Graduate studies

- Rehabilitation MA - 4.5 years study at the Academy of Physical Education , with degree: Master of Rehabilitation
The program gives students an opportunity to achieve the title of '*Instructor of sport for People with Activity Limitations*' in one of the following disciplines: Swimming, Weightlifting, Sitting and Standing Volleyball, Track and Field, Wheelchair Tennis, Goal Ball, Alpine Skiing.
- Physical Education MA - 5 years study at the Academy of Physical Education , with degree: Master of Physical Education
The program gives students an opportunity to choose specialization - Special Physical Education

Postgraduate studies

2 - years study at the Academy of Physical Education, in the fields as follow:

- Post Graduate Studies into Inclusive Education with elements of organisation and administration for educational institution (based on the European Masters of APA)
- Post graduate Studies in Physical Education and Sport People with Developmentally Disabilities (“mental impairment”)
- Post graduate Studies of Physioprophylactic and corrective exercise
- Post graduate Studies of Modern Physiotherapy Methods in Children and Youth Physiotherapy

Additional qualification

Courses organized by sport organizations for people with activity limitations. Law regulates competencies, licenses and requirements for organizers and participants as well as basic content of courses (e.g. practical/theoretical hours)

- Instructor courses
Courses give an opportunity to achieve title of '*Instructor of sport for People with Activity Limitations*' in one of the following disciplines: Biathlon, Billiard, Team Games (Sitting and Standing Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball, Basketball, Goal Ball), Equestrian, Cycling, Bowling, Track and Field, Judo, Archery, Chess, Swimming, Wheelchair Fencing, Wheelchair dance, Weightlifting, Wheelchair Tennis, Alpine Skiing
- Referee courses
- Classifiers courses
- Volunteers course