



Poland is a country located in central Europe near the Baltic Sea, Sudetes- and Carpathian Mountains.

EU member since 2004.

Country Size: 312,696 km²

Population: 38,413,000 (2018)

Language: Polish (English is widely spoken)

Capital: Warsaw

Currency: Polski złoty (PLN)

Unemployment rate: 3.8% (2018)

More about Poland:
<https://www.polska.pl/>



Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

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EURAXESS members in focus: Poland

Poland is a country located in central Europe. It has a developed market and it is a regional power. It has the eighth-largest and one of the most dynamic economies in the European Union, achieving at the same time a high rank on the Human Development Index. Poland is a developed country, with a high average income along with great standards of living, life quality, safety, education and economic freedom.

The country provides free university education, state-funded social security and a universal healthcare system.

Poland is a cradle of many outstanding Nobel Prize winners: Maria Skłodowska-Curie (Physics 1903 and Chemistry 1911 Nobel Prize), Józef Rotblat (Nobel Peace Prize, 1995), Czesław Miłosz (Literature Nobel Prize 1980), Menachem Begin (Nobel Peace Prize, 1978), Leonid Hurwicz (Economics Nobel Prize, 2007), and many more.

Research and development (R&D) in Poland

In Poland there are some 400 higher education institutions (HEIs), 79 Polish Academy of Sciences establishments and around 120 public research institutes and laboratories, which focus their activities on conducting applied R&D activities.

Higher education institutions play a major role in the development of Poland's national research potential. There are around 100 public (state-funded) and 300 private universities. They cover different profiles, for example: universities, universities of technology, economics, agriculture, arts and sport, medical universities, military schools, as well as higher schools of professional education. The Minister of Science and Higher Education supervises most of them, but some are governed by other relevant ministries (i.e. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of National Defence).

The Polish Academy of Science (PAS)

It is an independent state research institution with units across the country. The mission of the Academy is two-fold. It is a network of research centres comprising of 79 research establishments (institutes and research centres, research stations, botanical gardens and other research units) and auxiliary scientific units (archives, libraries, museums), including foreign PAS stations in Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Vienna and Moscow. The Academy is also a corporation of scholars from different institutes, also from abroad. The PAS organises, integrates research community and prepares expert opinions for public institutions.

Researchers from institutes in the Polish Academy of Science have received seven ERC grants. The Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Centre Department of Astrophysics has two grants, while the Mathematical Institute, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Institute of Physical Chemistry, and Institute of Physics each have one grant. There are also about 50 participations in MSCA grants under Horizon 2020.

Polish universities

Poland has 18 classical universities, mainly in the largest cities. The oldest one is **Jagiellonian University** in Cracow, established in 1364. That university consists of 13 main departments and three faculties of the Collegium Medicum. As the oldest university in Poland, the Jagiellonian University is a member of



Source: www.pixabay.com

many associations of the most prestigious universities in the world, including Coimbra Group, Europaeum and Utrecht Network.

The **University of Warsaw (UW)** is the highest ranked and largest of Poland's universities. Some Nobel Prize winners mentioned above are graduates of this university (e.g. Leonid Hurwicz, famous economist). Researchers from UW account for half of the 28 ERC grants in Poland. As from 2016, UW has acquired the prestigious 'HR Excellence in Science' logo, confirming that it respects the rules of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. In the Shanghai scientific ranking in 2018, ten disciplines at the University of Warsaw were included. The highest places (position between 51st and 75th in the world) were taken by mathematics and physics.

Development units

They include about 700 business entities active in the area of R&D. Besides their principal activity, they also conduct development work aimed at applying already existing knowledge gained through earlier basic or applied research, or through practical experience. The knowledge is applied to produce or significantly improve new materials, devices, products, processes, systems or services. The companies cooperate with national research units, such as universities and research institutes.

Research institutes

These are state-funded institutions operating as separate entities in terms of their legal basis, organisational arrangements and funding mechanisms. They are supervised by various sector ministries, which conduct R&D activity in line with the needs of the national economy and social life. Among 115 units, there are research institutes, central laboratories and research and development centres, which focus their activities on conducting applied research and development activities. The Main Council of the Research Institutes is their representative body.

Patents

Poland ranks 17th in the world in terms of patent applications and 15th for patents granted, according to the World Intellectual Property Organisation. It is worth noting that the highest number of patents is reported by Polish universities and research institutes, not private companies, which is a distinctive feature of other countries. Examples include solutions for the super-fast X3 hybrid helicopter, battlefield robots, internet browser for paralysed people (some illustrations of the cooperation of the Lodz University of Technology with industry), and prize-winning – in the US and Europe – work on Mars rovers.

Where can you get funding from?

[The Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange](#) (Polish: Narodowa Agencja Wymiany Akademickiej, NAWA) is a new entity in Poland established in 2017. It was set up to coordinate state activities driving the internationalisation of Polish academic and research institutions. The mission of NAWA is to foster the development of Poland in the area of science and higher education, support the international mobility of students, academics and researchers, and the process of internationalisation of Polish HEIs and research institutions, promote Polish science and higher education as well as popularise the teaching of the Polish language.

[The National Centre for Research and Development](#) (Polish: Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju, NCBiR) has already supported 8900 projects, 2039 companies, and 2657 scientific units for the general amount of 43 billion zloty (10 billion US\$). Its mission is to support the creation of innovative solutions and



technologies that increase the competitiveness and innovation of the Polish economy. The NCRD aims to strengthen the collaboration between business and academia, leading both to a greater engagement of entrepreneurs in research funding, as well as to a more effective commercialisation.

The National Science Centre (Polish: Narodowe Centrum Nauki, NCN) is a governmental grant-making agency responsible for providing financial support for the conduct of basic science research in Poland and various programmes to assist scientists throughout their careers.

The Foundation for Polish Science (Polish: Fundacja na rzecz Nauki Polskiej, FNP) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit institution. Its mission is science support. It is the largest source of science funding in Poland besides the state budget. The Foundation supports great scholars and research teams in all fields of inquiry; assisting innovative ventures and the commercialisation of scientific discoveries and inventions. Check out their recent [report](#).

Ministry Grants: The Ministry of Science and Higher Education has finance for scientific research. The most prestigious grants are: Diamond Grant (a researcher may receive up to \$US59,000 in funding) and National Programme for the Development of Humanities (funding between \$US80,000 and \$US35,000). For more information, consult www.granty-nabadiania.com/p/granty-ministerstwa.html

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA): Attractive European grants for researchers wishing to enhance their career based on a research and training project in Europe. Supporting all domains of research, providing attractive salaries at a freely chosen host institution are only a few of the programme's advantages. Experienced researchers willing to move to Poland can apply for an Individual Fellowship (IF) irrespective of their country of origin. Poland is in the list of so-called 'widening countries'. Therefore, from 2018 to 2020, proposals above the quality threshold of 70% but not retained for funding through the MSCA-IF call with a host institution in Poland will be automatically reassigned to the Widening Fellowships call.

European Research Council (ERC): Prestigious ERC grants finance frontier research in any scientific area. Researchers of any nationality may apply for funding with European host institutions to carry out research that pushes the existing frontiers of science. In the years 2014-2020, the ERC has a budget of some €13 billion (as part of Horizon 2020) supporting nearly 7,000 grants for individual researchers and their teams.

National Contact Point for EU research programmes

(Polish: [Krajowy Punkt Kontaktowy Programów Badawczych UE, KPK](#)). This organization has been selected as a National Contact Point via a call by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The KPK has been part of the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research Polish Academy of Sciences (IPPT PAN) since 1999. There are experts with many years of experience in the field of R&D projects financed by European authorities. The KPK supports Polish research and innovation leaders: scientists, research organizations and enterprises in their efforts to secure grants from European programmes, but they also help foreign scientists as a EURAXESS Centre in Warsaw.

Information for incoming researchers: EURAXESS Poland

EURAXESS Poland supports researchers coming to Poland by providing practical personalized information related to entry conditions, administrative procedures and life in Poland. Our website (www.EURAXESS.pl) is an

READ OUR EURAXESS countries in FOCUS:

EURAXESS is supported by over 40 countries, of which we profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS LAC newsletters. In this edition, we zoom in on POLAND.

Focuses on other EU countries are available [here](#) / PUBLICATIONS tab.

So far, we featured the following countries: Albania, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, and Spain.



National Contact Point
in P O L A N D

<http://en.kpk.gov.pl/>



information point for internationally mobile researchers wishing to come to our country. There are [ten EURAXESS Centres in Poland](#).



- Warszawa: National Contact Point (KPK PB UE)
- Lublin: Institute of Agrophysics PAN
- Kraków: Cracow University of Technology
- Gliwice: Silesian University of Technology
- Łódź: Regional Contact Point
- Wrocław: Wrocław Centre for Technology Transfer
- Poznań: Regional Contact Point
- Szczecin: Regional Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer
- Gdańsk: Gdańsk University of Technology
- Olsztyn: University of Warmia and Mazury

What international researchers think about EURAXESS Poland?

Jan from the Netherlands: “After completing my PhD in the Netherlands, I came to Warsaw, Poland, for a postdoc position at the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Since I am a European citizen, securing a visa for myself was not a problem. However, my fiancée is from the United States and it was much more of a fuss to obtain a residence permit for her, mainly because we are not yet married. We were in the process of going through all the paperwork and trying to figure out how to proceed when someone recommended that we contact **EURAXESS Centre in Warsaw**. I am extremely glad that we did because from the moment we contacted it, they took complete control of the process and helped us with every part of it [...]. I am sure that without the help of EURAXESS it would have been very difficult for us to apply correctly for the residence permit, and perhaps the result wouldn't have been the same (we ended up getting the residence permit).”