

## 2018 Country Report for Poland

### Key points for EASPD members

#### I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- Labour market situation is the best in recent history; yet, getting more people to work would ease labour shortages.
- Poland is making good progress in reaching the national targets under the Europe 2020 strategy in the employment rate.
- Employment grew stronger in 2017 while unemployment hit record lows.
- **Economic activity by people with disabilities increased in 2017, yet still remaining low at 29.9 % in Q3 2017 (16).**
- Permanent contracts dominate among newly created jobs, but the share of temporary contracts remains high.

#### II. Education Policy

- Educational performance has been strong in recent years.
- The Polish education system has two strong features: a high percentage of tertiary graduates and good basic skills at completion of lower secondary school.
- Poland is making good progress in reaching the national targets under the Europe 2020 strategy in tertiary education and reducing early school leaving.
- Poland's rate of early school leaving is low: in 2016 it was 5.2 %, less than half the EU average of 10.7 %.
- Tertiary education attainment is high, but challenges remain with learning outcomes.
- There is scope for improving the role of schools in equalising socioeconomic opportunities.

#### III. Social Policy

- High unmet needs in the healthcare system emerge as an important challenge.
- **Access to quality healthcare and long-term care are issues of concern.**
- An improved access to healthcare is key to better health outcomes.

This is particularly challenging given the low level of public funding and the low number of doctors and nurses. In 2017, some efforts were made to distribute healthcare resources more efficiently.



- Poland has amongst the lowest number of practising doctors and nurses relative to population size.
- The over 50s have a significantly worse self-declared health status than in other EU countries. Mental health appears to be particularly problematic, with a more mixed picture for physical health, depending on the indicator used.
- Life expectancy in Poland has continued to increase.
- Access to and the effectiveness of the healthcare system is affected by low health spending and a low number of health workers in some specialisations.
- Self-reported unmet needs for medical care rank among the highest in the EU, and waiting times for certain health care interventions are particularly long.
- Inefficiencies remain in the distribution of healthcare resources.
- The number of hospital beds is high but not optimally distributed geographically. In contrast outpatient and primary healthcare are generally underdeveloped.
- Recently-adopted laws are changing how the hospitals and primary healthcare operate.

#### IV. Anything else?

- An expected decline in the working age population underlines the need for increasing labour market participation.
- Limited access to childcare, an underdeveloped long-term care system and disincentives built into the social benefits system can discourage especially women from participating in the labour market.
- Indicators related to poverty and income inequality have been improving over the past years.
- The share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion declined.

#### Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [Poland](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

#### For more information, please contact

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