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2025 ReferNet
partnership forum

11 -12 June 2025,
Warsaw, Poland

Guide for participants







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REFERNET
THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF EXPERTISE ON VET

Welcome to 2025 ReferNet partnership forum



The Educational Research Institute - National Research Institute (IBE PIB), acting as ReferNet Poland, is pleased to welcome you to the international Partnership Forum in the capital of Poland.

Poland's vocational education and training (VET) system is steadily evolving to better align with labour market needs. Recent reforms introduced updated curricula, reinforced work-based learning, and supported greater flexibility in learners' educational pathways.

In 2022, 54.4% of upper secondary students in Poland were enrolled in initial VET programmes, exceeding the EU average. Students can move between general and vocational tracks and gain qualifications through both initial and continuing VET. The system is based on a national classification of occupations and an integrated qualifications framework that recognises formal and non-formal learning.

Mandatory work-based learning, apprenticeships, cooperation with employers, Sectoral Skills Centres, and improved teacher training are important elements of current policy. Inclusive guidance and support for diverse learner needs remain priorities.

This Forum offers a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and strengthen European cooperation in VET.

We hope your stay in Warsaw will be both productive and enjoyable!

Welcome to Warsaw!

Transport

- **From Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW) to IBE PIB – ul. Górczewska 8**

  - **Option 1: Bus + Metro**

Take Bus No. 175 from the airport (bus stop located in front of Terminal A - Arrivals) towards Pl. Piłsudskiego. The bus operates daily with a frequency of 15 - 30 minutes.

Get off at Centrum (approximate travel time: 30 - 35 minutes).

From there, transfer to Metro Line M2 (red line) at Centrum station towards Bemowo and get off at Młynów station. The metro journey takes approximately 8 minutes.

IBE is a 8-minute walk from the Młynów metro station.

  - **Option 2: Train + Bus**

Take the SKM train S2 or S3 from the airport's underground station (located on level -1 of Terminal A) to Warszawa Zachodnia station. Trains depart every 15-20 minutes, and the journey takes approximately 15 minutes.

From Warszawa Zachodnia, you can: either walk approximately 15-20 minutes to IBE or take Bus No. 136, 167, or 186 from the bus stop near the station to the Elekcyjna stop, which is adjacent to IBE.

- **From Warszawa Centralna (Central Railway Station)**

Take Metro Line M2 (red line) from Centrum station towards Bemowo and get off at Młynów station.

Alternatively, take Bus No. 109, 171, or 520 from the Dworzec Centralny bus stop to the Elekcyjna stop. The bus journey takes approximately 20 minutes.

- **Taxi and ride-sharing services**

A taxi ride from Warsaw Chopin Airport to IBE takes approximately 20-30 minutes, depending on traffic. Estimated fare: 40-60 PLN.

Taxis (e.g., ELE Taxi, iTaxi, MPT) are available in front of the arrivals terminal.

Ride-sharing services like Bolt, Uber, and FreeNow are also available in Warsaw.

- **Public transport tickets**

A 75-minute ticket costs 4.40 PLN and is valid on buses, trams, metro, and urban trains within Zone 1.

Tickets can be purchased at vending machines located at the airport, metro stations, or via mobile apps such as Jakdojade, SkyCash, and mPay.

Remember to validate your ticket upon boarding or before entering the metro platform.

Accommodation



Accommodation has not been pre-arranged, so participants are responsible for booking their own lodging. Below are a few conveniently located options:

- Hotel Gromada Warszawa Centrum: Approx. 26 minutes to the Institute via metro line 2, or around 30 minutes by tram no. 26.
- Campanile Warszawa Centrum: Around 15 minutes to the Institute by tram no. 24.
- Novotel Centrum: Approximately 23 minutes to the Institute using tram no. 24.

About Educational Research Institute – National Research Institute



The Educational Research Institute - National Research Institute is a public research institution supervised by the Ministry of National Education of Poland. It conducts interdisciplinary research in the field of education, bridging policy, theory and practice. IBE PIB work supports the development of evidence-based educational policy and innovation at national and international levels.

IBE PIB plays an important role in the design, implementation and evaluation of educational reforms. Its areas of activity include general education, vocational education and training, adult learning, early childhood education and digital transformation in education. The Institute also undertakes comparative international studies and assessments, including cooperation with OECD, UNESCO, and the European Commission.

The Institute coordinates and supports the implementation of European transparency tools such as the Polish Qualifications Framework and validation of non-formal and informal learning. It also develops methodologies and tools for competence assessment and lifelong learning and provides expert support for central and regional authorities, schools, teachers and other educational stakeholders.

Map of location, The entrance is accessible from the courtyard side, through the gate next to the Elekcyjna bus stop.

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City of Warsaw



Situated on the Vistula river, Warsaw is the capital and the biggest city in Poland. The city is home to around 1,8 million people. Warsaw's history dates back to the 10th century.

Warsaw is a dynamic city that combines rich history with modernity. Strolling through the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you can admire beautifully restored houses, the Royal Castle and the picturesque Old Town Market Square. Also worth a visit is the Royal Łazienki, a vast park with the Palace on the Water, where Chopin concerts are held outdoors in the summer.

Warsaw is also a city full of culture and entertainment. The Warsaw Uprising Museum offers a fascinating insight into the city's history during World War II, while the Copernicus Science Centre will delight both children and adults with its interactive exhibits. In the evening, take a stroll along the Vistula Boulevards, where you will find numerous cafes, bars and places to relax on the banks of the Vistula.

Weather

June in Warsaw is warm with temperatures reaching up to 24°C during the day.
The days are long, with about 16 hours of daylight.

Time

From March to October Warsaw is in the CEST (Central European Summer Time) time zone, which is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2)

Currency

The Polish national currency is "złoty" (1 EUR = approx. 4,20 PLN).

Foreign currency can be exchanged preferably at banks and exchange offices.

What to see

Sites & Museums

- Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Royal Castle: https://www.zamek-krolewski.pl/en
- Łazienki Królewskie - a vast park with the Palace on the Water, where Chopin concerts are held in the open air in the summer: https://www.lazienki-krolewskie.pl/en
- Krakowskie Przedmieście one of the most beautiful streets in Warsaw, full of monuments and historical buildings
- Vistula Boulevards a kilometres-long riverside promenade is a great place for a walk, a bike ride, as well as a night of fun in one of the seasonal clubs operating here
- Palace of Culture and Science one of the highest and most recognisable building in Warsaw offers a viewing terrace on the 30th floor: https://pkin.pl/en/home/
- National Museum houses a magnificent collection of over 830,000 exhibits from all periods, from antiquity to the present: https://www.mnw.art.pl/en/
- Copernicus Science Centre a modern museum and planetarium with interactive exhibits: https://www.kopernik.org.pl/en
- Roof Garden at the University of Warsaw Library to admire the beautiful panorama of the Vistula River, the boulevards, the Copernicus Science Centre, the Old Town, and the highest skyscrapers in Warsaw: https://www.buw.uw.edu.pl/en/about-us/building-and-garden/
- Fryderyk Chopin Museum - short walk from the city center the museum's exhibits and multimedia displays tell the story of the life and the work of the composer: https://muzeum.nifc.pl/en//
- Warsaw Rising Museum an interactive museum that offers a fascinating insight into the city's history during World War II: https://www.1944.pl/en

Warsaw Tourist Information

This office is supplying comprehensive tourist information on Warsaw and offers assistance with navigation, sightseeing tours, and cultural event tickets. More details can be found at Go to Warsaw website.

- **Shopping**

Złote Tarasy is one of the most famous shopping malls in Warsaw, located in the heart of the city, right next to the Warsaw Central Railway Station and the Palace of Culture and Science. The distinctive, futuristic architecture with a glass roof makes Złote Tarasy not only a place for shopping, but also a tourist attraction. The mall offers a wide selection of shops, restaurants, cafes and entertainment. Other large shopping centres include: Westfield Arkadia, Jana Pawła II Avenue 82 and Westfield Mokotów, Wołoska 12 Street.