

**Wspólnie  
tworzymy  
szkoły  
możliwości**

---

# Ukrainian refugee students in the Polish education system

By: Paulina Chrostowska

as of April 2023

*This document was developed in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council.*



# Sources



## Otwarte Dane - dane.gov.pl

Ukrainian refugee students depending on type of school, class and country (SIO):

- [as of 03.04.2023](#)
- [as of 17.10.2022](#)
- [as of 06.06.2022](#)

PESEL database (UKR status):

- [as of 03.04.2023](#)
- [as of 20.10.2022](#)
- [as of 09.06.2022](#)

[List of schools and educational institutions in connection to COVID-19 – as of 20.05.2020](#)

**Główny Urząd Statystyczny (Polish Central Statistical Office) - stat.gov.pl**

[Education in the school year 2020/2021](#)

# Assumptions

## **SIO - Database of refugees from Ukraine enrolled in the education system**

The analysis uses only data from the following institutions:

- primary schools (not including pre-school)
- high school (liceum) – general education secondary school
- vocational secondary school
- 1st degree trade school

Preschools, post-secondary and other types of schools not included.

## **PESEL database of UKR status applications**

The analysis includes data regarding applications of Ukrainian citizens born in 2004-2015.

For the purpose of the estimations, it was assumed that people born in these years are school age. Other assumptions:

- children born in 2008-2015 are in primary school age
- youths born in 2004-2007 are in secondary school age.

Estimations for 2021/2022 school year include data of people born in 2003-2014.

UKR status is lost 30 days after leaving Poland.

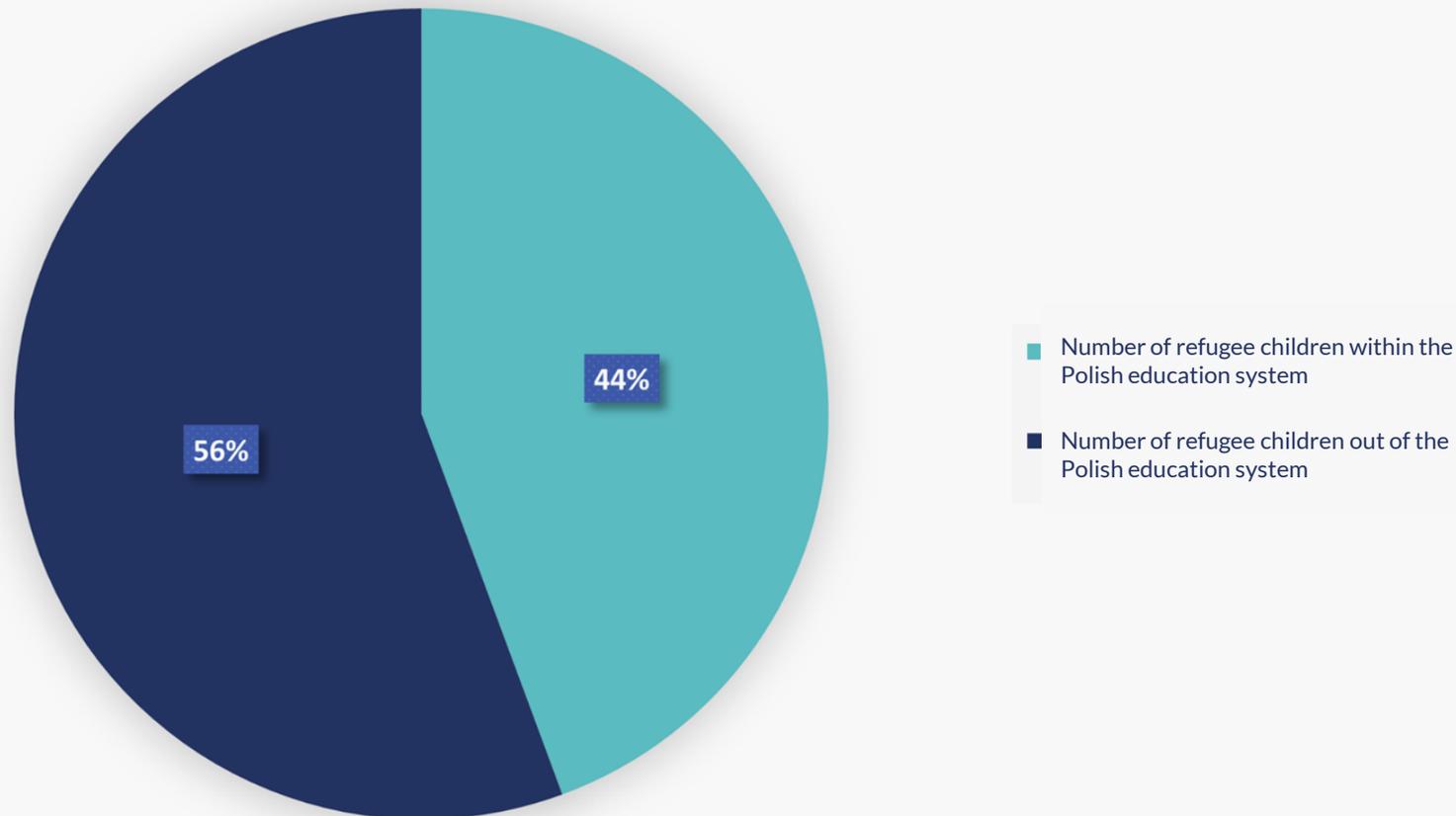
## Comparison of school year 2022/23 with 2021/22

The decline in the number of school age refugee children has not translated into a significant reduction in the number of refugee students in Polish schools.



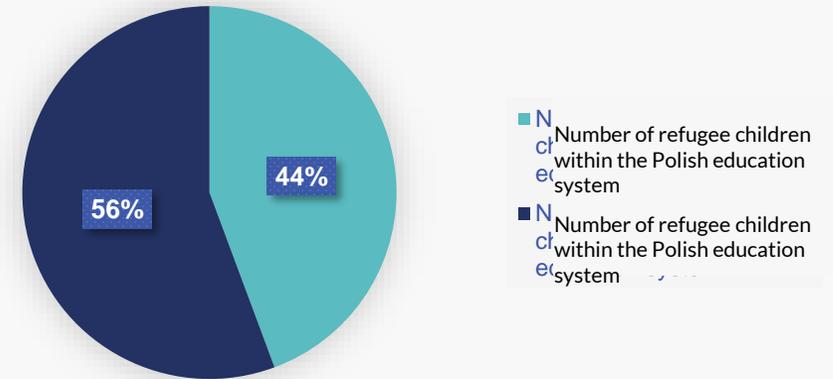
Nearly **56%** school age (born in 2004-2015) refugee children registered in Poland are outside the Polish education system.

School age refugee children within and outside the Polish education system



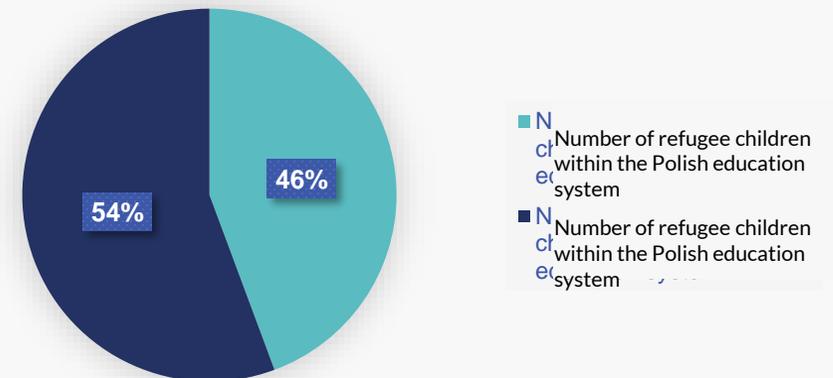
Compared to the previous semester, the share of children that are outside the Polish education system has increased (from 54% to 56%).

### School age refugee children within and outside the Polish education system



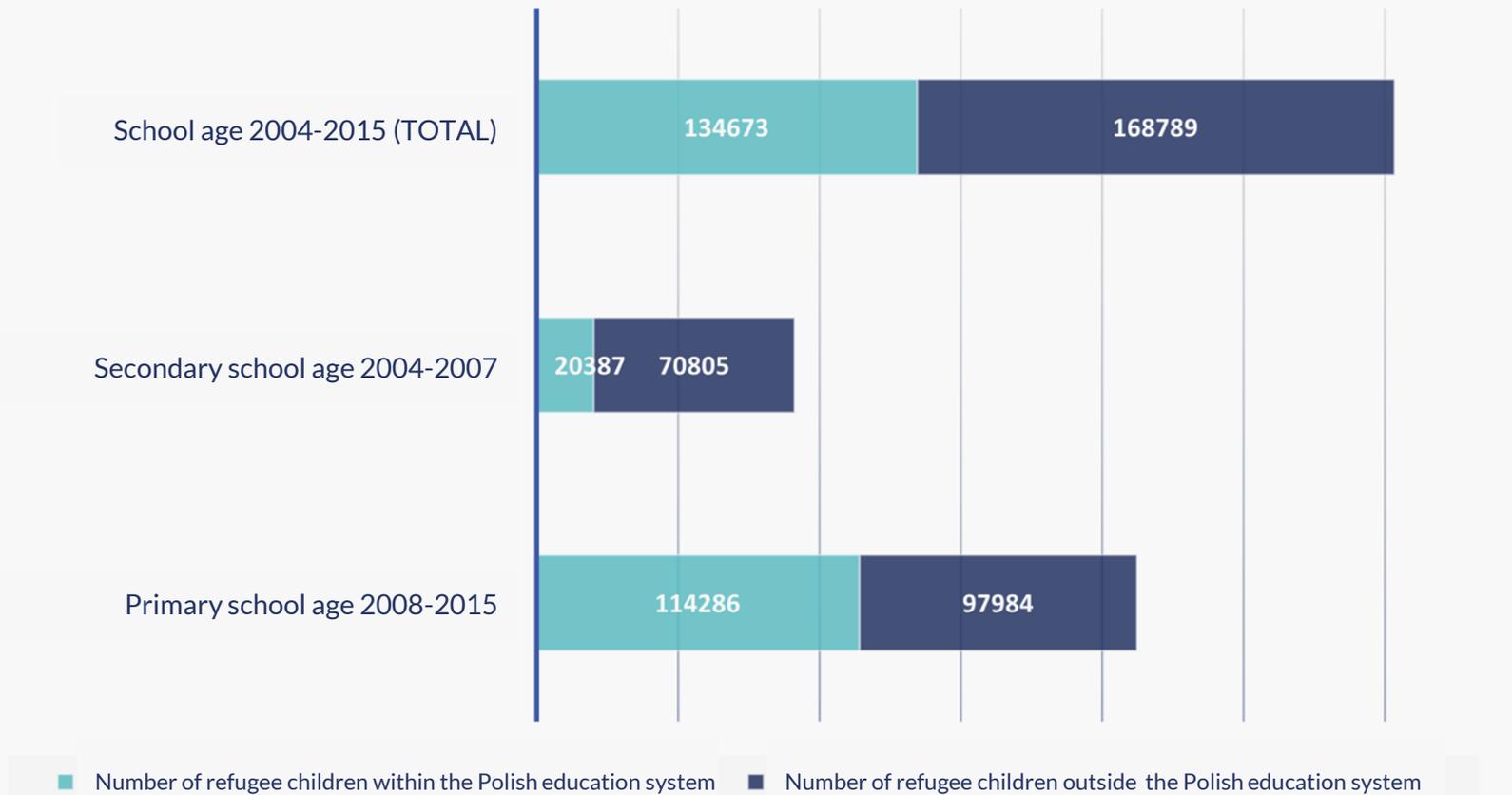
2nd semester of school year 2022/ 2023 (April 2023)

### School age refugee children within and outside the Polish education system



1st semester of school year 2022/ 2023 (October 2022)

## School age refugee children within and outside the Polish education system

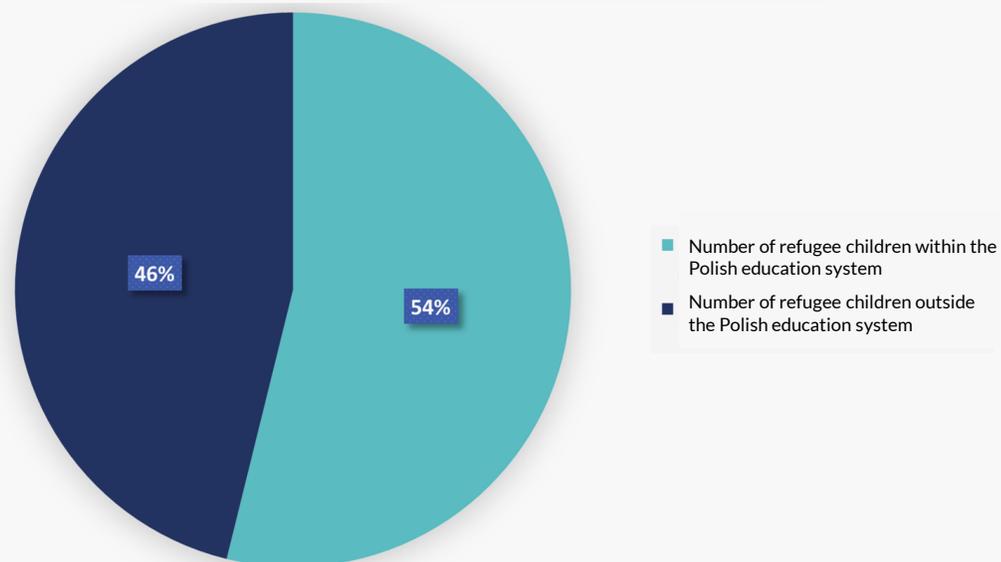


Data divided into two age groups:

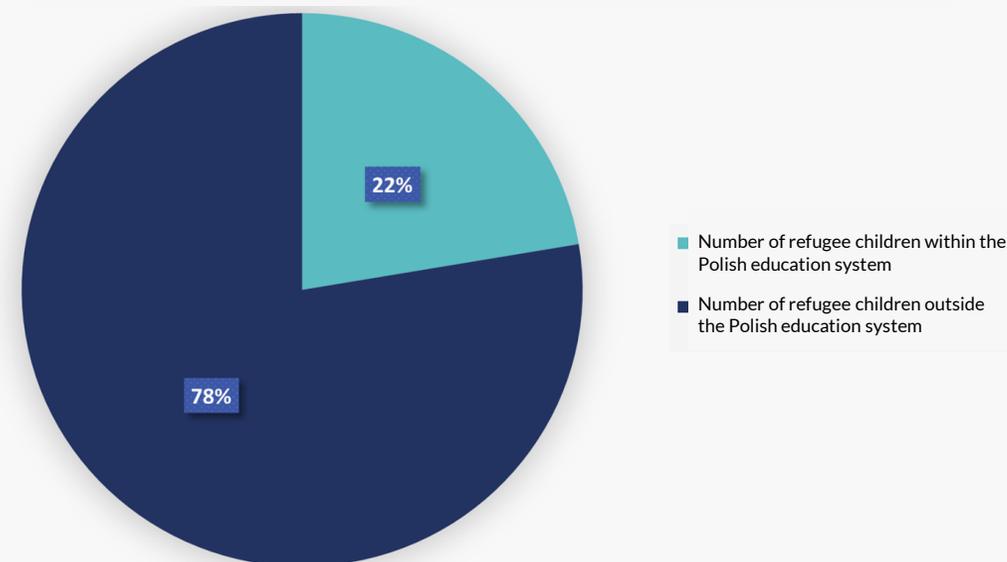
- primary school, born 2008-2015
- secondary school, born 2004-2007

# School age refugee children within and outside the Polish education system

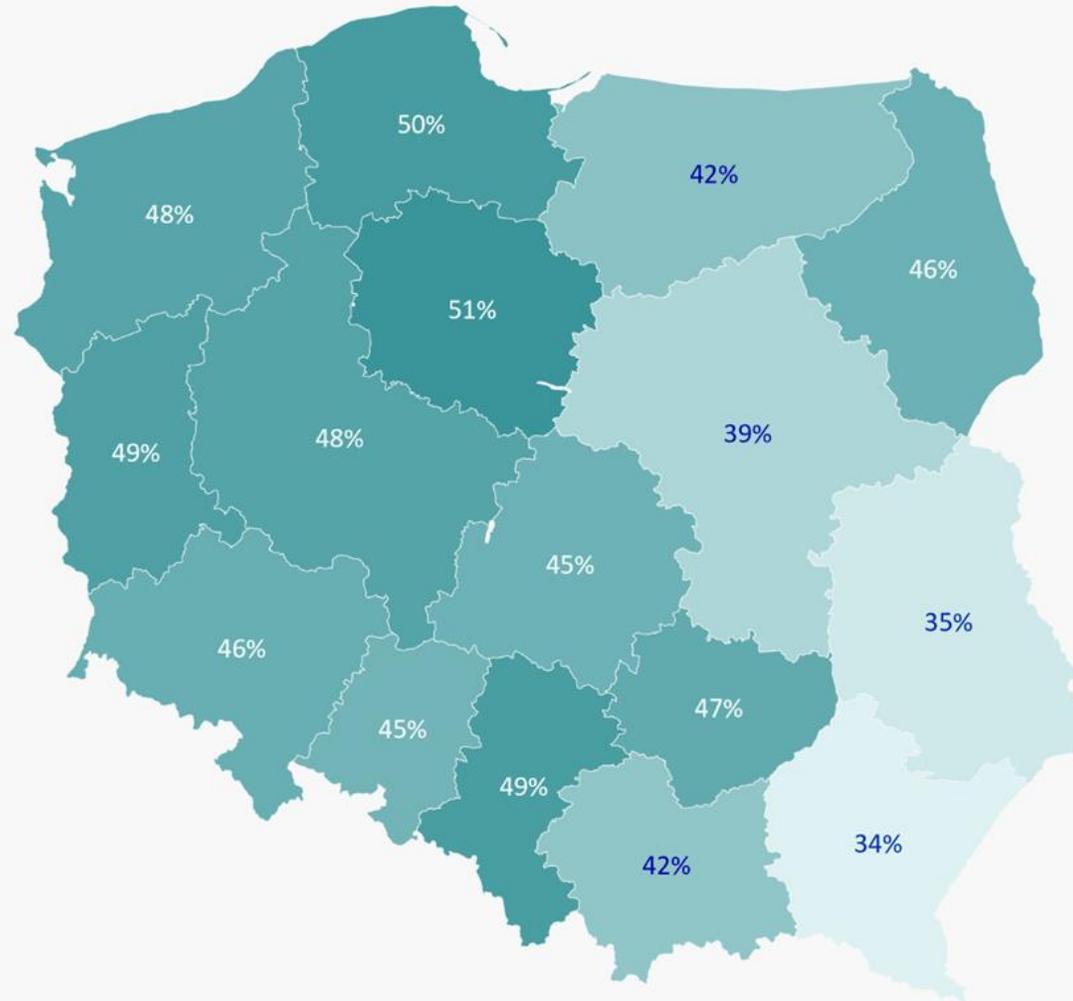
## Primary school age refugee children (born 2008-2015)



## Secondary school age refugee children (born 2004-2007)



## How many of the registered, school age refugee children go to Polish schools?



# Number of refugee students in Polish schools

Primary school

114 286  
84,9%\*

High school (liceum)  
general education  
secondary school

9 685  
7,2%\*

Vocational  
secondary school

7 807  
5,8%\*

Trade school

2 895  
2,1%\*

20 387  
15,1%\*

# Number of refugee students – as compared to previous school year

## Primary school

114 286  
was:  
Jun '22 - 123 425



## Liceum (general education secondary school)

9 685  
was:  
Jun '22 - 12 131



## Technical secondary school

7 807  
was:  
Jun '22 - 3 183



## Trade school

2 895  
was:  
Jun '22 - 554



20 387  
was:  
Jun '22 - 15 868



# Number of refugee students – as compared to previous semester

## Primary school

114 286  
was:  
Oct. '22 - 122 058



## Liceum (general education secondary school)

9 685  
was:  
Oct. '22 - 10 862



## Technical secondary school

7 807  
was:  
Oct. '22 - 8 205



## Trade school

2 895  
was:  
Oct. '22 - 3 130



20 387  
was:  
Oct. '22 - 22 170



## Secondary school students drop out

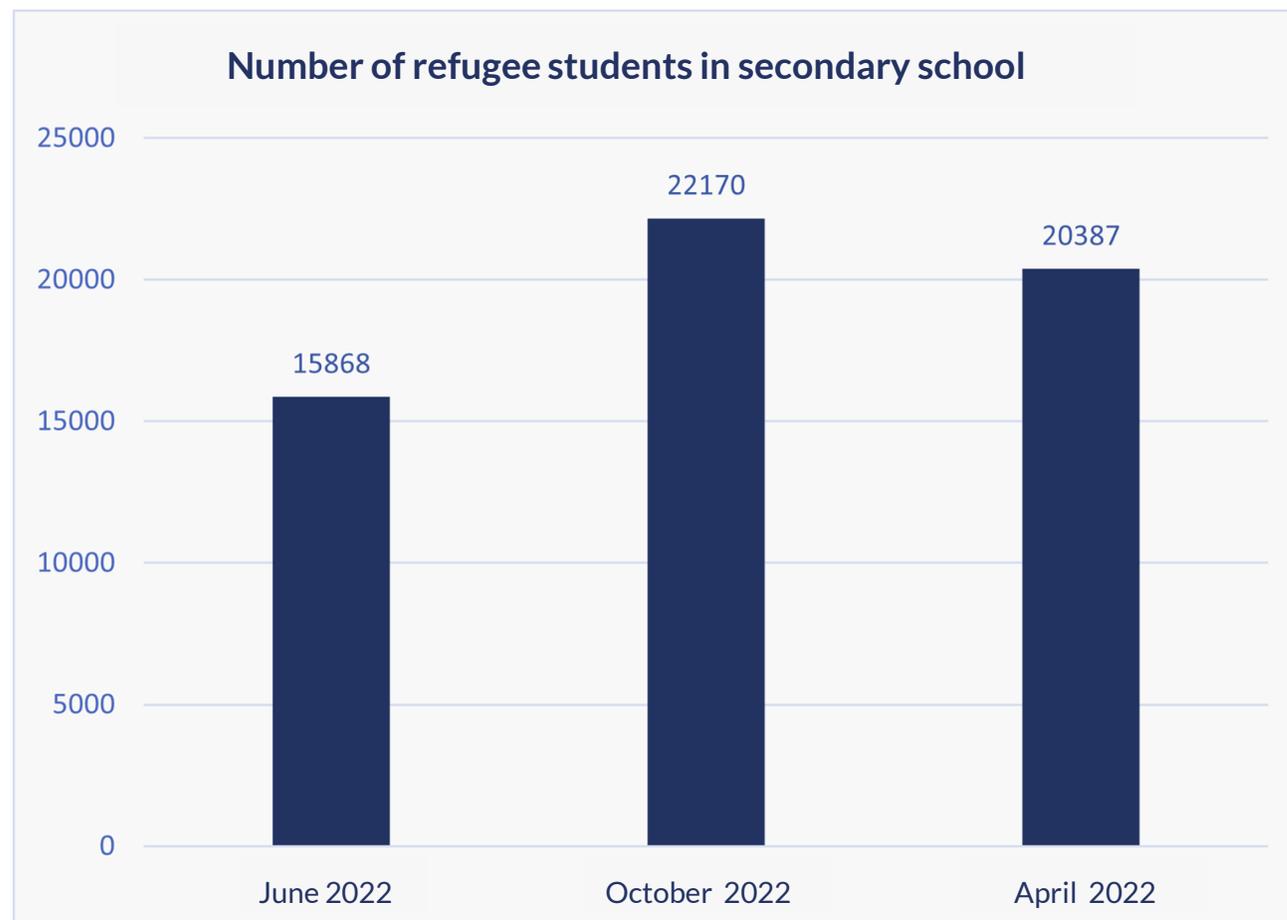
- 8%\* of refugees studying in Polish secondary schools have dropped out (1700 fewer people).
- This applies in particular to people in the 3rd and 4th grade:

	Preparatory class	1st grade	2nd grade	3rd grade	4th grade
Reduction in number of refugee students*	2%	6%	15%	25%	22%

- This occurs more often in general education – high schools (11% less students) than vocational secondary schools (5%) and trade schools (7%).
- At the same time, the number of people in this age group who are registered in Poland remains the same.

## Secondary school students are discontinuing further education

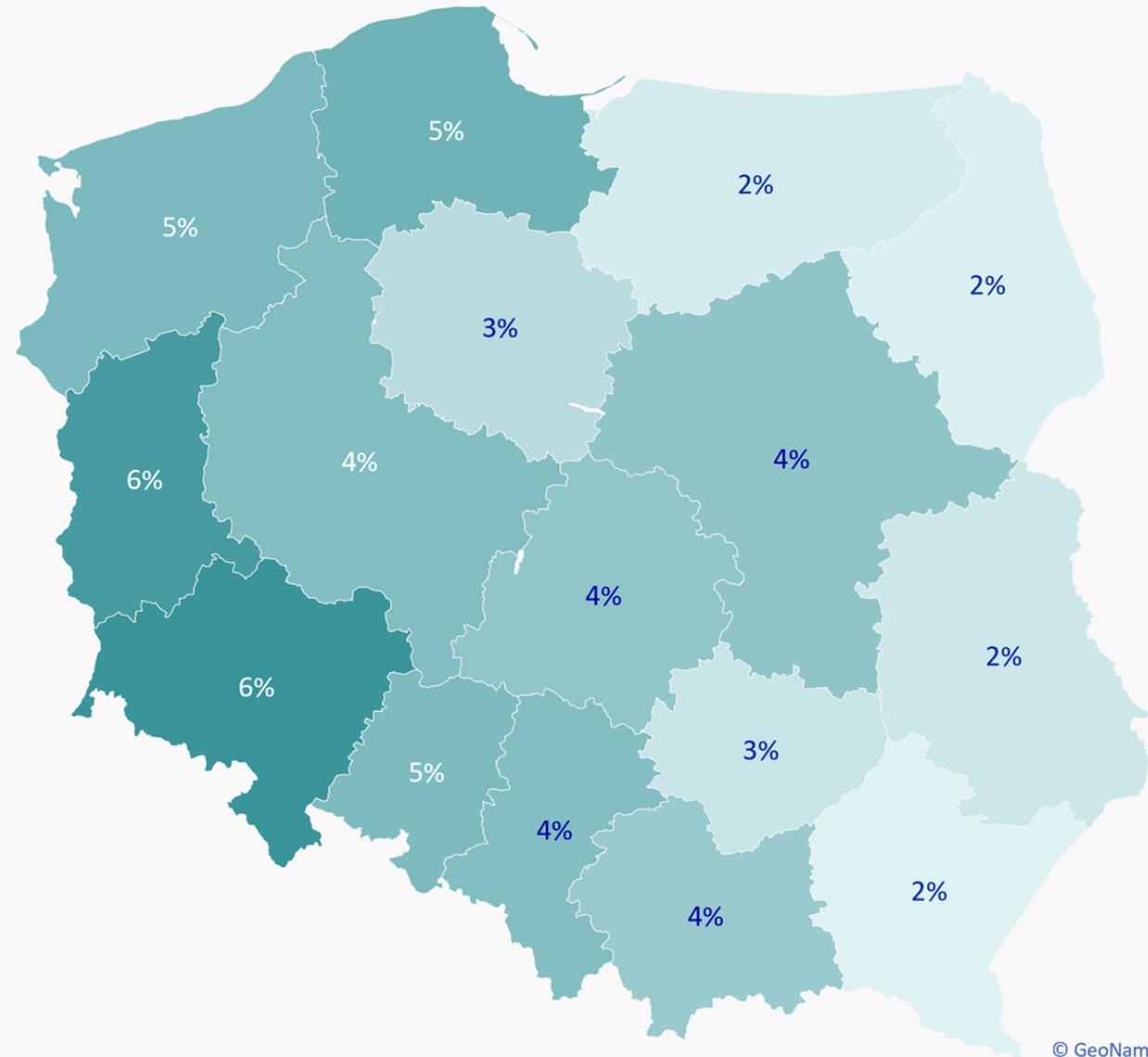
Interest for learning in Polish schools remains higher than in the previous school year, but lower than at the start of the current school year.



## Primary school students are leaving Poland

- The number of registered primary school age refugee children has declined by over 10 thousand.
- Presently there are 8 thousand fewer refugee children studying in Polish elementary schools than at the start of this school year.
- Compared to the previous year, there are also fewer children at this stage who are staying in Poland outside the Polish education system.

## What percentage of all students are Ukrainian refugees?



In the scale of whole Poland, refugees from Ukraine constitute

**4%** of all students.

If all of the Ukrainian children registered in Poland went to Polish schools, they would

make up **9%** of all the students.

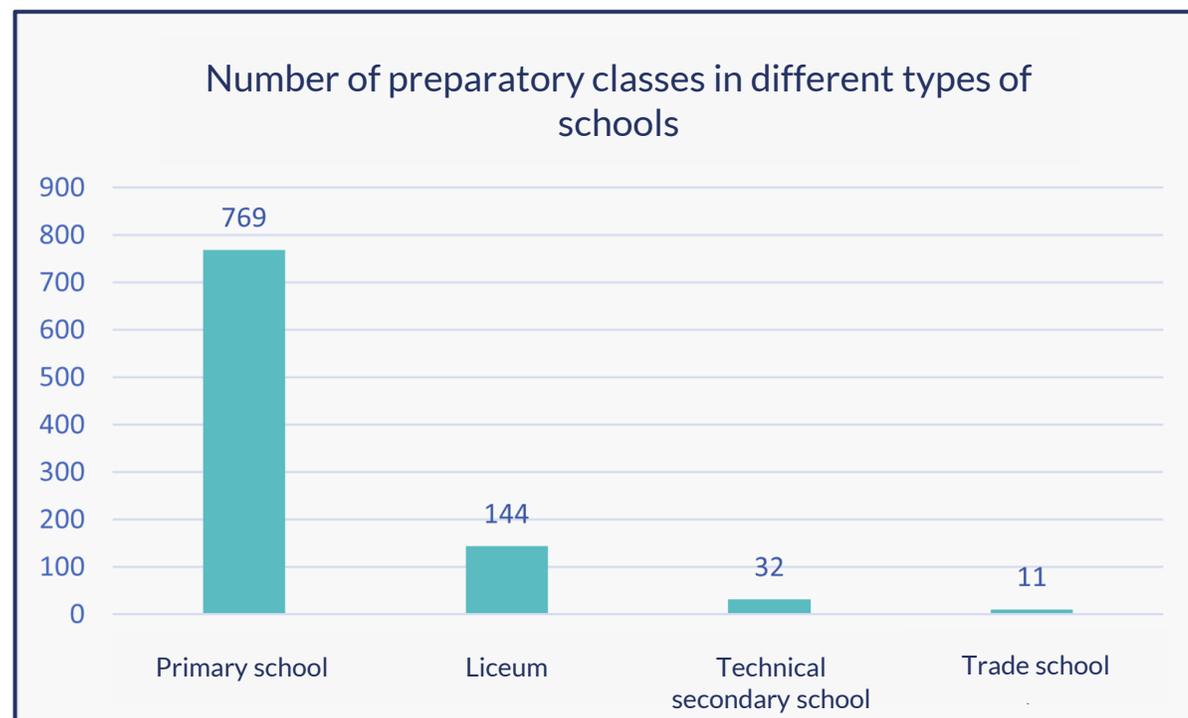


## Preparatory classes

There are 953 preparatory classes with 14 thousand students.

There are on average 15 students in one preparatory class.

Over 80% of all preparatory classes were created in primary schools.



# Preparatory classes – comparison with previous school year

## 2021/22 school year

- there were 2 414 preparatory classes
- with 38 000 refugee students
- which made up 27% of all refugee students

-1 461 ↓

-24 K ↓

-16 p.p. ↓

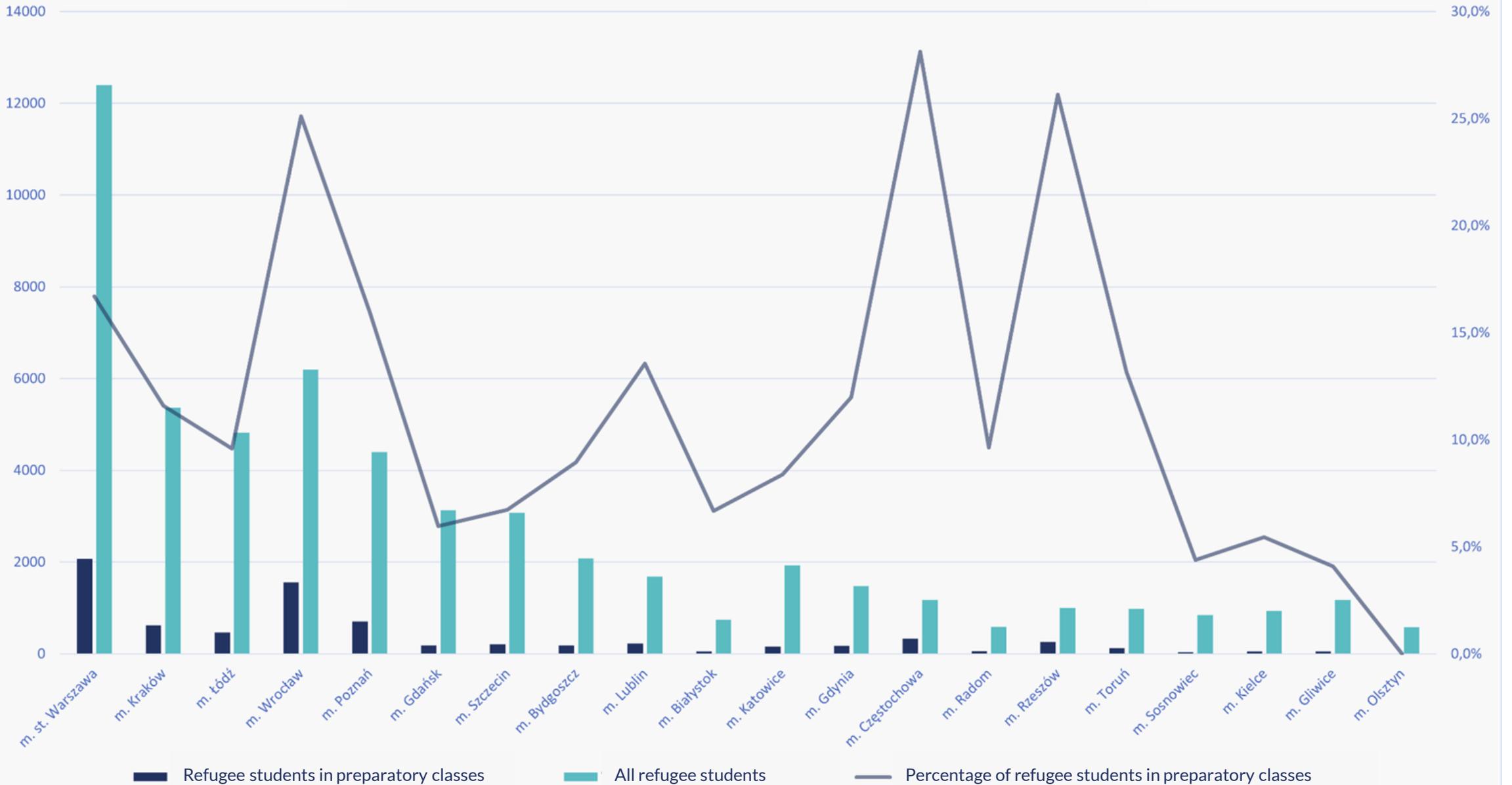
## 2022/23 school year

- there are now 953 preparatory classes
- with 14 000 refugee students
- which constitutes 11% of all refugee students

# Preparatory classes

- In the preparatory classes, highest percentage numbers of refugee students are recorded in the Mława (69%) and Szczytno (49%) counties.
- The largest number of preparatory classes exist in Warsaw (129), Wrocław (92), Cracow (47) and Poznan (44).
- Presently 60% counties don't have a single preparatory class (in the previous school year,  $\frac{1}{4}$  counties had no preparatory classes).

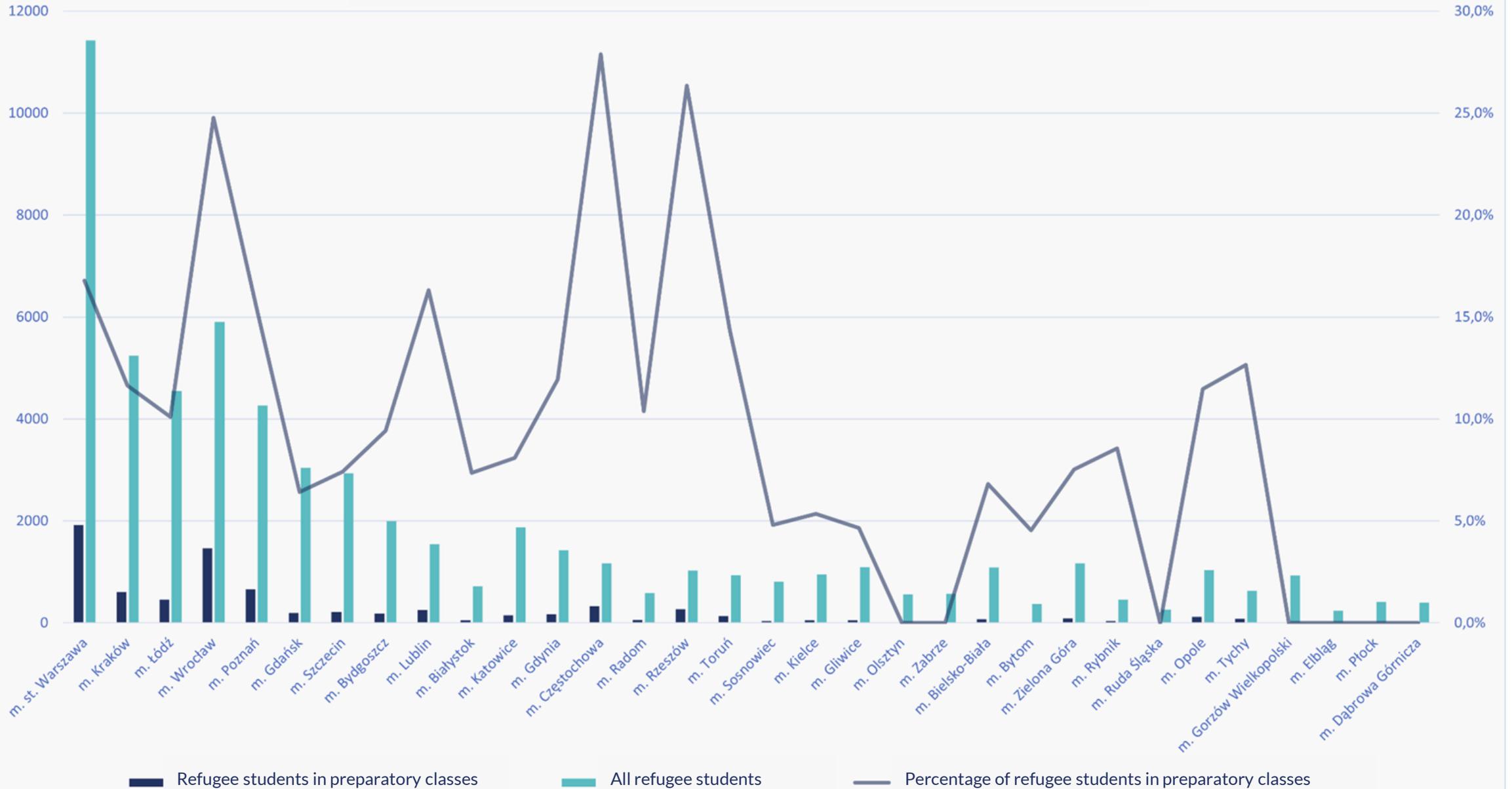
## Refugee students in the 20 largest cities in Poland



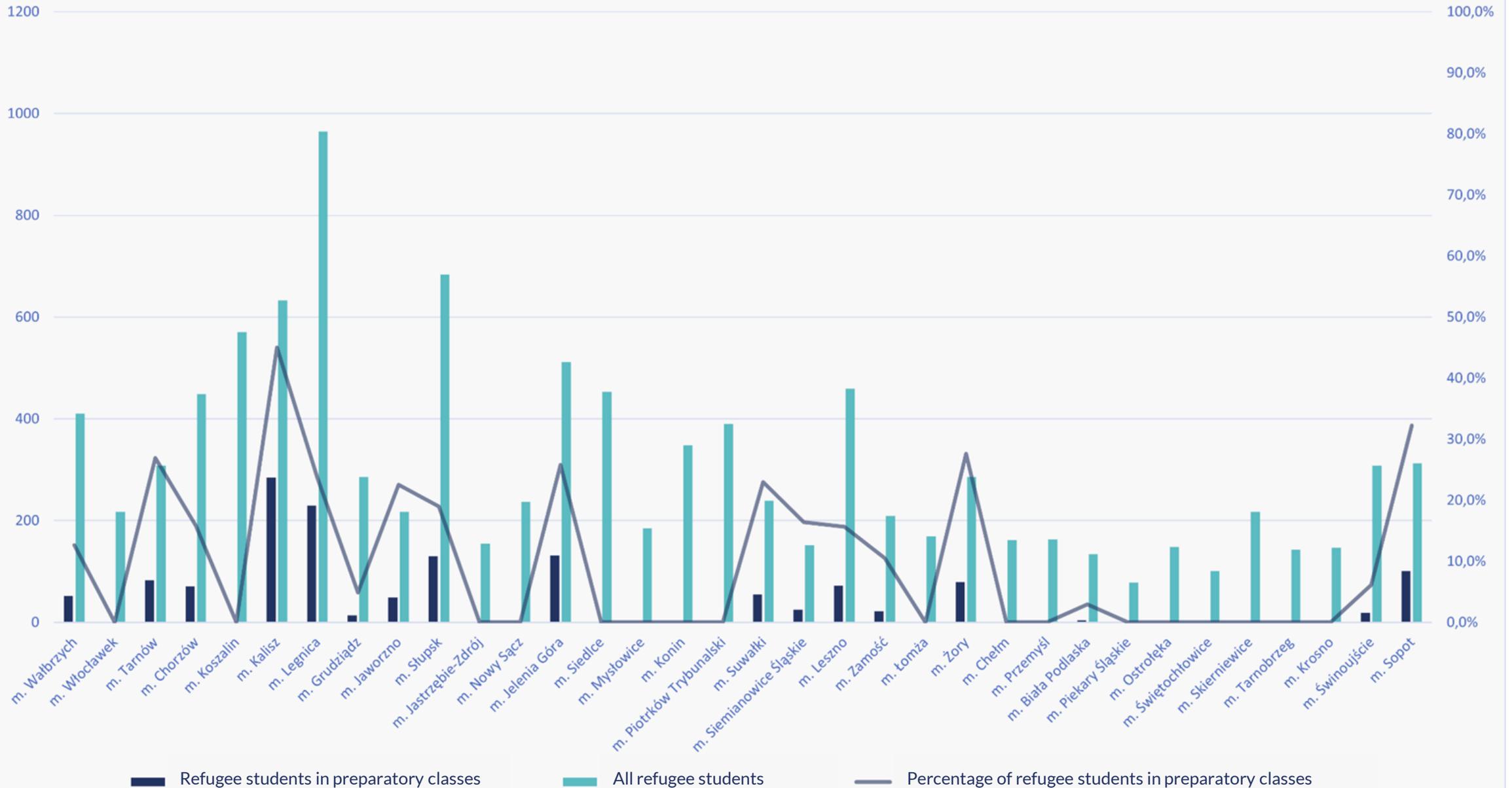
## Preparatory classes – the case of Olsztyn

- In the school year 2021/2022, 19 preparatory classes were created in Olsztyn, with 359 students. This comprised 68.5% of all refugee students in the city.
- This was the largest share of students in preparatory classes of all the bigger cities in Poland.
- In school year 2022/23, Olsztyn does not have a single preparatory class, even though the total number of refugee students has increased by 7% (from 524 in June 2022, to 561 in April 2023).

## Refugee students in county capitals - part 1



## Refugee students in county capitals - part 2



## “Regular” classes

More than **60 thousand**  
“regular” classes have at least one  
refugee student.

This means that there is a refugee  
**in one out of 4**  
**classes** in Poland.



**Thank You for Your attention!**

**Fundacja Centrum  
Edukacji Obywatelskiej**

ul. Noakowskiego 10  
00-666 Warszawa

[www.ceo.org.pl](http://www.ceo.org.pl)  
[www.blog.ceo.org.pl](http://www.blog.ceo.org.pl)

**Contact**

[ceo@ceo.org.pl](mailto:ceo@ceo.org.pl)