

Foreign students in Polish schools in the 2024/2025 school year

Data analysis report

Data as of April 2025

Elżbieta Świdrowska, Klaudia Stano

This report was prepared by the Centre for Citizenship Education (CEO)
in partnership with the International Rescue Committee Poland (IRC) Foundation.



Dear Readers!

Just a few years ago, the presence of foreign students in Polish schools was a relatively rare occurrence. Today, it has become commonplace. Polish students now share classrooms with peers from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, as well as Vietnam, India, Georgia, and even such distant places as Colombia and Nigeria.

We are pleased to present the report *Foreign Students in Polish Schools in the 2024/2025 School Year*, prepared by the Centre for Citizenship Education in cooperation with the International Rescue Committee Poland. It is based on an analysis of administrative data collected in the Educational Information System (SIO), the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS) databases, and the PESEL UKR register.

This publication brings together the most important figures on the presence of foreign students in the Polish education system, with a clear outline of their limitations and an indication of areas requiring urgent action. We believe that this up-to-date picture of the system will help educational and school authorities as well as local governments to make evidence-based decisions – in the very places where the organisation of teaching, language support and the educational pathways for young people are decided day to day.

The data presented in the report illustrate the scale, distribution and dynamics of the presence of students with migration experience in the Polish education system. They clearly show that the Polish system has become permanently diverse in terms of nationality and culture: foreign students are now a regular feature of schools and classrooms. The introduction of compulsory schooling has influenced the number of Ukrainian students in Polish schools. The data also show that the number of foreign students is relatively lower in the upper years of secondary education.

On the basis of our analyses, we have formulated several recommendations for systemic action:

- prioritising educational integration within education policy;
- ensuring comparability of data from the SIO, PESEL and ZUS registers;
- introducing compulsory classes of Polish as a second language for those who are not yet fluent;
- conducting in-depth analysis of the situation of secondary school students who are leaving the education system.

Jędrzej Witkowski

President of the Board

Centre for Citizenship Education

Dariusz Ziętek

President of the Board

International Rescue Committee Poland

Foundation

Definitions: student groups

Foreign students – children and adolescents from various countries worldwide (excluding Poland) who attend Polish schools.

Refugee students from Ukraine – children and adolescents from Ukraine who came to Poland after 24 February 2022 due to the escalation of the war in Ukraine, and who hold PESEL UKR status.

Migrant students from Ukraine – children and adolescents from Ukraine who arrived in Poland before the escalation of the war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022. This category also includes those who arrived in Poland after 24 February 2022 but who do not use PESEL UKR status in their documentation, instead relying on other forms of legal stay, such as a permanent residence card.

School-age students – children and adolescents enrolled in primary or secondary education (secondary schools, technical schools, or vocational schools); typically aged between 6/7 and 19.

Adult education learners – foreign students enrolled in various forms of adult education (post-secondary schools, secondary schools, or primary schools for adults) who, for various reasons, interrupted their education and resumed it after reaching the age of 18.

The term '**introduction of compulsory schooling**' used in this report and in public debate refers to the provisions of the [Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 26 August 2024](#), according to which refugee students from Ukraine would no longer be able to fulfil their compulsory education requirement via the Ukrainian online system, except for those for whom 2024/2025 was their final school year.

Definitions: schools

Polish educational institutions – all types of institutions included in the Education Information System (SIO), including kindergartens, schools, and schools for adults.

Polish schools – public and non-public primary and secondary schools, such as general secondary schools, technical schools, vocational schools, and other types of secondary education (mainly art schools), where students fulfil their compulsory schooling and education obligations.

Data sources:

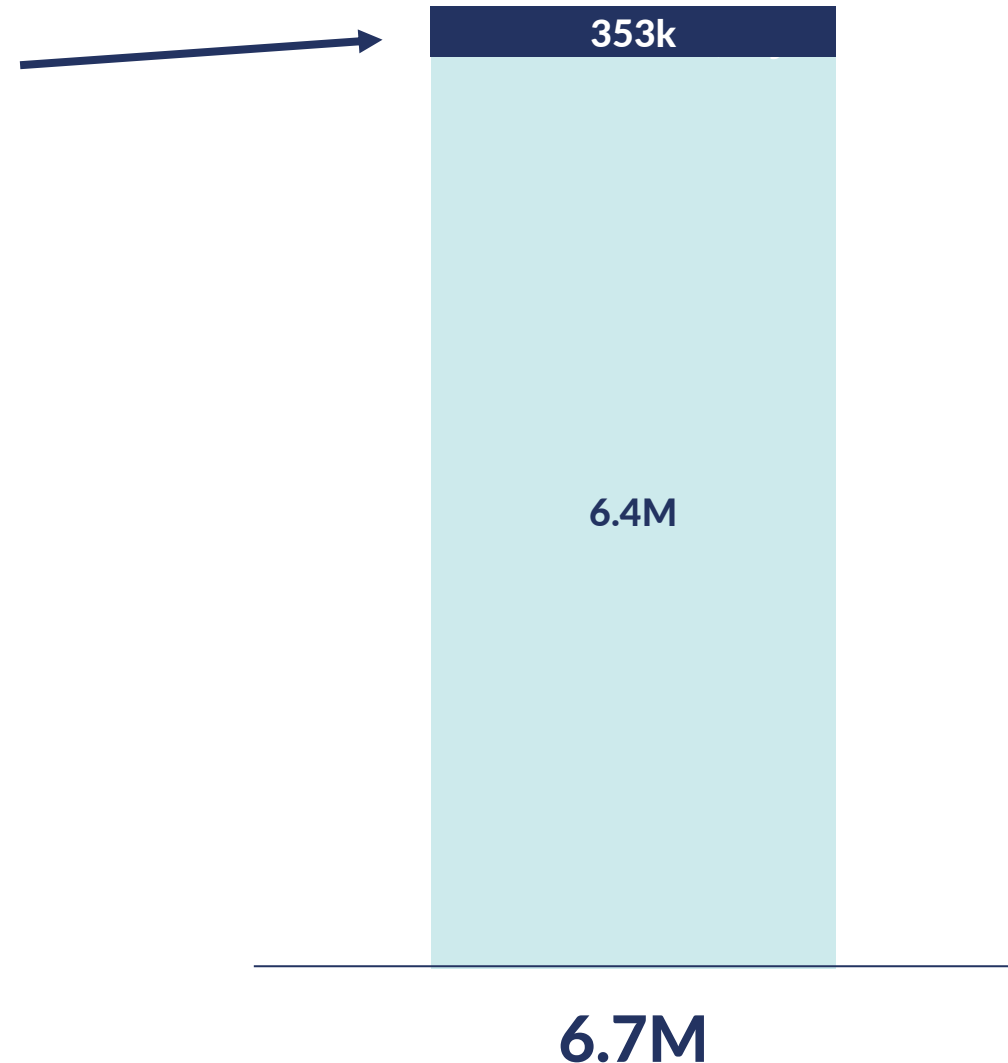
Minister of National Education – Education Information System (SIO) – data obtained from the Ministry of National Education by the **Team for the Educational Integration of Children Who Are Citizens of Ukraine**, concerning all students, foreign students, and refugee students from Ukraine enrolled in Polish schools. For comparison purposes, several slides in the final chapter are based on data from the Polish Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), as well as data from the SIO and PESEL UKR systems, made available on the Open Data website (see source details on slides 64-65).



1. FOREIGN STUDENTS IN POLISH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:

kindergartens, schools and schools for adults

**Foreign students
represent 5.3%
of all people
enrolled in Polish
educational institutions***



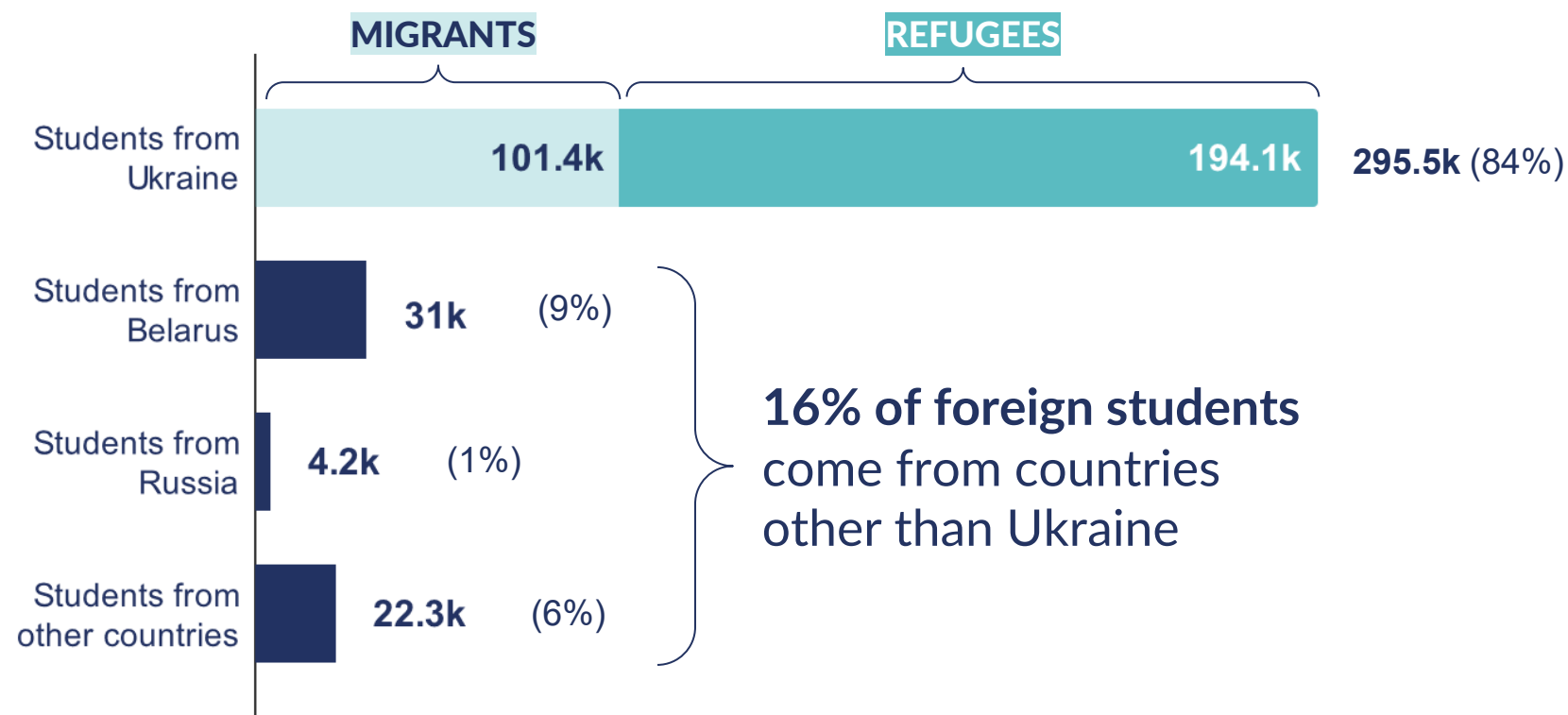
* The figures include children in kindergartens and students enrolled in schools at all stages of education, as well as adults in post-secondary schools and adult education units. | Apr. 2025

Out of **353,000** foreign students in the Polish education system, **67% (237,000)** are of school age and attend schools for children and adolescents.



Out of **353,000** foreign students enrolled in Polish educational institutions, **84% are from Ukraine.**

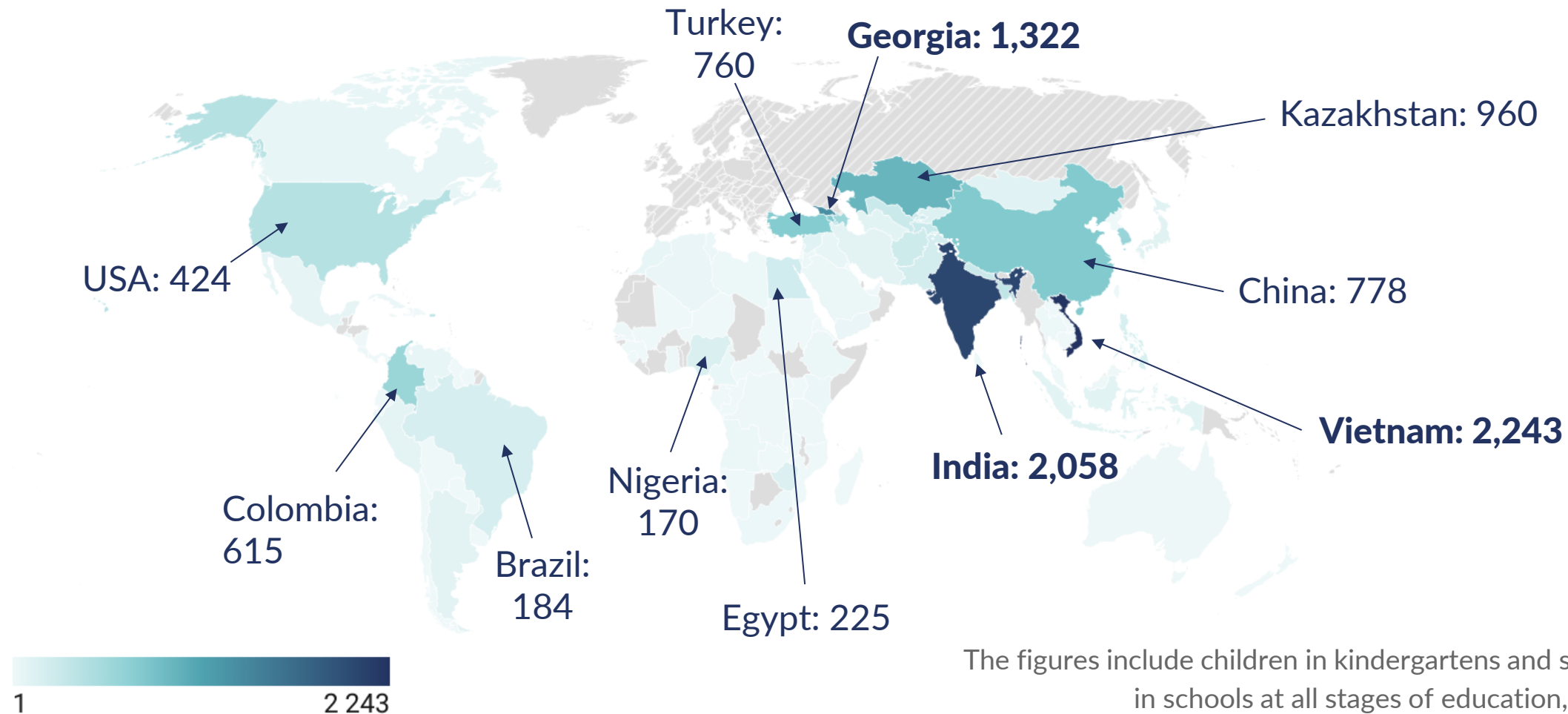
The number of foreign students in Polish educational institutions



People from **Ukraine** in Polish educational institutions **outnumber** those of other nationalities by more than **5 to 1**.

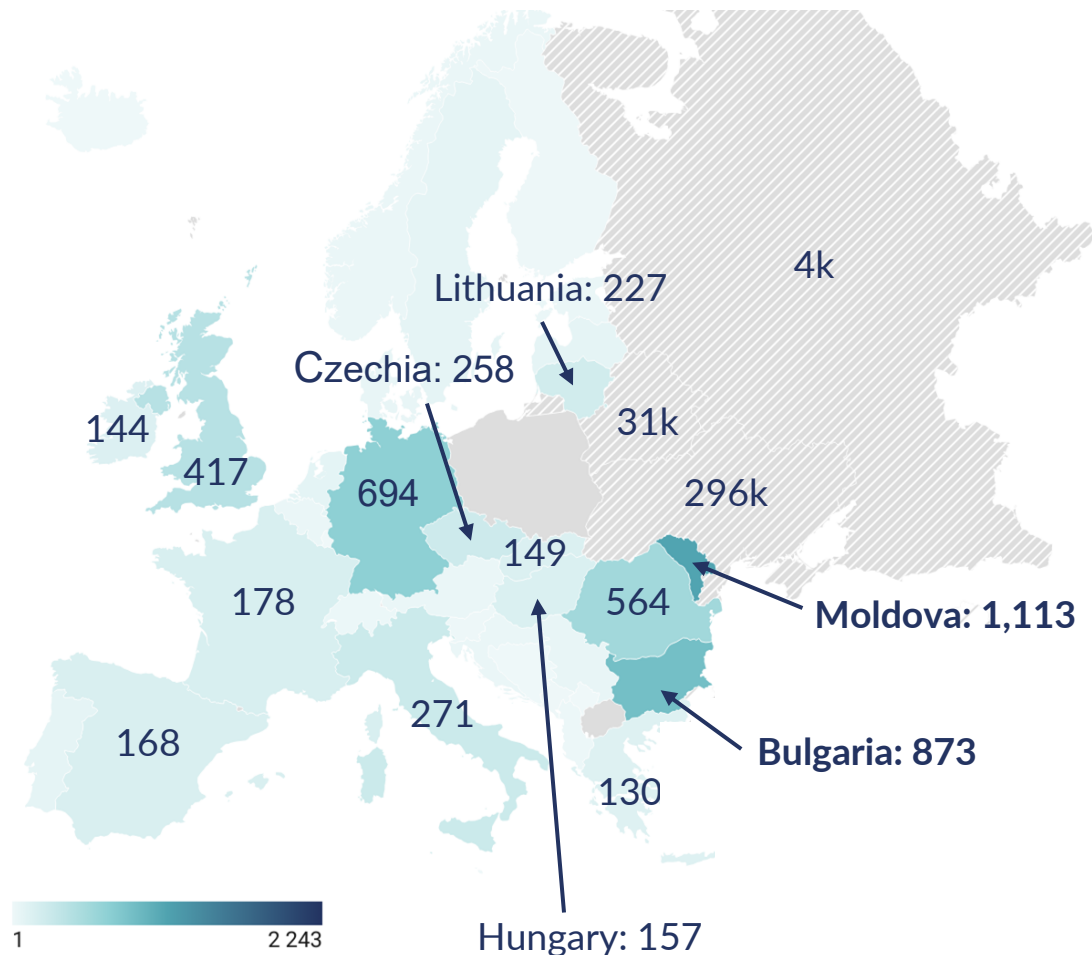
The figures include children in kindergartens and students enrolled in schools at all stages of education, as well as adults in post-secondary schools and adult education units. | Apr. 2025

Polish educational institutions enrol students from 108 non-European countries.



The figures include children in kindergartens and students enrolled in schools at all stages of education, as well as adults in post-secondary schools and adult education units. | Apr. 2025

Polish educational institutions enrol students from 40 European countries.



Among European countries, apart from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, the largest numbers of foreign students come from

- Moldova,
- Bulgaria,
- Germany,
- Romania.

The figures include children in kindergartens and students enrolled in schools at all stages of education, as well as adults in post-secondary schools and adult education units.

The map shows values for countries with more than 100 students. | Apr. 2025

Among foreign students in Polish educational institutions, apart from those from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, **the largest group comes from Asian countries.**

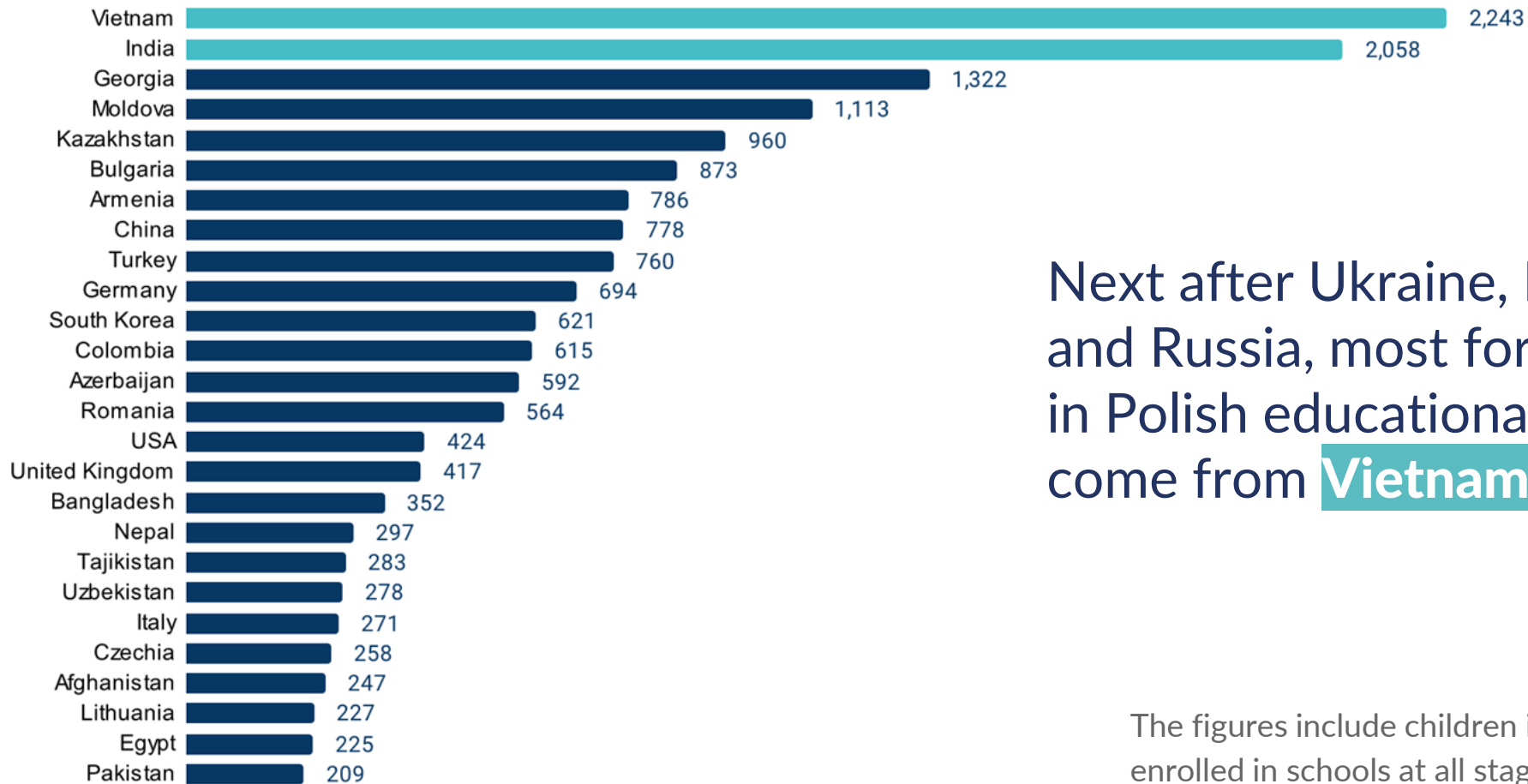
Continent	Region	No. of students
ASIA (13.2k)	Southeast Asia	7.4k
	Central Asia	4.4k
	Middle East and Turkey	1.4k
EUROPE* (6.1k)	Central and Eastern Europe	3.2k
	Western Europe	2.9k
SOUTH AMERICA	South America	1.1k
AFRIKA (1k)	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.6k
	North Africa	0.4k
NORTH AMERICA (0.7k)	North America	0.5k
	Latin America and the Caribbean	0.2k
AUSTRALIA	Australia and Oceania	22

Students from Asian countries **account for 3.7% of all foreign students**, including:

- **7,400** from Southeast Asia,
- **4,400** from post-Soviet Central Asian countries,
- **1,400** from the Middle East and Turkey.

*Excluding students from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia.

Apart from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, which countries do foreign students in Polish educational institutions most often come from?



Next after Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, most foreign students in Polish educational institutions come from **Vietnam and India**.

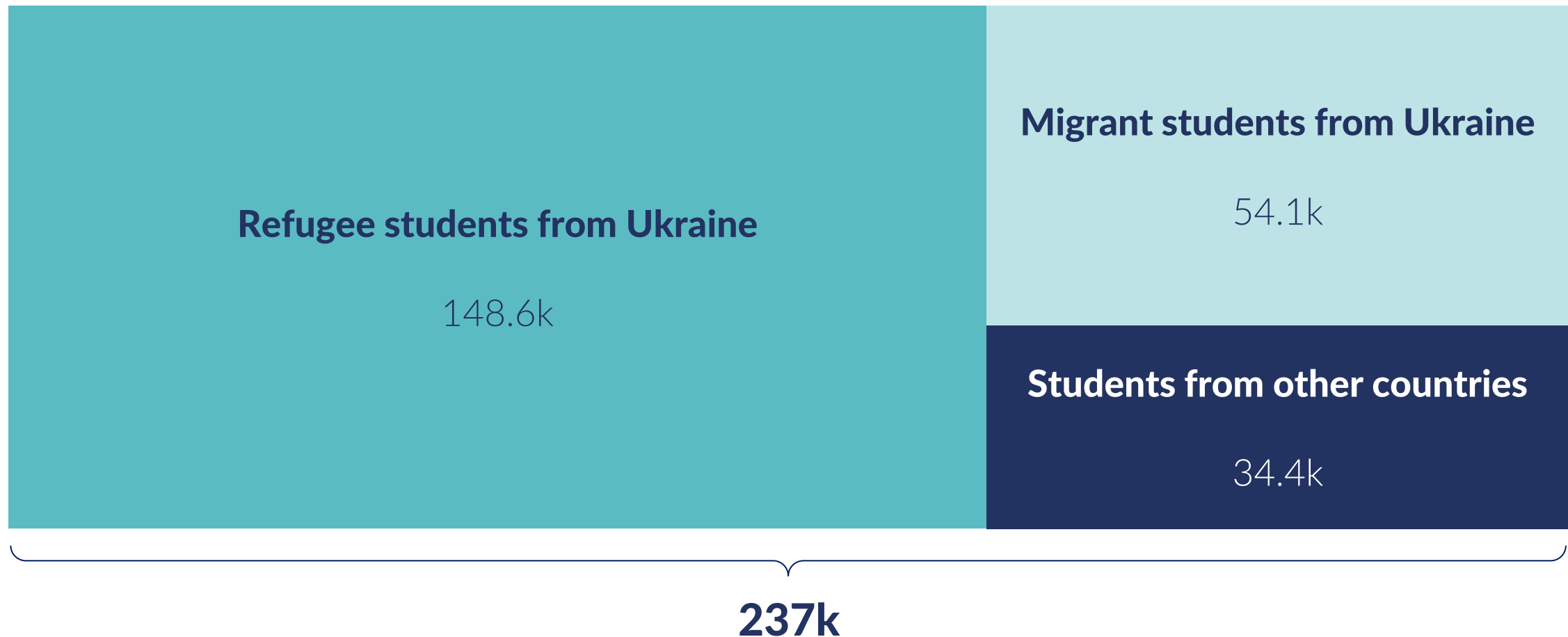
The figures include children in kindergartens and students enrolled in schools at all stages of education, as well as adults in post-secondary schools and adult education units. | Apr. 2025



2. FOREIGN SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS

in primary and secondary schools

There are **237,000** children and adolescents from abroad in Polish schools. Most are from Ukraine.



Foreign students make up **4.8%**
of all students in Polish schools.



2.1

How many schools in Poland enrol foreign students?





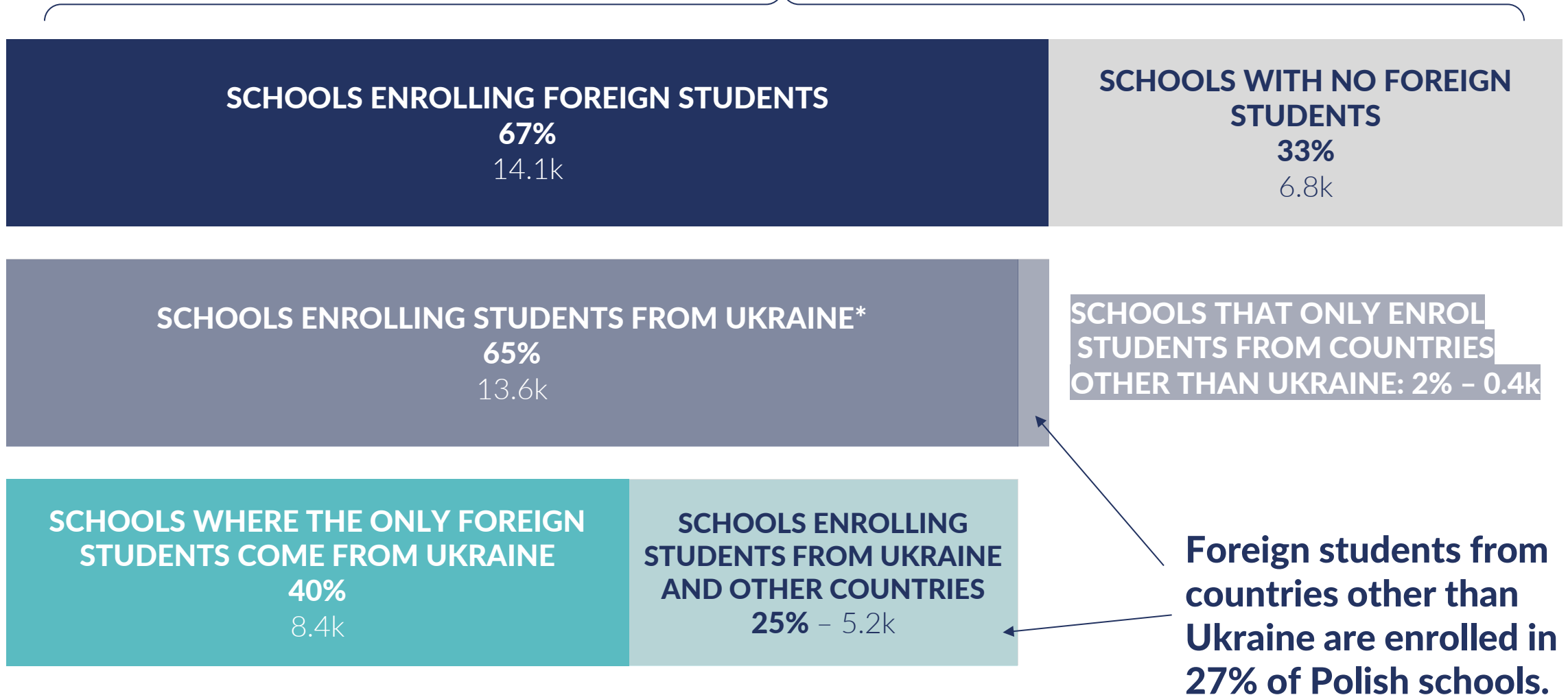
There are approximately
21,000 schools in Poland.

67% of schools enrol
foreign students:

- students from Ukraine attend 65% of schools,
- students from other countries attend 27% of schools.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS ACROSS SCHOOLS IN POLAND

(20.9k)



*Refugee students from Ukraine are enrolled in 58% of schools.

Schools enrolling foreign students: number and share



Primary schools



General secondary schools



Technical schools



1st and 2nd stage vocational schools



Other secondary schools

TOTAL

Total number of schools enrolling foreign students

9k

2k

1.6k

1.2k

0.3k

14.1k

Share of schools enrolling foreign students

65%

81%

89%

64%

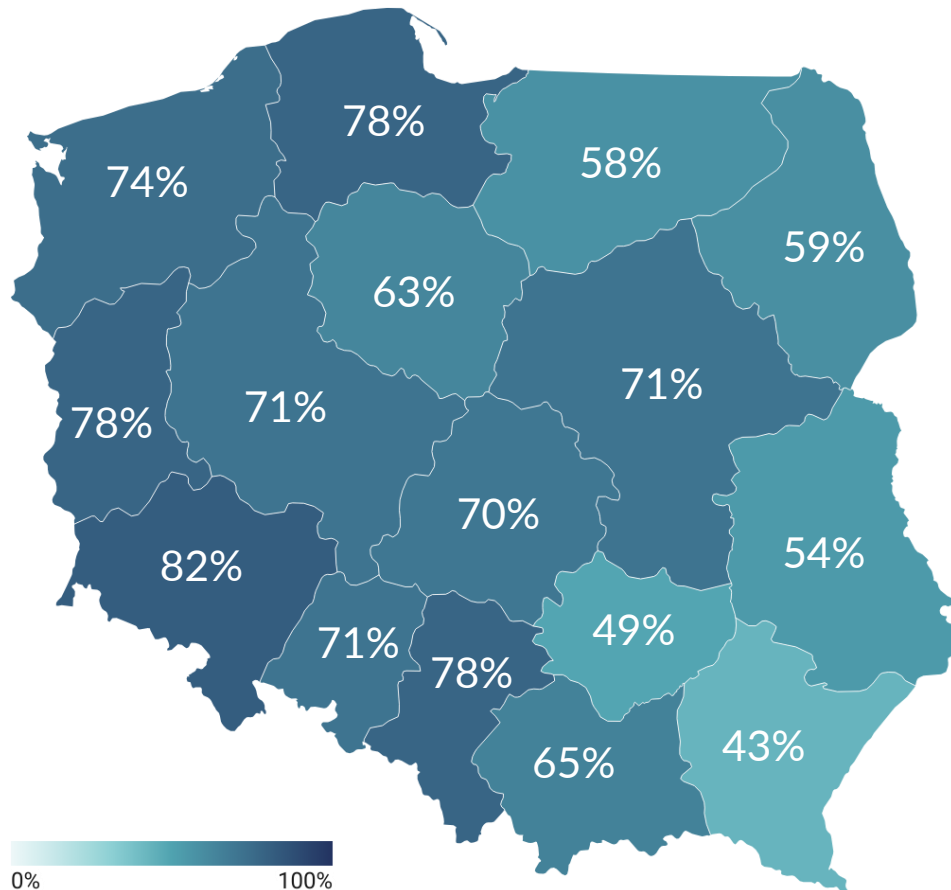
30%

67%

Foreign students are enrolled in 89% of technical schools in Poland.

The share of schools where Polish students study alongside their foreign peers **varies across regions.**

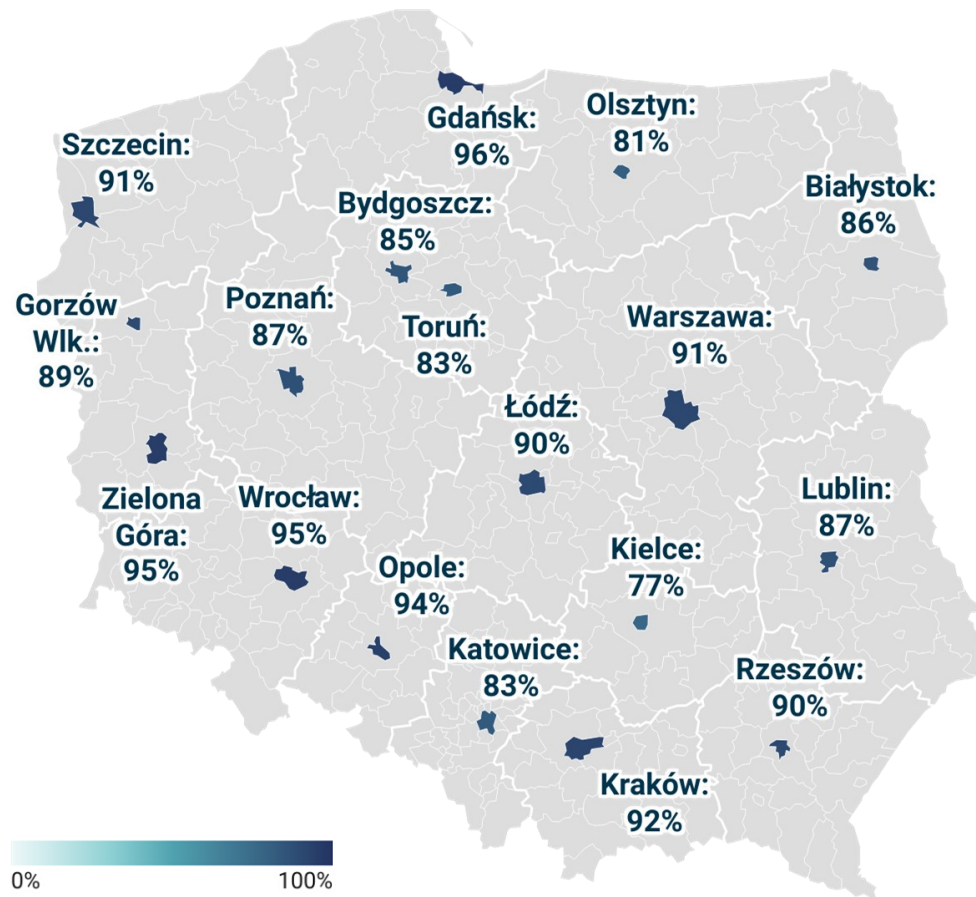
Proportion of schools with foreign students | Apr. 2025



- **In western Poland**, foreign students are enrolled in over 70% of schools.
- **In eastern Poland**, the figure is about half.
- The highest proportion of schools with foreign students is in the Lower Silesian region (82%).
- The lowest proportions are in the Podkarpackie (43%) and Świętokrzyskie (49%) regions.

In regional capitals, foreign students are enrolled in the vast majority of schools – from 77% in Kielce to 96% in Gdańsk.

Proportion of schools with foreign students | Apr. 2025



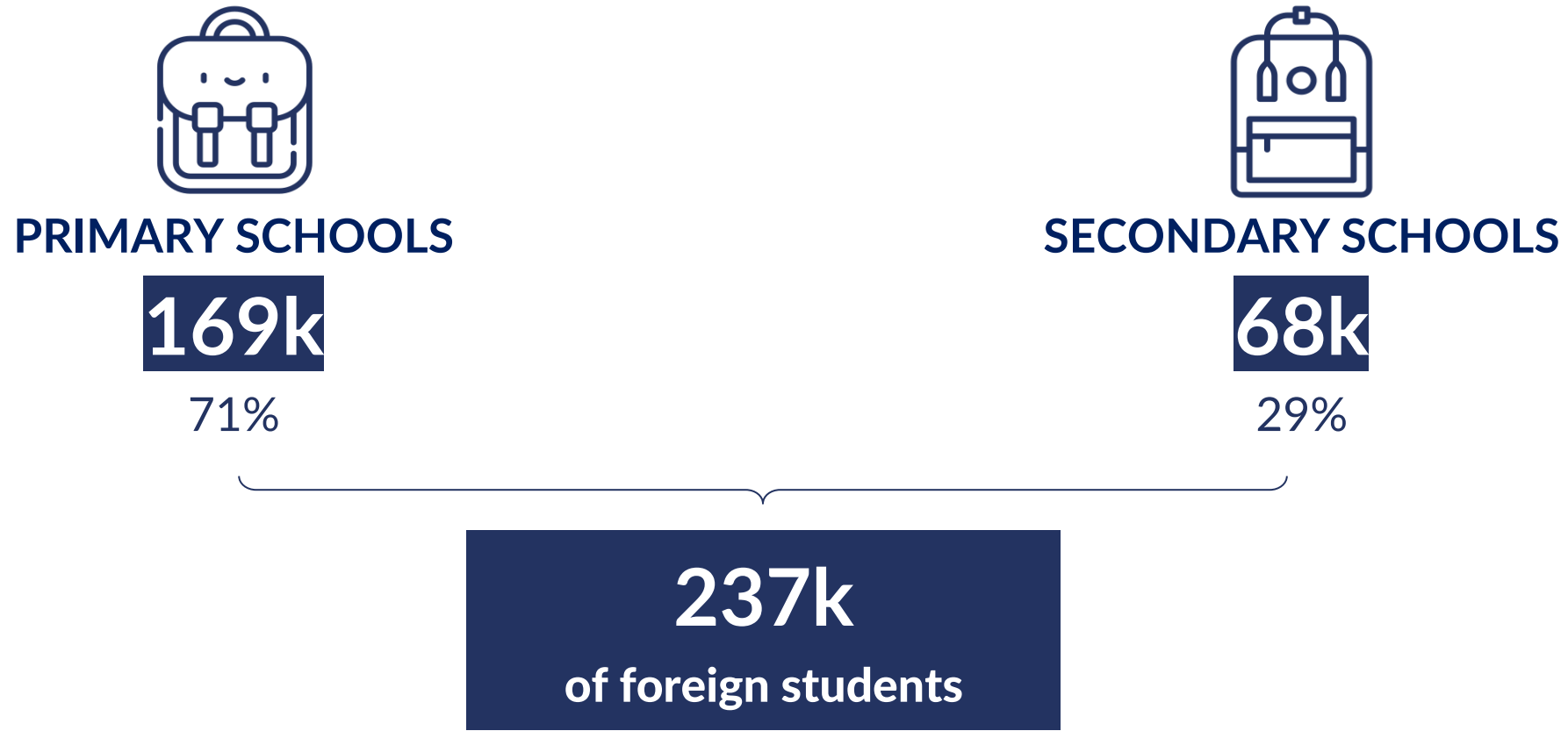
- Among regional capitals, the **highest proportions of schools with foreign students** are in **Gdańsk, Wrocław, and Zielona Góra (95–96%)**.
- The lowest proportions of schools with foreign students (though still above three quarters) are in **Kielce and Olsztyn**.

2.2

**What types of schools
do foreign students attend?**



More than 70% of foreign students are enrolled in primary schools.



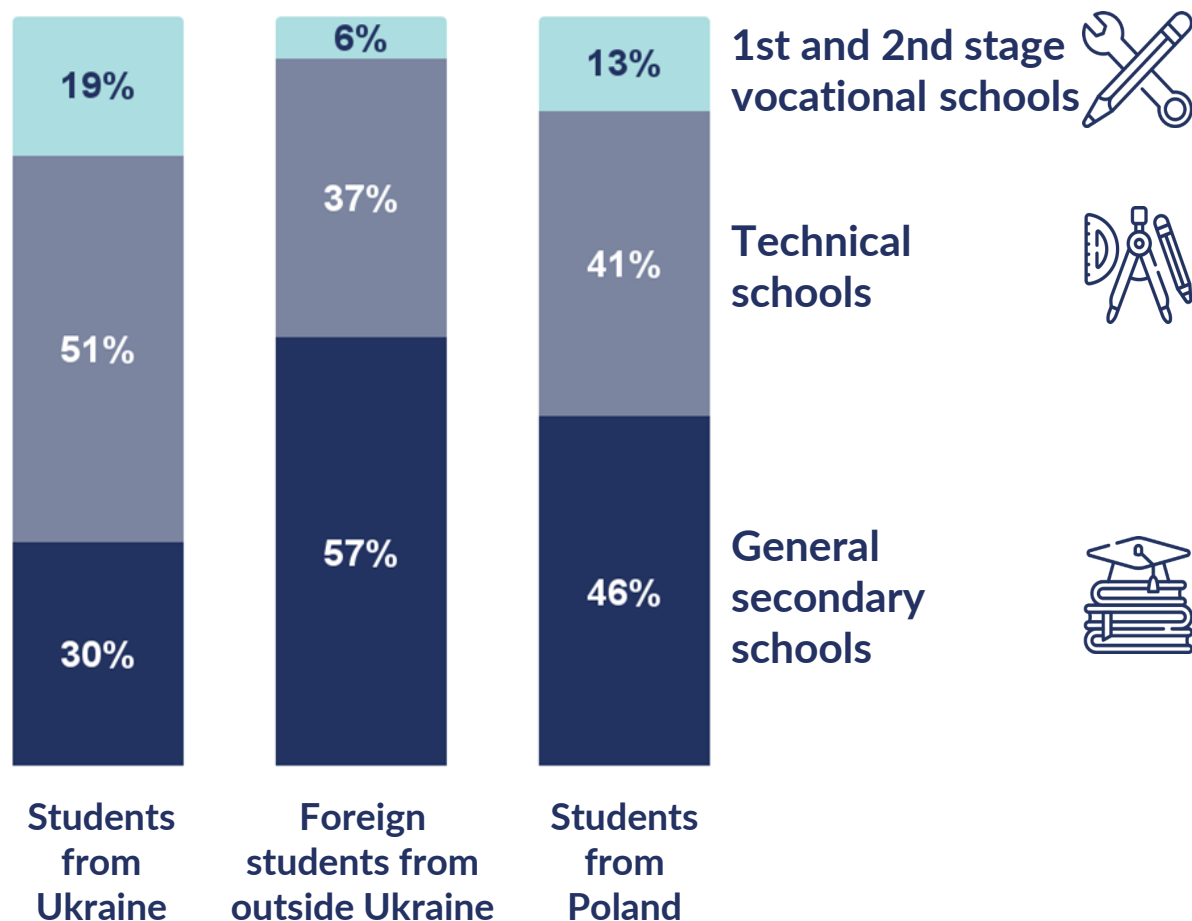
Among Polish students, 65% attend primary, and 35% secondary schools.

What types of **secondary schools** do students from Ukraine choose, and how does this compare with students from other countries?

Compared with their Polish peers, **students from Ukraine are more likely to continue their education in technical and vocational schools**, and less likely to attend general secondary schools.

By contrast, **foreign students from countries other than Ukraine** are more likely than their Polish peers to attend **general secondary schools**.

Share of secondary students by school type



Number of foreign students and their distribution across different school types

	 Primary schools	 General secondary schools	 Technical schools	 1st and 2nd stage vocational schools	 Other secondary schools	TOTAL
No. and % of students from Ukraine (refugees and migrants)	143.5k 71%	17.5k 8.6%	29.9k 14.7%	10.9k 5.3%	0.9k 0.4%	202.7k 100%
No. and % of foreign students from outside Ukraine	25.5k 74.1%	5k 14.5%	3.2k 9.4%	0.5k 1.5%	0.2k 0.5%	34.4k 100%
No. of all foreign students	169k	22.4k	33.2k	11.4k	1k	237k
No. and % of students from Poland	3M 45k 65.3%	737k. 15.8%	646k 13.9%	207k. 4.4%	25k 0.5%	4M 660k 100%

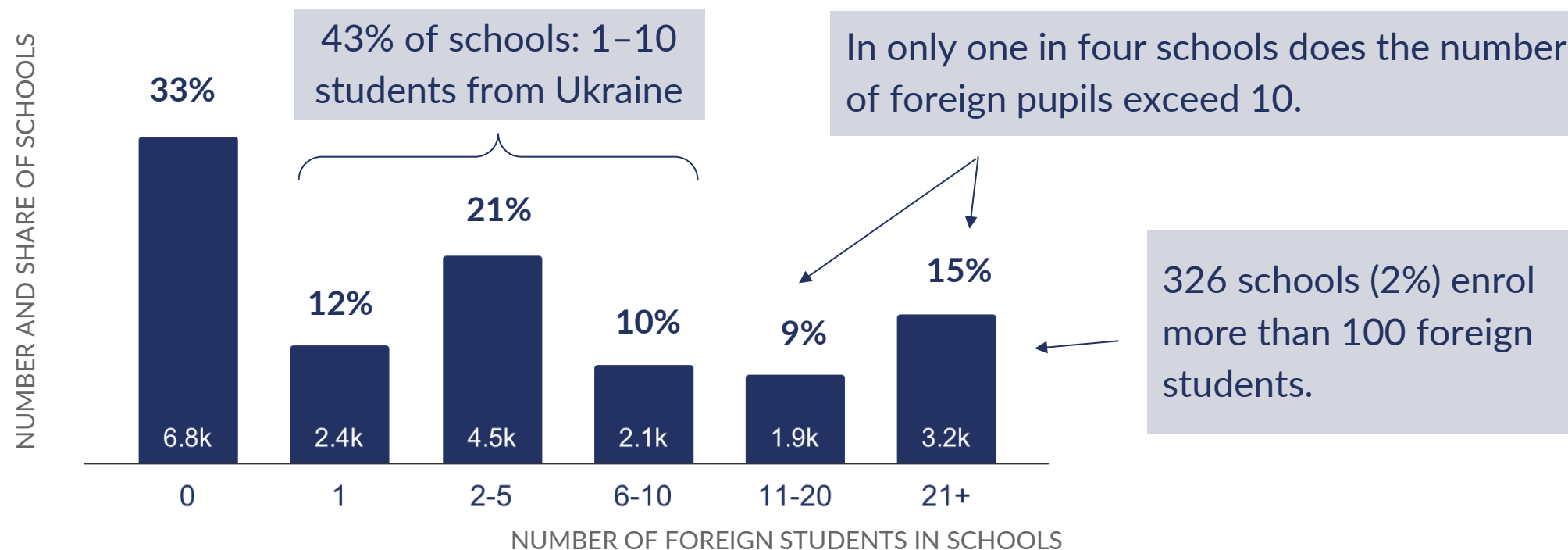
**Over 4 million Polish students
study in schools with foreign students.**



Foreign students are spread across Polish schools

- **in 43% of schools their number does not exceed 10.**

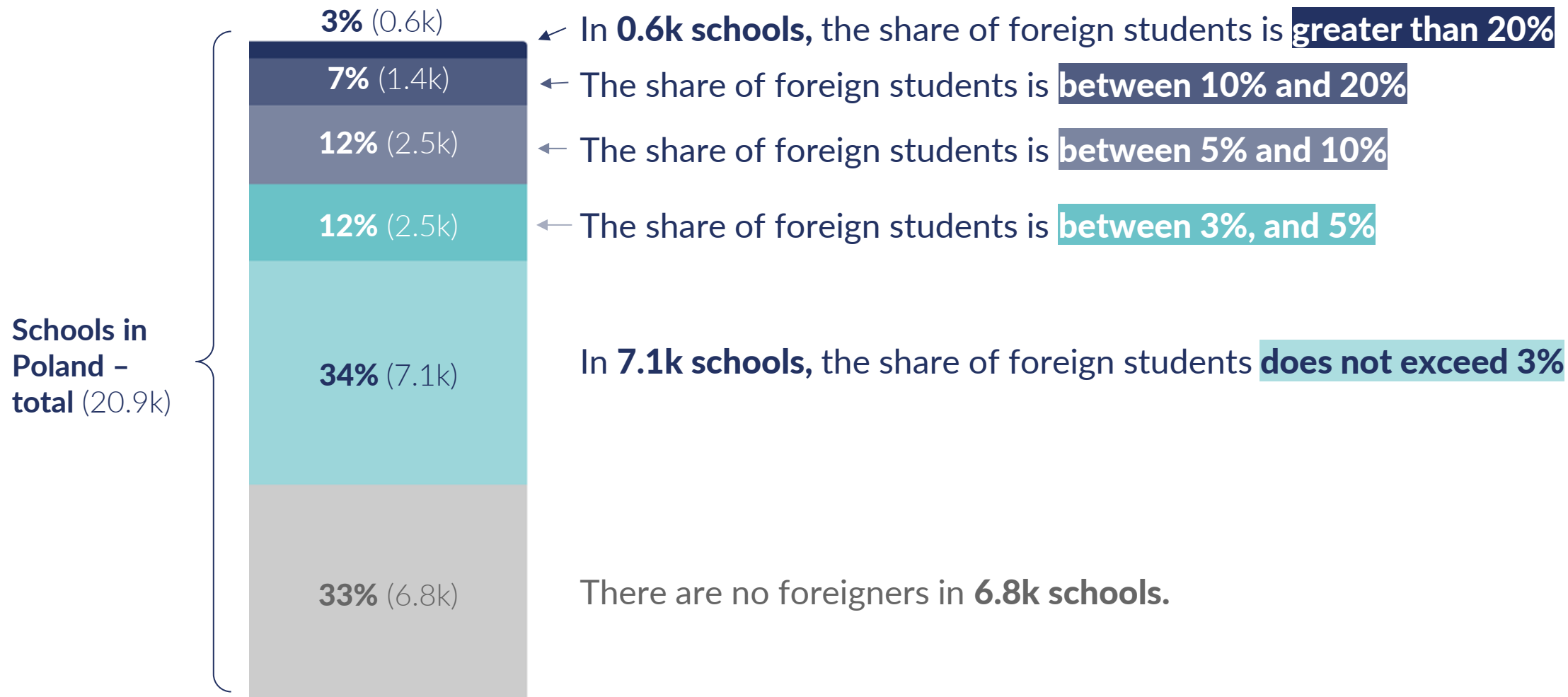
Number and share of schools with a specific number of foreign students



The number and percentage of schools with 51-100 foreign students is 0.9k (4%).

The trend shown in the chart also applies to refugee students from Ukraine: in only 10% of schools do they make up groups of more than 20, and in 8% groups of 11-20. 26

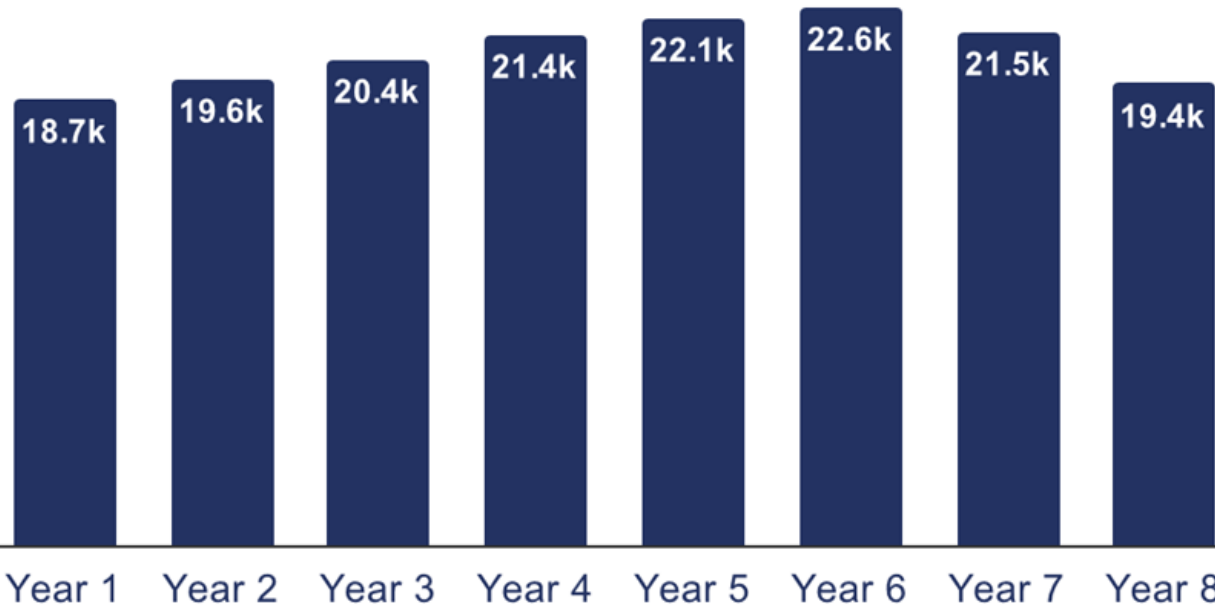
In one in ten schools in Poland, foreign students make up more than 10% of the school community.



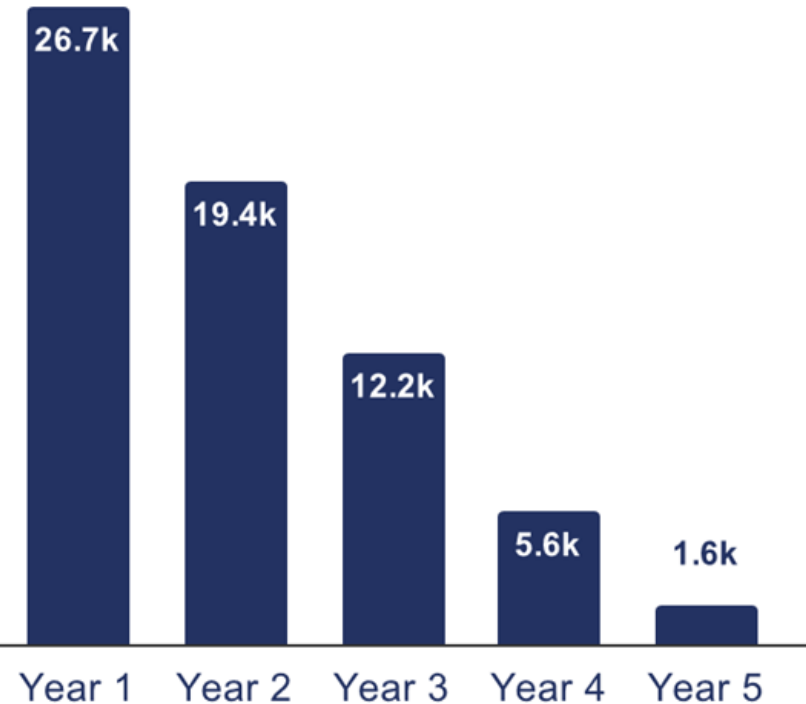
There are significantly fewer foreign students in the upper years of secondary schools than in the first year. This may indicate that many drop out or do not continue their education in subsequent years.

No. of foreign students per grade | Apr. 2025

PRIMARY SCHOOL

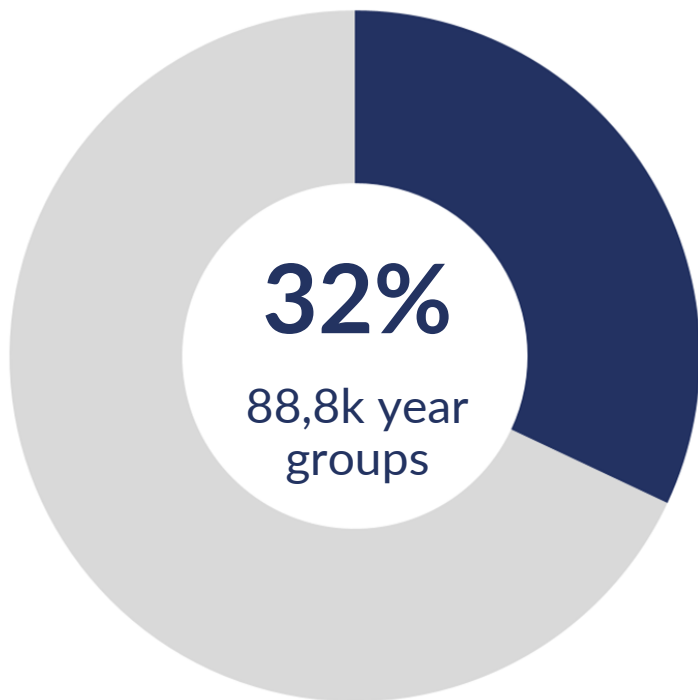


GENERAL SECONDARY, TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS



In one in three year groups in Poland, students learn alongside at least one classmate from Ukraine.*

Share of year groups attended by students from Ukraine | Apr. 2025



Total no. of year groups in schools: 277.5k

Among year groups with students from Ukraine:

- 48% have only 1 student from Ukraine,
- 45% have between 2 and 5 students from Ukraine,
- 5% have 6 or more students from Ukraine,
- there are 695 year groups, where students from Ukraine make up 100% (*see slide 44).

*Data on the number of year groups attended by foreign students was only available for students from Ukraine. | Apr. 2025

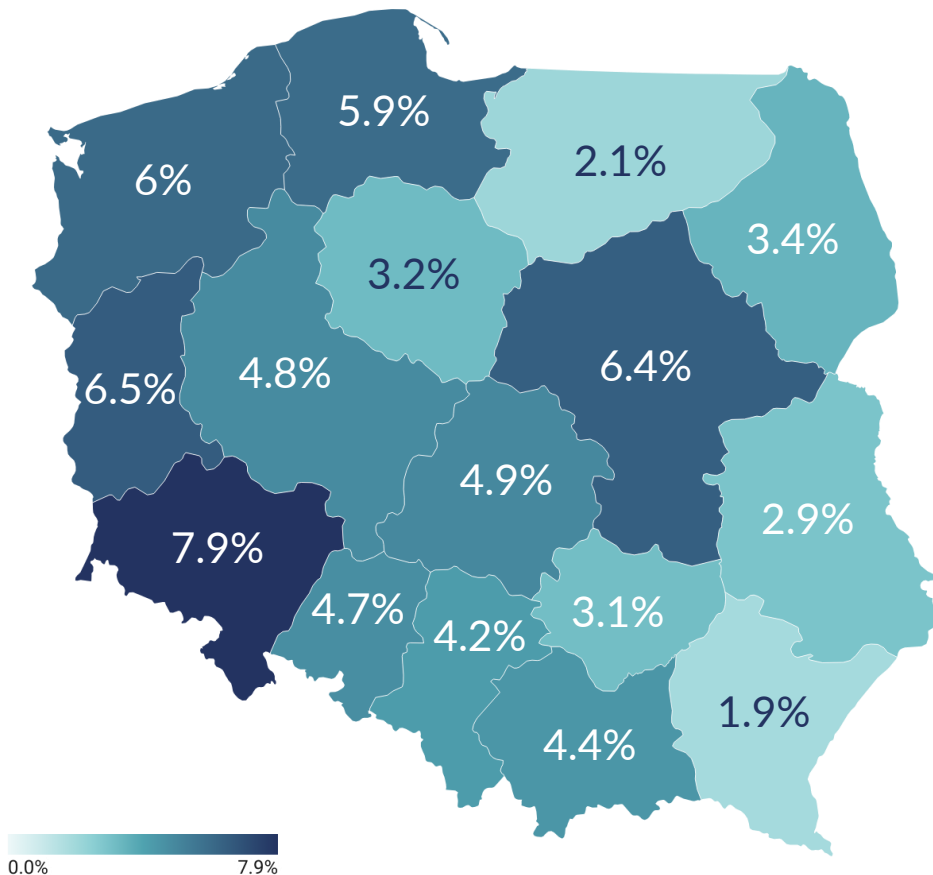
2.3

Regional variation in the presence of foreign students in Polish schools



Foreign students make up the largest share of all students in north-western Poland and Masovia.

Foreign students as a proportion of all students | Apr. 2025



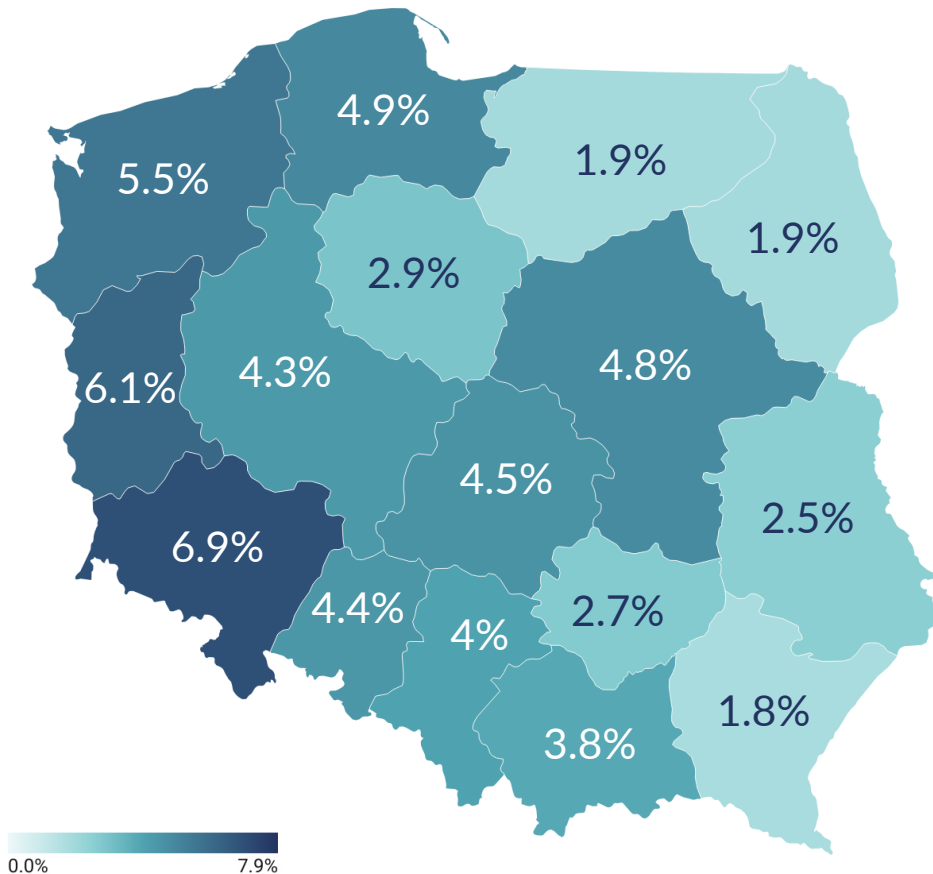
The highest proportions of foreign students are in the following regions:

- Lower Silesia (7.9%),
- Lubusze (6.5%),
- Masovia (6.4%),
- West Pomerania (6%).

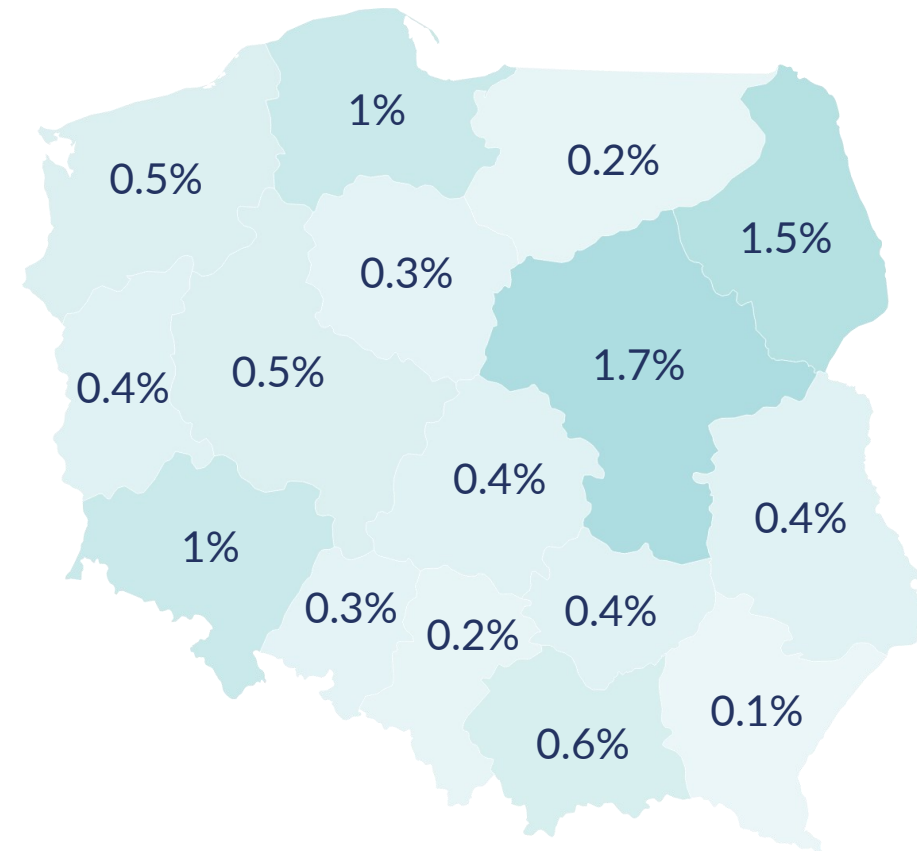
The lowest proportion is in schools in Podkarpackie region (below 2%).

Students from Ukraine make up the largest share of all students in **Lower Silesia and Lubusz regions**, while students from other countries make up the largest share in **Masovia and Podlasie**.

Students from Ukraine as a proportion of all students |
Apr. 2025



Foreign students from other countries
as a proportion of all students | Apr. 2025



Depending on the region, foreign students make up **between 2 and 8% of all students in Polish schools.**

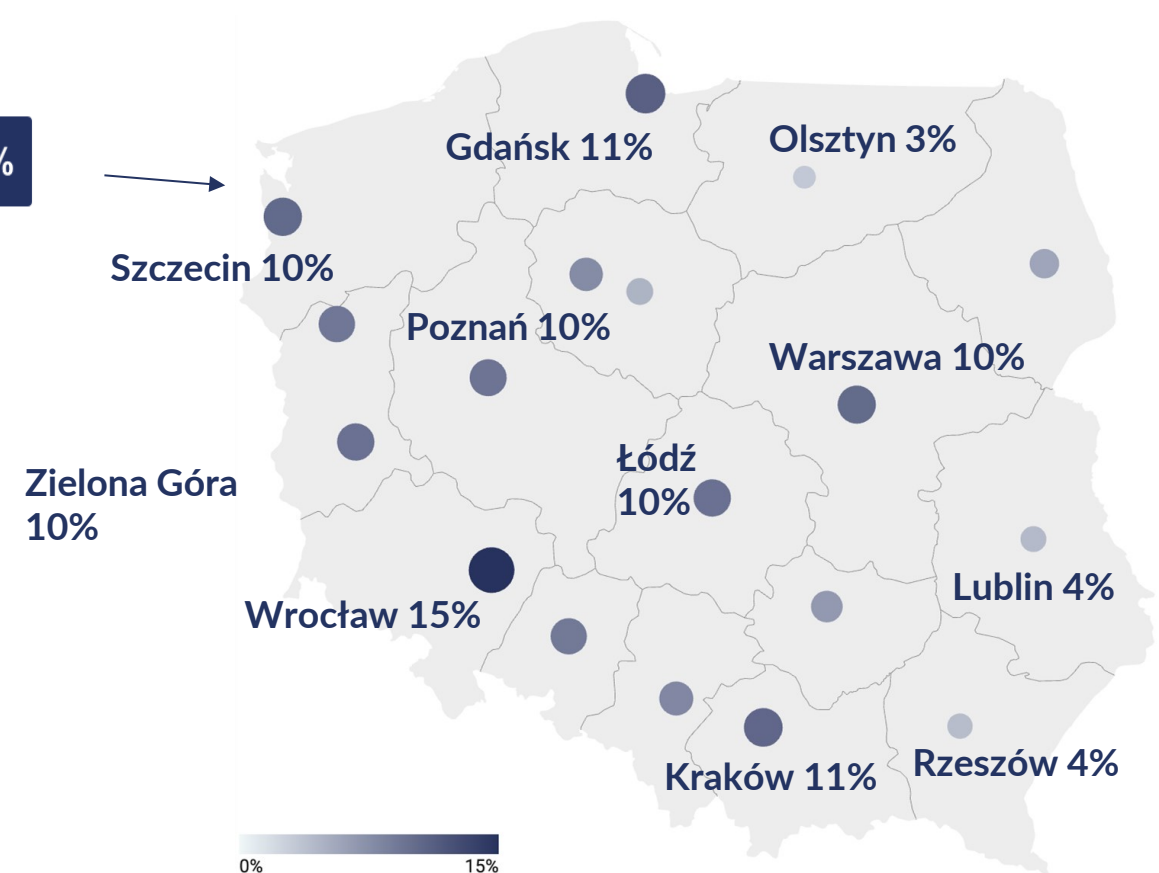
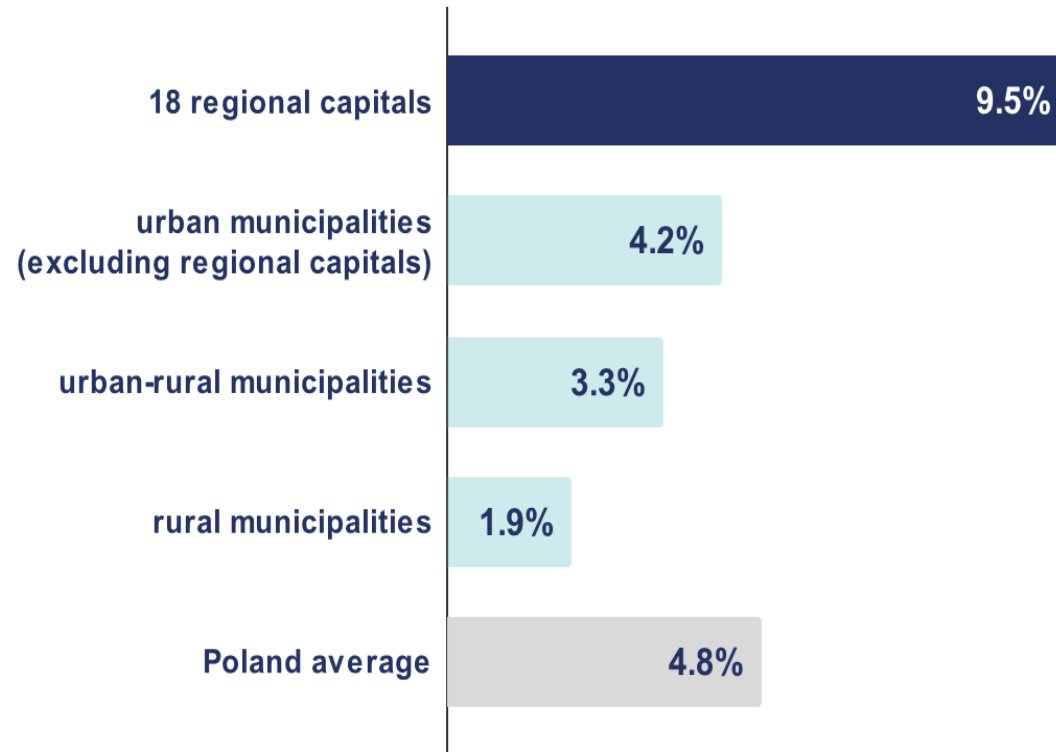
REGION	REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE (% of all students)	MIGRANTS FROM UKRAINE (% of all students)	OTHER FOREIGN STUDENTS (% of all students)
LOWER SILESIA	4.6%	2.2%	1.0%
LUBUSZ	4.4%	1.8%	0.4%
WEST POMERANIA	3.8%	1.7%	0.5%
ŁÓDŹ	3.6%	0.9%	0.4%
OPOLE	3.4%	1.0%	0.3%
POMERANIA	3.5%	1.4%	1.0%
MASOVIA	3.3%	1.5%	1.7%
SILESIA	3.2%	0.8%	0.2%
GREATER POLAND	3.1%	1.2%	0.5%
LESSER POLAND	2.8%	1.0%	0.6%
KUYAVIA-POMERANIA	2.3%	0.6%	0.3%
ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE	2.1%	0.6%	0.4%
LUBLIN	2.0%	0.6%	0.4%
PODLASIE	1.5%	0.3%	1.5%
WARMIA-MASURIA	1.5%	0.4%	0.2%
SUBCARPATHIAN	1.4%	0.4%	0.1%
POLAND	3.0%	1.1%	0.7%

Students from Ukraine (refugees and migrants) make up **between 1.8% and 6.9% of all students.**

Students from other countries account for **between 0.1% and 1.7% of all students.**

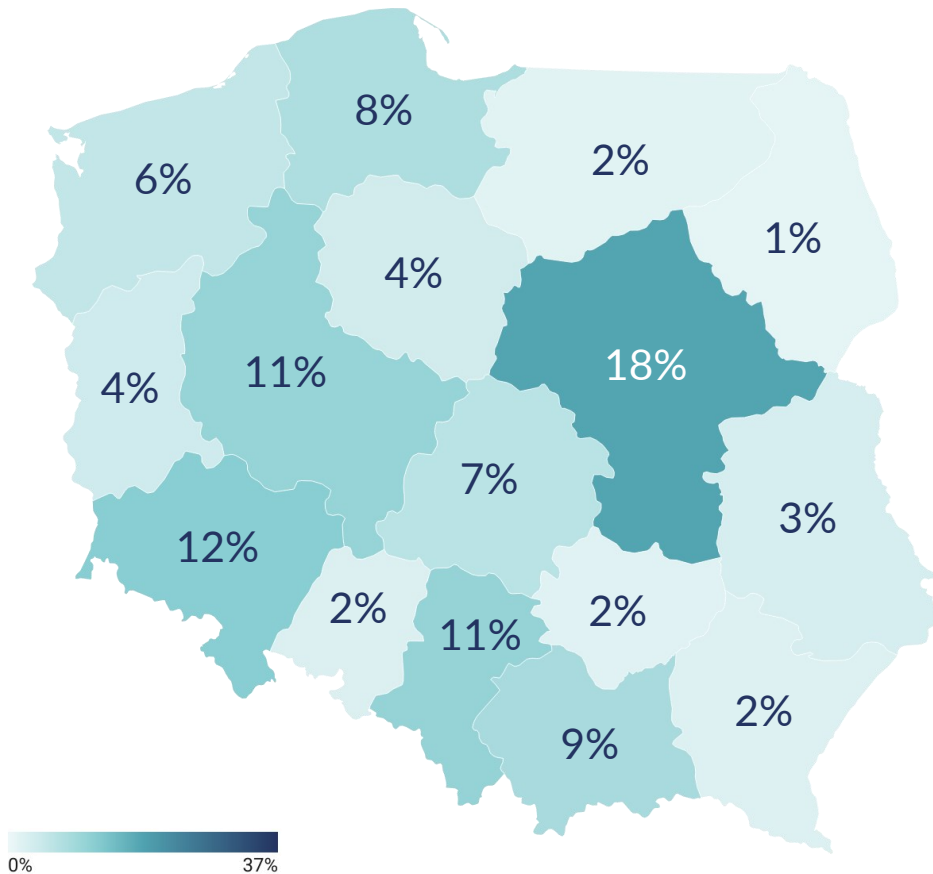
In most regional capitals, the proportion of foreign students is higher than in other cities. It reaches 15% in Wrocław, and 11% in both Kraków and Gdańsk.

Foreign students as a proportion of all students | Apr. 2025

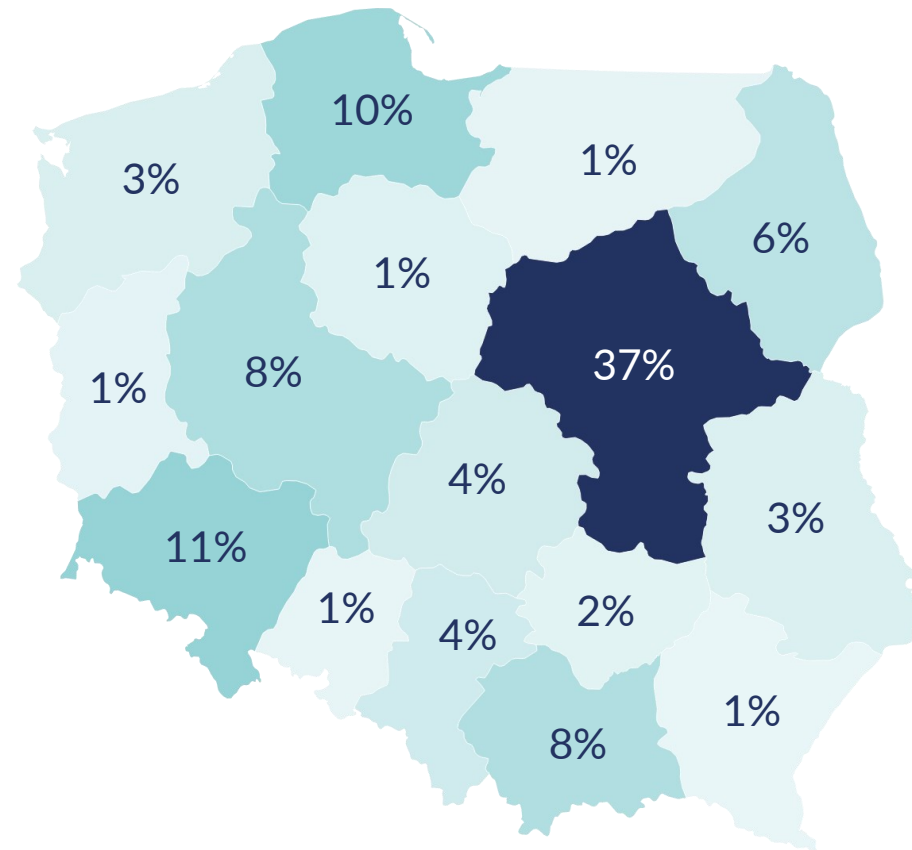


The largest numbers of foreign students, both from Ukraine and from other countries, are in **Masovia** and **Lower Silesia**.

What proportion of **students from Ukraine** are enrolled in the region? | Apr. 2025

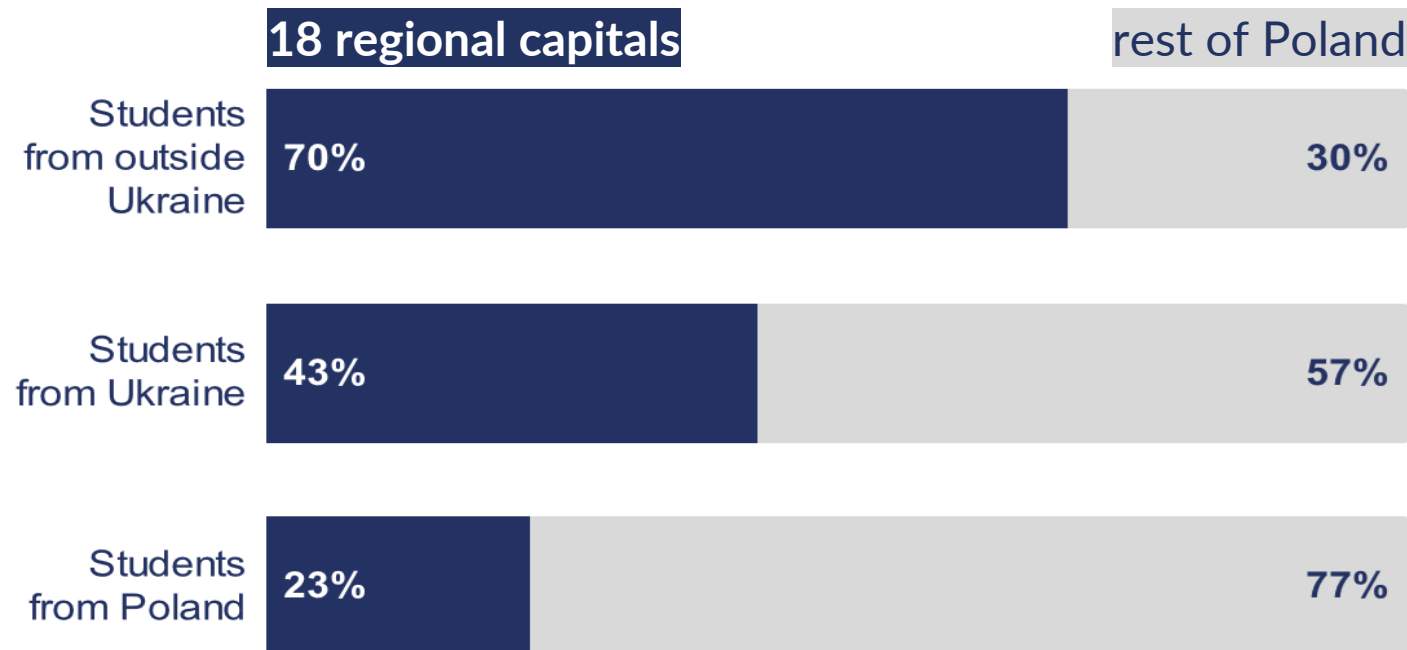


What proportion of **students from other countries** are enrolled in the region? | Apr. 2025



Regional capitals are important centres for foreign students.
They are home to **43% of students from Ukraine** and as many as **70% of students from other countries**.

Geographical distribution of students of different nationalities | Apr. 2024



The presence of foreign students in regional capitals is higher than would be expected from the overall distribution of the student population in Poland.

Regional differences in the presence of foreign students in Polish schools – additional information

- The highest proportion of foreign students among all students is in Lower Silesia, where they make up 8% of the school community.
- This is followed by the Lubusz region, Masovia, West Pomerania, and Pomerania, where foreign students account for between 5.9% and 6.5% of the student body.
- Podlasie is characterised by a high share of students from countries other than Ukraine: 45% of foreign students there come from outside Ukraine (mainly Belarus).
In Masovia, this proportion is 26%, while in other regions it ranges between 5% and 13%.
- The Subcarpathian and Warmian–Masurian regions are characterised by the lowest cultural diversity in schools, with the lowest proportions of students from both Ukraine and other countries.
- Foreign students are mainly concentrated in schools in regional capitals and urban municipalities: three quarters of all foreign students, and the same proportion of refugee students from Ukraine, attend schools in urban areas.

2.4

**How many foreign
students are enrolled in
preparatory classes?**



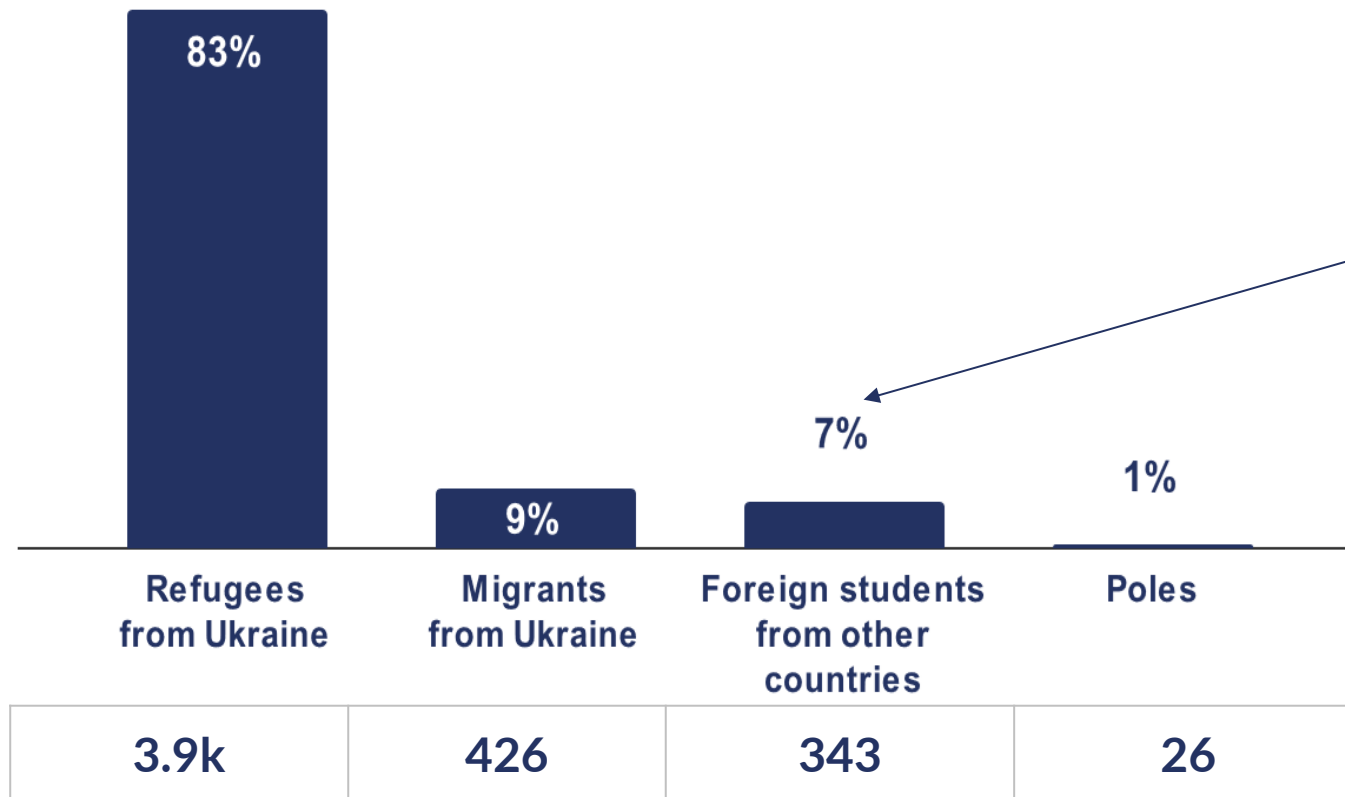


**2% of all foreign students
are enrolled in preparatory
classes.**

For refugee students from
Ukraine, the proportion
is 2.6%, while for students
from other countries
it is 1%.

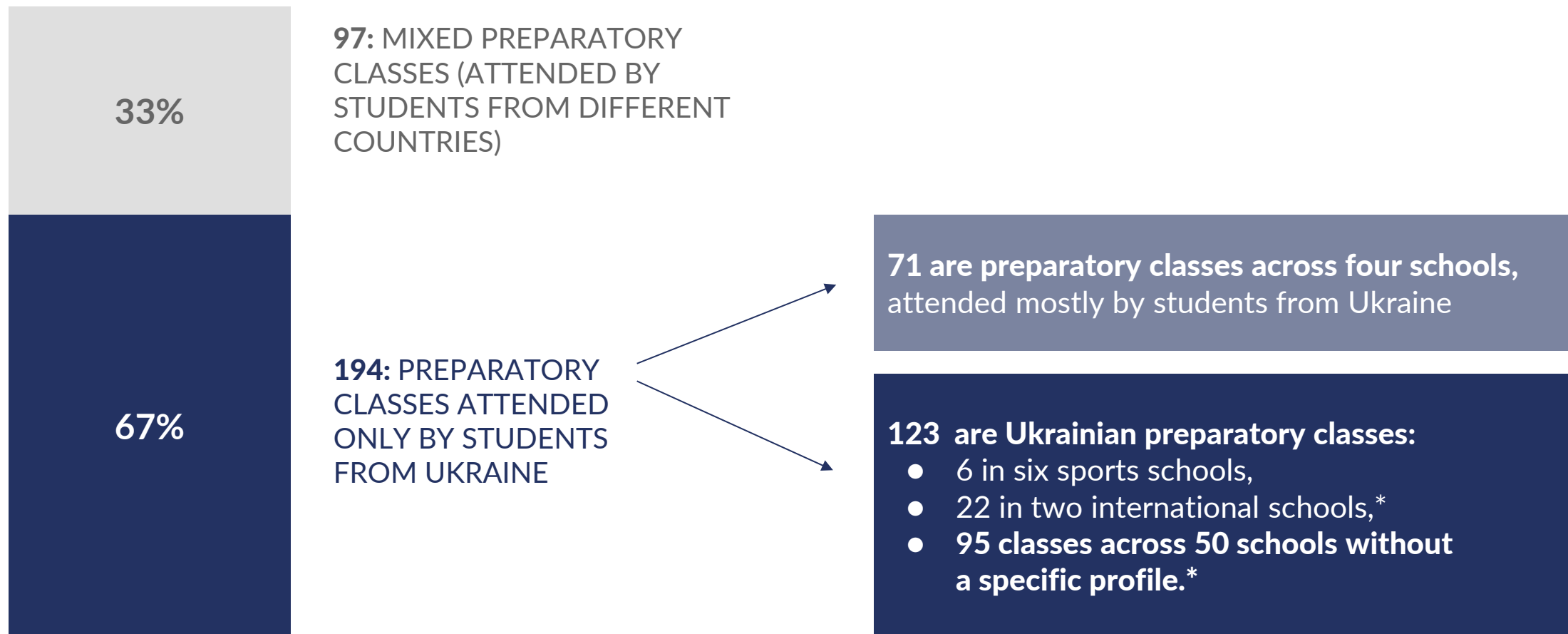
A total of **4,700 students** are enrolled in preparatory classes. Most are **refugees from Ukraine, who make up 83% of all students** in this form of education.

Students of different nationalities as a proportion of all students attending preparatory classes | Apr. 2024



Only 343 (0.9%) foreign students from countries other than Ukraine are enrolled in preparatory classes.

In the 2024/2025 school year, **291 preparatory classes** operated in Polish schools, enrolling **4,700 students**.

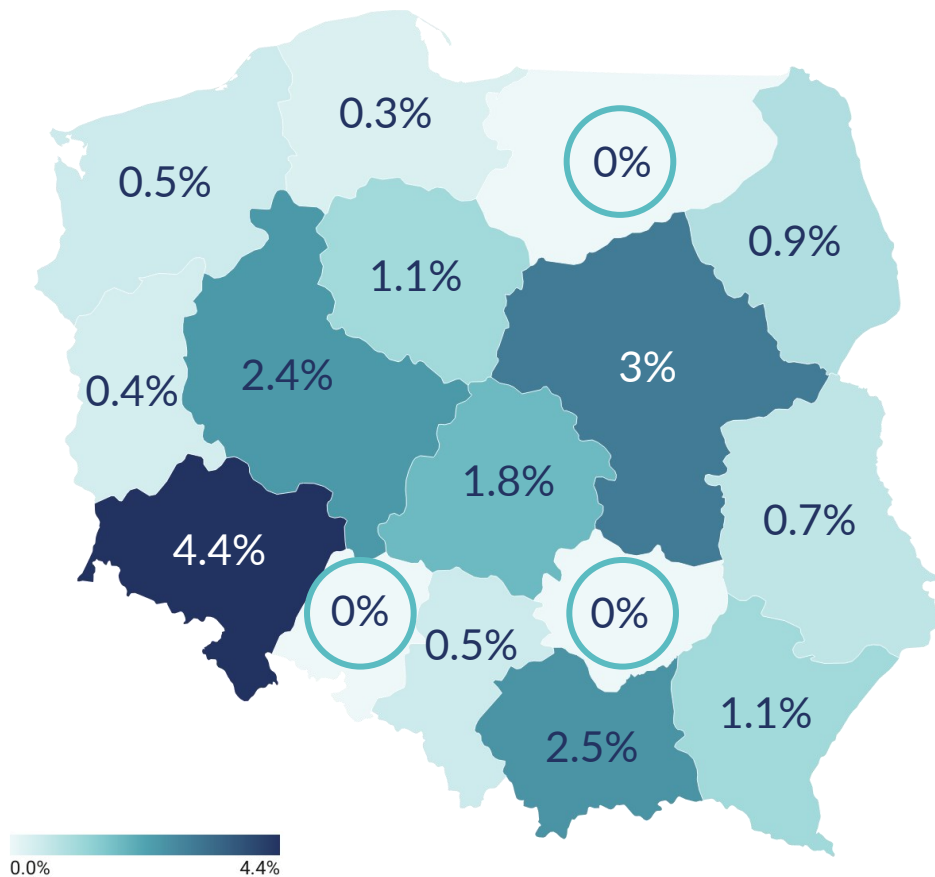


*See slide 62 for definitions.

The functioning of preparatory classes varies geographically.

There are no such classes in three regions.

Proportion of foreign students enrolled in preparatory classes | Apr. 2024

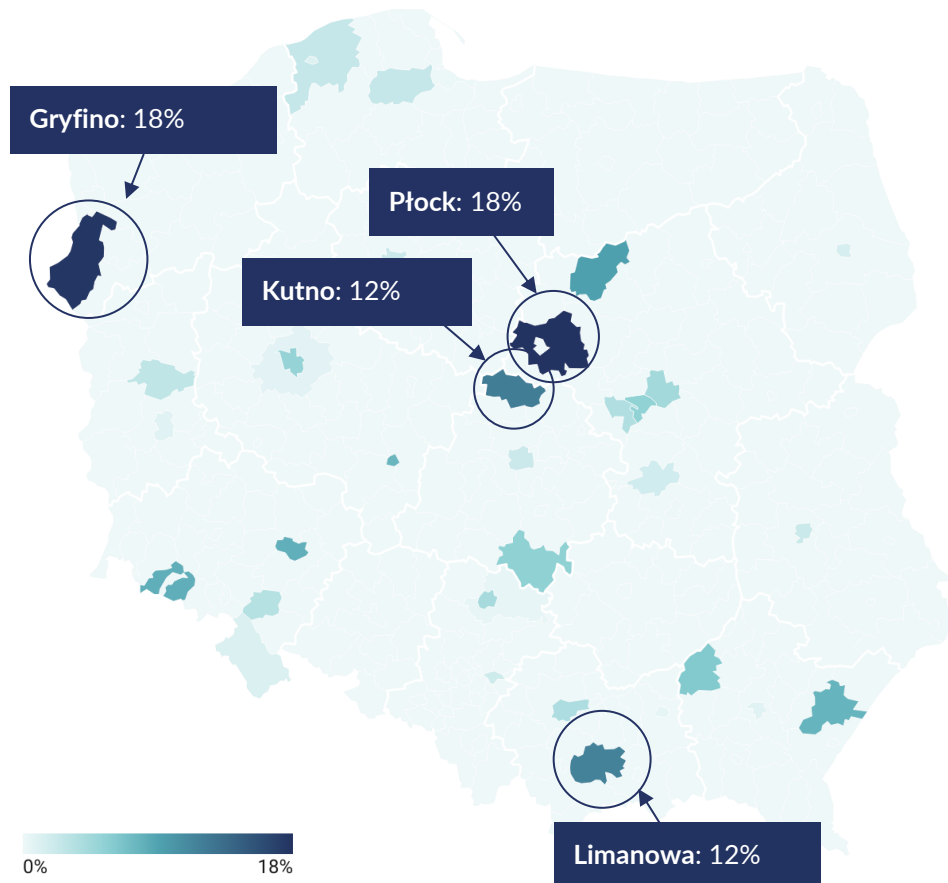


The highest proportions of foreign students enrolled in preparatory classes are in:

- Lower Silesia,
- Masovia,
- and Lesser Poland.

Preparatory classes for foreign students operate in **37 out of 380 districts** in Poland.

Proportion of foreign students enrolled in preparatory classes | Apr. 2024



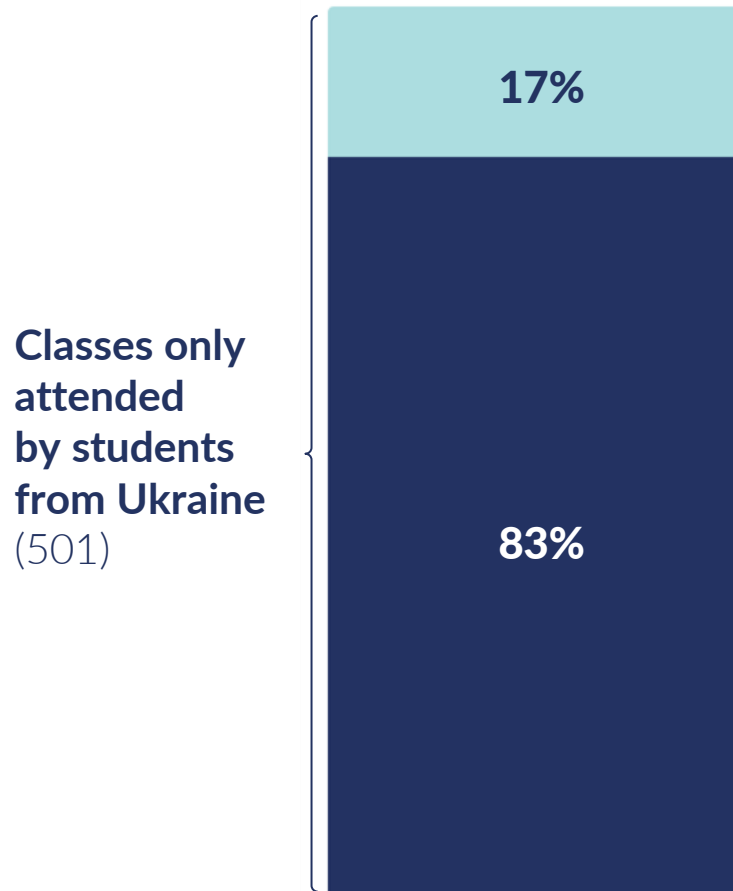
The highest proportions of foreign students in preparatory classes were recorded in the districts of:

- Gryfino and Płock: 18% each,
- Kutno and Limanowa: 12% each.

Most are **refugee students from Ukraine**.

The actual numbers of students in these districts are small (between 24 and 66). The largest numbers of foreign students attend preparatory classes in the capital cities of two regions (Warsaw: 1.3k, Wrocław: 1.2k).

There are 501 classes in Polish schools that are not preparatory classes and are attended only by students from Ukraine.



86 classes in schools for national minorities* and schools mostly attended by students from Ukraine.

415 classes in other schools

- **211 classes** in schools without a specific profile,*
- **178 classes** in special schools,
- **17 classes** in sports schools,
- **9 classes** in international schools.*

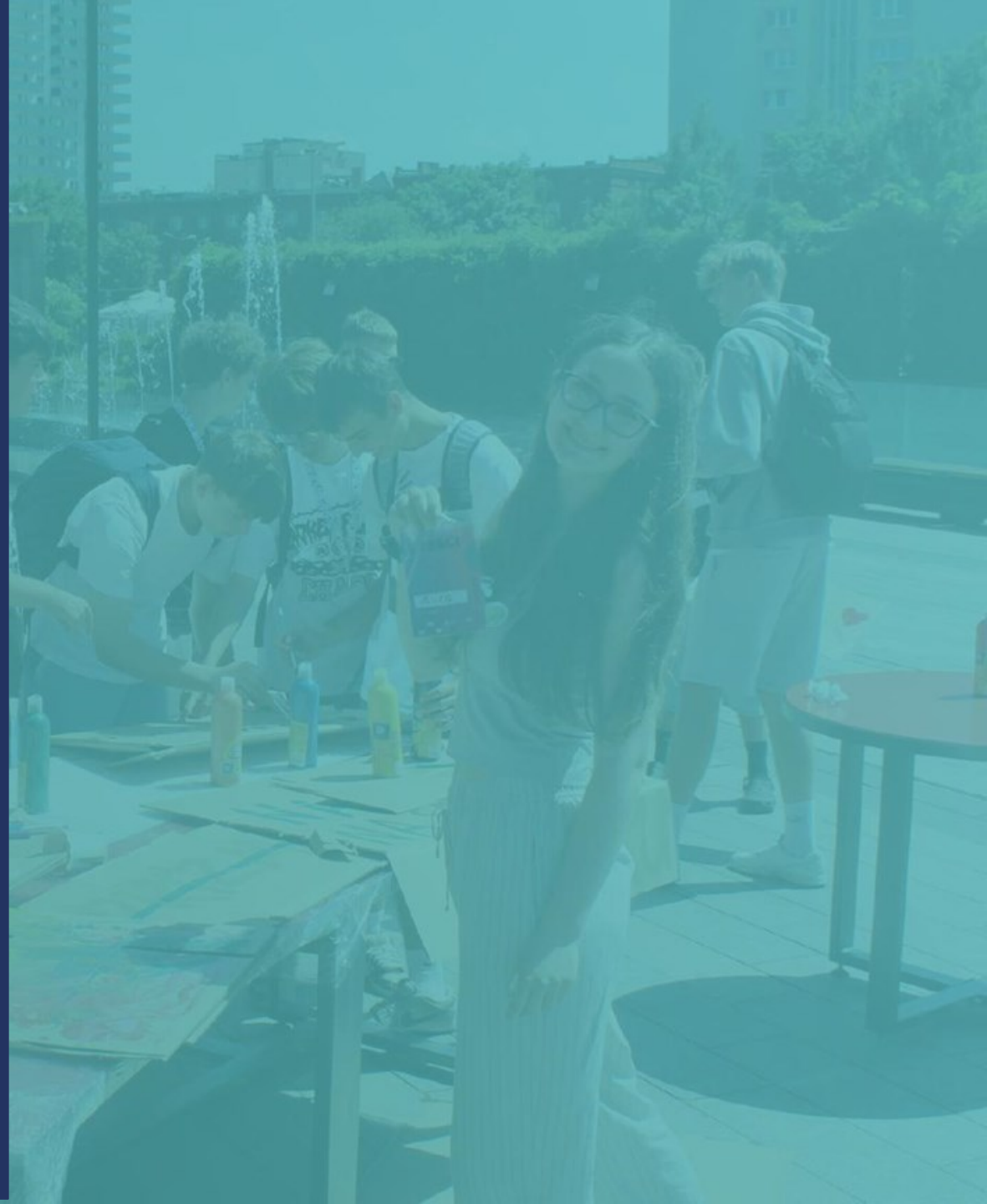
The functioning of such classes carries the risk of segregation mechanisms, i.e., separating Ukrainian students from the rest of the school community.

Considering preparatory classes, there are a total of 695 classes in Polish schools in which only students from Ukraine are taught.

*See slide 62 for definitions.

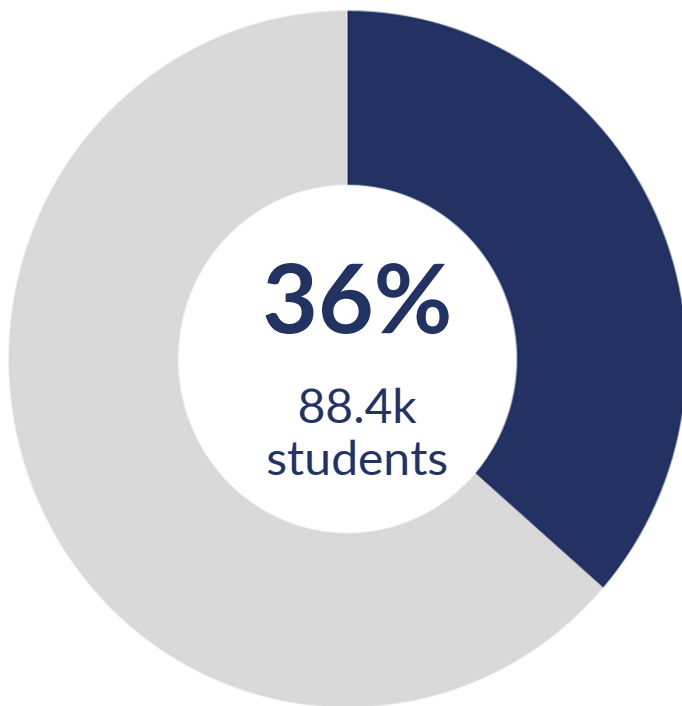
2.5

How many foreign students make use of additional PSL (Polish as a Second Language) classes at school?



Across Poland, over **one-third of foreign students** make use of additional PSL (Polish as a Second Language) classes.

Proportion of foreign students enrolled in additional PSL classes | Apr. 2025



A total of 88,400 foreign students participate in additional PSL classes.

Based on the available SIO data, it is not possible to determine how many of the remaining 64% of foreign students have already completed two years of learning and thus exhausted the limit of this form of support, and how many do not make use of the classes for other reasons.

In addition to foreign students, **4,000 children of Poles returning to the country** also attend additional PSL classes.



Nearly half of refugee students from Ukraine (48%) attend additional, free Polish as a Second Language classes at school.

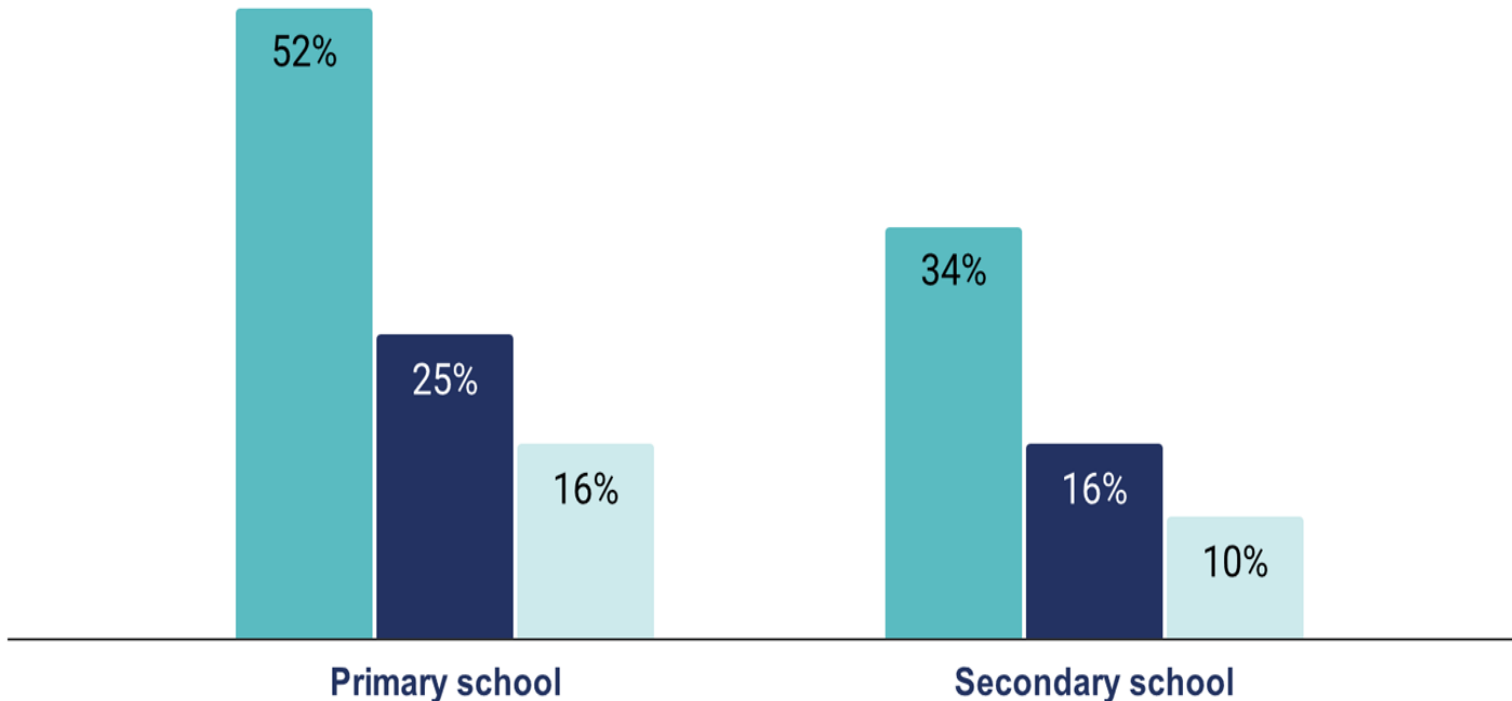
Among **migrant students from Ukraine**, the proportion is 14%.

Among **foreign students from other countries**, it is 23%.

In primary schools, the proportion of foreign students from Ukraine and other countries enrolled in additional PSL classes is **higher than in secondary schools.**

Proportion of students enrolled in additional PSL classes | Apr. 2024

refugees from Ukraine | foreigners from outside Ukraine | migrants from Ukraine



For the entire population of foreign students, the proportions are:
→ 41% in primary school,
→ 24% in secondary school.

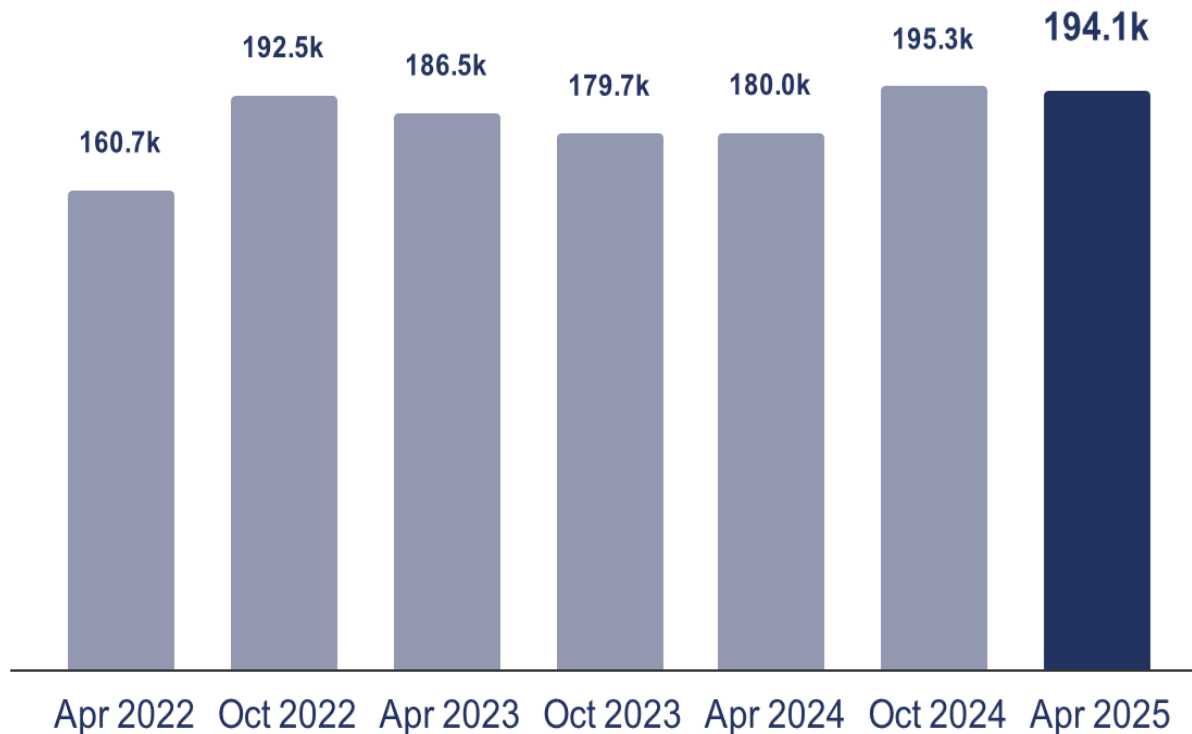


3. SCHOOL-AGE REFUGEE STUDENTS FROM UKRAINE

one year after the introduction of compulsory schooling

In April 2025, **194,100 refugees from Ukraine** were registered in the Education Information System (SIO) as attending various educational institutions – kindergartens and schools, including adult schools.

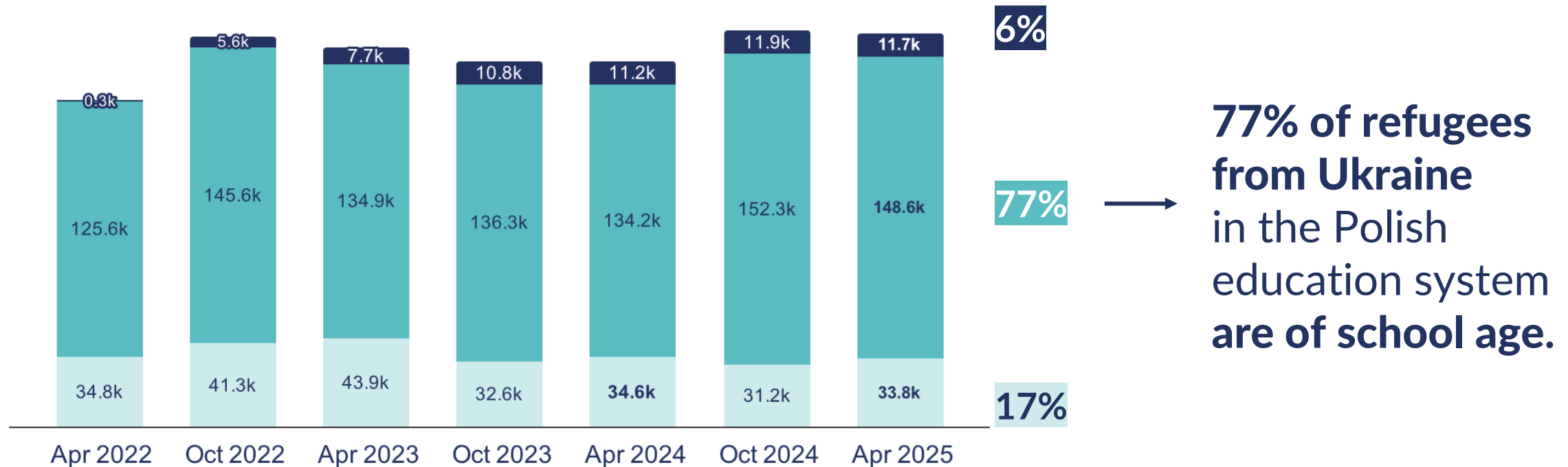
Refugees from Ukraine enrolled in kindergartens and schools
(including schools for adults)



In April 2025, there were over 14,000 more refugees from Ukraine in Polish educational institutions than a year earlier (April 2024).

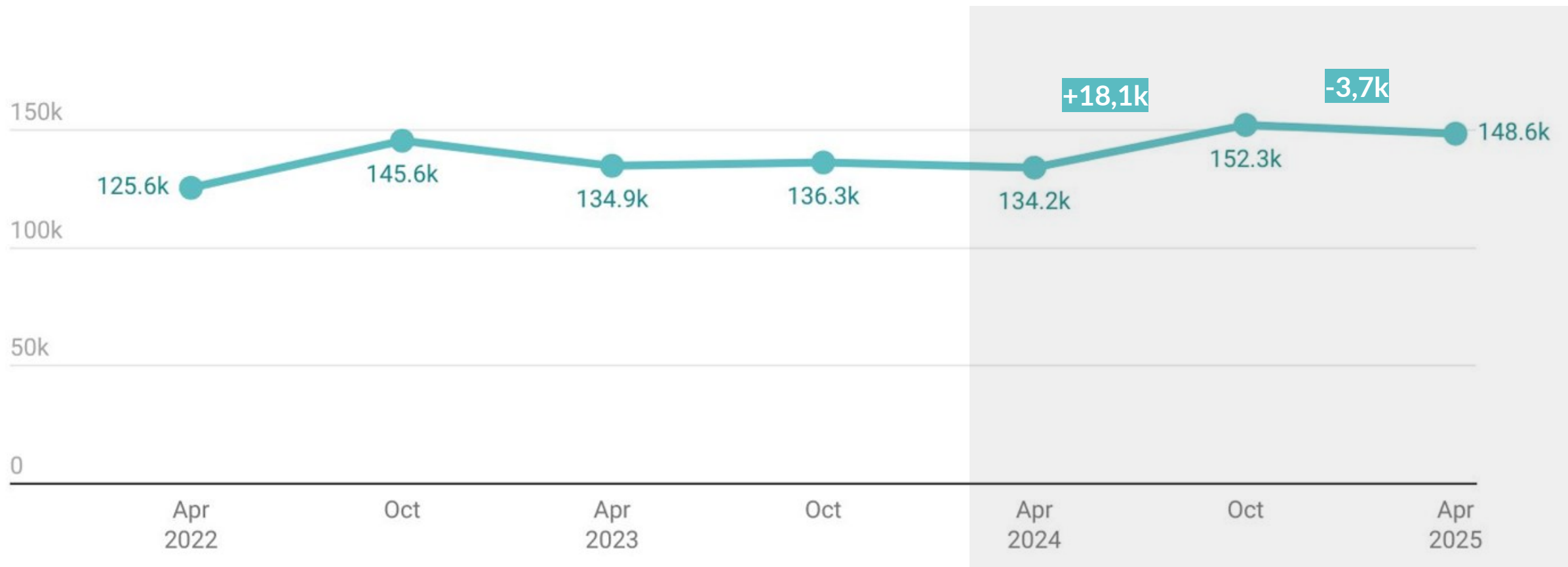
Of the 194,000 refugees from Ukraine registered in Polish educational institutions, **148,600 were of school age.**

Preschoolers | School students | Adult education learners



The introduction of compulsory schooling on 1 September 2024 led to an **increase of 18,100 refugee students from Ukraine in schools**. In the following six months, this number fell by 3,700.

The number of **school-age refugee students from Ukraine** registered in Polish schools





In addition to **149,000 refugee students** from Ukraine, Polish schools are attended by approximately **54,000 migrant students** from Ukraine, who arrived before the escalation of the war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

In total, around 203,000 students from Ukraine are currently enrolled in Polish schools.

Refugee students from Ukraine make up
3% of all students in Polish schools.

Together with migrant students from Ukraine, they account for **4.1% of all students**.





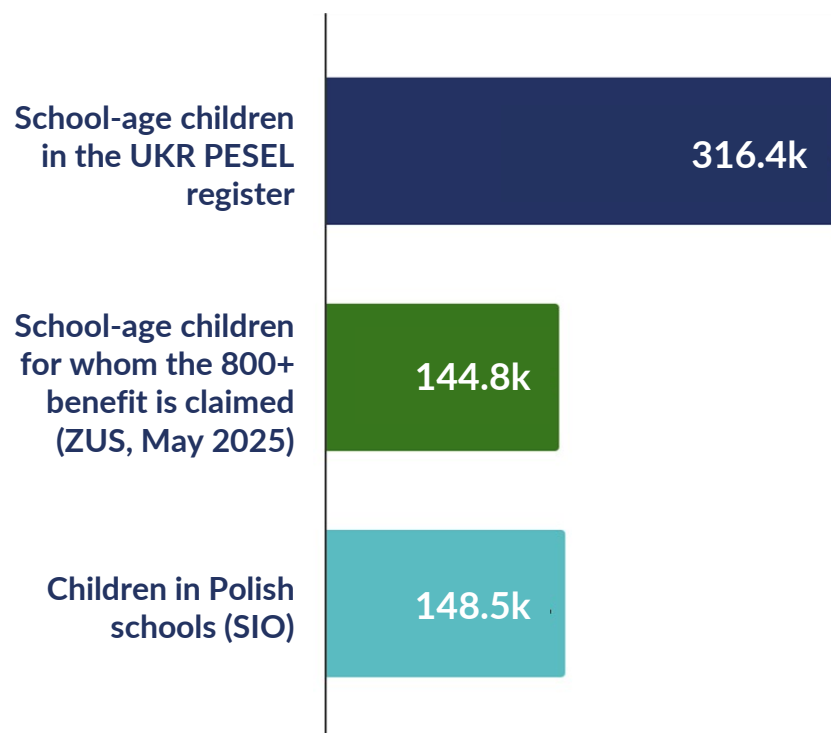
Although **refugee students from Ukraine** make up 3% of all students nationwide, in regional capitals they account for an average of over 5%.

The highest proportions are recorded in:

- Wrocław – 8%,
- Zielona Góra and Łódź – 7% each,
- Gorzów Wielkopolski, Katowice, Kraków, Opole and Szczecin – 6% each.

What conclusions can be drawn from the available databases on the situation of school-age refugees from Ukraine in Poland?

Number of school-age refugees from Ukraine in official Polish registers | Apr. 2025



Data concerning school-age refugees from Ukraine collected in the PESEL UKR, ZUS and SIO registers is inconsistent:

- According to PESEL UKR, there are 316.4 thousand school-age refugees from Ukraine in Poland.
- According to ZUS, in May 2025 the 800+ benefit was paid to 144.8 thousand refugee children of school age. It is unlikely that nearly 172 thousand eligible children in Poland would not have had this benefit claimed on their behalf.
- Meanwhile, according to SIO, there are 148.5 thousand refugee children from Ukraine enrolled in schools.

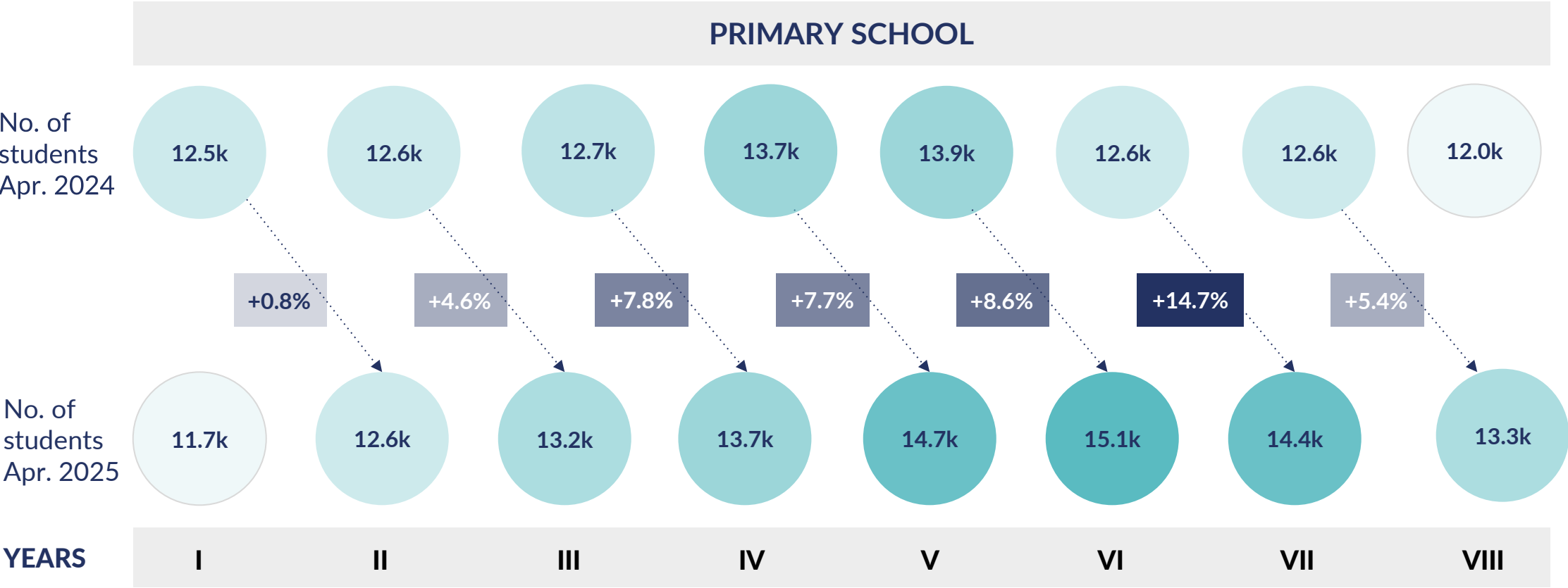
The PESEL UKR database is likely to be overestimated, as refugees leaving Poland for other Schengen countries are not automatically deregistered.

The convergence of ZUS and SIO data suggests that:

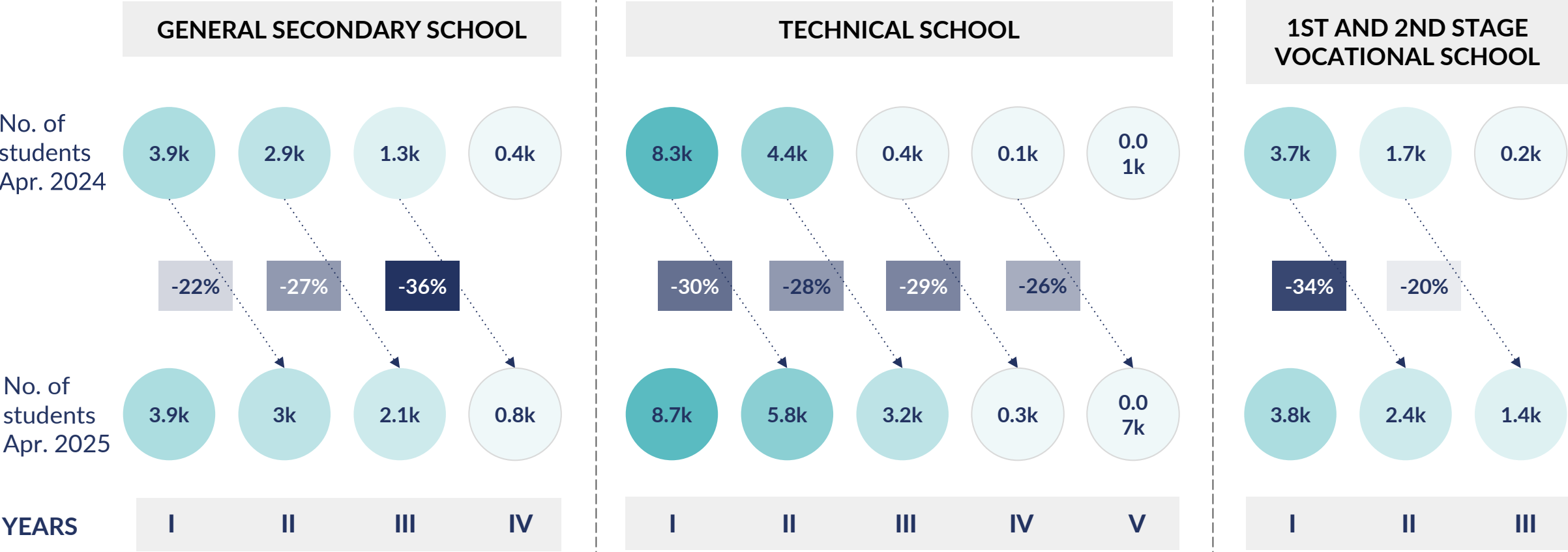
- there are currently around 150 thousand school-age refugee children from Ukraine living in Poland,
- almost all children in this group who live in the country are fulfilling their compulsory schooling,
- almost all children for whom the 800+ benefit is paid attend Polish schools.

However, these conclusions cannot be confirmed unequivocally, as the SIO, ZUS, and PESEL databases are not integrated.

Following the introduction of compulsory schooling, **more refugee students from Ukraine** are attending all years of primary school. **The increase is greater in the upper years than in the early years.**

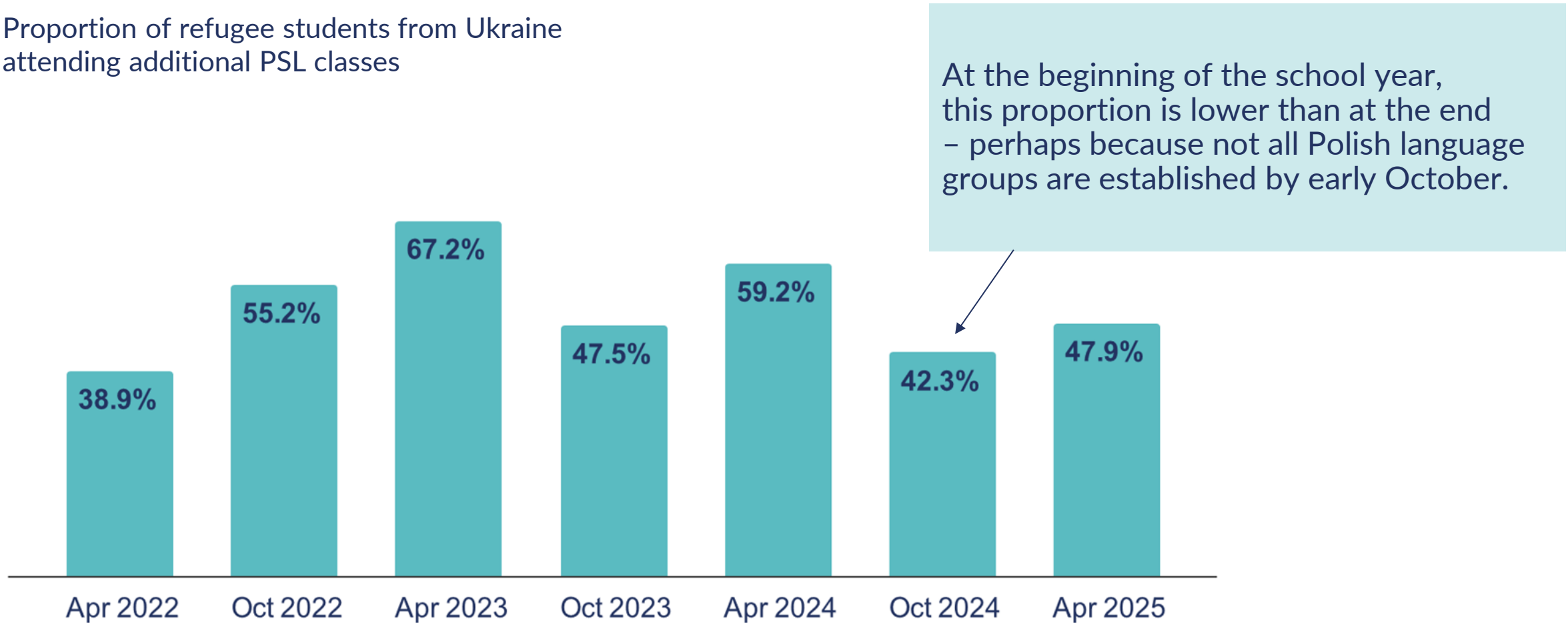


Although the number of refugee students from Ukraine in secondary schools has increased year on year, the data show that **many do not continue their education** – particularly between the third and fourth years of secondary school, and after the first year of technical and vocational schools.



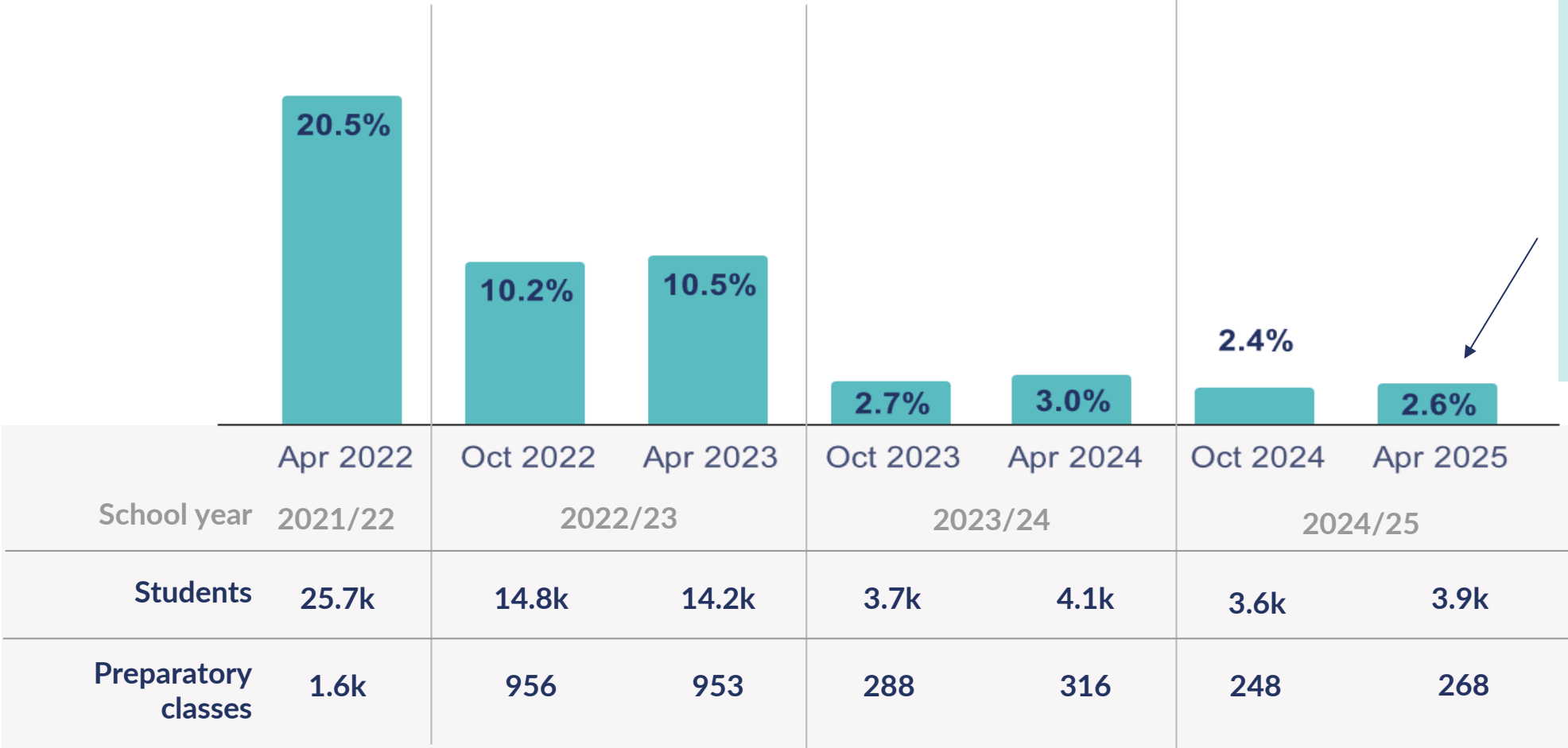
As of April 2025, around **48% of refugee students from Ukraine** were enrolled in additional PSL (Polish as a Second Language) classes. This proportion is decreasing year by year.

Proportion of refugee students from Ukraine attending additional PSL classes



Over the last two school years (2023/2024 and 2024/2025), the **proportion of refugee students from Ukraine attending preparatory classes has remained at a similar level**. In April 2025, **2.6% of refugee students from Ukraine** were enrolled in this form of education.

Proportion of **refugee students** from Ukraine attending preparatory classes



Over the last three years, the number of students in preparatory classes has fallen by 85%.

A group of people, mostly young adults, are sitting in a circle on a grassy area outdoors. They are engaged in a collaborative activity, with some holding papers and others gesturing. The background shows trees and a clear sky. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

4. Explanations, definitions, and data sources

Definitions: schools

Schools – public and non-public schools, excluding preschools, schools for adults, post-secondary schools.

Primary schools – primary schools excluding preschool education sections (so-called year zero):

- general primary schools,
- eight-year 1st stage music school with general education,
- eight-year Poznań Choir School.

Secondary schools:

- four-year general secondary school,
- five-year technical school,
- three-year 1st stage vocational school,
- two-year 2nd stage vocational school,
- other secondary schools:
 - three-year special preparatory school for work,
 - four-year Bednarska Szkoła Realna,
 - art schools with general education:
 - five-year secondary art school,
 - nine-year ballet school with general education,
 - six-year 2nd stage music school with general education.

Definitions: schools

International schools – schools with international sections that follow the curriculum of another country (e.g., the UK), alongside the minimum scope of the Polish core curriculum (history, geography, Polish language and literature). Polish is not the language of instruction.

Both terms are conventional; they do not exist in Polish education law. They have been adopted for the purposes of this report as they describe forms of teaching and student communities that differ significantly from typical schools in Poland, particularly in terms of cultural diversity.

Schools for national minorities – schools operating in accordance with education law as institutions for national or ethnic minorities, or for communities using a regional language. They follow the Polish core curriculum, with the option of teaching in a minority language (schools with minority language instruction) or additionally in the minority language (schools with an additional minority language).

Schools without a specific profile – a term used in this report to refer to all schools in Poland (public and non-public) that do not have the status of sports, special, international, or national minority schools.

Data sources

Ministry of National Education – Education Information System (SIO)

Data obtained directly from the Ministry of Education by the Team for the Educational Integration of Children Who Are Citizens of Ukraine. The dataset covers all educational institutions registered in the SIO system as of 21 April 2025 and includes:

- the total number of students in each school by nationality (students from Ukraine are additionally classified into those with and without a PESEL UKR number),
- the number of classes made up entirely of Ukrainian students,
- the number of preparatory classes and the Ukrainian students attending them,
- the number of foreign students participating in free Polish as a Second Language classes,
- the distribution of students across classes (broken down by Polish, Ukrainian, and other nationalities).

Open Data – dane.gov.pl:

the number of refugee students from Ukraine in Polish schools by school type, class, region and the number of refugee students from Ukraine enrolled in additional Polish as a Second Language classes.

Data in the following sets:

- [Refugee students from Ukraine](#) – data for 2022–2025:
 - refugee students from Ukraine by school type, class and district,
 - refugee students from Ukraine – free PSL classes by school type and district.

Data sources

Ministry of Digital Affairs

Open Data – dane.gov.pl:

[Statistical data concerning applications to grant UKR foreigner status in connection with the conflict in Ukraine](#) – database of applications for PESEL number with UKR status – [data as of 7 Apr. 2025](#).

Social Insurance Institution (ZUS)

Overview **"Number of children with UKR status with Ukrainian citizenship for whom the Social Insurance Institution paid childrearing benefit by age and province in May 2025"** provided to the Centre for Citizenship Education in response to a request for access to public information.

NOTE: Due to rounding to one decimal place, some totals in the report may not correspond to the sum of individual values.

Database of applications for PESEL number with UKR status

The database contains records of persons who applied for a PESEL number with UKR status, i.e., those who arrived in Poland from Ukraine after 24 February 2022 due to the escalation of the war in Ukraine.

Persons who leave the territory of the Republic of Poland for more than 30 days lose their UKR status and are deregistered from the database. In practice, however, those who leave Poland for more than 30 days via the internal border of the Schengen Area and do not notify the competent authorities, remain registered. As a result, the database may overestimate the actual number of persons residing in the territory of the Republic of Poland.

For the analysis of the 2024/25 school year, data was used on applications from Ukrainian nationals and citizens born between 2006 and 2017, on the assumption that they were of school age.





Centre for Citizenship Education (CEO)

Noakowskiego 10/1
00-666 Warsaw

ceo.org.pl

Contact:

ceo@ceo.org.pl

All images and photographs in this publication are intended solely for informational and illustrative purposes and may only be used in the context of this report..



International Rescue Committee (IRC) Poland Foundation

Młynarska 8/12
01-194 Warsaw

rescue.org/country/poland

Contact:

contact.poland@rescue.org

Authors of the study:

Elżbieta Świdrowska, Klaudia Stano

CEO editorial board:

Jędrzej Witkowski – President of the Board

Irka Jazukiewicz – Project Coordinator

IRC editorial board:

Karolina Ufa - Senior Education Manager

Maciej Król – Protection and Safeguarding Coordinator

Ewa Weronika Kasiarz – Child Protection Manager

Photographs: J. Godlewski and CEO resources

Charts made using Datawrapper and Google Sheets

Icons: flaticon.com