

EDUCATION IN POLAND AND UKRAINE: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Individual and national growth of the countries are both influenced by education. The education systems of the countries differ in terms of organization, curriculum, and assessment techniques. The purpose of this research is to present an overview of education in Poland and Ukraine, noting similarities and contrasts. Poland and Ukraine are two adjacent nations located in Central and Eastern Europe. They have always had cultural and political links that have affected their educational institutions. According to the World Bank, Poland and Ukraine have made considerable strides in increasing access to education and enhancing the quality of their educational institutions [1; 2]. This research will explore both nations' education systems in depth, identifying parallels and contrasts.

All Poles are entitled to free education up to the age of 18 thanks to Polish sophisticated educational system. Primary education, which is required and lasts for six years, lower secondary education, which is also required and lasts for three years, and upper secondary education, which is optional and lasts for three years, make up the three levels of the educational system. Students can continue their education in universities or vocational schools after completing upper secondary education.

Polish schools offer a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, and art. The curriculum is standardized across the country, and schools are required to follow it. Students are assessed through a combination of exams, tests, and projects. The grading system in Polish schools is based on a scale of 1-6, where 1 is the lowest grade and 6 is the highest grade [3].

In recent years, Poland has enacted many modifications to its education system. The introduction of the New Matura Exam in 2005 was one of the biggest developments. This test was created to be more thorough and standardized than the previous high school exit exam [4]. Poland has also made investments in updating its educational facilities and giving pupils access to technology and online resources.

Ukraine has a highly centralized education system that is structured into three levels: primary education, which is compulsory and lasts for four years; basic secondary education, which is also compulsory and lasts for five years; and upper secondary education, which is not compulsory and lasts for two or three years.

Ukrainian schools offer a broad range of subjects, including mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, and art. The curriculum is standardized across the country, and schools are required to follow it. Ukrainian schools use a 12-point grading scale, where 12 is the highest grade and 1 is the lowest [5].

Ukraine has undergone significant changes in its education system since its independence in 1991. In 2018, Ukraine adopted a new law on education, which aimed to reform the education system and align it with European standards. The law introduced changes such as reducing the number of compulsory subjects, increasing the role of vocational education, and promoting multilingual education [6]. Additionally, Ukraine has been investing in modernizing its schools and promoting digital literacy.

While both Poland and Ukraine have well-established education systems, there are some notable differences between them. One of the key differences is the structure of the education system. Poland has a three-level system, while Ukraine has a four-level system. Ukraine also has a longer period of compulsory education, with four years of primary education and five years of basic secondary education, compared to Poland's six years of primary education and three years of lower secondary education.

Additionally, Poland and Ukraine have different approaches to language education. In Poland, Polish is the primary language of instruction, but foreign language education is emphasized, and students typically learn at least one second language, such as English or German. In Ukraine, Ukrainian is the primary language of instruction. However, the new law on education introduced in 2018 promotes multilingual education and encourages the study of other languages [6].

In conclusion, while Poland and Ukraine have some similarities in their education systems, there are also notable differences. Poland's education system is highly regarded and has been successful in providing high-quality education to its students. Poland's focus on foreign language education, emphasis on academic education, and strong vocational education programs are some of the key factors contributing to its success.

Overall, both Poland and Ukraine have made strides towards improving their education systems, but there is still room for improvement. By continuing to invest in education and prioritizing student learning, both countries can ensure that their students are prepared for the challenges of the future.

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