



Program  
Uczenie się  
przez całe życie

**The educational system for health  
care professionals (nurses) and  
social services in the field of  
geriatrics and long-term care in  
Poland.**

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# Why do we need to educate specialists in geriatrics and gerontology?

- - According to demographic forecasts, more than a billion people will be over 60 years old by 2020. This will be almost one sixth of the population around the world.
- - Old age approaches a man on two dimensions: **by weakening the body's physiological condition and weakening psychological interests.**





# The situation in Poland

- - Currently in Poland, people aged 65 years and older account for approximately 14-15% of the population.
- - According to the forecasts of the CSO, in 2030, people aged 65 years and older will constitute 23.8% of the Polish population (8.5 million people).
- - Health problems of elderly people increase the demand for treatment, care, and rehabilitation services.



# The educational system for nurses.





# Changing the educational system.

- - In the mid-90s, in connection with the planned Polish accession to the EU, the educational system in the professions of a nurse and a midwife was changed in order to adjust the Polish law to the directives of the Council of the European Union. The changes in training courses for nurses and midwives were introduced in the Act of 5th July 1996 on the professions of a nurse and a midwife.



## ■ **The situation in Poland**

- Poland, as one of the four countries of Central and Eastern Europe, educated nurses in high schools until the beginning of the 90's.
- - The educational system for nurses in Poland was changed and adapted to the requirements of the European Union in 2000.
- - Since then, training courses in this field have been taking place at universities and vocational colleges (public and private)



**The training system for nurses is subject to different legal regulations.**

- - Regulations based upon the specific nature of the profession (international and state regulations)
- - Regulations resulting from the educational system in force in Europe and Poland.



## The educational system is based on two most important international regulations

- - EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON NURSE TRAINING AND EDUCATION of 25th October 1967 concluded in Strasburg (signed by the Government of the Republic of Poland in December 1995, ratified in March 1996)
- - The WHO strategy for educating nurses and midwives in 1999





## Educational standards for universities: Nursing. First degree studies.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- The first degree studies last no less than six semesters. The number of hours of classes and practices should not be less than 4815. The number of ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points should not be less than 180.



## SECOND DEGREE STUDIES.

- The second degree studies last no less than four semesters. The number of hours should not be less than 1300. The number of ECTS points should not be less than 120.



# The current educational system of education in Poland.

- - Bachelor's Degree Studies - 3 years  
(Bachelor's degree)
- - Master's Degree Studies - 2 years (Master's  
degree)
- - Bridging Undergraduate Studies - (Bachelor's  
degree)
- - [Doctoral Studies](#)
- - Postgraduate education





# Post-graduate educational system for nurses.

- The aim of the postgraduate education for nurses is to develop skills to quickly and flexibly implement new tasks and adapt them to needs of society, i.e. supplementing people with knowledge of progresses in science and care.



## Forms of education.

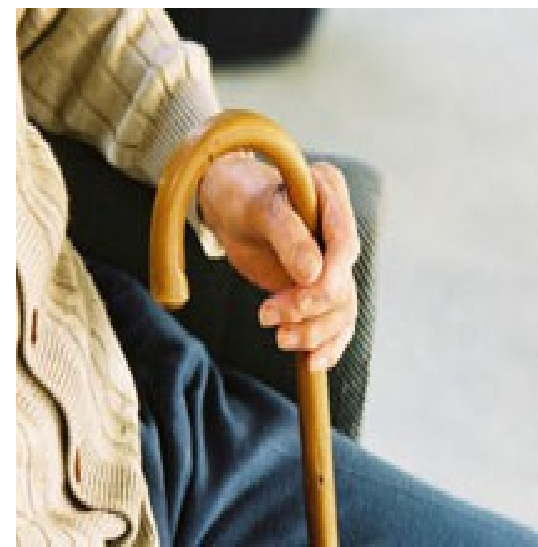
- - Specialization/expertise
- - Qualification course
- - Specialist course
- - Additional training course





**In Poland there are 20 specializations for nurses including three in care for elderly and chronically ill people.**

- - Geriatric Nursing
- - Long-term Care Nursing
- - Palliative Care Nursing





# Each specialization lasts two years and includes:

- - Geriatric Nursing - 1030 hours
- - Long-term Care Nursing - 900 hours
- - Palliative Care Nursing - 1070 hours



## The following modules are conducted as part of the specialization in geriatric nursing:

- - Organization of geriatric care in Poland and in the world
- - Fundamentals of geriatric nursing
- - Physiology of aging processes
- - Psychosocial aspects of aging and old age
- - Nursing in old age diseases
- - Care for chronically ill and disabled people
- - Palliative care in geriatrics





## The following modules are conducted as part of the specialization in long-term care nursing:

- - Health, psychological and social problems of chronically ill people
- - Health, psychological and social problems of elderly people
- - Health, psychological and social problems of mentally handicapped people
- - Health, psychological and social problems of people with mental disorders
- - Organization of health systems and social assistance

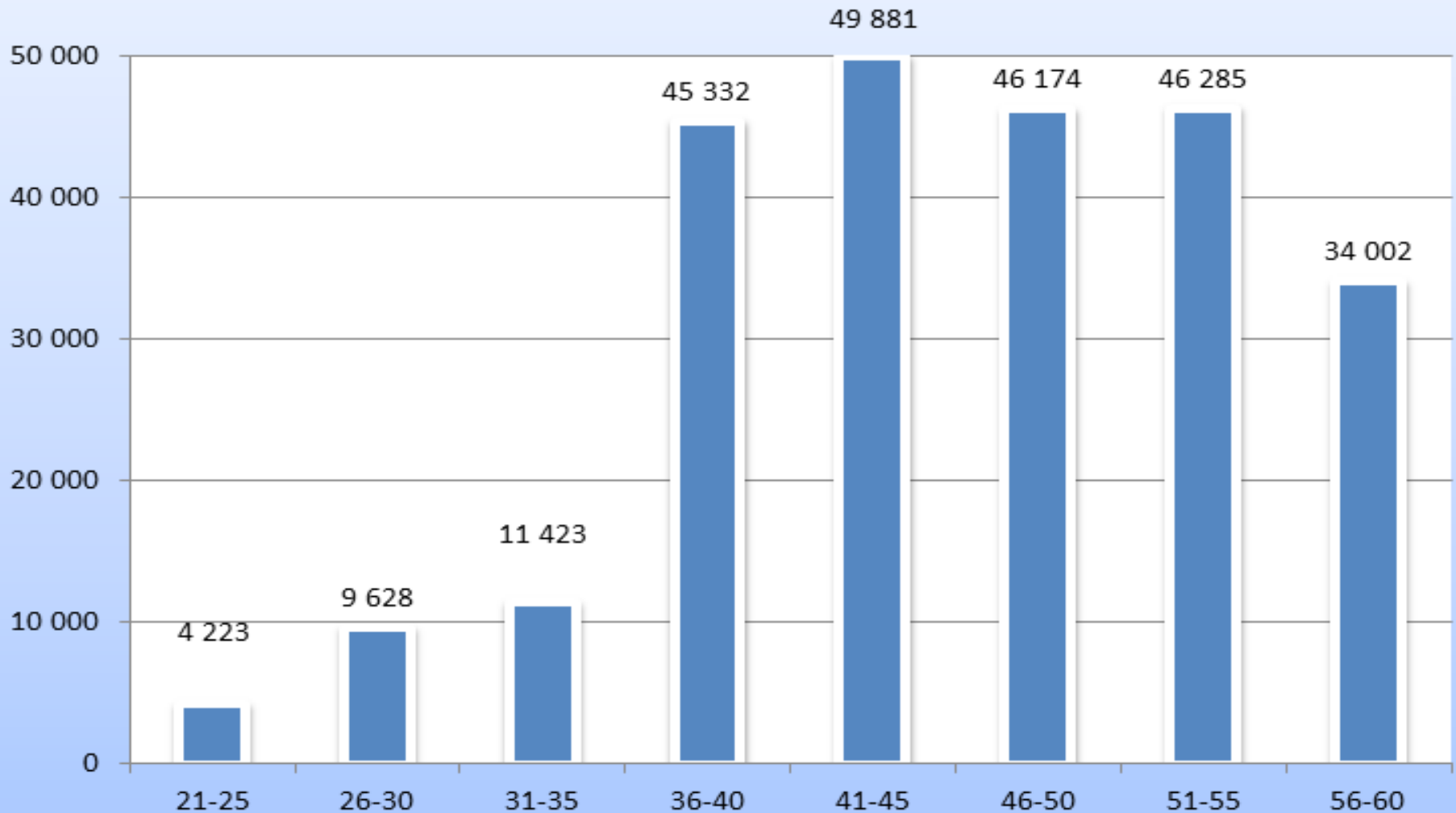


## The following modules are conducted as part of the specialization in palliative care:

- - Palliative care in Poland and in the world
- - Nursing care for patients with advanced diseases
- - Issues of quality in palliative care
- - Children in palliative care
- - Psychological and spiritual issues in palliative care.  
Social support.
- - Bioethical issues in palliative care
- - Advanced Specialist Practice



# Age structure of nurses in Poland by age brackets





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# Educating social workers and teachers in the field of geriatrics in Poland





# The educational system for social workers in Poland

- Bachelor's Degree Studies - 3 years (Bachelor's degree) -2200 hours, 180 ECTS
- Master's Degree Studies - 2 years (Master's degree)
- Doctoral Studies
- Postgraduate Education
- 1st<sup>o</sup> and 2nd<sup>o</sup> Specialization



## The following subjects are realized as part of the syllabus:

- Fundamentals of Gerontology - 30 hours
- - Fundamentals of Geriatrics - 30 hours





# Postgraduate Education for social workers in the field of social gerontology includes:

- - Social Gerontology
- - Fundamentals of forecasting demand for services aimed at elderly people at a local level
- - Active-learning for seniors
- - Sociology of old age
- - Social policy towards old age and elderly people
- - Life quality of elderly people



## **Postgraduate Education for social workers in the field of social gerontology includes:**

- Life quality of elderly people
- FUNDAMENTALS OF PSYCHOGERONTOLOGY
- FUNDAMENTALS OF GERIATRICS
- Social work with elderly people
- Areas of non-compliance with rights of the elderly
- Ethical problems of working with elderly people
- Family caregivers of elderly people and their support





# Educating teachers in the field of gerontology





## **Bachelor's Degree Studies in the field of pedagogy with specializations in the following:**

- - Gerontology and pedagogical therapy
- - Education for adults and gerontology
- - Supporting and activating the elderly - pedagogical gerontology




# A gerontologist - a new profession in Poland

- - also called a teacher of the elderly is a person that deals with activation of lives of the elderly, assistance or operation of facilities providing care for the elderly.
- - Do not confuse a professional gerontologist with a typical caregiver of the elderly as his duties concern a rather general approach to promoting a healthy and active lifestyle in this age group, organizing a variety of events and activities for the elderly.



Thank you for your attention 😊





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