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NEWS RELEASE

Social integration centres, social integration clubs, vocational activity establishments, occupational therapy workshops in 2023.

28 November 2024

⇧2.1%

increase year-on-year in the recipients number of services provided by CIS, ZAZ and WTZ

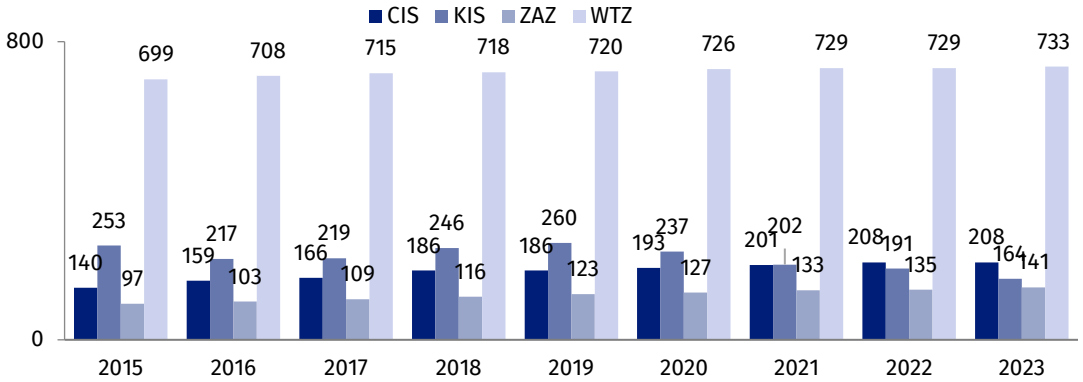
In 2023, 1246 social and professional reintegration units: social integration centres (CIS), social integration clubs (KIS), vocational activity establishments (ZAZ), occupational therapy workshops (WTZ) were active, i.e. 17 less than in 2022. Compared to 2015, the number of these units increased by 57.

During 2023, almost 49.0 thousand people at risk of social exclusion benefited from social and professional reintegration services provided by CIS, ZAZ and WTZ, i.e. 2.1% more than in 2022. In 2015-2021 there was an increase in this area by 21.6%.

Active social and professional reintegration units

There were 1246 social and professional reintegration units active in total in 2023. This number has decreased by 17 units compared to 2022. As was the case in previous years, in 2022 these were mainly facilities aimed at activating people with disabilities – 733 occupational therapy workshops (WTZ) and 141 vocational activity establishments (ZAZ). Among units providing services also for people from other groups at risk of social exclusion, 208 social integration centres (CIS) and 164 social integration clubs (KIS) were active.

Graph 1. Number of active social and professional reintegration units in 2015–2023



Between 2015 and 2023, the total number of CIS, ZAZ, WTZ and KIS establishments increased by 57 units, i.e. by 4.8%. During this period, the number of individual active reintegration units changed as follows: social integration centers increased by 48.6%, vocational activity establishments increased by 45.4%, occupational therapy workshops increased by 4.9%, and social integration clubs decreased by 35.2%. The number of CIS, ZAZ and WTZ was increasing throughout the analyzed period year-on-year, while the number of KIS fluctuated, reaching the highest value in 2019 (260 units) and the lowest in 2023 (164 units).

Compared to 2015, the number of socio-professional reintegration units increased by 4.8%.

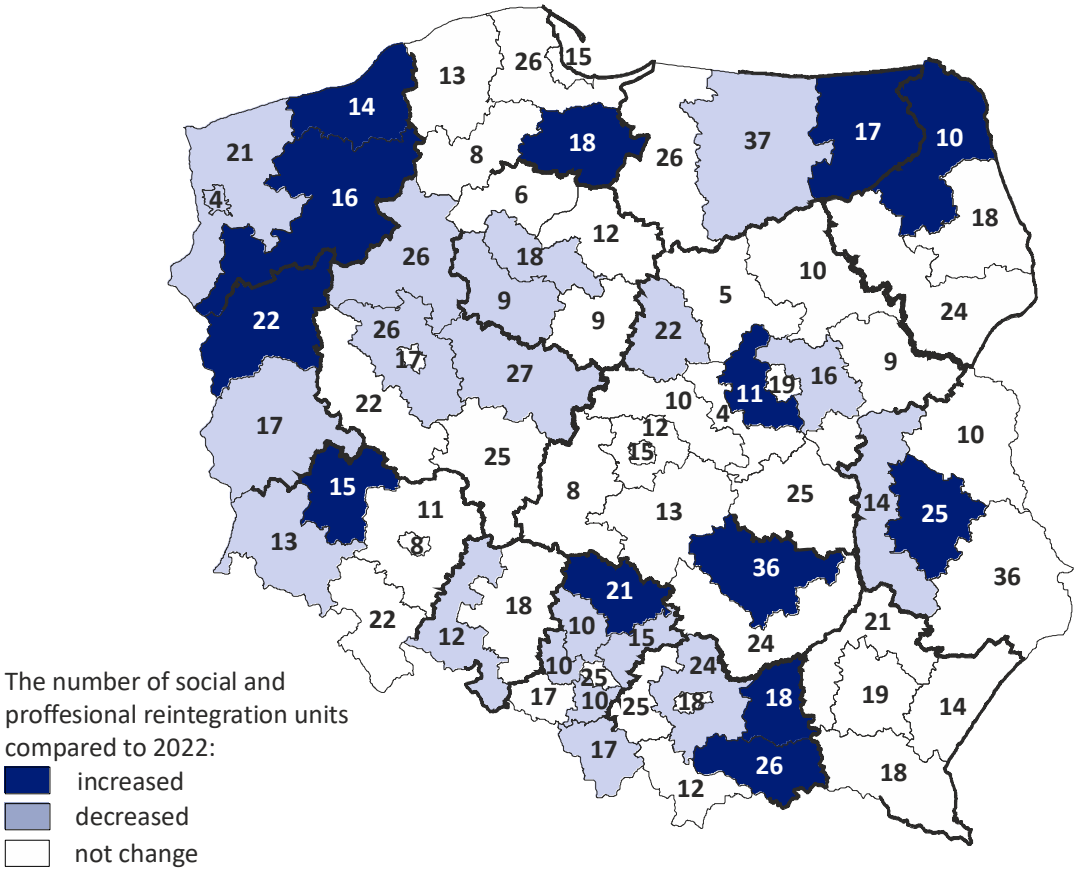
As in previous years, social and professional reintegration units were most often organised by non-profit sector entities, i.e. associations, foundations and faith-based charities – they created 69.3% of the total number of CIS, KIS, ZAZ and WTZ establishments.

Most CIS, KIS, ZAZ and WTZ establishments were located in the following voivodships: Wielkopolskie (11.5% of total number establishments), Śląskie (10.0%), Małopolskie (9.9%) and Mazowieckie (9.7%).

When relating the number of social and professional reintegration units to the population, there were 3.2 such units per 100 thousand inhabitants in 2023. As was the case in previous year, this indicator had the highest value in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodship – 5.8 units per 100 thousand inhabitants. However, the Mazowieckie voivodship, similarly to previous year, achieved the lowest value of this indicator – 2.2 establishments per 100 thousand inhabitants.

Similarly to 2022, the largest number of units providing social and professional integration services in the country were the Olsztyński (37), Chełmsko-Zamojski (36) and Kielecki subregion (36). In comparison to 2022, the number of institutions has not changed in 40 out of 73 subregions, increased in 20 subregions (usually by one unit, whereas in the Częstochowski subregion were formed 4 units) and decreased in 13 subregions (mostly by one unit).

Map 1. Social and professional reintegration units by subregion in 2023.



There were 49.0 thousand beneficiaries of integration services provided in 2023 by CIS, ZAZ and WTZ. Since 2021, the number of customers for the services provided by these establishments has increased by 2.1%, i.e. by 1.0 thousand people. Taking into account the type of unit where social and professional integration was carried out, the largest group of beneficiaries were the participants of the WTZ (58.8%), followed by the participants of CIS classes (16.7%), and the smallest group were persons with severe or moderate disability status employed by the ZAZ (11.3%).

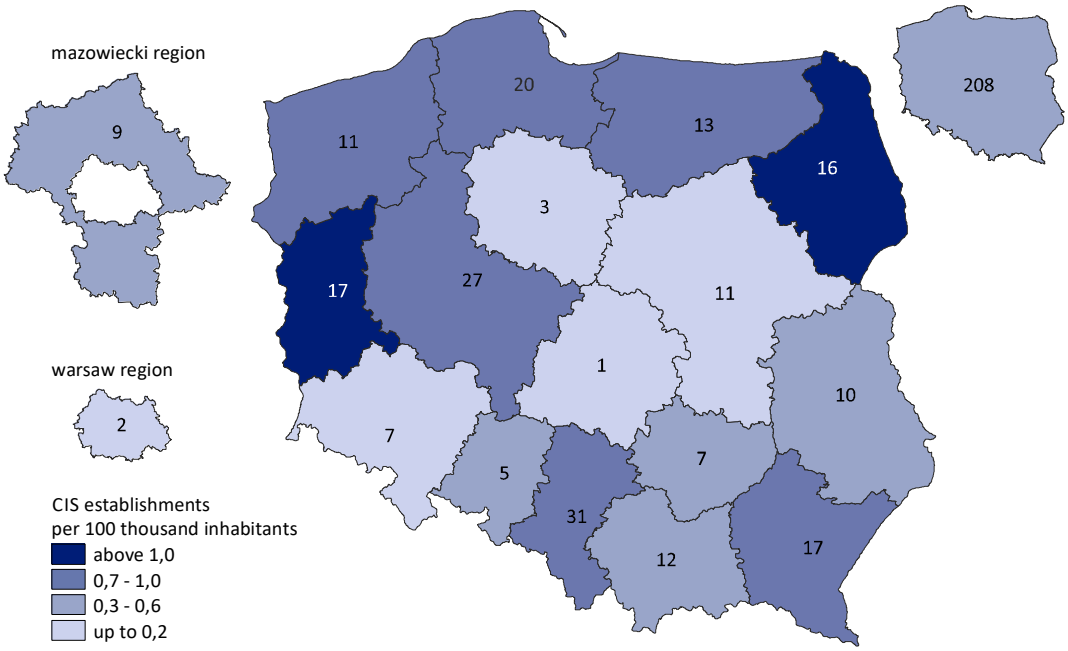
Between 2023 and 2022, the number of recipients of social and professional integration services provided by CIS, WTZ and ZAZ increased by 1.0 thousand people.

Social integration centres

There were 208 social integration centres active in Poland in 2023. In 2023, more than two thirds of social integration centres were run by non-profit organizations (139 units, 66,8%). Local government units, mainly gminas, operated 58 (27,9%) social integration centres, and there were 10 (4,8%) active CIS establishments operating within social cooperatives. One social integration centre was run by a company.

Similarly to previous year, most CIS establishments had their seats in the following voivodships: Śląskie (14.9%), Wielkopolskie (13.0%) and Pomorskie (9.6%). The highest saturation with CIS facilities in relation to the number of inhabitants living in a given voivodship was - similarly to 2023 - recorded in the Lubuskie voivodship, where per 100,000 inhabitants there were 1.7 units of this kind, while the national average was 0.6 units.

Map 2. Social integration centres by voivodship and region in 2023.



In 2023, 13.0 thousand people from groups at risk of social exclusion participated in CIS classes[1]. Compared to 2022, the number of participants increased by 1.8% (in 2021 it was 12.8 thousand people). In 2023, on average, there were 63 participants per CIS, whereas in 2022 there were 61.

In 2023, there were 208 active CIS that provided social and professional integration services to 13.0 thousand participants.

According to the CIS statements, the most frequent participants in classes related to social and professional integration were the long-term unemployed persons – they constituted 30.5% of all recipients of services provided by CIS. The share of this group has decreased by 1.6 p.p. compared to 2022. CIS support was also provided to persons dependent on alcohol or psychoactive substances (14.4%) and persons with disabilities (10.5%). On the other hand, persons for whom the main reason for exclusion was homelessness (4.2%) or mental illness (2.4%) had a small share among CIS beneficiaries.

The total cost of running social integration centres in 2023 amounted to almost 336 million PLN. The average cost of activity per 1 unit were 1.6 million PLN.

Social integration clubs

In 2023, there were 164 social integration clubs operating in Poland. The number of active KIS establishments decreased by 27 units (14.1%) compared to 2022. Since 2020, the number of KIS began to decline, which resulted in a reduction of more than half (54.3%) of clubs run by non-governmental organizations and more than ¼ (27.6%) of clubs run by local government units between 2019 and 2023.

There were 164 active KIS establishments in 2023. More than three fourths of them were operated by local government units.

In 2023, there were 0.4 units of this kind per 100 thousand inhabitants.

Social integration clubs, as the only type among the social and professional reintegration units, were predominantly (76.8%) operated by local government units or their subordinate

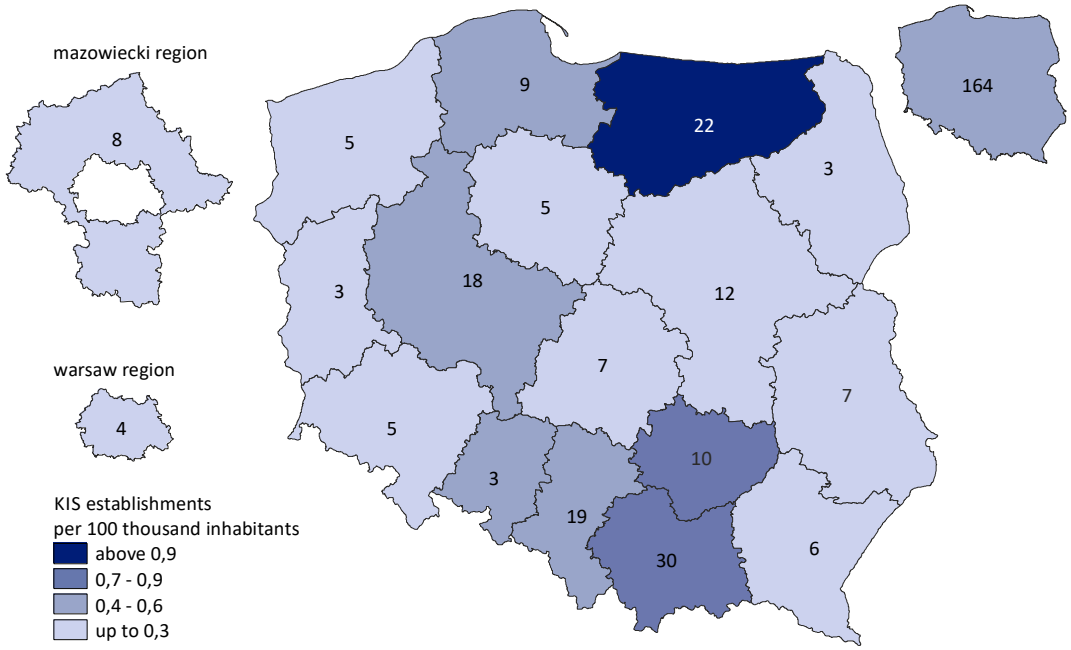
[1] The number and structure of CIS participants calculated only for those CIS establishments that have submitted a report on their operations.

organisational units, such as e.g. social assistance centres. Other social integration clubs were operated by non-profit organizations (22.6%) and social cooperatives (0.6%).

The largest number of KIS establishments were located in the following voivodships: Małopolskie (18.3%), Warmińsko-Mazurskie (13.4%) and Śląskie (11.6%). Compared to 2022, there were changes in 10 out of 16 voivodeships in the number of KIS. Between 2022 and 2023, in 10 voivodships the number of KIS decreased -in the Śląskie Voivodship- by 7 units, in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie - by 6 units.

In 2023, 7.3 thous. people started classes n KIS and 6.1 thous. people completed them.

Map 3. Social integration clubs by voivodship and region in 2023.

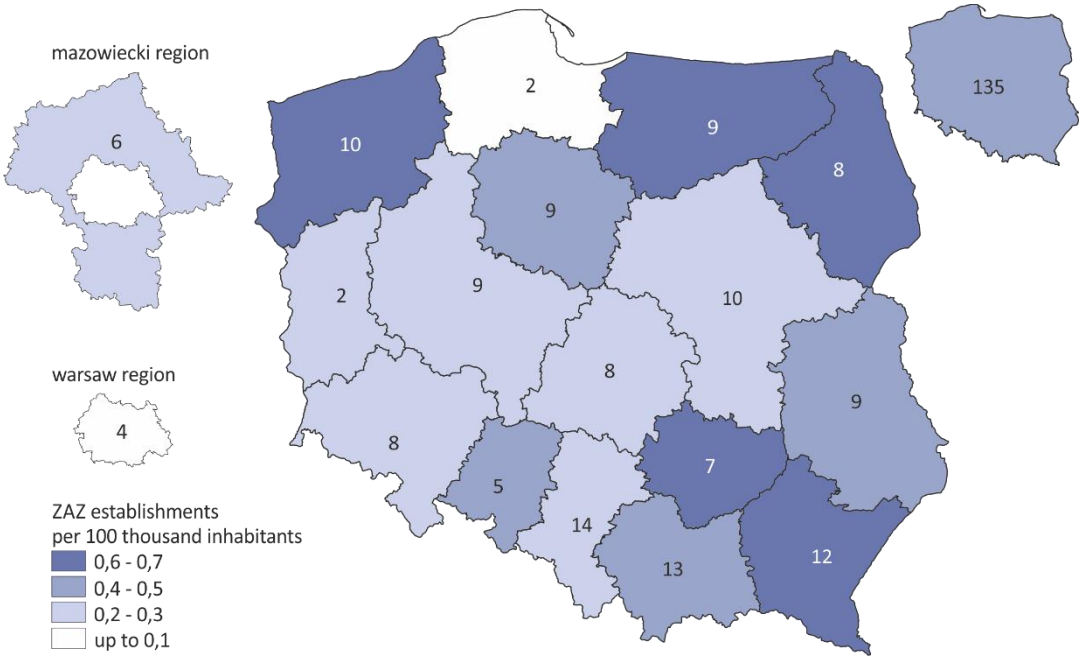


Vocational activity establishments

At the end of 2023, there were 141 vocational activity establishments in Poland. There were 0.4 units per 100 thousand inhabitants. The number of ZAZ establishments increased by 6 units compared to 2021.

In 2023, there were 141 active ZAZ establishments, which employed a total of 7.1 thousand people with severe or moderate degree of disability.

Map 4. Vocational activity establishments by voivodship and region in 2023.



Most of ZAZ were run by non-profit organizations (64.5%). Another part was operated by local government units or their subordinate organisational units, such as e.g. social assistance centres (32.6%). The remaining 2.9% of ZAZ were created by social cooperatives or companies.

The largest number of ZAZ establishments were located in Śląskie (10.6%), Małopolskie (9.2%) and Podkarpackie (8.5%), followed by voivodship. The number of establishments increased in 5 voivodships - Świętokrzyskie voivodship – by 2 entities and in Dolnośląskie, Podlaskie, Śląskie, Warmińsko-mazurskie – by 1 unit.

At the end of 2023, more than 9.2 thousand people were employed in all the vocational activity establishments. Compared to 2022, total employment in ZAZ establishments increased by 6.7%.

The reintegration activities of ZAZ are legally[2] directed to people with severe or moderate degree of disability, who have been diagnosed with autism, intellectual disability or mental illness. At the end of 2023, the number of reintegrated employees at ZAZ establishments was 7.1 thousand. The number of people with a severe or moderate degree of disability in the total number of employees amounted to 76.9%. In 203, one ZAZ employed, on average, 50 workers with disabilities for reintegration purposes.

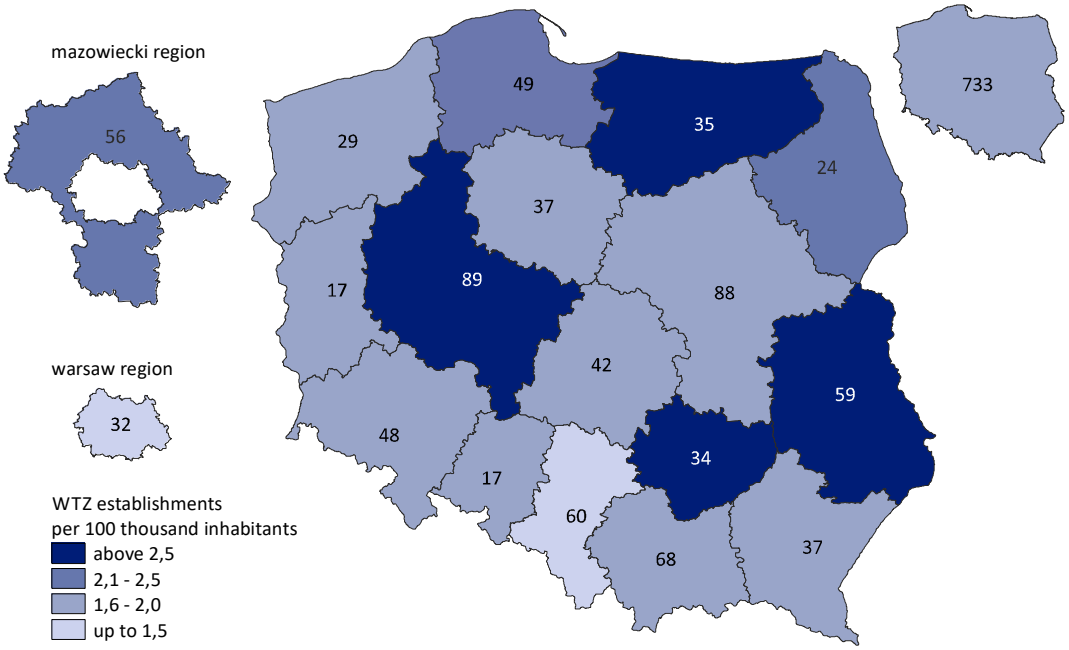
Occupational therapy workshops

At the end of 2023, there were 733 active occupational therapy workshops. Compared to 2022 the number of WTZ increased by 4 units. There were 1.9 units of this kind per 100 thousand inhabitants. Compared to other types of social and professional reintegration units, WTZ establishments were most often operated by non-profit organizations (81.3%). Another 16.8% of the WTZ establishments operated within local government units and institutions subordinate to them, and 1.9% were run by other entities.

The total cost of occupational therapy workshops in 2022 amounted to PLN 836 million PLN. The vast majority of expenses were covered by funds from PFRON (88.7%). The average cost of maintaining WTZ was PLN 1.147 thousand PLN annually.

There were 733 WTZ establishments active in 2023, and their services were used by 29.0 thousand people with a disability.

Map 5. Occupational therapy workshops by voivodship and region in 2023



[2] Act of 27 August 1997 on Professional and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons (consolidated text: Journal of Laws 2020, item 426).

In 2023, the largest number of occupational therapy workshops were located in the Wielkopolskie (12.1%), Mazowieckie (12.0%) voivodships. Compared to 2022, no changes were recorded within individual voivodeships. During this period, the number of WTZ establishments increased in four voivodships - Mazowieckie, Pomorskie, Śląskie i Zachodniopomorskie - by 1 unit in each voivodship.

In 2023, 29.0 thousand people with certified disabilities benefited from classes in occupational therapy workshops, i.e. 0.3 thousand more than a year before. On average, there were 39 persons participating in workshops in one WTZ (1 person more than in the previous year).

When comparing the average number of participants, the highest rate was recorded in the following voivodships: Podkarpackie (50 participants), Śląskie and Świętokrzyskie (49 participants). The smallest values were recorded in Pomorskie and Opolskie voivodship (32 participants).

Methodological explanations

Presented data includes only:

- active WTZ and ZAZ as of December 31, 2023;
- CIS and KIS which reported the participants of the classes in 2023.

The release was prepared based on data from administrative sources obtained under the Public Statistics Statistical Research Programme for 2023:

- from information systems of voivodship offices concerning CIS, KIS and ZAZ establishments (as regards registers and establishment records);
- from information systems of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy (MRiPS) (as regards CIS and KIS operations);
- from information systems of the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of Disabled People (PFRON) (as regards the number of WTZ establishments and their operations).

Data from different sources were collated and verified by public statistics staff, and inconsistencies and shortcomings identified were clarified and then corrected.

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