|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Logo Schola Europaea - pour documents | European SchoolsOffice of the Secretary-General |

**Ref.: 2019-08-D-12-en-2**

**Orig.: PL**

**General Interest File - European School Warsaw**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Meeting on 3-5 December 2019 - Brussels

**GENERAL INTEREST FILE**

submitted by Poland

 concerning granting European Schools’ accreditation to

Jan Kułakowski International European School Warsaw



*Working translation*

MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

Warsaw, August 23rd, 2019

DWM-WURE.4702.1.2019.JI

**Mr. Giancarlo Marcheggiano**

**Secretary General of the European Schools**

**Office of the Secretary General of the European Schools**

**Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

**Belgium**

*Dear Secretary General,*

Based on Article 8 of the Regulations on Accredited European Schools (ref.: 2013-01-D-64-en-4), I am taking the liberty of appending hereto the General Interest File concerning granting European Schools accreditation to Jan Kułakowski International European School Warsaw.

I would kindly request you to submit this General Interest File for opinion and approval to the Joint Board of Inspectors followed by the Board of Governors of the European Schools.

*Yours sincerely,*

Dariusz Piontkowski

1. **INTRODUCTION**

With the accession of Poland to the European Union, the Frontex Headquarters was located in the country. In addition, European companies have established themselves in Poland, thus contributing to the development - particularly in Warsaw and its surroundings - of an international environment that requires, inter alia, an appropriate and relevant educational offer.

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency was established pursuant to the [Regulation of the Council of the European Union](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rozporz%C4%85dzenie_%28Unia_Europejska%29) of 26 October 2004 and is an EU Agency whose key activity is to ensure integrated management of the European Union's external borders. Since its establishment, the Agency has been coordinating the operational work of EU border guards, developing a training system for border guard officers and employees, as well as conducting research on [new technologies](http://tematy.forsal.pl/tematy/n/nowe-technologie) that can be further applied in border control operations.

At the beginning, the Agency employed over 30 people. In 2016, Frontex employed as many as 320 people; in 2019, the Agency employs 880 people. In the years 2020 – 2027, the Agency is expected to employ 1,000 people[[1]](#footnote-1).

The systematic expansion of the Agency's operations was due to the need to boost efforts aimed at comprehensively addressing the issue of unprecedented migration flows towards the territory of the European Union, including by strengthening border management and control.

In view of the increased role of the Agency and the resulting new tasks, on 14 September 2016 the Council of the EU adopted an appropriate regulation[[2]](#footnote-2) endorsing the establishment of the European Border and Coast Guard Service – an Agency closely monitoring the EU's external borders and cooperating with the Member States in order to swiftly identify and eliminate potential threats to security. The guard consists of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex that was assigned additional tasks) and national border management authorities.

The Headquarters Agreement between the Republic of Poland and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), hereinafter referred to as the Agreement, was signed in Warsaw on 9 March 2017. This Agreement committed Poland to providing access to educational facilities for children of Frontex personnel and to establish a European School or an accredited European School.

In order to implement the provisions of Article 14 of the Agreement, measures have been taken to establish an accredited European School, in Warsaw, capable of providing education to the children of Frontex personnel residing there. Providing European education is of particular relevance with a view to ensuring and facilitating the mobility of these children within the European Schools system.

1. **EDUCATIONAL OFFER IN WARSAW**

Warsaw offers a wide range of multilingual educational institutions ranging from pre-school to primary and secondary schools.[[3]](#footnote-3) There are also a number of primary and secondary schools with bilingual classes that provide teaching in English, French, German or Spanish.

However, given the systematic increase in the number of Frontex personnel and the resulting increase in the number of children of Frontex personnel living in Warsaw, the establishment of an accredited European School in Poland seems to be the optimal solution.

Frontex estimates, as of 26 April 2019, as regards the number of children (4-15 years of age) of the Agency's personnel between 2020 and 2027 are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **TOTAL** |
| 2020 | 537 |
| 2021 | 541 |
| 2022 | 577 |
| 2023 | 584 |
| 2024 | 610 |
| 2025 | 650 |
| 2026 | 692 |
| 2027 | 692 |

Pursuant to the Agreement, until the establishment of a fully operational Accredited European School in Warsaw, Poland shall bear the costs of educating the children of the Agency's non-Polish personnel in schools with a foreign language as the language of instruction, as well as until the completion of their education in these schools provided that, on the date of establishment of the fully operational Accredited European School, these children continued to be attending these schools.

According to the Agency's estimates the Accredited School in Warsaw could be attended by approximately 184 children, aged 4-15, in the school year 2020/2021.

1. **SCHOOL SELECTION PROCEDURE**

In relation to the provisions of Article 14 of the Agreement, the Ministry of National Education has initiated works aimed at establishing in Warsaw a school providing European education for the children of Frontex personnel, i.e. an Accredited European School. In the course of the selection process, the Ministry remained in constant working contact with the Frontex Agency.

In order to ensure transparency of this process and equal opportunities for all stakeholders, a call was published, on the website of the Ministry of National Education on 7 February 2018, for authorities running schools to apply for the status of an Accredited European School. Stakeholders from Warsaw and the vicinity (to which the above mentioned call was also addressed via the mailing list of the Educational Information System comprising all schools operating in the Polish educational system) were asked to send an application to the Ministry in accordance with the form specifying a number of requirements under the regulations on the system of European Schools.

A School Selection Committee, appointed by the Minister of National Education, was assigned to oversee the management of the procedure and the selection of the school that would apply for accreditation from the Board of Governors of the European Schools. The Committee consisted of representatives of the Minister of National Education, the Head of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Interior and Administration, the Centre for the Development of Polish Education Abroad and the Mazovian Education Superintendent. The Head of the Polish Delegation in the Board of Governors of the European Schools and the Polish Inspector for the European Schools also participated in the works of the Committee, and supervised the compliance of the offers with the requirements of the establishment and functioning of the Accredited European Schools.

The multi-stage procedure consisted of the following elements:

* evaluation of the received applications against the criteria set forth in the application form;
* the school's presentation of the submitted application to the Committee;
* the Committee’s visit to the school premises.

During the analysis of the applications submitted, the Committee took into account the requirements under the European Schools' rules and regulations, the possible date of launching the accreditation process, as well as the complex procedure for setting up the Accredited School.

As a result of the above analysis it was found that the most favourable offer was presented by the Jan Kułakowski International European School Warsaw.

1. **DESCRIPTION OF THE Jan Kułakowski International European School Warsaw**

History

On 2 September 2002, Jan Kułakowski, the first Polish ambassador to the European Union, a long-time activist of European and worldwide trade unions, a great Pole and a great European, inaugurated the ceremonial opening of the International European School in Warsaw. On the 10th anniversary of this event, 2 September 2012, Jan Kułakowski became the Patron of the International European School Warsaw.

Contact

Contact person:

* Katarzyna Zalewska, Director

katarzyna.zalewska@ies.waw.pl

* Sara Abu El Riesh, Deputy Director

sara.abuelriesh@ies.waw.pl

The International European School Warsaw

ul. Wiertnicza 140

02-952 Warsaw, Poland

tel./fax: +48 22 842 4448

email: ies@ies-warsaw.pl

www.ies.waw.pl

Structure

The School includes:

1. The Jan Kułakowski International European Primary School with pre-school groups for children from 3 years of age and "0" groups;
2. The Jan Kułakowski International European Middle School, currently a three-year cycle but, by virtue of the law, to be transformed into a four-year cycle general high school on September 1, 2019;
3. The three-year Jan Kułakowski International European High School, which will cease to operate by virtue of the law on August 1, 2022;
4. The four-year Jan Kułakowski International European High School, which will start to operate by virtue of the law on September 1, 2019.

In the school year 2018/2019 the school was attended by 457 pupils.

Status and curricula

The primary school, middle school and the four-year high school, established following its transformation, have a status of a non-public school with the rights of a public school. The primary and middle schools implement a curricula based on the core curriculum of pre-school education and general education as stipulated in the Polish law on school education. The three-year high school does not hold the rights of a public school. It follows the Cambridge Assessment International Education curriculum enabling pupils to sit the British International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and Advanced Level exams.

Since 2004 the Jan Kułakowski International European High School has been accredited by three UK Examination Boards: the University of Cambridge, the University of London and the University of Manchester. In 2007, the School was accredited by the International Baccalaureate Organization for the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP). The tenth class of graduates graduating the School with IB DP took place in 2018. Both the British curriculum and the IB DP curriculum will be continued by the School within the framework of international classes in a four-year high school as from the school year 2019/2020. The School's 15-year long cooperation with Cambridge Assessment International Education has resulted in a high level of English language teaching, verified and validated by external Cambridge language examinations at every stage of education.

Languages

The highly qualified English-speaking teaching staff teaches in classes of a dozen or so pupils, which guarantees individual contact with each pupil. The language of instruction in compulsory classes is English.

All pupils from primary and middle school learn the Polish language. At high school level, pupils with Polish citizenship continue with Polish, while pupils of other citizenship have the right to choose to learn Polish as a foreign language. Pupils who are Polish citizens are taught the part of history concerning the history of Poland and the part of geography concerning the geography of Poland in Polish.

In addition, at all levels of education the School offers the opportunity to learn other languages such as French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Chinese. Pupils can also cultivate their own culture and tradition by learning their mother tongue and the history of their nation.

Educational curriculum, multiculturalism and European values

Since its establishment, the School has been inspired by the principles of education in multi-cultural environments, introduced years ago by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). This applies to both the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the Diploma Programme (IB DP).

With the implementation of the IB DP, the School fits perfectly not only into the objectives of recognising, appreciating and promoting multiculturalism, but also identifies itself with the idea of becoming involved in a number of global-scale problems. In particular, one should highlight the care for the environment, as well as showing respect, tolerance and developing empathy towards people with disabilities, the hungry, the homeless and refugees. For this reason, for the past few years the School has been cooperating with such organizations as: Polish Humanitarian Action, Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity, Habitat for Humanity, Amnesty International and UNICEF. School pupils get involved in voluntary work, e.g. in children's homes, the Society for the Care of the Blind in Laski or dinners for the homeless. They also participate in Model United Nations conferences held both in Poland and abroad.

As part of international education and cultivating European values, the School organises an annual Patronage Day, a European Day and a Day of Solidarity with Refugees. Since the foundation of the School, it has been a tradition to organise Christmas concerts, during which all the School's pupils, teachers and employees perform a jointly prepared play. These events take place on the professional stages of Warsaw's theatres: Lalka, Roma and Teatr Powszechny.

Each year, pupils of the Jan Kułakowski International European School, Warsaw successfully participate in a number of Olympiads and subject contests, as well as artistic and sports competitions. They also have the opportunity to participate in additional activities such as, inter alia, compensatory classes, interest classes, sports activities, artistic workshops, dance classes, music and technical workshops, etc.

At each stage of their education, pupils of the Jan Kułakowski International European School, Warsaw are provided with the statutory right of association in the pupils’ self-government, and their parents have the right to join the parents' council, so they can influence the daily functioning of the School.

Pedagogical supervision

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 14 December 2016 on Educational Law (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1148), pedagogical supervision over non-public schools, including schools referred to in Article 178, section 1 thereof, shall be exercised by the locally competent education superintendent. The pedagogical supervision of schools located in Warsaw is exercised by the Mazovian Education Superintendent.

Financial support - educational subsidy

The School is subsidised from the budget of the City of Warsaw pursuant to Article 26 (1) of the Act on Financing Educational Tasks (Journal of Laws of 2017, item 2203, as amended). Under that provision, non-public schools providing compulsory schooling and compulsory education shall receive a subsidy for each pupil, from the budget of the local government unit being the registration authority for those schools, in the amount equal to the amount provided for such pupil in the educational part of the general subsidy for the local government unit.

1. **ACCREDITED EUROPEAN SCHOOL**

The school’s vision and mission

The mission of the Jan Kułakowski International European School Warsaw is to prepare its pupils to meet the challenges of the 21st Century as citizens of a united and democratic Europe and the world, who are aware of their rights and are open to all races and cultures. The School achieves this objective through its proprietary educational program, the pursuit of excellence in curricula, the achievement of world class standards in multilingual education and accreditation to international educational organisations.

The moral values and code of ethics of the Jan Kułakowski International European School, Warsaw are founded on the cultural roots of Christian Europe and universal humanistic values. The above is reflected in the logo of the school, which depicts Europe as a tree with roots stemming from ancient Greece and Rome.

General description of the school's premises

The modern building that houses the School was built in 2011 and offers approximately 6,000 m2 of usable space. Its design allows for a functional arrangement of space. The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art technical solutions, including a lift and mechanical ventilation, and facilities for people with special needs. Alongside the School building, there is a 1.5 ha sports and recreation area, with two multifunctional sports fields, three playgrounds, an outdoor gym, and a gazebo equipped with interactive whiteboards.

The School building houses three IT labs, a chemistry lab, two biology labs, a physics lab, a natural science lab, two art and workshop labs, two music labs, a gym for the nursery cycle and early primary classes, a library with 40,000 books and access to multimedia resources. 44 classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards, projectors and/or TV screens. The entire building is provided with open access to wireless Internet. Both the classrooms and the overall School's interior design are inspired by the international character of the school. The school uses a public gym and a swimming pool located approximately 1km from the school building. Students are transported to the public sports complex by school buses.

The school structure and language sections in a five-year perspective

As of September 2020, the School will provide education in a nursery school (N1 and N2), a primary school (P1-P5) and a secondary school (S1-S3).

During the transitional period, the children of Frontex personnel in the S4-S7 age group will be provided with education in the existing structures of the School. This education will be offered in English, although Polish students will be provided with Polish language, Polish history and Polish geography lessons in their native language. Non-Polish students will be provided with Polish as a foreign language (PFL) lessons.

During the first stage of its functioning as an Accredited European School, the plan is to set up two language sections, one Polish and one English. SWALS pupils (Students without a Language Section) will be provided with mother tongue tuition.

As of September 2021, the School will provide education in a nursery school (N1 and N2), a primary school (P1-P5) and a secondary school (S1-S4).

Nine months prior to the expiry of the three-year accreditation period, it is planned to submit a new application that would also include sections S6 and S7.

As of September 2022, the School will provide education in a nursery school (N1 and N2), a primary school (P1-P5) and a secondary school (S1-S5).

As of September 2023, the School will provide education in a nursery school (N1 and N2), a primary school (P1-P5) and a secondary school (S1-S6).

As of September 2024, the School will provide education in a nursery school (N1 and N2), a primary school (P1-P5) and a secondary school (S1-S7).

The organisation of the first European Baccalaureate is planned for June 2025.

Estimated number of pupils in the first year of the school

The estimated number of pupils admitted to the Accredited European School in Warsaw in the first school year amounts to 184 students, of which:

- in the preschool nursery school - 24 pupils in groups N1 and N2;

- in the primary school - 125 pupils, of which 50 in the Polish section and 75 in the English section;

- in the secondary school (S1 - S3) - 35 pupils, of which 17 in the Polish section and 18 in the English section.

General pupil recruitment rules

Children of the European institutions and agencies' staff (category I) shall be admitted to the Accredited School. Four and five year old children shall be educated in the pre-school. 6-year-old children shall begin primary education. Candidates shall sit tests to check their dominant language.

Category II and III pupils shall be admitted to the Accredited European School in Warsaw based on the results of an entrance exam, defined by the School and conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations specified by the Director of the School.

Teaching staff and their recruitment

In the first year of the Accredited School, the teaching staff shall mostly consist of teachers currently employed at the Jan Kułakowski International European School, Warsaw. These teachers possess the necessary qualifications for the subjects taught and experience of working in a multicultural environment. The school has also started to look for teachers who, as of September 2020, shall be responsible for teaching native languages to students without a language section (SWALS).

Pedagogical supervision

The pedagogical supervision shall be exercised in compliance with the Regulations of the Board of Governors of the European Schools on the Accredited European Schools 2013-01-D-64-en-4 *Regulations on Accredited European Schools* and the Polish Law on School Education.

Cooperation between the School and the national delegation to the Board of Governors of the European Schools

It is planned to establish a working group consisting of the representatives of the School, the Ministry of National Education, the Head of the Polish delegation in the Board of Governors of the European Schools and the Polish Inspector for the European Schools. The objective of the said working group shall be to monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of the agreement on the establishment of the Accredited European School, including, inter alia, periodic exchanges of information and the identification and addressing of challenges.

**Opinion of the Joint Board of Inspectors**

The Joint Board of Inspectors expressed a favourable opinion on the General Interest File for the accredited European school ‘Jan Kułakowski International European School’, submitted by the Polish authorities.

**Proposal**

The Joint Board of Inspectors considered that this File met the requirements of the first stage of the accreditation process defined in Mondorf in April 2005 and recommended that the Board of Governors should approve it.

1. Data provided by Frontex to the Ministry of National Education on 26 April 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on the European Border and Coast Guard and amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 863/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 and Council Decision 2005/267/EC [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Below is a list of selected educational institutions in Warsaw and its vicinity providing education in a foreign language, including institutions offering international baccalaureate programmes: American School of Warsaw, British International Academy, The British Primary School of Wilanów, The British School, Casa dei Bambini, Ecole Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The English Playhouse, International American School, International European School, The International Preschool of Warsaw, Lycée Français de Varsovie, Monnet International School, Willy-Brandt-Schule. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)