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Nr 3/2024 December 2024

## NEWS

Information from the  
Świętokrzyskie voivodship for  
foreigners

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## WELCOME!

We would like to present  
you with the third issue of  
the NOWINY bulletin - a  
cyclic magazine covering  
topics important  
and interesting for  
foreigners in Poland.

The bulletin is part of the  
**nowiny.inteuro.info** service  
created under the project  
'INTEURO - Programme of  
integration  
and professional activation  
of foreigners  
in the Świętokrzyskie  
voivodship'

## ADVICE WORK BUSINESS EDUCATION

Practical knowledge, interviews  
with experts, courses, training  
etc.

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## CULTURE TOURISM NGO

Interesting facts about Poland  
and the Świętokrzyskie region,  
social activity

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# INTEURO

Association Integration Europe-East  
summed up 2024

**The Association Integration Europe-East successfully summed up 2024 with the project 'INTEURO - Programme of integration and professional mobilisation of foreigners in the Swietokrzyskie Voivodeship'. The Centre for Integration of Foreigners at 78A Sienkiewicza Street in Kielce was visited by more than 1,600 people looking for support in the legalisation of their stay, psychological, legal, educational and health assistance. Dozens of Polish language courses at different levels were organised, as well as integration classes for children, young people and seniors.**

In cooperation with the Voivodeship Labour Office in Kielce, the Association focused on the professional mobilisation of foreigners. Career counsellors supported around 100 unemployed women from Ukraine. In addition, several dozen participants benefited from vouchers for job courses.

As part of cultural activities, the Association organised a photo exhibition entitled 'Taken off the Face of the Earth', commemorating the second anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine, and an integration meeting on the occasion of Ukrainian Independence Day.

Nearly 150 teachers and 100 public officials from the Swietokrzyskie region participated in training courses, improving their competences in working with foreigners.

Thanks to the commitment of the Association Integration Europe-East, the year 2024 was full of activities for the integration and support of foreigners and the local community in the Swietokrzyskie voivodeship.



## Do you have any questions? Contact us:

Editorial team of the NOWINY service and newsletter  
INTEURO Centre for the Integration of Foreigners  
(Association Integration Europe - East)  
25-501 Kielce, str. Sienkiewicza 78A, phone +48 573  
338 377 [info@nowiny@inteuro.info](mailto:info@nowiny@inteuro.info) [nowiny.inteuro.info](http://nowiny.inteuro.info)





News  
from Kielce  
and the region

Topic  
no.1 of the  
issue

## Christmas in the region

**In 2024, Kielce once again invited the public to its heart - the Market Square, which during Christmas and New Year's Eve turned into a magical centre of festive events. Citizens could rely on an unforgettable atmosphere full of joy, Christmas decorations and numerous attractions.**

Christmas in Kielce started with magnificent illuminations that decorated the Market Square and nearby streets. Thousands of lights, a Christmas tree and decorations set everyone in a magical mood. A Christmas fair was set up on the Market Square, where visitors could buy Christmas gifts and taste regional specialities. The stands included mulled wine, gingerbread and other delicacies. For children, there were workshops, meetings with Santa Claus, singing carols with singers from the Zameczek Song Studio and a magical dance performed by the Kielce Dance Theatre.

On 28 December, the quietest and craziest event 'The Great Kielce Silent Disco - Magical December on the Market Square continues!' took place, during which citizens could choose from three music channels. A photo booth and a Ferris wheel were also available to visitors.

New Year's Eve in Kielce 2024 was a unique opportunity to welcome the New Year with friends and family. The traditional open-air party took place on the Market Square and attracted crowds. Musical performances, dance rhythms and the energy of the citizens made the farewell to the old year full of joy. The star of the evening was BARANOVSKI, one of Poland's most popular artists, who wowed everyone with his hits. The Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations in Kielce were a time when the city was vibrant with life, and the Market Square became a place full of warmth, magic and festive spirit. It was an excellent opportunity to spend those special moments in the heart of the capital of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.



# LEGALISATION OF STAY-

## changes in the Świętokrzyskie region

**The legalisation of the stay of foreigners in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship is a key process for those planning a longer stay in Poland. Significant changes to the application procedure have recently been introduced to streamline the process.**

### **New rules for applying**

From 15 October 2024, the online appointment booking service for in-person applying for temporary residence, permanent residence and residence of a long-term EU resident has been cancelled. All applications can only be submitted at the registry office or via the postal operator. Currently, it is recommended to use the Module of Case Service (MOS) available at [mos.cudzoziemcy.gov.pl](https://mos.cudzoziemcy.gov.pl). Thanks to MOS, foreigners can fill in application forms online, print them with a barcode, sign them and send them to the relevant voivodeship office. Once the application has been received, the office will set a date for a personal appointment to take fingerprints.

### **What is the MOS application?**

MOS is a modern tool that allows applications for temporary or permanent residence permits to be filled in electronically. It facilitates the preparation of documents, minimising the risk of formal errors. Currently, applications completed in MOS have to be printed out and sent to the office, but in the future it is planned to introduce a full electronic service, which will further simplify the procedure.

### **Contact with the Office**

The Świętokrzyski Voivodeship Office responsible for foreigners' affairs is located at al. IX Wieków Kielc 3, 25-516 Kielce, building C, 5th floor. Telephone contact: +48 (41) 342 16 68.

### **Support at the Centre for Integration of Foreigners INTEURO**

Foreigners needing assistance in filling in applications or seeking answers to questions related to the legalisation of their stay can use the free services of the Centre for Integration of Foreigners in Kielce, located at Sienkiewicza 78A. The Centre's staff offer free consultations and support from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

### **Contact:**

- Hotline: +48 573 338 377
- Viber/WhatsApp: +48 789 085 083
- E-mail: [info@inteuro.info](mailto:info@inteuro.info)





# Own business in Poland How to start?

## Start a business in cooperation with **INTEURO**

**The Centre for the Integration of Foreigners in Kielce invites you to take advantage of a unique opportunity to spread your wings in Polish business.**

### **The INTEURO project - support at every stage**

The project 'INTEURO - Programme of integration and professional mobilisation of foreigners in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship' offers comprehensive support to women from Ukraine who want to start their own business. If you dream of running your own business, but don't know how to get started, this project is designed with you in mind!

As part of the project we offer:

- **Free legal and accounting assistance** – We support you in legal issues related to the establishment of your company, formalities related to the registration of your business, as well as the accounting at the initial stage of operation.

- **Access to coworking space** – As part of the project, participants will have the opportunity to use a free coworking area, i.e. an office space in the INTEURO Centre for Integration of Foreigners at 78A Sienkiewicza Street in Kielce.
- **Business seminars and consultancy** – You will gain not only practical knowledge about running a business, but also skills related to marketing, financial management or communicating with customers.

### **Who can benefit?**

Support is available to women who arrived in Poland from Ukraine after 24 February 2022 and want to set up their own business.

### **How to join?**

Simply contact the Centre for the Integration of Foreigners in Kielce for detailed information on the forms of support available. Our team will be happy to assist you in every step to start your business adventure in Poland.



# CHANGES FOR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN 2025

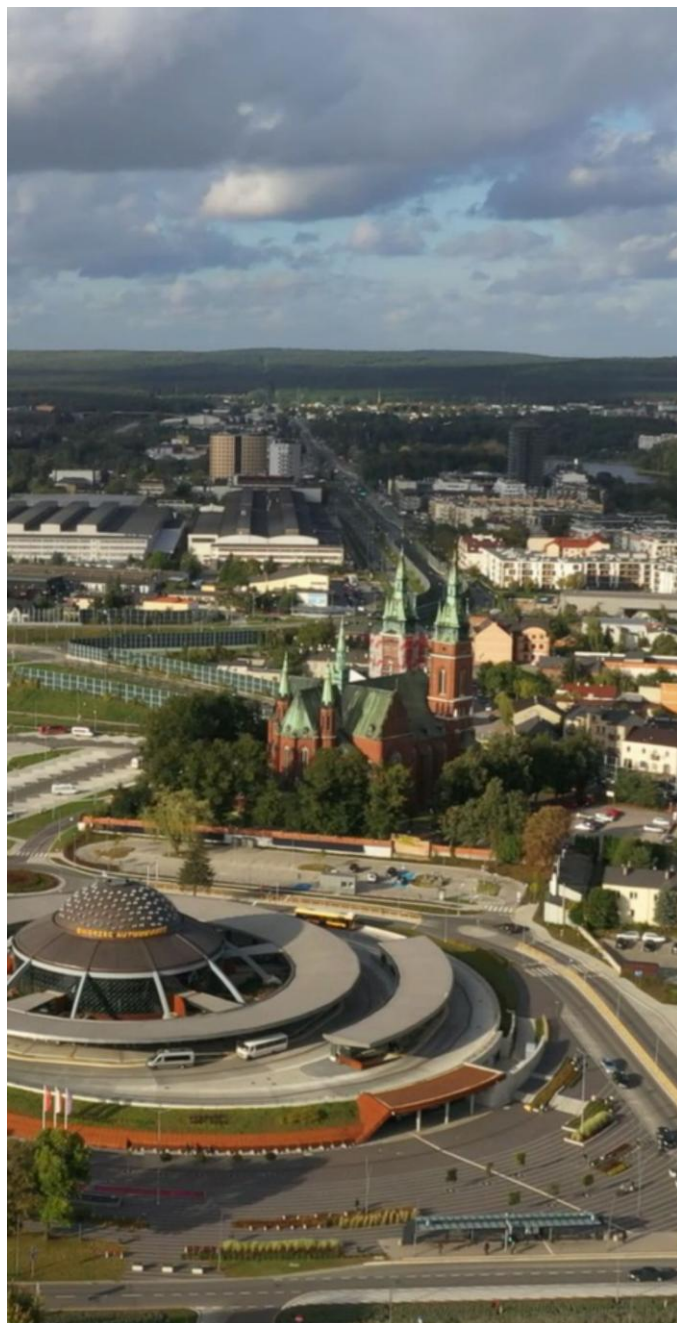
The year 2025 will bring a number of significant changes to Polish labour law, which will affect both employees and employers. Among the most important regulations that will come into force are changes to the minimum payment, holidays, benefits, as well as support for disabled and elderly people.

From 1 January 2025, the minimum wage for full-time employment will increase to PLN 4,666 PLN brutto, which means an hourly rate of PLN 30.50. The increase in the minimum salary is aimed at improving the material situation of employees, especially those employed in the lowest positions.

Another important change is the modifications to the health care contribution. The need to pay contributions on the sale of fixed assets will be removed and entrepreneurs will pay contributions on a base of 75% of the minimum wage. These changes are intended to reduce the financial burden on companies.

In 2025, employees who become parents of a pre-term baby will also gain longer maternity leave, and the unemployed can count on full benefits, with no reduction for those with less seniority.

Employees will also gain additional days off due to two public holidays falling on a Saturday in 2025. The establishment of 24 December as a public holiday will also be an expected change.





# Education in Poland



## 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JAN KOCHANOWSKI IN KIELCE

**On 28 November 2024, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce celebrated the 55th anniversary of its existence.**

This unique event brought together numerous guests, including Świętokrzyskie parliamentarians, representatives of the voivodeship authorities, the city of Kielce, educational and cultural institutions, as well as current and former rectors, professors, lecturers, graduates, students and friends of the university.

During the ceremony, medals of 'Merit for the University' were awarded to those who contributed in a special way to the development of the university. Employees of the university were also honoured for their long-standing service and commitment beyond the scope of their duties, appreciating their daily work to shape future generations. The anniversary celebrations were not only an opportunity to summarise UJK's achievements to date, but also to present ambitious plans for the future. The University continues to develop dynamically, focusing on modernising its infrastructure, introducing new fields of study and intensifying international

Cooperation. All this is aimed at further strengthening the position of Jan Kochanowski University as a modern, rapidly developing university, which educates students ready for the challenges of the modern world.

To mark the anniversary, the University invited the public to take part in the '55/55' competition. It includes 55 questions about the University. This is a great opportunity to test your knowledge of UJK and win a fantastic prize.

Graphics: fot. Archiwum SIEW, logos: [ujk.edu.pl](http://ujk.edu.pl)



# HELPING FOREIGN PUPILS!

Faced with increasing cultural diversity in Polish schools, educational institutions are intensively looking for intercultural consultants. Their role is to support students from different cultural backgrounds, facilitate integration and build bridges of understanding between students, parents and teachers.

On 1 September 2024, a new education law came into force, under which schools may (but are not required to) employ intercultural assistants. The aim of the assistants' work is to support foreign students who show learning difficulties due to a lack of or insufficient knowledge of the Polish language.

How to apply for a cultural assistant for a pupil at school?

The student's parents or legal guardians should request that the head teacher allocate such support. In the letter it is useful to outline the specific difficulties the child's specific difficulties (e.g. language barriers, problems adapting to the new school environment or lack of support in understanding educational material).

## **How our Association helps foreign students with school difficulties?**

We would like to remind you that as part of the INTEURO project - Programme of integration and professional mobilisation of foreigners in the Swietokrzyskie Voivodeship, our Association organises compensatory classes for foreign pupils facing problems in Polish schools. We also help them prepare for their eighth-grade and matura examinations. It is worth mentioning that we recruit throughout the whole calendar year, so students can make up for their educational shortcomings also outside the school year.





# Świątokrzyski tourism Popielów Palace in Kurozwęki



## Welcome to the land of the buffalo!

**Dating back to the 14th century, the palace in Kurozwęki is a true gem of Polish architecture. Originally a Gothic stronghold, it was transformed into an elegant residence in the Baroque-Classical style. Today, the restored palace complex, surrounded by a picturesque park, attracts tourists from all over Poland and abroad.**

### **What is worth seeing?**

One of the biggest attractions of the place is the American buffalo farm. This is the only attraction of its kind in Poland, which allows you to see these majestic animals up close during a safari wagon ride. It is an unforgettable experience for both adults and children!

In addition, visitors can take part in fascinating walks through the corn maze, the dungeons of the palace, discovering its secrets, as well as enjoy delicious meals in the palace restaurant. Accommodation is also available on site, making Kurozwęki the perfect place for a weekend trip.

### **How to get there?**

Kurozwęki Palace is located about 10 km from Staszów and 50 km from Kielce. You can get there by car, following the provincial road no. 765.

For those travelling by public transport, the best option is to take the bus to Staszow and then use local services or a taxi. More information: <https://www.palacpopielow.pl/>





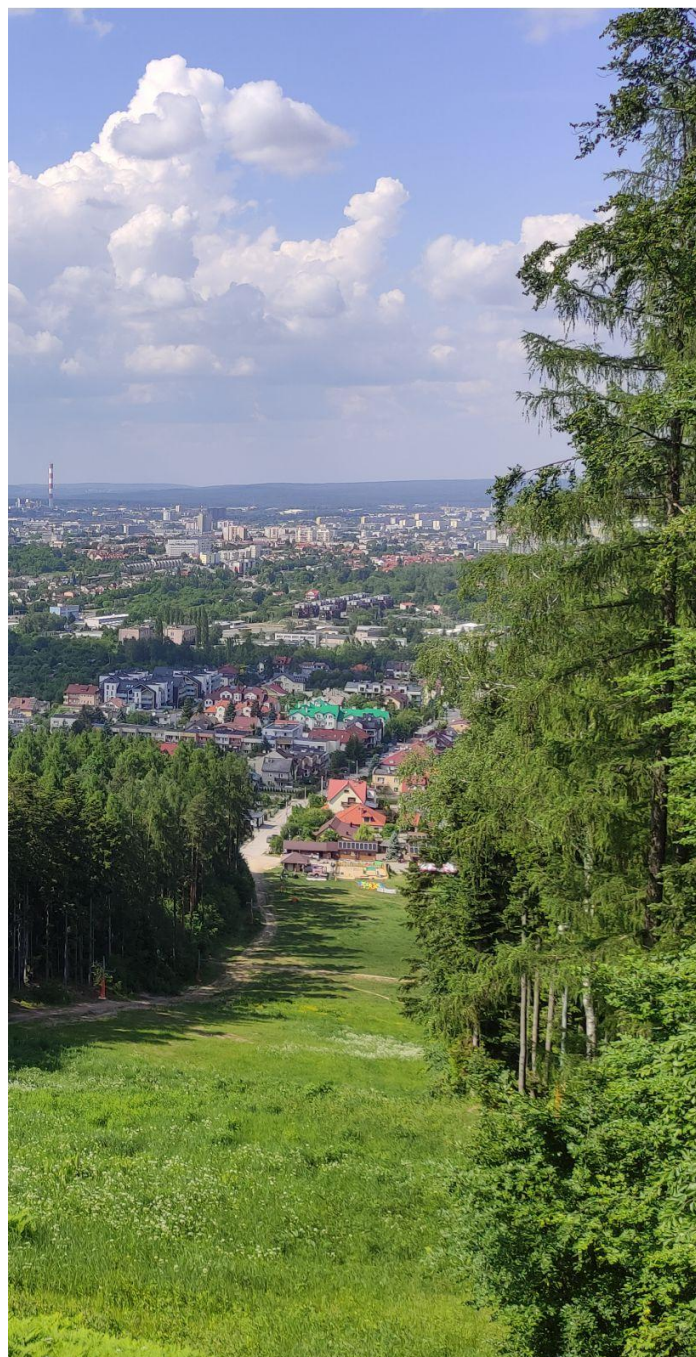
# PENSION FOR UKRAINIAN CITIZENS IN POLAND

**Ukrainian citizens working in Poland are entitled to a pension from the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), provided they meet the same criteria as Polish citizens.**


The retirement age in Poland is 60 for women and 65 for men. In order to obtain the minimum pension, it is necessary to have a sufficient length of service: 20 years for women and 25 years for men. In the case of Ukrainian citizens, periods of insurance in Poland and Ukraine can be aggregated thanks to the social security agreement between the two countries. The amount of the pension depends on accumulated contributions and length of work experience. If a person has worked in both countries, he or she may receive benefits from both pension schemes, in proportion to the years worked in each.

To apply for a pension, an application must be submitted to the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), which then forwards the documentation to the relevant institutions in Ukraine. It is worth remembering that in order to receive the minimum pension from the Social Insurance Institution, it is necessary to reside permanently on the territory of Poland.

Thanks to the cooperation between Poland and Ukraine, Ukrainian citizens have the possibility of pension security, which promotes their integration and financial stability in retirement.







What is the  
**Card of the Pole**  
and who can  
get it?

# Card of the Pole

**The Card of the Pole is a document confirming belonging to the Polish nation, granted to persons without Polish citizenship or the right of permanent residence in Poland, who declare Polish national identity. The Card of the Pole is neither an identity document nor a basis for crossing borders, but constitutes a symbolic and formal recognition of Polish**

With the Card of the Pole, Poland opens up to Poles and people with historical ties to our country, offering them support and the opportunity to return to the homeland of their ancestors.

## **Where to apply?**

Important changes related to the application for the Card of the Pole, extending the validity of the Card of the Pole and changing the data of the card holder have taken place for citizens of Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

## **Contact with the Office**

Address: al. IX Wieków Kielce 3, 25-516 Kielce, building C, V floor Phone: +48 (41) 342 11 41

The Świętokrzyski Voivodeship Office has announced that as of 01.08.2022, applications for the Card of the Pole may be submitted at the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Office in Kielce by telephone appointment in advance.

## **Applicants can apply if they:**

- have a Polish origin
- cultivate Polish culture, traditions and language.

Holders of the Card of Pole are entitled to:

- work in Poland without the need to obtain an additional permit,
- discounts on tickets in cultural institutions,
- free education at public schools and universities

## **Support at the Centre for Integration of Foreigners**

If you need assistance in filling in your application, the staff of the Centre for Integration of Foreigners in Kielce, ul. H. Sienkiewicza 78a, will provide you with the necessary guidance and assistance in formalities.

**Helpline:** +48 573 338 377

**E-mail:** [info@inteuro.info](mailto:info@inteuro.info)



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