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The prospects of the development of occupational therapists' education in Poland.

Dariusz Lubon¹

¹*The National Chamber of Occupational Therapy, Katowice, Silesia, Poland,* ²*The Silesian School of Applied Sciences, Ruda Slaska, Silesia, Poland*

The occupational therapist (OT) profession has been recently qualified as one of the medical professions in Poland. OT are currently trained at two-years vocational colleges and they are enabled to get the OT diploma. A new project of an act "of some medical professions" provides for obtaining OT qualifications and authorization after graduating in OT studies or OT specialization within any other studies. Currently there is no valid OT educational standard for higher studies in Poland. The Silesian School of Applied Sciences (SSAS) and The National Chamber of Occupational Therapy (NCOT) have prepared such a standard which takes into account the Minimal Standards of Education stated by WFOT (MSE WFOT). Due to the fact that official introduction procedure of the educational standard is long-lasting, NCOT in cooperation with SSAS intends to organize OT education at the Bachelor's Degree level as a specialization within the public health studies, taking into consideration MSE WFOT including both the practices and the practical classes input. The main aim of a designed strategy of the OT educational development for years 2007-2016 is gaining by occupational therapy the independent educational and scientific discipline status.