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Ukrainian & Ruthenian

The Ukrainian and Ruthenian
language in education
in Poland



* numerically small language communities

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Foreword

background

For several years now, Mercator-Education has made efforts to achieve one of its principal goals: to gather, store and distribute information on minority language education in European regions. Regional or minority languages are languages which differ from the official language of the state where they are spoken and which are traditionally used within a given territory by nationals of that state forming a group numerically smaller than the rest of the state's population. The success of the series of regional dossiers has shown a need for documents stating briefly the most essential features of the educational system of regions with an autochthonous lesser used language. With the establishment of regional dossiers we intend to meet this need.

aim

Regional dossiers aim at providing concise descriptive information and basic educational statistics about minority language education in a specific region of the European Union. This kind of information, such as features of the educational system, recent educational policies, division of responsibilities, main actors, legal arrangements, support structures, and also quantitative information on the number of schools, teachers, pupils and financial investments, can serve several purposes.

target group

Policy makers, researchers, teachers, students and journalists may use the information provided to assess developments in European minority language schooling. They can also use a regional dossier as a first orientation towards further research or as a source of ideas for improving educational provision in their own region.

link with EURYDICE

In order to link these regional descriptions with those of national educational systems, it was decided to follow the format used by EURYDICE, the European education

information network in the European Union. EURYDICE provides information on the administration and structure of education in member states of the European Union. The information provided in the regional dossiers is focussed on language use at the various levels of education.

contents

The remainder of this dossier consists firstly of an introduction to the region under study, followed by six sections each dealing with a specific level of the educational system. These brief descriptions contain factual information presented in a readily accessible way. Sections eight to ten cover research, prospects and summary statistics. For detailed information and political discussions about language use at the various levels of education, the reader is referred to other sources with a list of publications.

I

Introduction*language*

The **Ukrainian language** (in Ukrainian: *українська мова* [ukrayins'ka mova]) is an East-Slavonic language of the Indo-European family, together with Russian, Belarusian and Ruthenian¹.

Ukrainian is the official language in Ukraine (independent since 1991), where it is spoken by some 67% out of approximately 47.7 million citizens². Considerable groups of Ukrainians also live in Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus (greatly Russified, as far as their mother tongue is concerned), as well as in Hungary, Romania and Moldova (as transborder minorities), Canada (most vivid and numerous Ukrainian diaspora³), USA, Brazil and other South-American countries, Australia, and Germany (cf. e.g. Jermolenko, 1999).

Up to 1945, Ukrainian dialects spread out along the contemporary eastern Polish border from the south up to Hajnówka and along the southern border up to the valley of the Poprad River (with three “Ruthenian” villages further in the west. In the northern part of the territory, south of Hajnówka, there is an area of transitional Ukrainian-Belarusian dialects; the southern belt is the region of Ruthenians (Lemkos/Rusyns – see below). In the present administrative structure of the country, the original area of Ukrainian dialects in Poland is divided among the provinces of Podlasie, Lublin, Subcarpathia and Little Poland (*województwo podlaskie, lubelskie, podkarpackie, małopolskie*). There are only a few compact Ukrainian-speaking areas and many mixed Polish-Ukrainian territories. Already before 1939, many Ukrainian-speaking villages along the Bug River switched from the Ukrainian dialect to Polish, especially in the western part of the territory. In 1945, “Ukrainians and Ruthenians” (483,000 people) were “repatriated” to Soviet Ukraine. In 1947, the remainder of the Ukrainian-speaking population (about 150,000

people) were re-settled into new Polish territories in the north and west (former German eastern territories) in Operation "Vistule" (*Akcja "Wisła"*). Only in north Podlasie, people who were considered (or considered themselves) Belarusians were not displaced. The deserted territories were settled by Poles. After 1956, a limited number of authorizations to return were issued – for some 6,000 families – to restricted areas only. In the 1980's, and especially after 1989 when all restrictions were lifted, only a few, rather old people decided to return; the younger generation preferred to stay in their new settlements (cf. Rieger 1997: 1622).

The territories near Przemyśl were settled by Poles and Ukrainians from as early as the 11th until the 14th century. Many population changes were caused by Tatar and later by Cossack wars. The area on the Bug River was settled by Rusyns⁴ (Ukrainians) from the East and by Poles from the West. Generally up to the 20th century, the belt immediately along the Bug was Ukrainian with some Polish – or Polonized – towns and villages. Further west along this belt, the population was of mixed character.

Ukrainians on the Bug River were Greek Catholics (Uniate Ukrainian Church) until the partition of Poland in 1795. In the territories acquired by Russia, that denomination was eventually suppressed and the population forced to convert to (Russian) Orthodoxy. Only in 1905 were the descendants of Uniates permitted to become Roman Catholics. Also in Galicia (after 1772 a part of the Austrian Empire), the Orthodoxy was spreading at the expense of Uniate (Greek Catholic) church. In 1947, the latter denomination was totally banned. Since 1956, Uniate priests have half-legally celebrated services in Roman Catholic churches. In 1989, the organisation and hierarchy of the Uniate Ukrainian Church were restored. The minority of Ukrainians (and Ruthenians/Lemkos) is Orthodox; after 1945 they could exercise their

religion freely, though they were limited by a shortage of parishes and priests. The introduction of Roman Catholicism into the territories and communities of Polish Ukrainians strengthened Polonization (cf. Rieger 1997: 1623).

Between 1945 and 1989, Ukrainians (including Ruthenians) were deprived of any political representation in Poland; the only officially allowed organization being the state-controlled Ukrainian Socio-Cultural Association founded after the post-Stalinist thaw in 1956. In 1989, they started with one member of Parliament. The establishment of an independent Ukrainian state in 1991 boosted the national activity of Ukrainians. From an economic point of view, Ukrainians are in the same situation as the Polish majority; their status depends on the region they inhabit, on education and social levels within the community, etc.

In general, Poles are Roman Catholics. The greater part of Ukrainians and Ruthenians are Greek Catholics (Uniate Ukrainian Church), while a minority is Orthodox. There are controversies among the three denominations concerning churches taken away from the Greek Catholics after 1947.

As a result of the events of 1945-1947 and of the return of some of the displaced Ukrainians and Ruthenians to their original territories, there are Ukrainian and/or Ruthenian villages (and small areas with compact settlements) only in the northern and south-eastern part of the country.

The majority of Ukrainian-speaking population state Ukrainian nationality. The same phenomenon can be observed in part of the Ruthenian-speaking population, while another part of the latter group states a separate Lemkian (=Ruthenian) nationality. People in the Podlasie region see themselves either as "here-living people" or as Belarusians (cf. Rieger 1997:1626, Wicherkiewicz 2001)

The Ukrainian dialects in the present territory of Poland have traditionally been divided into Podlasie, Volhynia-Chelm, Dnistr, San, Boiko and Lemko groups of dialects (cf. Lesiv 1997). The latter – Lemko dialects – are regarded by some specialists as a core of the independent **Ruthenian language** (*руськы / лемківскы язык* [*rus'ky / lemkiivsky yazyk*]). Several thousand members of the Lemko community (in a broader sense called Ruthenian or Rusyn), do not regard themselves as Ukrainians for historical, political, religious and cultural reasons (cf. <http://www.carpatho-rusyn.org>, <http://www.carpathorusynsociety.org>)

The Union of Ukrainians in Poland and the Ukrainian Archive (founded in 1989) have published over 15 books in Ukrainian. Altogether, in the post-war period, some 40 books have been published, most of them as literary and historical works. Since 1989, more than twenty books in Ruthenian have been published in Poland. They are mainly poetry collections, books for children and memoirs concerning the deportation period.

Next to books and school handbooks, there are several press titles:

- *Nashe slovo* ["our word"] – published since 1956, weekly in Ukrainian (cf. <http://nslowo.free.ngo.pl>)
- *Nad Buhom i Narvoyu* ["on the Bug and Narew rivers"] – since 1991, bimonthly in Ukrainian for the Podlasie region (cf. <http://nadbuhom.free.ngo.pl>)
- *Ridna mova* ["mother tongue"] – periodical for Ukrainian teachers (cf. www.ridnamowa.pl)
- *Ukrayins'kiy Al'manakh* – yearly
- yearly calendars: *Blahovist* (Greek-Catholic) and *Pravoslavnyi kalendar* Orthodox

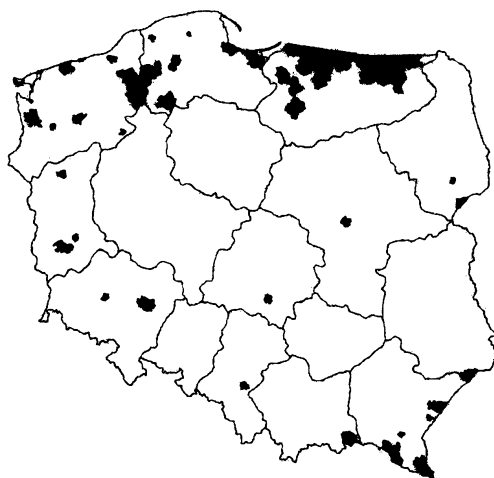
The regular publications in Ruthenian are the quarterly *Besida* and the yearly *Lemkivskiy richnik*.

population

After the War, the population of Ukrainians (including Ruthenians) in Poland was estimated as follows, according to various sources⁵:

- 1957 – 131,000⁶
- 1961 – 150,000⁷
- 1962 – 180,000⁸
- 1967 – 250,000⁹
- 1970 – 200,000¹⁰
- 1971 – 180-200,000¹¹
- 1978 – 180,000¹²
- 1987 – 300,000¹³
- 1994 – < 300,000¹⁴
- 1998 – < 300,000¹⁵
- 2002 – 200,000-300,000¹⁶

Due to the political developments and resettlements in the 1940s, only a part of the Ukrainian and Ruthenian communities inhabit the territories of their original habitat, i.e. south-eastern provinces of the country. The present-day concentration of these communities is shown on the maps. They also display the areas where Ukrainian- and Ruthenian-language education centres are concentrated:



Ukrainians and schools for the Ukrainian minority in present-day Poland



Ruthenians (Lemkos/Rusyns) and schools for the Ruthenian minority in present-day Poland

The 2002 population census contained two questions dealing with the questions of “nationality” and “home language”:

1. “Which nationality do you most identify with?”
2. “Which language(s) do you speak most often at home?”

A total of **30,957** people answered “Ukrainian” for the first question, including **27,172** citizens of Poland; 11,881 (43.7%) of whom reside in the province of Varmia-Mazuria (*województwo warmińsko-mazurskie*, capital Olsztyn), i.e. in the northern territories, along the border with the Kaliningrad *Oblast’* of the Russian Federation; 3,703 people live in the province of Western Pomerania (*województwo zachodniopomorskie*; Szczecin); 2,984 in the province of Subcarpathia (*województwo podkarpackie*; Rzeszów), i.e. in the original habitat of the Ukrainian minority. 2,831 people stating Ukrainian nationality live in the province of Pomerania (*województwo pomorskie*; Gdańsk); 1,422 in the province of Lower Silesia (*województwo dolnośląskie*; Wrocław); and 1,366 in the province of Podlasie (*województwo podlaskie*; Białystok). The numbers for other provinces vary from 35 to 615 people.

Answers to the second question were “Ukrainian”, “Ukrainian and Polish” or “Polish and Ukrainian” (no distinct data were published), given only by **22,695** people, including **21,056** Polish citizens. Worth noticing are significant discrepancies between “nationality” and “home language” figures.

A total of **5,863** people answered “Lemko (=Ruthenian)” for the first question, including **5,850** citizens of Poland; 3,082 (52.7%) of whom reside in the province of Lower Silesia (*województwo dolnośląskie*, capital Wrocław); and 1,580 (27%) in the province of Little Poland (*województwo małopolskie*, Kraków/Cracow), i.e. in the original habitat of the Ruthenian minority. The numbers for other provinces vary from 1 to 784 people.

Answers to the second question were “Lemkian (=Ruthenian)”, “Lemkian and Polish” or “Polish and Lemkian” (no distinct data were published), given by **5,627** people, including **5,605** Polish citizens.

Here, it is worth stressing that almost 190,000 Polish citizens did not state any nationality or mother tongue! (cf. http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane_spol-gosp/nsp/ludnosc/tab_przeg.xls)¹⁷ The most important Ukrainian cultural events are the annual Festivals of Ukrainian Culture in Sopot and Przemyśl, the Ukrainian Youth Fair in Gdańsk, the Festival of Bandore Music in Przemyśl, the Festival of Youth Ensembles in Koszalin, the Festival of Ukrainian Culture in Podlasie region, and the Ukrainian *Vatra* [“fire-watch”] in Bytów. Local Ukrainian communities organize their choirs, folk music and children ensembles, amateur theatres, rock bands, etc. The world-famous Ukrainian choir *Zhuravli* [“cranes”] is worth a special mention. The Ruthenians gather at their two annual festivals, both called *Lemkivska vatra*. One is convened by the pro-Ukrainian Lemkos, the other by those who regard Lemkos as a separate nation. There are numerous folk ensembles, the most famous being *Kychera* from Legnica.

language status

Ukrainian has been recognized *de facto* as a minority language in Poland since the post-Stalinist political thaw of 1956, although during the entire communist era (i.e. until the 1990s), there was no legal act confirming this status *de iure*. Ruthenian has been recognized as a separate (ethnic) minority language since the beginning of the 1990's.

A bilateral treaty was signed between the Republic of Poland and Ukraine, recognizing the existence of the Ukrainian minority in Poland and the Polish minority in Ukraine, and mutually obliging both states to protect one another's rights (including the right to education in the respective

minority languages). The treaty was signed in Warsaw on May 18, 1992 (cf. <http://www.zbiordokumentow.pl/1992/4/8.html> – *Treaty between the Republic of Poland and Ukraine on Good-neighbourliness, Friendly relations and Co-operation*).

The 1997 Constitution of the Republic of Poland contains two articles that pertain directly to minority rights:

“Art.27

Polish shall be the official language of the Republic of Poland. This provision shall not infringe upon national minority rights resulting from ratified international agreements.

(...)

Art.35

1. The Republic of Poland shall ensure Polish citizens belonging to national or ethnic minorities the freedom to maintain and develop their own language, to maintain customs and traditions, and to develop their own culture.

2. National and ethnic minorities shall have the right to establish educational and cultural institutions and organizations designed to protect their religious identity, as well as to participate in the resolution of matters connected with their cultural identity”.

The 1999 *Law on the Polish language* provides for the possibility to introduce a minority language as auxiliary in those areas with a “considerable share of non-Polish population, where minority languages could be used in bilingual place names, in personal names and in local administration.”

The *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* was signed by Poland in 1995 and ratified in 2000. The first monitoring visit and report concerning its

implementation was conducted in April 2003, also among the Ukrainian (and Ruthenian) communities.

(cf. [http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/Minorities/1.GENERAL_PRESENTATION/1._News/News\(2003\)011.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/Minorities/1.GENERAL_PRESENTATION/1._News/News(2003)011.asp)),

In 2003, the government of the Republic of Poland signed *the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*. The process of its ratification, now possible thanks to the adopted *Law on national and ethnic minorities and the regional language*, has not been started yet.

On January 6, 2005, the Sejm (lower house of the Polish Parliament) passed the final version of the *Law on national and ethnic minorities and the regional language*, adding the major amendments voted by the Senate, which granted the right to use a minority/regional language as an auxiliary language in those municipalities (*gminy*) where at least 20% of inhabitants (according to the last census) stated affiliation to a minority¹⁸. The *Law* officially recognizes 9 national minorities: Belarusian, Czech, Lithuanian, German, Armenian, Russia, Slovak, **Ukrainian**, Jewish; 4 ethnic minorities: Karaims, **Lemks** (=Ruthenians), Roma, Tatars, and one regional language: Kashubian¹⁹

According to Art.1, the *Law* "(...) normalizes the issues relating to the maintenance and development of cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities, as well as the maintenance and development of the regional language (...)". Art.4 forbids, somewhat contradictorily to the regulations concerning introduction of an auxiliary language, "(...) to oblige anybody to reveal their (...) minority language (...)".

Chapter 2 deals with the questions of (official/auxiliary) usage of minority languages. The *Law* and the results of the 2002 census have not provided for the introduction of Ukrainian or Ruthenian as auxiliary languages in any

municipality (*gmina*). The number of Ukrainians has almost reached the statutory threshold of 20% in a single municipality of Biały Bór, in the Western-Pomeranian province (*województwo zachodniopomorskie*).

Art. 12 also provides an opportunity to introduce an additional place name in a minority/regional language, even if the number of inhabitants stating minority nationality (or regional language) amounts to less than 20%. In such a case, the proper motion of a municipality council must be consulted and supported in a referendum by at least 50% of the municipality's inhabitants.

According to Art. 15, the costs of introducing the auxiliary language and additional names in the auxiliary language shall be covered by the local municipality budget, while the information signs which have to be changed because of the introduction of the auxiliary language shall be financed by the state budget.

The 1992 *Law on radio and TV broadcasting* contains a general obligation to meet the needs of national and ethnic minorities in public media. There is one TV programme entirely in Ukrainian: *Telenovyny* ("TV news", 10 minutes) – broadcast nationwide biweekly and subtitled in Polish.

Radio programmes in Ukrainian are broadcast by the *Radio Koszalin* twice a week (30 minutes), radio stations in Rzeszów (once a week 30 minutes), Białystok (three times a week – 30, 15 and 15 minutes each) and Olsztyn (once a week 30 minutes). Programmes in Ukrainian are broadcast also by private stations in Lublin, Suwałki, Gorzów, Legnica, Iława, Czulchów, Przemyśl and Rzeszów. A weekly programme in Ukrainian and Ruthenian, *Kermesh*, is broadcast by *Radio Kraków*.

status of language education The following legal acts are crucial to the status of education of and in minority/regional languages in Poland:

- *Law on the system of education* of 1991, which grants pupils the right to maintain their national, ethnic, religious and linguistic identity, and in particular to be given classes in/on their mother tongue, as well as their history and culture;

- *Decree of the Minister of National Education and Sports on conditions and methods for enabling pupils belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups to maintain their national, ethnic identity* of 2002. This decree replaced the previous one issued in 1992 and is perceived by minority organizations as comparatively more regressive: e.g. there are no more provisions for pre-school education of/in minority languages; teaching of the mother tongue in schools for minorities is no longer compulsory, and many regulations contain the expression “country of origin”, which suggests that minority groups are of immigrant character.

- regulations concerning education also make up Chapter 3 of the above-mentioned *Law on national and ethnic minorities and the regional language*, which refers entirely to the *Law on the system of education* of 1991.

The Ukrainian minority has prepared a *Programme for the development of Ukrainian as minority language in Poland*, but unlike a strategy programme for Lithuanian as a minority language in Poland, the former has not been adopted and launched yet (cf. http://www.interklasa.pl/portal/dokumenty/r_mowa/strony_pol02/metodyka/program/01.htm).

education system The present system of education in Poland has been in effect since 1999, when the most significant education reform in the country's recent history took place.

School attendance is compulsory between the ages of 6 to 15-16. The education system in Poland is structured as follows:

- I. Kindergarten (*przedszkole*) – 3-4 to 6-7 years
- II. Primary school (*szkoła podstawowa*) – 6-7 to 12-13 years
- III. Lower secondary school (*gimnazjum*) – 12-13 to 15-16 years
- IV. Upper secondary school for general education (*liceum*) – 15-16 to 18-19 years
or
Vocational/technical secondary school (*technikum* or *liceum techniczne*) – 15-16 to 19-20 years
or
Specialized secondary school (*liceum profilowane*) – 15-16 to 18-19 years
or
Basic vocational school (*zasadnicza szkoła zawodowa*) – additional 2 years after *gimnazjum* [to be abolished soon]
- V. University (*uniwersytet, akademia, wyższa szkoła*) – 18-20 to 23-25 years. Universities commonly introduce two-degree study curricula: 3-year Bachelors (*licencjat*) degree programme, followed by a 2-year Masters (*magister*) degree programme
or
Post-secondary school (*szkoła policealna*) – 18-19 to 20-21 years
- VI. Postgraduate education: 4-year Ph.D. programme (*studia doktoranckie*) or a 1- to 2-year special graduate programme (*studia podyplomowe*).

*private and
public education*

In general, according to the *Law on the system of education*, Polish educational institutions can act as public institutions, “social” institutions, i.e. founded by municipalities, foundations or private establishments. At this time, there are

no private schools providing education in/on Ukrainian or Ruthenian. The existing schools in the region are predominantly public or municipality schools.

*bilingual
education*

All schools presented provide some form of teaching Ukrainian or Ruthenian and/or bilingual education in Polish and Ukrainian. The proportions, however, of classes given in both languages may vary according to school type:

- schools with Ukrainian as language of instruction – here, some subjects, except for Polish language & literature, history, geography and foreign languages, are lectured in Ukrainian, and Ukrainian language & literature is taught 4 classes a week. The curriculum in such schools also includes courses in the history and geography of Ukraine (one hour a week)
- inter-school groups with classes of Ukrainian – up to 3 hours a week
- schools with additional teaching of Ruthenian – here, all subjects are taught in Polish, and Ruthenian is taught as a subject – 3 hours a week.

administration

The pre-primary level of education (nursery and kindergarten) is not obligatory. It is organized, supervised and financed by the municipalities (*gmina*). Compulsory primary and lower secondary education is organized and financed by the municipalities from funding provided through the central education authorities (Ministry of National Education and Sports). Upper secondary education is organized and financed by the counties (*powiat*) from funding provided through the same central education authorities. Higher educational institutions are autonomous, but financed and supervised by the Ministry of National Education and Sports and also the Ministry of Science and Information Technology. This is not the case for specialized universities of medicine and agriculture, or academies of music, theatre & film and fine arts, and military academies, all of which are super-

vised and financed by the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Culture, and Defense, respectively.

inspections

Lower and upper secondary schools are supervised and monitored mainly by the provincial Boards of Education (kuratorium oświaty). Three of the Boards have special pedagogical advisors: in the provinces of Western Pomerania (Szczecin), Varmia-Mazuria (Olsztyn) and Subcarpathia (Rzeszów).

2

Pre-school education

target group

This level of education is not compulsory in Poland. As far as education in/on minority education is concerned, the 2002 *Decree of the Minister of National Education and Sports on conditions and methods for enabling pupils belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups to maintain their national, ethnic identity*, contrary to its 1992 counterpart/predecessor, does not mention the pre-school level of education at all. In general, this level is intended for children between 3 and 5 years of age. There are public kindergartens – run by municipalities – there are so-called “social” ones – run by associations – and finally private kindergartens. Education for 6-year-olds has been compulsory since 2004. At present, only 33% of 3 to 5-year-olds attend pre-schools. In the rural areas this figure amounts to 13%. The main reason for this is formed by financial strains on the municipalities and parents: e.g. it is the latter who are personally responsible for transporting their children to kindergarten and are obliged to pay the costs – partially or totally – of the children’s board and day care.

structure

Since 2003-2004, the Ministry of National Education and Sports has decreed that all 6-year-olds must be included in the system of compulsory education. Therefore, the municipalities

had to establish so-called “zero classes” (*zerówka*), either in primary schools or in kindergartens. Eventually, all the “zero classes” are to be taken over by kindergartens.

legislation

Pre-school (kindergarten) education is organized in accordance with the 1999 Appendix *Framework statute of public kindergartens* to the *Decree of the Minister of Education on changes in the framework statutes of public 6-year primary schools and public lower secondary schools*.

language use

Ukrainian is used/taught in pre-school education in just two kindergartens: in Przemyśl (*województwo podkarpackie*) and Bielsk Podlaski (*województwo podlaskie*). In 2004, the kindergartens were attended by 67 children.

Ruthenian is taught to several children in 2 kindergartens (villages of Łosie and Hańczowa) in the province of Little Poland

teaching materials

Only basic teaching materials for the “zero classes” have been published both in Ukrainian and Ruthenian by the *Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne*²⁰.

statistics

Ukrainian in pre-school education

Year	Kindergarten	Children
2004	2	67

Ruthenian in pre-school education

Year	Kindergarten	Children
2005	2	<i>several</i>

3

Primary and lower secondary education*target group*

In the Polish education system, primary education is followed directly by lower secondary school education, which is also compulsory. Primary education is intended for children aged 6 to 12-13. Lower secondary education includes children aged 12-13 to 15-16. Both levels are compulsory.

In the 2004/2005 school year, more than 2.7 million pupils attended primary schools and almost 1.7 million attended lower secondary schools. In other words, a total of almost 4.4 million pupils are subject to these two compulsory levels of education.

structure

The primary and lower secondary schools providing education for the Ukrainian children have different structures. There are:

- 3 primary schools with the Ukrainian language of instruction – in Bartoszyce (*województwo warmińsko-mazurskie*), Przemyśl (*województwo podkarpackie*) and Biały Bór (*województwo zachodniopomorskie*);
- 107 inter-school groups with teaching of Ukrainian for primary-school pupils;
- 5 lower secondary schools with Ukrainian language of instruction – in Legnica (*województwo dolnośląskie*), in Górowo Haweckie and in Bartoszyce (*województwo warmińsko-mazurskie*), Przemyśl (*województwo podkarpackie*) and Biały Bór (*województwo zachodniopomorskie*);
- 23 inter-school groups with teaching of Ukrainian for lower-secondary-school pupils.

Teaching of Ruthenian as a minority language is organized and offered exclusively on a facultative basis. There were altogether 18 schools offering such classes for 181 children in the southern and western provinces of the country.

As in all schools providing minority/regional language classes, it is the school board of teachers that takes the decision to introduce classes for Ukrainian in the next school year. The decision must be supported by a resolution of the School Board. Seven written applications from parents are required to open a class with instruction on or in Ukrainian.

The State provides funding for teaching Ukrainian in such schools if its weekly provision amounts to 3 hours of classes. The subsidy rate for schools providing education in/on minority languages is 120% the rate for other schools. If the number of pupils in such a school does not exceed 42 (as is the case for smaller Ukrainian schools), the rate increases to 150%. Funding for the first four months of language instruction, however, must be provided by the municipality. In some cases, this amount may also be paid by the Ministry of National Education and Sports at the start of the school year.

The teaching programmes for primary and lower secondary schools providing Ukrainian education were accepted by the Ministry of National Education and Sports in 2002-2004.

legislation

Primary and lower secondary school education in Poland falls within the jurisdiction and supervision of the Ministry of National Education and Sports. It is compulsory for all children. Primary and lower secondary schools are established and financed by municipalities from funding provided by the Ministry. The most important laws relevant to primary, lower and upper secondary education (all three levels are generally dealt with together) are the 1991 *Law on the system of education*; the 1999 *Law on regulations introducing the reform of the schooling system*, with major amendments made in 2000, and finally – with special respect to schools providing education in/on minority/regional languages – the 2002 *Decree of the Minister of National Education and Sports on conditions and methods for enabling pupils be-*

longing to national minorities and ethnic groups to maintain their national, ethnic identity.

language use

The respective subjects taught entirely through the medium of the Ukrainian language are:

- “Integrated education” in classes 1-3 (primary school);
- “Ukrainian language & literature” – in classes 4-6 (primary school);
- “Ukrainian language & literature” – in lower secondary schools;
- “History of Ukraine” – in primary (classes 4-6) and lower secondary schools;
- “Geography of Ukraine” – in primary (classes 4-6) and lower secondary schools;
- “Regional education”;
- “home-room lessons”;
- “Religion” (for Greek Catholics, i.e. Uniate Ukrainians).

Other subjects can also be taught in Ukrainian and/or Polish.

teaching materials

The teaching materials for the Ukrainian and Ruthenian-language classes are published by the *Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne*. Publication of handbooks for both languages is highly insufficient. The Ministry of National Education and Sports has approved the Ukrainian-language handbooks for the following levels of education:

- 4 handbooks for classes 1-3 (primary school) – for integrated education and language teaching;
- 1 handbook for classes 4-6 (primary school) – for Ukrainian language & literature;
- school grammar-book;
- teaching programmes for integrated education, for Ukrainian language & literature for the classes 4-6, for Ukrainian language in inter-school groups for primary-school pupils, for Ukrainian language & literature in the lower secondary schools.

As far as the teaching of Ruthenian is concerned, a set of handbooks has been prepared (mostly by a single author, Mirosława Chomiak) and published, mostly by regional publishing houses:

- Ruthenian primers and handbooks for classes 1-4;
- anthology of children's poetry;
- Ruthenian-Polish school dictionary, thematic dictionaries;
- Ruthenian language school grammar;
- Ruthenian language teaching programmes for primary and lower secondary schools.

Most of the published teaching materials are bought or paid for by the Ministry of National Education and Sports, and distributed to the schools providing education in/on the minority/regional language.

statistics

A total of **500** children in **8** schools at primary and lower secondary levels were provided with classes where Ukrainian was the medium of instruction, while **1944** pupils were taught Ukrainian additionally in inter-school groups at primary and lower secondary level. The tables below show the numbers of children in individual types of schools throughout the country.

Primary schools offering Ukrainian classes in 2004/2005

Type of school	Number of schools	Number of children
primary schools with Ukrainian as language of instruction	3	227
inter-school groups with teaching of Ukrainian for primary-school pupils	107	1709

**Lower secondary schools offering Ukrainian classes
in 2004/2005**

Type of school	Number of schools	Number of children
lower secondary schools with Ukrainian as language of instruction	5	273
inter-school groups with teaching of Ukrainian for lower-secondary-school pupils	23	235

Teaching of Ruthenian as a minority language is organized and offered exclusively on a facultative basis in **18** schools with **181** children in the southern and western provinces of the country.

**Primary schools offering Ruthenian classes
in 2004/2005**

Type of school	Number of schools	Number of children
primary schools with facultative lessons of Ruthenian	13	144

**Lower secondary schools offering Ruthenian classes
in 2004/2005**

Type of school	Number of schools	Number of children
lower secondary schools with facultative lessons of Ruthenian	5	37

4 Upper secondary education

target group Upper secondary education is not obligatory in Poland and is intended for pupils aged 15-16 to 18-19. In 2004/2005 more than 919,000 pupils attended upper secondary schools (general education, technical and specialized schools)

structure The regulations for schools/classes providing education in Ukrainian and Ruthenian are generally the same as for primary lower secondary level. The State provides funding for teaching Ukrainian in such schools if weekly teaching amounts to 3 hours of classes.

The subsidy rate for schools providing education in/on minority languages is 120% the rate for other schools. If the number of pupils in such a school does not exceed 42, the rate increases to 150%. Funding for the first four months of language instruction, however, must be provided by the municipality. In some cases, this amount may also be paid by the Ministry of National Education and Sports at the start of the school year. The teaching programmes for schools providing Ukrainian and Ruthenian education were accepted by the Ministry of National Education and Sports in 2002-2004.

There are four upper secondary schools providing education in Ukrainian: in Legnica (*województwo dolnośląskie*), in Górowo Iławeckie (*województwo warmińsko-mazurskie*), Przemyśl (*województwo podkarpackie*) and Biały Bór (*województwo zachodniopomorskie*).

teaching materials There are hardly any materials for upper secondary level teaching of Ukrainian or Ruthenian in Poland, except for a teaching programme for Ruthenian language & culture. Therefore, the teachers have to use either Polish-language books or their own materials.

legislation

As with the lower educational levels, upper secondary education in Poland falls under the authority and supervision of the Ministry of National Education and Sports. The upper secondary schools, however, are organized and financed by the counties (and not the municipalities) from funding provided by the Ministry. The most important laws relevant to upper secondary education are the same as those relevant to primary and lower secondary schools, since all three levels are generally dealt with together.

language use

In four upper secondary schools, Ukrainian language & literature, history of Ukraine, geography of Ukraine, and Greek Catholic religion are lectured bilingually in Ukrainian; other subjects are taught in Ukrainian and/or Polish.

Since 2005, it has been possible to choose a minority/language as one of subjects included in the secondary school final examinations (*matura*). Ukrainian has been chosen as “mother tongue” subject of examination by **121** pupils²¹

statistics

A total of **371** pupils in **4** schools at upper secondary levels were given classes with Ukrainian as medium of instruction. There were also **2** inter-school groups providing additional teaching of Ukrainian to **19** pupils.

**Upper secondary schools offering Ukrainian classes
in 2004/2005**

Type of school	Number of schools	Number of children
upper secondary schools for general education with classes with Ukrainian as language of instruction	4	371
inter-school groups with teaching of Ukrainian for upper-secondary-school pupils	2	19

Teaching of Ruthenian as a minority language is organized and offered exclusively on a facultative basis in **one** school, where **31** pupils are taught Ruthenian additionally.

**Upper secondary school offering Ruthenian classes
in 2004/2005**

Type of school	Number of schools	Number of children
upper secondary school for general education with facultative lessons of Ruthenian	1	31

5 Vocational education

There is no separate vocational school providing teaching of/in Ukrainian or Ruthenian in Poland.

The specialized upper secondary school offering classes with Ukrainian as language of instruction in Górowo Iławeckie combines elements of general and vocational education in its curriculum, with a focus on economy and administration. There, Ukrainian is the language of instruction (including the teaching of Ukrainian as a mother tongue) for **24** pupils.

6 Higher education

structure

The institutions of higher education are autonomous, but financed and supervised by the Ministry of National Education and Sports, and the Ministry of Science and Information Technology. This does not hold good for specialized universities of medicine and agriculture, or academies of music, theatre and film, fine arts, and military academies, all of which are supervised and financed by the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Culture, and Defense, respectively. Polish Ukrainians and Ruthenians study in various institutions of higher education

throughout the country. There are also student-exchange programmes enabling them to study at Ukrainian universities.

language use

Ukrainian is taught at the following universities in Poland: University of Warsaw/Warszawa, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Catholic University of Lublin and Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin, Jagiellonian University and University of Pedagogy in Cracow/Kraków, University of Szczecin, University of Zielona Góra, minor or private institutions of higher education in Przemyśl, Legnica, Sanok. They offer a full 5-year M.A. (major) curriculum or 3-year B.A. programmes. The University of Cracow offers a curriculum in combined Russian and Ruthenian philology.

teacher training

All the teachers of Ukrainian in the above-mentioned primary and secondary schools have B.A. or M.A. degrees in Ukrainian, either from Polish or from Ukrainian universities.

Since 1990 annual methodical conferences for ca. 40 teachers of Ukrainian in Poland are organized by the Association of Ukrainian Teachers, earlier such conferences took place irregularly.

Teachers of Ruthenian are being educated at the University of Cracow; some of them have previously graduated from Slovak or Hungarian universities.

7

Adult education

There is no form of Ukrainian education for adults in Poland. Interested people take part in various Ukrainian courses at the above-mentioned universities.

8

Educational research

For political reasons, educational and sociolinguistic research on minority/regional language communities showed

little development from World War II until 1989. Questions related to ethnicity and minorities were included in population censuses between the 1930s and the 2000s.

Educational research results concerning the teaching of Ukrainian and Ruthenian as minority languages in Poland can be found on the website of the Ukrainian Union of Teachers www.ridnamowa.prv.pl, as well as in individual publications, e.g. Tucka 2001, Chomiak 2001. A monograph discussing the role of education in assimilation processes among Ukrainian children and youth in Poland was published by Tracewicz (2000).

9

Prospects

In spite of their extreme dispersion, the Polish Ukrainians seem to be one of the most active and well-organized minority communities in the country, although strong assimilation processes have caused a dramatic decline in the numbers of people stating Ukrainian nationality and/or Ukrainian as their mother tongue (cf. above), with the traditional folk culture, language and Greek Catholic denomination being the main factors of consolidation within the group.

The general prospects for the maintenance of Ukrainian in Poland have improved significantly after the political developments in Ukraine: independence (1991) and the Orange Revolution of 2004/2005.

The chances of survival and development of the Ruthenian language and Ruthenian culture are much weaker. It is difficult to predict whether attempts will succeed to form a separate pan-Ruthenian language and to unite the Ruthenian population of Poland, Slovakia, the Balkans, and especially Ukraine. The role of education of and in the mother tongues is crucial in both cases.

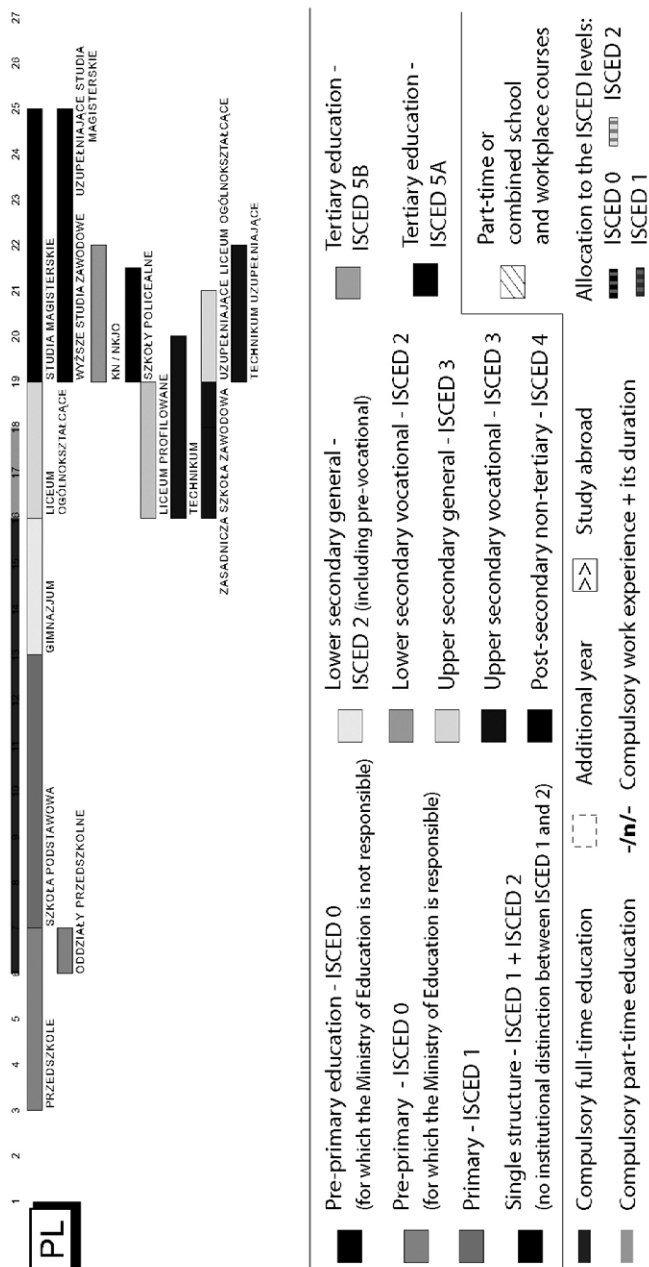
Endnotes

- 1 The (socio)linguistic and ethno-political status of Ruthenian is discussed below in the dossier.
- 2 Russian is the first mother tongue for app. 24% of the citizens of Ukraine, mainly in the eastern and southern part of the country, with other major minority (language) communities being: Jewish, Belarusian, Moldovan & Romanian, Bulgarian, Polish, Hungarian, Greek and Crimean Tatar (cf. *Etnichny spil'noty Ukrayiny* 2001)
- 3 In the province of Ontario, plans existed to grant Ukrainian the status of co-official language.
- 4 "Rusyns" is a former designation of Belarusians and Ukrainians; nowadays it is used mainly for the separate Ukrainian dialect – gaining a status of an independent language, Ruthenian, with speakers living in the Carpathian Mountains in Poland and Slovakia (where it enjoys a political status) and in Ukraine. The term "Lemkos" is used in Poland only.
- 5 Šatava, Leoš 1994. *Národnostní menšiny v Evropě. Encyklopedická příručka*. Praha.
- 6 Kloss, H. & G.D.McConnell (eds) 1984. *Linguistic Composition of the Nations of the World*. Vol. 5 *Europe and the USSR*. Québec.
- 7 *Atlas narodov mira* 1964. Moskva.
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- 9 Hérauld, G. 1967. *Die Völker als die Träger Europas*. Wien-Stuttgart.
- 10 Bruk, S.I. 1981. *Neseleniye mira. Etnodemograficheskiy spravochnik*. Moskva.

- 11 Haarman, H. 1973. *Soziologie der kleinen Sprachen Europas*. Band I *Dokumentation*. Hamburg.
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- 12 Bruk, S.I. 1986. *Naseleniye mira. Etnodemograficheskiy spravochnik*. Moskva.
- 13 Borisov, V.A. (ed.) 1989. *Naseleniye mira. Demograficheskiy spravochnik*. Moskva.
- 14 *Mniejszości narodowe w Polsce. Informator 1994*. 1995. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Sejmowe.
- 15 cf. Berdychowska 1998.
- 16 cf. *Raport...* 2002
- 17 the Census included a total of 38,230,080 inhabitants of the country, 37,529,751 of whom were Polish citizens, 492,176 of whom reported a non-Polish language as one of the languages used most often at home and 46,559 of whom reported a non-Polish language as the only language used at home.
- 18 According to the results of the 2002 census, there are 51 municipalities where at least 20% of inhabitants belong to a national/ethnic minority or speak the regional language: 12 Belarusian, 28 German, 10 Kashubian, and 1 Lithuanian.
- 19 The law recognizes national minorities (i.e. groups with their kin-state elsewhere); ethnic minorities (without a kin-state) and the community speaking the regional languages (cf. the *Regional Dossier* on Kashubian).
- 20 *Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne S.A.* ["School and educational publishing house"; stock joint Co. since 2004, before state-owned]
- 21 Respective figures for other minority languages: 269 pupils have chosen Belarusian, 41 – Lithuanian, 17 – Slovak, and 16 pupils have chosen Kashubian as their "native regional language".

Education system (*Eurydice*)

Organisation of the education system in Poland, 2004/05



Source: Eurydice.

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Addresses

Union of Ukrainians in Poland / *Obyednannia Ukrayintsiv u Pol'shchi* / Związek Ukraińców w Polsce

Union of Ukrainian Women / *Soyuz Ukrayinok* / Związek Ukrainek

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Union of Lemkos / *Obyednannia Lemkiv* / Zjednoczenie Łemków
ul.Hallera 20/19, PL-38-300 Gorlice

Association of Lemkos (=Ruthenians) / *Stovaryshynnia Lemkiv* / *Stowarzyszenie Łemków*
ul.Roosevelta 1, POBox 100, PL-59-200 Legnica

- On-line sources* <http://www.portal-ukraina.pl> (*Polish-Ukrainian website*)
- <http://www.harazd.net> (*website of the Polish Ukrainians in Wrocław*)
- <http://www.domiwka.net>
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- <http://nadbuhom.free.ngo.pl> (*Polish Ukrainian newspaper*)
- <http://www.ridnamowa.prv.pl> (*website of the Ukrainian Association of Teachers*)
- <http://lo4.harazd.net> (*website of the Ukrainian school in Legnica*)
- <http://licej.neostrada.pl/en/index.htm> (*website of the Ukrainian school in Górowo Iławeckie*)
- <http://klio.umcs.lublin.pl/~ruthenus> (*website of Ukrainian Philology at Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin*)
- <http://www2.uj.edu.pl/ects/pl/wydzialy/filologia/ukrainska.html> (*website of Ukrainian Philology at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow*)
- <http://www3.uj.edu.pl/ISR/ukrainoznawstwo/main.html> (*website of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow*)
- <http://www.ekpu.lublin.pl/e/index.html> (*website of the College of Polish and Ukrainian Universities*)

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<http://www.radio.bialystok.pl/mniejszosci>

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(websites of Ukrainian radio stations in Poland)

<http://www.portal-ukraina.pl/majsternia>

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<http://www.bazylianie.pl> (*website of the Ukrainian Uniate Order of Basilians*)

<http://www.wroc-gda.opoka.org.pl> (*website of the Wrocław-Gdańsk Ukrainian Uniate Eparchy*)

<http://www.grekat.stalwol.pl> (*website of the Ukrainian Uniate Parish in Lublin*)

<http://www.cerkiew.fr.pl> (*website of the Ukrainian Uniate Parish in Legnica*)

<http://www.orthodox.pl> (*website of the Orthodox Church in Poland*)

<http://akcjawisla.semper.pl> (*website on Operation “Vistule”*)

<http://akcjawisla.fm.interia.pl> (*website on Operation “Vistule” among the Ruthenians*)

<http://werchowyna.prv.pl> (*top hits from the Ukrainians and Ruthenians in Poland*)

<http://lemko.org> (*website on the Ruthenians in Poland*)

<http://www.carpatho-rusyn.org>

<http://www.carpathorusynsociety.org>

<http://www.ukraine-poland.com> (*Polish-Ukrainian website*)

<http://www.carpathianfoundation.org/cf/web/hq/index.jsp?id=0> (*website of the Carpathian Foundation*)

Other websites on minority languages

- Mercator* **www.mercator-central.org**
General site of the Mercator-project. It will lead you to the three specialized centres:
- Mercator-Education* **www.mercator-education.org**
Homepage of Mercator-Education: European Network for regional or minority languages and education. The site contains the series of regional dossiers, a database with organisations and bibliography and many rated links to minority languages.
- Mercator-Media* **www.aber.ac.uk/~merc/**
Homepage of Mercator-Media. It provides information on media and minority languages in the EU.
- Mercator-Legislation* **www.ciemen.org/mercator**
Homepage of Mercator-Legislation. It provides information on minority languages and legislation in the EU.
- European Union* **<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/langmin.html>**
At the website of the European Union an explanation is given of its support for regional or minority languages.
- Council of Europe* **<http://conventions.coe.int>**
European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1992) and *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (1995). European Treaty Series/Série des traités européens ETS 148 and 157, Strasbourg.
- Eurydice* **www.eurydice.org**
Eurydice is the information network on education in Europe. The site provides information on all European education systems and education policies.

EBLUL

www.eblul.org

Homepage of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. This site provides general information on lesser used languages as well as on projects, publications and events.

Eurolang

www.eurolang.net

Eurolang provides coverage of the concerns felt in the minority language regions in the European Union. Eurolang is EBLUL's news service.

What can Mercator-Education offer you?

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<i>network</i>	Mercator-Education is part of an information service and research network of three centres. They provide reliable and in-depth information on regional or minority languages in co-operation with many experts throughout Europe. Mercator-Media resides at the University of Wales (Aberystwyth) and Mercator-Legislation at Ciemen (Barcelona).
<i>newsletter</i>	An electronic newsletter with current developments concerning regional or minority languages in education is distributed to people and organisations.
<i>Q&A</i>	Through the Question and Answer Service we can inform you about any subject related to education in minority or regional languages in the European Union.
<i>publications</i>	<p>Regional dossiers are published on a regular base to provide basic information on schooling in minority language regions in the European Union.</p> <p>During the years we have published our extended studies on pre-primary education, primary education, teacher training and learning materials. Topical case studies and a selective bibliography have also been published. A list of all our publications is available.</p>

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