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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

**Initial periodical report
presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

POLAND

**THE 1st REPORT FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF
EUROPE ON IMPLEMENTATION BY THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND OF
THE PROVISIONS OF *THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR
MINORITY LANGUAGES***

Warszawa, 2010

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INTRODUCTION

After coming into force on 1 April 2001 with regard to the Republic of Poland the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities drawn up in Strasbourg on 1 February 1995 (Official Journal of 2002 No. 22, item 209), the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, hereinafter referred to as “the Charter”, was another stage of the actions aimed at binding the Republic of Poland with conventions regulating the rights of people belonging to national minorities. Binding the Republic of Poland with the Charter is also a confirmation, that minority languages and a regional language are treated as a significant value in the Republic of Poland.

The present document is the first report on the situation of minority languages and a regional language, prepared in accordance with Article 15 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The Report has been drawn up by the minister competent for religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities, whom now is the Minister of Interior and Administration. The said minister implements activities of the country connected with protection, preservation and development of cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities, including preservation and development of minority languages as well as preservation and development of a regional language. During preparation of the document, first of all there were described the measures aimed to promote the use of minority languages and a regional language in public life, resulting from the provisions of part III of the Charter, which were passed by the Republic of Poland during the process of ratification.

It should be pointed out that part III of the Report includes information on the actions taken in order to implement the provisions contained in part III of the Charter with regard to all minority languages and a regional language used in Poland. This results from the fact that in the Declaration made by the Republic of Poland to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Poland undertook to apply the foregoing provisions with regard to all minority languages, defined in accordance with Article 3 (1) of the Charter. Therefore, presentation of the above-mentioned information separately for each minority language and a regional language would be an artificial effort.

Furthermore, due to the legal provisions and the solutions implemented in Poland concerning minority languages and a regional language, information on implementation of selected provisions of the Charter was presented together.

PART I: GENERAL

1. The issue of implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages into the Polish legal system.

With reference to the issue of implementation of the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the Republic of Poland, there should be indicated the status of the international law in the national legislation.

Pursuant to Article 87 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2 April 1997 (Official Journal No. 78, item 483 with subsequent amendments), the sources of the universally binding law of the Republic of Poland are: the Constitution, acts, ratified international contracts, regulations, and within the area of the activities of the authorities which enacted them, local legislation instruments.

Poland respects the basic rules of international law in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, at the same being a party of the international contracts e.g. of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1963.

Article 91 of the Constitution provides that the ratified international contract, after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland, is a part of the national legal order and is directly applied, unless its application is contingent on the adoption of an act. The international contract ratified after its prior approval included in the act, has priority over the act, if the act cannot be reconciled with the contract. If the contract, ratified by the Republic of Poland, establishing an international organisation so provides, the laws established by that organisation shall be applied directly and have precedence in the event of a conflict of laws.

On 12 May 2003 the Republic of Poland signed the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The Charter concerns civic liberties, rights, obligations specified in the Constitution and therefore, the consent to its ratification had to be given by way of the act. On 6 June 2005 the Council of Ministers adopted a decision on submitting the Charter for ratification after the prior consent included in the act. The project of the act was a subject of the works of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland. However, due to the end of the term of office of the Sejm, the project was left without taking any further action. Therefore, the Minister of Interior and Administration commenced the procedure connected with the adoption of the project of the ratifying act for the second time. On 20 December 2006 the project of the act was passed by circulation by the Council of Ministers, but it was not referred for debate of the Sejm. In 2007 actions were taken aimed at completing the ratification process of the Charter as quickly as possible. Works on drawing up this document were finished in February 2008 and at that time there were documents submitted to the

Chancellery of the Prime Minister, concerning a petition for ratification of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, taking into consideration any previously proposed legislative and editorial remarks. On 7 April 2008 the Council of Ministers passed a decision on submitting the European Charter of Regional or Minority languages for ratification after the prior consent included in the act. Next, the parliamentary works on the project of the act concerning the ratification of the Charter were conducted.

Approval for the ratification of the Charter by the President of the Republic of Poland was included in the Act of 13 June 2008 on the ratification of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, drawn up in Strasbourg on 5 November 1992 (Official Journal of 2008 No. 144, item 898). On 12 February 2009 the Charter was ratified. Pursuant to Article 19 (2) of the Charter, the document came into force in relation to Poland on 1 June 2009.

It should be emphasised that before the beginning of the ratification process of the Charter, there had been consultations carried out with representatives of national and ethnic organisations and communities using a regional language, concerning the choice of the provisions which the Republic of Poland had undertaken to apply with regard to minority languages and a regional language in Poland. The issue of choosing the foregoing provisions was the subject of discussion of the Team on National Minorities during the 8th session, which was held in June 2003. Moreover, in July 2003 the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Interior and Administration turned to representatives of national and ethnic minorities as well as communities using a regional language with a request to submit suggestions concerning sections or points which, in accordance with Article 2 (2) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in their opinion should be provided in the declaration included in the ratification document and also to indicate regional or minority languages which according to Article 3 (1) of the Charter should be included in the ratification document.

During the ratification of the Charter, the Republic of Poland declared that it *was going to use the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in accordance with the provisions of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language (Official Journal No. 17, item 141, with subsequent amendments)*. Poland undertook to apply these provisions of the Charter which referred to the provisions binding in the Polish law. Thus, there was no need to adjust the national law to the provisions of the Charter.

2. Territorial languages in the Republic of Poland

In the Republic of Poland, pursuant to Article 3 point 2 and in accordance with Article 19 (2) of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and regional language, the regional or minority languages are as follows: Byelorussian, Czech, Hebrew, Yiddish, Karaim, Kashubian, Lithuanian, the Lemkos language, German, Armenian, Roma, Russian, Slovak, the Tatar language and Ukrainian.

Information on the distribution of inhabitants using minority languages and a regional language is given below:

The Byelorussian language

The Byelorussian language is used by people of the Byelorussian national minority, who traditionally inhabit the south-eastern territories of Podlaskie Voivodship. During the national census of people and dwellings carried out in 2002, 40 226 Polish citizens declared to use the Byelorussian language in household relations, including in Podlaskie Voivodship – 39 622, Mazowieckie Voivodship – 226, Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodship – 90, Lubelskie Voivodship – 72, Dolnośląskie Voivodship – 43, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship – 39, Pomorskie Voivodship – 35, Lubuskie Voivodship – 18, Podkarpackie and Małopolskie Voivodships – 15, Łódzkie and Śląskie Voivodships – 13, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 11, Wielkopolskie Voivodship – 10, Opolskie and Świętokrzyskie Voivodships – 2.

The Czech language

During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 1 226 Polish citizens declared to use Czech language in household relations, including: in Śląskie Voivodship – 239, Dolnośląskie Voivodship – 181, Mazowieckie Voivodship – 175, Małopolskie Voivodship – 109, Podkarpackie Voivodship – 93, Łódzkie Voivodship – 77, Opolskie and Wielkopolskie Voivodships – 67, Pomorskie Voivodship – 48, Lubelskie Voivodship – 43, Świętokrzyskie Voivodship – 36, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 32, Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodship – 23, Lubuskie Voivodship – 14, Podlaskie and Zachodniopomorskie Voivodships – 11. The majority of people using the Czech language in Poland do not declare to belong to the Czech minority. The first Czech migration to the territories of Poland took place in the middle of the 16th century and was connected with religious persecution of the Czech Brothers. Next migration waves were in the first half of the 17th century, the second half of the 18th century and at the beginning of the 19th century – the last was connected with development of textile industry in Łódź. Currently the Czech language plays a part of an indicator of the ethnic identity mainly in the town of Zelów (Bełchatowski Powiat, Łódzkie Voivodship).

The Lithuanian language

The Lithuanian language is used by the people who belong to the Lithuanian national minority who traditionally inhabit the northern territories of Podlaskie Voivodship. During the national census of people and dwellings in 2002, 5 696 Polish citizens declared to use Lithuanian language in household relations, including in Podlaskie Voivodship – 5 380, Mazowieckie Voivodship – 88, Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodship – 44, Pomorskie voivodship – 35, Wielkopolskie Voivodship – 34, Dolnośląskie Voivodship – 26, Śląskie and Zachodniopomorskie Voivodships – 23, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 11, Małopolskie Voivodship – 9, Łódzkie Voivodship – 8, Lubuskie and Opolskie Voivodships – 5, Lubelskie Voivodship – 3, Świętokrzyskie Voivodship – 2.

The Lemkos Language

During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 5 605 Polish citizens declared to use the Lemkos language in household relations, including: in Dolnośląskie Voivodship - 2 914, Małopolskie Voivodship - 1 780, Lubuskie Voivodship - 682, Podkarpackie Voivodship - 131, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship – 25, Wielkopolskie Voivodship – 17, Pomorskie and Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodships – 11, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 10, Mazowieckie Voivodship – 9, Lubelskie and Śląskie Voivodships - 6, Łódzkie Voivodship – 2, Podlaskie Voivodship - 1. The Lemkos language is used by people who declare to belong to the Lemkos minority. Traditionally, members of this minority inhabited the region called Łemkowszczyzna [Lemkos Region] i.e. Beskid Niski and part of Beskid Sądecki. In 1947 as a result of the Operation Vistula (condemned by the Senate of the Republic of Poland in 1990) they were resettled to the territories of the current place of living (the western voivodships of Poland). Now only a part of Lemkos live on the territories of the historical Łemkowszczyzna [Lemkos Region] (Małopolskie Voivodship).

Some Lemkos emphasise their Ukrainian national status, others declare that they have nothing in common with this nation.

The German language

The German language is mainly used by the people who declare to belong to the German minority – the most numerous national minority inhabiting Poland. During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 196 841 Polish citizens declared to use the German language in household relations, including: in Opolskie Voivodship – 86 311, Śląskie Voivodship - 46 277, Pomorskie Voivodship - 11 594, Dolnośląskie Voivodship – 10 381, Wielkopolskie Voivodship – 6 195, Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodship – 6 049, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship – 5 581, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 5 284, Mazowieckie Voivodship – 4 696, Małopolskie Voivodship –

3 851, Lubuskie Voivodship – 3 455, Łódzkie Voivodship – 2 258, Podkarpackie Voivodship – 1 585, Lubelskie Voivodship – 1 506, Świętokrzyskie Voivodship – 979, Podlaskie Voivodship – 839.

The Russian language

During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 12 125 Polish citizens declared to use the Russian language in household relations, including: in Mazowieckie Voivodship – 2 183, Dolnośląskie Voivodship – 1 263, Śląskie Voivodship – 1 198, Podlaskie Voivodship – 1 121, Pomorskie Voivodship – 818, Wielkopolskie Voivodship - 754, Łódzkie Voivodship – 668, Małopolskie Voivodship – 624, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship - 618, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 564, Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodship – 483, Podkarpackie Voivodship – 445, Lubuskie Voivodship - 436, Lubelskie Voivodship – 435, Opolskie Voivodship – 261, Świętokrzyskie Voivodship – 254.

The majority of people who use the Russian language do not declare to belong to the Russian national minority. The Russian people who live in Poland come mainly from the following migration waves, within which they arrived in Poland: in the period of partitions of Poland, after the October Revolution, in the period of the Polish People's Republic and after the Soviet Union's dissolution. Moreover, in Podlaskie and Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodships live the Old Believers (Starovery). This group as a religious community was formed in the second half of the 17th century as a result of the split in the Russian Orthodox Church. At the end of the 18th century the Old Believers (Starovery) settled in the current territories of Poland (Suwalszczyzna [Suwałki Region] and Mazury), fleeing religious persecution. The most important factor of identification of this group is religion (the Orthodox Church according to the rites of the Eastern Church of Old Believers, which does not have the clerical hierarchy).

The Slovak language

During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 794 Polish citizens declared to use the Slovak language in household relations, including: in Małopolskie Voivodship - 521, Mazowieckie Voivodship – 55, Śląskie Voivodship – 48, Podkarpackie Voivodship – 38, Dolnośląskie Voivodship – 21, Opolskie Voivodship – 16, Wielkopolskie Voivodship – 14, Łódzkie Voivodship – 13, Lubelskie Voivodship, Pomorskie and Zachodniopomorskie Voivodships – 12, Świętokrzyskie Voivodship – 11, Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodship – 7, Kujawsko-pomorskie and Lubuskie Voivodships – 5, Podlaskie Voivodship – 4.

The Tatar language

During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 9 Polish citizens declared to use the Tatar language in household relations, including: in

Łódzkie Voivodship – 4, Lubelskie and Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodships – 2, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 1, whereas 447 Polish citizens declared to belong to the Tatar ethnic minority, including: in Podlaskie Voivodship - 319, Pomorskie Voivodship - 28, Mazowieckie Voivodship - 22, Wielkopolskie Voivodship – 20, Dolnośląskie Voivodship - 10, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship – 9, Podkarpackie Voivodship – 8, Lubuskie and Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodships – 6, Łódzkie Voivodship – 5, Śląskie Voivodship – 4, Kujawsko-pomorskie and Małopolskie Voivodships – 3, Lubelskie and Świętokrzyskie Voivodships - 1. Tatars inhabit the indigenous Tatar colonies in Białostoczczyzna [Białystok Region] (Bohoniki and Kruszyniany) and the following towns: Białystok, Sokółka, Dąbrowa Białostocka and Gdańsk.

Polish Tatars lived on the territories of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the end of the 14th century. Their ancestors were emigrants or fugitives from the lands of the time the Golden Horde and Crimea. Tatars in Poland lost knowledge of their native language, but they remained faithful to Muslim religion. The Muslim Religious Association in the Republic of Poland plays a significant part in the life of the Tatar minority.

The Ukrainian language

The Ukrainian language is used by the people who declare to belong to the Ukrainian national minority. During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 21 055 Polish citizens declared to use the Ukrainian language in household relations, including: in Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodship – 9 275, Podkarpackie Voivodship – 2 606, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship – 2 407, Pomorskie Voivodship – 2 048, Podlaskie Voivodship - 1 414, Dolnośląskie Voivodship - 1 142, Mazowieckie Voivodship - 443, Lubuskie Voivodship - 429, Lubelskie Voivodship - 359, Małopolskie Voivodship - 344, Śląskie Voivodship – 222, Wielkopolskie Voivodship – 133, Opolskie Voivodship – 90, Łódzkie Voivodship - 63, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 43, Świętokrzyskie Voivodship – 37. Due to the Operation Vistula which was carried out in 1947 by, at that time, the communist authorities, almost all Ukrainians inhabiting the territories of south-eastern Poland were resettled to the lands of northern and western Poland. As a result, the biggest centres of the Ukrainian minority are currently on the territories of the following voivodships: Warmińsko-mazurskie, Dolnośląskie and Zachodniopomorskie. Some Ukrainians managed to avoid the resettlement from the native lands and some were allowed to return after 1956. Therefore, centres of the Ukrainian minority can be found in Podkarpackie and Małopolskie Voivodships.

The Kashubian language

Kashubian is the most common language used in household relations. According to the data of the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 52 665 people use the Kashubian language, including: in Pomorskie Voivodship - 52 588. The biggest centres of people using a regional language in household contacts are in the following poviats of Pomorskie Voivodship: Kartuski (27,57 % residents of the poviat), Pucki (15,43 %), Wejherowski (5,13 %) and Bytowski (2,50 %). On the territory of 10 communes of Pomorskie Voivodship people who use a regional language in household contacts account for over 20% of the residents of the commune.

In the declaration which was submitted to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the Republic of Poland it was indicated, that as the non-territorial languages Poland regards the Hebrew language, Yiddish, Karaim, Armenian and the Roma language. Information on people using the foregoing languages was provided in point 4.

3. The number of people using minority languages and a regional language.

Within the census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, there was conducted a research on nationality and the language which is most often used in household relations, including all people who were subject to the census. In accordance with Article 5 of the Act of 2 December 1999 concerning the national census of people and dwellings in 2002 (Official Journal of 2000 No. 1, item 1, with subsequent amendments), the said research included the following questions:

- 1) what is the nationality of the registered person*
- 2) what is the most common language used at home*

Poland is currently inhabited by representatives of 13 national and ethnic minorities whose number, confirmed in the last census, amounts to 253 273 people. This accounts for about 0,7% of all Polish citizens.

The number of people using minority languages and a regional language in household contacts is as follows:

National and ethnic minorities	Language of a national or ethnic minority and a regional language declared to be used at home.
Byelorussian	40 226
Czech	1 226
Karaim	-
Lithuanian	5 696
Lemkos	5 605
German	196 841
Armenian	321
Roma	15 657
Russian	12 125
Slovak	794
Tatar	9
Ukrainian	21 055
Jewish	243 (the Hebrew language – 207, the Yiddish language – 36)
People who use the Kashubian language in household contacts	52 665

Source: the Central Statistical Office. The national census of people and dwellings in 2002.

4. Non-territorial languages in the Republic of Poland.

The Karaim language

The Karaites are the least numerous ethnic minority in Poland. During the census of people and dwellings carried out in 2002, 43 Polish citizens declared to belong to the Karaim nationality. The majority of the Karaites live in Warszawa and in its vicinity, in Wrocław and Trójmiasto. The first groups of the Karaites arrived from the Crimea in the 13th century and settled on the lands of the Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia (Łuck, Halicz, Lwów). At the turn of the 13th and 14th century a big group of the Karaites was settled in Trakai near Vilnius. In the 19th century the Karaites appeared in Warszawa as tobacco merchants, civil servants and students. After the 2nd World War they resettled to the current territories of Poland as a result of repatriation from the Eastern borderlands of the Republic of Poland.

The native language of the Karaites is on the brink of extinction. However, they stand out with their Karaim religion stemming from Judaism. The activities of the Karaim Religious Association in the Republic of Poland and the Association of Polish Karaites play a significant part in the life of the Karaim minority.

The Armenian language

During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 321 Polish citizens declared to use the Armenian language in household relations, including:

in Mazowieckie Voivodship - 68, Łódzkie Voivodship – 45, Śląskie Voivodship - 30, Lubelskie and Wielkopolskie Voivodships - 23, Lubuskie Voivodship – 21, Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodship – 17, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 16, Podlaskie Voivodship – 14, Małopolskie and Zachodniopomorskie Voivodships – 13, Dolnośląskie Voivodship, Pomorskie and Świętokrzyskie Voivodships – 10, Opolskie Voivodship – 5, Podkarpackie Voivodship - 3. The Armenian language is also used by people who do not declare to belong to the Armenian minority. The Armenian colonies which occurred around the 11th century in Kievan Rus (Lviv, Lutsk, Kamianets-Podilskyi) became part of Poland during the reign of the Casimir the Great. In 1356 the colonies in Kamianets-Podilskyi and Lviv received the confirmation of their autonomy and Lviv became the seat of the Armenian Bishop. After the 2nd World War the Polish Armenians from the former South-Eastern borderlands repatriated themselves to the current territories of Poland. The biggest centres of the Polish Armenians are in Warszawa, Poznań and Kraków. A significant centre of the Armenian minority is also Gliwice.

The Roma language

During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 15 657 Polish citizens declared to use the Roma language in household relations, including: in Małopolskie Voivodship – 2 176, Mazowieckie Voivodship – 1 552, Dolnośląskie Voivodship - 1 499, Śląskie Voivodship - 1 485, Wielkopolskie Voivodship - 1 396, Łódzkie Voivodship - 1 203, Opolskie Voivodship – 1 011, Podkarpackie Voivodship - 910, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship – 826, Lubelskie Voivodship – 813, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship - 768, Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodship - 610, Podlaskie Voivodship - 392, Lubuskie Voivodship - 381, Świętokrzyskie Voivodship - 373, Pomorskie Voivodship - 262. The Roma language is also used by people who do not declare to belong to the Roma ethnic minority. The Roma in Poland are members of four ethnic groups: the Polish Roma, the Carpathian Roma (Bergitka Roma), the Kalderash and the Lovari.

The first document certifying the appearance of the Roma in Poland dates from 1401 and comes from Kraków. Groups of the Roma travelling along the Carpathian Mountains and from the side of the Hungarian Plain arrived in Poland and settled on its territories since the 15th century. Their descendants are the Carpathian Roma. Since the 16th century the Roma started to come to Poland from Germany; they were later called the Polish Roma. In the 2nd half of the 19th century from the territories of Transylvania and Wallachia started a migration of the Kalderash (Kelderari – coppersmiths) and the Lovari (Lovari – horse traders).

The Carpathian Roma (for several hundred years leading a settled life) inhabit the mountain lands of Małopolskie Voivodship. Relatively big centres of people belonging to the

Bergitka Roma group are also located in towns of Górny Śląsk and Dolny Śląsk and in Nowa Huta, where in the 1950s the Roma were employed within the so called “productivization” policy. The majority of the Roma members of the other three groups used to lead a nomadic life. Now representatives of these communities usually live in the following towns and cities: Warszawa, Poznań, Wrocław, Łódź, Kraków, Mielec and Puławy and in a number of smaller municipal centres. This results from an obligatory settlement implemented by the authorities of the Polish People’s Republic.

The Roma use the Roma language which, as in the case of Sanskrit, derives from the Indo-Aryan languages. The Roma language developed over many centuries on the routes of the Roma’s travels, which resulted in a considerable dialectal diversity, and in some cases in the Creolization of the language of common Indian ancestors. It should be noted that the Roma culture is an oral culture and did not create a codified written language. Therefore, problems with transcription of the spoken language occur. Problems with the systematisation of the Roma language enhance internal disputes among groups and communities of the Roma in Europe, as well as the lack of a more extensive interest in this issue. In 1990 in Jadwisin near Warszawa, during the meeting of the 4th International Congress of the International Roma Union, on the initiative of the Roma philologist Marcel Courtiade, a project on the rules of the standardisation and spelling of Roma (the so called Warsaw alphabet) was passed. However, after nearly 20 years, the process of putting this system into practice is still at an early stage. Some Roma leaders believe that due to the lack of own territory, national Church, developed elites or common interpretation of the past and descent – the unified literary language may be a significant bond for the dispersed Roma populations. However, there is small awareness of this fact among the Roma themselves. The problem is also enhanced by the dispute over the rule of unification of the Roma language itself. Its dialects (also the ones used by the Roma in Poland) are so diversified that they are a distinguishing mark and an identifier of groups in which they are used and this is still more important than, broader and abstract for most Roma, ethnic community.

So far traditional Roma elites and authorities in Poland have been unwilling towards the attempts to use the Roma language in the written version, suspecting that this may lead to its popularisation among the non-Roma. In their opinion, this situation could endanger the internal unity based on e.g. the “mystery” of the language. At the same time, in recent years a process of Polonization of the dialects has been observed, which at a further stage will be threatened with Creolization. Those who are concerned with this process, the Roma and experts on the Roma community, emphasise the necessity to take actions counteracting this

issue as well as to prepare scientific aids, which in the near future could be used for teaching the Roma children the Roma language also in the written form.

The Yiddish/Hebrew language

During the national census of people and dwellings which was carried out in 2002, 243 Polish citizens declared to use the Yiddish/Hebrew language in household relations, including: in Mazowieckie Voivodship - 61, Dolnośląskie Voivodship - 53, Małopolskie Voivodship – 23, Łódzkie Voivodship – 19, Śląskie Voivodship – 17, Lubelskie Voivodship, Podkarpackie and Podlaskie Voivodships – 13, Lubuskie Voivodship, Pomorskie and Wielkopolskie Voivodships – 6, Opolskie Voivodship – 4, Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship – 3, Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship, Świętokrzyskie and Warmińsko-mazurskie Voivodships - 2. The Yiddish/Hebrew languages are used by people who declare to belong to the Jewish minority. The Jews are dispersed mainly in big cities. The first information about the Jews on the territories of Poland comes from the 10th century and the first official Polish document granting them privileges and autonomy was the Statute of Kalisz of the 13th century. The Jews arrived in Poland due to the relatively best (compared to the constant pogroms in Western Europe) conditions of safe life and development of their own culture, as well as because of the guaranteed, through the Royal Charters, autonomy of denominational communes. The number of the Jews in Poland traditionally oscillated in the region of 10% of the population (most in Europe). Development of Jewish life in Poland was brutally disrupted by the 2nd World War and the Nazi policy *Endlösung*. Out of approx 3,500,000 of Polish Jews, about 300,000 survived the war. In the period of the Polish People's Republic during a few emigration waves, most Polish Jews left the country. After 1989 there was a rebirth of Jewish life in Poland. A lot of people returned to their Jewish roots. There were established new organisations aimed at developing life of the Jewish community in our country.

The Jewish minority in Poland traditionally used two languages: Hebrew – the liturgical language, and Yiddish – the everyday language. Yiddish derives from the Middle High German dialect. Now, Yiddish is mainly used by elderly people. In Poland there are no public schools teaching Hebrew or Yiddish as native languages. However, in Warszawa and Wrocław there are private complexes of schools (a primary school and a junior secondary school) with Polish as the language of instruction (Lauder-Morasha Complex of Schools in Warszawa and Lauder-Etz Chaim – Gesher School of the Foundation of Jewish Culture and Education in Wrocław). In these schools, pupils also learn the contemporary Hebrew language and participate in classes aimed at familiarising them with the Jewish tradition, history and culture. Apart from the primary and junior secondary schools, there is also a kindergarten.

The Yiddish language is currently taught during courses conducted by the “Shalom” Foundation and the Social and Cultural Association of the Jews in Poland. Courses in Hebrew are organised by the Jewish denominational communes. The Yiddish and Hebrew language courses are also carried out within Judaic studies organised in a number of Polish higher education schools (e.g. the University of Warsaw and Jagiellonian University).

5. Organisations and other units supporting the protection and development of minority languages and a regional language.

On the territory of the Republic of Poland operate a number of organisations whose members use languages of national and ethnic minorities and a regional language. They carry out activities aimed to protect, preserve and develop their cultural identity. A significant element of the foregoing activities is taking up a variety of actions for the preservation and development of minority languages, as well as a regional language. List of the names of the said organisations and their addresses can be found below:

The Byelorussian language:

- the Byelorussian Social and Cultural Association, ul. Warszawska 11, 15-062 Białystok;
- the Association of Byelorussian Culture, ul. Warszawska 11, 15-062 Białystok;
- the Byelorussian Association in the Republic of Poland, ul. L. Zamenhofa 27, 15- 959 Białystok, skr. 149;
- the Byelorussian Union of Students, ul. L. Zamenhofa 27, 15-959 Białystok, skr. 149;
- the Byelorussian Literary Association „Białowieża”, ul. Liniarskiego 4, 15-420 Białystok;
- the Association of Byelorussian Journalists, ul. Lipowa 4, p. 221, 15-427 Białystok;
- the Association of Young Byelorussian People, ul. Lipowa 4, p. 221, 15-427 Białystok;
- the Byelorussian Historical Association, ul. L. Zamenhofa 27, 15-959 Białystok, skr. 262;
- the Association for Children and Teenagers Learning the Byelorussian Language „AB-BA”, ul. Częstochowska 6A lok. 8, 15-959 Białystok;
- the „Villa Sokrates” Association, ul. Sokóleńska 9, 16-120 Krynki;
- the “Muzeum Małej Ojczyzny w Studziwodach” [Museum of Little Homeland in Studziwody] Association, ul. Leśna 13, 17-100 Bielsk Podlaski;
- the “Muzeum i Ośrodek Kultury Białoruskiej” [Museum and Centre of Byelorussian Culture] Association in Hajnówka, ul. 3 Maja 42, 17-200 Hajnówka;
- the Byelorussian Educational Association, ul. L. Zamenhofa 27, 15 959 Białystok, skr. 149;

The Czech language:

With regard to the Czech language, there is no organisation operating for the preservation or development of this language. However, the active actions of Rev. Mirosław Jelinek, a

provost of the Parish of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Żelów (ul. Sienkiewicza 14 a, 97-425 Żelów) which are aimed at protecting the said language, should be emphasised.

The Hebrew language:

- the Association of Jewish Denominational Communes in the Republic of Poland;
- the “Chór Żydowski CLIL” [Jewish Choir TSLIL] Association, ul. Rajdowa 4/55, 84-003 Łódź;
- the ATID Foundation, ul. Wawelberga 10, 01-188 Warszawa;
- the Foundation of Jewish Culture and Education „GESHER”, ul. Żelazna 57, 53-429 Wrocław;

The Yiddish language:

- the Social and Cultural Association of the Jews in Poland, Pl. Grzybowski 12/16, 00-104 Warszawa;
- the „Shalom” Foundation, Pl. Grzybowski 12/16, 00-104 Warszawa;
- the Association of Jewish Denominational Communes in the Republic of Poland;
- the „Chór Żydowski CLIL” [Jewish Choir TSLIL] Association, ul. Rajdowa 4/55, 84-003 Łódź;

The Karaim language:

- the Association of Polish Karaites, ul. Powstańców Śląskich 116 m.54, 53-33 Wrocław;
- The Karaim Religious Association in the Republic of Poland, ul. Newtona 9, 01-482 Warszawa;

The Kashubian language:

- the Kashubian Institute, ul. Straganiarska 20-23, 80-837 Gdańsk;
- the Puck Region Association, ul. Żeromskiego 32, 84-120 Władysławowo;
- the Kashubian-Pomeranian Association, ul. Straganiarska 20-23, 80-837 Gdańsk;

The Lithuanian language:

- the Association of Lithuanians in Poland, ul. 22 Lipca 9, 16-500 Sejny;
- the Community of Lithuanians in Poland, ul. Mickiewicza 23, 16-515 Puńsk;
- the Lithuanian Association of Saint Casimir, ul. 22 Lipca 9, 16-500 Sejny;
- the Association of Lithuanian Young People in Poland, ul. 11 Marca 17, 16-515 Puńsk;
- Bishop Antanas Baranauskas Foundation „Dom Litewski” [Lithuanian House], ul. 22 Lipca 9, 16-500 Sejny;

The Lemkos language:

- the Association of Lemkos, ul. Zofii Kossak 6, 59-220 Legnica;
- the Federation of Lemkos (a member supporting the Association of Ukrainians in Poland), ul. Jagiełły 2, 38-300 Gorlice;

- the „Ruska Bursa” [Russki Boarding House] Society in Gorlice, ul. Sienkiewicza 28, 38-300 Gorlice;
- the Association of Enthusiasts of Lemkos Culture, ul. Wodociągowa 1A, 66-500 Strzelce Krajeńskie;
- the Association for Development of the Museum of Lemkos Culture, Zyndranowa 1, 38-454 Tylawa;
- the Lemkos Song and Dance Group „Kyczera”, ul. Z. Kossak Szczuckiej 5, 59-220 Legnica;
- the Lemkos Organisation of Young People „Czuha”;

The German language:

- the Union of German Social and Cultural Associations in Poland, ul. Krupnicza 15, 45-013 Opole;
- the Social and Cultural Association of Germans in Śląsk Opolski, ul. M. Konopnickiej 6, 45-004 Opole;
- the Social and Cultural Association of Germans in Śląskie Voivodship, ul. Wczasowa 3 47-400, Racibórz;
- the Union of German Associations of Warmia and Mazury, ul. Partyzantów 3, 10-522 Olsztyn;
- the Union of the German Minority in Pomorskie Voivodship, ul. Waryńskiego 36, 80-433 Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz;
- the Social and Cultural Association of the German Minority in Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship, ul. Dworcowa, 19 70-206 Szczecin;
- the Association of People of German Descent in Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship, ul. Długa 66 87-100 Toruń;
- the German Social and Cultural Association in Wielkopolskie Voivodship, al. 11 Listopada 3a, 64-920 Piła;
- the German Cultural and Social Association in Łódzkie Voivodship, ul. Targowa 81, 90-324 Łódź;
- the Social and Cultural Association of the German Minority in Lubuskie Voivodship, ul. S. Żeromskiego 16a, 66-066 Zielona Góra;
- the German Social and Cultural Association in Dolnośląskie Voivodship, ul. Saperów 12, 53-151 Wrocław;
- the Union of Young People of the German Minority in the Republic of Poland, ul. M. Konopnickiej 6, 45-004 Opole;
- the Union of Silesian Farmers, ul. Powstańców Śląskich 25, 45-086 Opole;
- the Union of Silesian Rural Women, 48-255 Wierzch 13;

- the German Association of Education, ul. Krupnicza 15, 45-013 Opole;
- the Charitable Association of the Germans in Śląsk, ul. Krupnicza 15, 45-013 Opole;
- Joseph v. Eichendorff Konversatorium, pl. Św. Sebastiana 3, 45-030 Opole;
- the Mazurian Association, ul. Prosta 17/3, 10-028 Olsztyn;
- the German Union "Pojednanie i Przyszłość" [Reconciliation and Future], ul. Sienkiewicza 23 lok. 1, 40-039 Katowice;
- the German Social and Cultural Association in Wałbrzych, ul. Lubelska 1, 59-300 Wałbrzych;
- the German Cultural and Folk Association "Liczyrzepa", ul. Wojska Polskiego 12a, Box 34, 58-400 Kamienna Góra;
- The German Social and Cultural Association in Jelenia Góra, ul. Kopernika 4/3, 8-500 Jelenia Góra;
- the German Social and Cultural Association in Legnica, ul. Kręta 14B, 59-220 Legnica;
- the German Social and Cultural Association in Piła, ul. 11 Listopada 3a, skr. Pocz. 70 64-920 Piła;
- the Christian German Association "Karkonosze" [the Giant Mountains], ul. Działkowicza 28, 58-506 Jelenia Góra;
- Chojnice Association of People of German Descent in Chojnice, ul. 31 Stycznia 14/1, 89-600 Chojnice;
- the Society of the German Minority in Bydgoszcz, ul. Żmudzka 72, 85-028 Bydgoszcz;
- the Association of People of German Descent, ul. Długa 66, 87-100 Toruń;
- the Society of People of German Descent in Grudziądz, ul. Korczaka 25, 86-308 Grudziądz 10, skr. poczt. 12;
- the Social and Cultural Society of the German Minority "Pomerania", ul. Kolejowa 3, 75-108 Koszalin;
- the Association of the German Minority of the Town of Malbork and its Vicinity, ul. Wiosenna 6A, 82-200 Malbork;
- the Cultural Society of the Germans "Ojczyzna" [Homeland], ul. Odrowskiego 10, 82-500 Kwidzyn;
- the Social and Cultural Association of the German Minority in Świdniński Powiat, ul. Niedziałkowskiego 17, 78-300 Świdwin;
- Słupsk Association of People of German Descent, ul. Rybacka 5a, 76-200 Słupsk;
- Słupsk Association of People of German Descent – Miastko, ul. Dworcowa 29, 77-200 Miastko;
- Olsztyn Association of the German Minority, ul. Partyzantów 3, 10-522 Olsztyn;

- the German Association of the Town and Region of Węgorzewo - "Mamry", ul. Pionierów 6, Węgorzewo;
- the Social and Cultural Association of the German Minority of Bartoszyce and its Vicinity with a seat in Bartoszyce, ul. Hubalczyków 2, 11-200 Bartoszyce;
- the Social and Cultural Association of the German Minority in Warmia and Mazury with a seat in Biskupiec, ul. Chrobrego 10, 11-300 Biskupiec;
- the Association of the German Minority in the northern part of Warmia with a seat in Braniewo, ul. Botaniczna 11, 14-500 Braniewo;
- the Association of the German Minority in Iława, ul. Niepodległości 13, 14-200 Iława skr. poczt. 62;
- Gołdap Association of the German Minority, ul. Żeromskiego 16a, 19-500 Gołdap;
- Emil von Behring Association for Preservation of German Cultural Achievements, ul. Chopina 29, 11-150 Olsztynek;
- Pisz German Association of the Town and Region of Pisz "Roś", ul. Wąglicka 1, 12-200 Pisz;
- the German Association "Natangia" in Górowo Iławeckie, ul. Sikorskiego 34, 11-220 Górowo Iławeckie;
- the Cultural and Social Association in Giżycko, ul. Gdańska 11 skr. poczt. 186, 11-500 Giżycko;
- the Association of the German Minority "Mazury" [Masuria] in Ełk, ul. 11 Listopada 2, 19-300 Ełk;
- Nidzica Association of the German Minority, Borowy Młyn 2, 13-100 Nidzica;
- the Cultural Association of the Germans „Heimat”, ul. Bartna Strona 3, 12-100 Szczytno;
- the Association of the German Minority „Jodły” [Firs] in Ostróda, ul. Herdera 7, 14-100 Ostróda;
- Joachim Schulz German Association in Pasłęk, ul. Westerplatte 54 skr. poczt. 90, 14-400 Pasłęk;
- the Association of the German Minority in Kętrzyn, ul. Polna 12, 11-400 Kętrzyn;
- Mrągowo German Association "Niedźwiedzia Łapa" [Bear's Paw], ul. Wolności 15, 11-700 Mrągowo;
- Olecko Association of the German Minority, Lesk 8 m. 2, 19-400 Olecko;
- the Association of People of German Descent of Elbląg Region, ul. Kopernika 18/1, 82-300 Elbląg;
- the Association of the German Minority "Warmia" in Lidzbark Warmiński, ul. Targowa 9, 13-230 Lidzbark Warmiński;

- the Association of the German Minority "Herder" in Morąg, ul. Pomorska 23, 14-300 Morąg;

- Nidzica Association of the German Minority, Borowy Młyn 2, 13-100 Nidzica;

the Armenian language:

- the Armenian Cultural Society, oś. Centrum B 5/44, 31-927 Kraków;

- Rev. Archbishop Józef Teodorowicz Association of the Armenians in Poland, ul. Prymasa Stefana Wyszyńskiego 7/2, 44-100 Gliwice;

- the Foundation of Culture and Heritage of the Polish Armenians, Ośniki 6A, 05-155 Leoncin;

- KZKO Armenian Foundation, ul. Broniewskiego 54 m.83, 01-716 Warszawa;

The Roma language:

- Brzeg Association of the Roma and Enthusiasts of the Roma Culture „Parni Ciercheń” - Biała Gwiazda, ul. Ofiar Katynia 20/3, 49-300 Brzeg;

- the Central Council of the Roma, ul. Warszawska 43, 15-062 Białystok;

- the Centre of Consultation and Information for the Roma in Poland, ul. Kopernika 7, 95-200 Pabianice;

- the Centre of the Roma Culture in Poland - the Cultural and Social Association in Tarnów, ul. Żydowska 13, 33-100 Tarnów;

- Ełk Association of the Roma „Dži Romano”, ul. Małeckich 1, 19-300 Ełk;

- the Bahtałe Roma Foundation – “Szczęśliwi Cyganie” [Happy Gypsies], os. Zwycięstwa 8/102, 61-645 Poznań;

- Kraśnik Association of the Roma, ul. Krasieńskiego 30/12, 23-210 Kraśnik;

- the Royal Foundation of the Roma, ul. Sienkiewicza 8, 05-100 Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki;

- the Cultural Association of the Podhale Roma „Kałe-Bała”, ul. Kamieniec 18, Czarna Góra;

- Lublin Association of the Roma, ul. Siemiradzkiego 17, 20-454 Lublin;

- Małopolskie Association of the Roma „Jamaro”, Plac Mickiewicza 2/27, 34-120 Andrychów;

- Małopolsko-Śląskie Association of the Roma, ul. Floriańska 3, 34-120 Andrychów;

- Mazowieckie Association of the Roma, ul. Miessnera 13/21, 03-928 Warszawa;

- the International Association of the Roma Artists in Poland „Roma”, ul. Kraszewskiego 25/3, 87-800 Włocławek;

- the International Association of the Roma in Opole, ul. Sądowa 1/4, 45-033 Opole;

- the Independent Association of the Roma in Poland, ul. 1 maja 9b/25, 67-100 Nowa Sól;

- the Association of the Roma in Bydgoszcz „Romano Dzipen”, ul. Tucholska 6/5, 85-165 Bydgoszcz;

- Radom Association of the Roma „Romano Waś”, ul. Twarda 13/1, 26-600 Radom;
- the Roma Educational Association “Harangos”, os. Bohaterów Września 9/25, 31-620 Kraków;
- the „Terne Roma” Association in Tarnowskie Góry, ul. Legionów 21/3, 42-600 Tarnowskie Góry;
- the Familia Lovara Association, ul. Wincentego Witosa 33/ 36, 30-612 Kraków;
- the Association of the National Minority Roma in Poland „Jankesci”, ul. Portowa 13, 70-833 Szczecin;
- the Association of the Roma in Nowa Sól, ul. Karola Miarki 2A, 67-100 Nowa Sól;
- the Association “Związek Romów Polskich” [the Polish Roma Union], ul. Podgórna 24/2, 78-300 Świdwin;
- the Association „Nowa Roma” [New Roma], ul. Krańcowa 112/22, 20-320 Lublin;
- the Association of the Assistants of the Roma Education, ul. Lipowa 5a/11, 58-400 Kamienna Góra;
- the „Bergitka Roma” Association, ul. Całkowa 23B, 33-300 Nowy Sącz;
- the Association of the Roma Women, os. Uroczę 5/18, 31-952 Kraków;
- the Association of the Roma Women „Kcher” in Tarnów, ul. Szenwalda 6/33, 33-100 Tarnów;
- the Association of the Roma Culture „Hitano” in Olsztyn, ul. Dąbrowszczaków 7/9, 10-538 Olsztyn,
- the Association of the National Minority of the Roma in Poland „Solidarność” [Solidarity] with a seat in Kielce, ul. Nowy Świat 36/4, 25-522 Kielce;
- the Association of the Disabled Roma in Głogówek Królewski, Głogówek Królewski 46 A, 86-100 Świecie;
- the Association of the Friendly Roma in Lubin, ul. Legnicka 59/1, 59-300 Lublin;
- the *Rom* Association in Lublin, ul. Lawinowa 1/21, 20-864 Lublin;
- the Association of the Roma „Gandi” in Ruda Śląska, ul. Bytomska 39/5, 47-712 Ruda Śląska;
- the Association of the Roma „Jedność” [Unity] in Głogów, ul. Długosza 16/1, 67-200 Głogów;
- the Association of the Roma of Górny Śląsk with a seat in Bytom, ul. Raclawicka 2/7, 41-906 Bytom;
- the Association of the Roma and Other Nationalities, ul. Ks. Ściegiennego 21/3, 48-303 Nysa;
- the Association of the Podhale Roma, ul. Kamieniec 15, 34-532 Czarna Góra;

- the Association of the Polish Roma „Parno Foro” in Białogard, ul. Sikorskiego 29/1, 78-200 Białogard;
- the Association of the Roma in Jasło, ul. Kościuszki 53/22, 38-200 Jasło;
- the Association of the Roma in Kowary, ul. Waryńskiego 13/4, 58-530 Kowary;
- the Association of the Roma in Kraków, os. Żłota Jesień 6 m 41, 31-831 Kraków;
- the Association of the Roma in Legnica, ul. Rolnicza 10.7, 59-220 Legnica;
- the Association of the Roma in Limanowa, Laskowa Góra 569, 34-600 Laskowa;
- the Association of the Roma in Lubań, ul. Łużycka 15/4, 59-800 Lubań;
- the Association of the Roma in Lubin, ul. Staszica 14/10, 59-300 Lubin;
- the Association of the Roma in Mielec, ul. MMR 37/6, 39-300 Mielec;
- the Association of the Roma in Płock „Romen”, ul. Kwiatka 59/3, 09-400 Płock;
- the Association of the Roma in Polkowice, ul. Dąbrowskiego 28C/5, 59-100 Polkowice;
- the Association of the Roma in Poland, ul. Berka Joselewicza 5, 32-600 Oświęcim;
- the Association of the Roma in Poland „Czerchań”, ul. Piłsudskiego 1/19, 41-902 Bytom;
- the Association of the Roma in Poland „Drom” w Pleszewie, ul. Paderewskiego 2, 63-300 Pleszew;
- the Association of the Roma in Prudnik, ul. Królowej Jadwigi 5, 48-200 Prudnik;
- the Association of the Roma in Przemków, ul. Kolejowa 4/4, 59-170 Przemków;
- the Association of the Roma in Pyrzyce „Patra”, ul. Ks. Bogusława X 26/6, 74-200 Pyrzyce;
- the Association of the Roma in Strzelno, ul. Kuropatnik 27, 57-100 Strzelno;
- the Association of the Roma in Wrocław „Romani Bacht”, ul. 3 Maja 11 m. 11, 52-119 Wrocław;
- the Association of the Roma of Zachodniopomorskie „Terne Cierchenia”, ul. Wyszyńskiego 6/3, 72-600 Świnoujście;
- the Association of the Roma of Zagłębie with a seat in Będzin, ul. Plac 3 Maja 4, 42-500 Będzin;
- the Social and Cultural Association of the Roma, os. Teatralne 25/29, 57-300 Kłodzko;
- the Association of the Roma Community in Tarnów „Familia” [Family], ul. Lwowska 67/69, 33-100 Tarnów;
- the Association of Artists and Friends of the Gypsy Culture, ul. Łokietka 28/4A, 66-400 Gorzów Wielkopolski;
- the Association of the Roma of Wałbrzych, ul. Andersa 135/1, 58-304 Wałbrzych;
- the Association “Związek Romów Polskich” [the Polish Roma Union] in Świdwin, ul. Podgórna 24/2, 78-300 Świdwin;
- the World Chamber of the Roma Lords, Os. Zwycięstwa 8/102, 61-645 Poznań;

- the Association of Propagating Roma Culture and Tradition in Kraków, os. Centrum A 13/44, 31-925 Kraków;
- the Cultural and Social Association of the Roma in Głubczyce, ul. Sosnowiecka 6/1, 48-100 Głubczyce;
- the Association of Parents of the Roma School Children Neło Drom - Nowa Droga, ul. 3 Maja 11/8, 52-119 Wrocław;
- Warmińsko-Mazurskie Association of the Roma Culture, ul. Gołdapska 29, 10-630 Olsztyn;
- Wielkopolskie Cultural and Educational Association of the Polish Roma, ul. Nowy Świat 3A, 62-020 Swarzędz;
- Wielkopolskie Association of the Roma with a seat in Pleszew, ul. Marszewska 10, 63-300 Pleszew;
- Zabrze Association of the Roma, ul. Św. Urbana 3/5, 41-800 Zabrze;
- the Union of the Polish Roma, ul. Plac Wolności 12, 78-400 Szczecinek;
- the Union of the Polish Roma, Branch in Gorzów Wielkopolski, ul. Dąbrowskiego 29/2, 66-400 Gorzów Wlkp.

The Russian language:

- the Russian Cultural and Educational Association, ul. Skłodowskiej 8/37, 15-097 Białystok;
- the Association of the Old Believers in Poland, Bór 13A, 16-300 Augustów;
- the Association “Wspólnota Rosyjska” [Russian Community], ul. Baley 10/80, 02-132 Warszawa;
- the Association “Rosyjski Dom” [Russian House], ul. Czerniakowska 126A/20, 00-454 Warszawa;
- the Association “Mała Rosja” [Little Russia], ul. Ratuszowa 6/6, 10-116 Olsztyn;

The Slovak language:

- the Association of the Slovaks in Poland, ul. Św. Filipa 7, 31-150 Kraków;

The Tatar language:

- Leon Mirzy Kryczyński Centre of the Tatar Culture in the Republic of Poland, ul. Nowiny 2b, 80-020 Gdańsk;
- the Association of Tatars of the Republic of Poland, Podlasie Branch, Grzybowa 42, 15-052 Białystok;
- the Association of Tatars of the Republic of Poland, ul. Polna 24, 16-310 Sztabin;

The Ukrainian language:

- the Association of Ukrainians in Poland, ul. Kościeliska 7, 03-614 Warszawa;
- the Ukrainian Association of Podlasie, ul. Ogrodowa 13, 17-100 Bielsk Podlaski;
- the Ukrainian Association, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 23, 20-002 Lublin;

- the Ukrainian Association of Teachers in Poland, ul. Dworcowa 25, 78-425 Biały Bór.

6. Information about the consultations during the preparation of the Report.

The 1st Report for the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on implementation by the Republic of Poland of the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was made by the Minister of Interior and Administration together with other bodies of the government administration. The Report was the subject of consultations with the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities – the consultative and advisory body of the Prime Minister. The Joint Commission comprises representatives of all communities using minority languages and a regional language in Poland.

7. Measures aimed at propagating information on the rights and obligations established in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was published in the Official Gazette of 27 August 2009 (Official Journal No. 137, item 1121). Moreover, the content of the Charter and the Declaration made by the Republic of Poland to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as well as the explanatory Report to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages are available on the website of the Ministry of Interior and Administration:

http://www.mswia.gov.pl/portal/pl/584/Europejska_karta_jezykow_regionalnych_lub_mniejs_zosciowych.html.

PART II:
AIMS AND RULES IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 2 (1)
OF THE CHARTER

With reference to regional or minority languages on the territories on which such languages are used, and depending on the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives

and rules:

a) recognition of regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth,

Protection of the languages of national and ethnic minorities is necessary for the stabilization of the country, and the diversity of the languages deserves respect. This diversity enriches the country and its citizens. It is the tradition that obliges Poland to such an attitude. For centuries, the Republic of Poland was the home of religious and national tolerance in Europe. An effect of this tolerance is the centuries-long presence in Poland of such minorities as e.g. the Tatar, Jewish, Armenian, Karaim or Roma. As a result of the changes, which occurred in Poland after 1989, people speaking the languages of national and ethnic minorities and a regional language use all the rights resulting from the provisions included in the national and international law. It should also be emphasised that taking appropriate actions aimed to support the activities leading to the protection, preservation and development of cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities, their languages, as well as to the preservation and development of a regional language, is a statutory obligation of the Polish public authorities.

b) respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to assure, that the existing or new administrative divisions will not be an impediment to the promotion of the particular regional or minority language,

The rule of respecting the geographical area of each minority and regional language is reflected in the provision of Article 5 (2) of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language, which prohibits the application of measures aimed at changing national or ethnic proportions on the territories inhabited by minorities.

It should be noted, that during the formation of the new administrative division of the country, which entered into force on 1 January 1999, one of the significant arguments for the creation of Sejneński Powiat was the national structure of this area, inhabited to a large extent by people using the Lithuanian language. Whereas during the formation of Opolskie Voivodship e.g. the size of the German minority in this area was taken into account.

Furthermore, the commitment to refrain from actions which would result in national changes on the territories inhabited by national minorities was also included in Article 15 of the Treaty between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania on Friendly Relations and Good-Neighbourly Cooperation concluded in Vilnius on 26 April 1994 (Official Journal 1995 No. 15, item 71);

c) need for taking up a decisive action promoting regional or minority languages for the purpose of their protection,

The Republic of Poland takes active actions, which promote the languages of national and ethnic minorities and a regional language for the purpose of their preservation and development. Detailed information on the said activities was provided in the point concerning the implementation of Article 12 of the Charter.

d) facilitating or encouraging to speak and write in regional or minority languages in public and private life,

In accordance with the provision of Article 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2 April 1997 (Official Journal No. 78, item 483, with subsequent amendments) the official language in the Republic of Poland is Polish. However, at the same time the Constitution says that the foregoing regulation does not violate the rights of national minorities resulting from the ratified international contracts. The last provision is applicable with reference to people using minority languages. Moreover, it should be emphasised that the regulation of Article 35 of the Constitution provides Polish citizens belonging to national and ethnic minorities with freedom of preservation and development of their own language.

The rules contained in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland are extended in the Act of 7 October 1999 on the Polish language (Official Journal No. 90, item 999, with subsequent amendments) whose provision of Article 2 point 2 states that the regulations of the Act do not violate the rights of national and ethnic minorities, as well as communities which use a regional language.

At the same time, it should be noted that the regulations of Article 8 points 1 and 2 in relation to Article 19 (2) of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language provide that people who belong to minorities and communities using a regional language are entitled to the free use of their own language in private and public lives and to spread and share information in the language of the minority.

Furthermore, positive reference to the use of a minority language both privately and publicly can be found in the treaties concluded by the Republic of Poland with: the Federal Republic of Germany, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Lithuania.

e) preservation and development of relations, in the fields included in the present Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the country using a language applied in the identical or similar form, as well as creation of cultural contacts with other groups in the country using different languages,

Article 6 (2) point 3 of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language obliges public authorities to take appropriate measures in order to strengthen the intercultural dialogue.

f) assurance of appropriate forms and means of teaching and learning regional or minority languages on all appropriate levels,

The right of people using minority languages to learn a native language, history and culture of a minority is a factor of fundamental importance for the formation of national identity, allows to cultivate their differences and thus prevents assimilation of the minority circles. Polish system of education guarantees the right to learn minority languages and provides conditions to organise the learning of minority languages, as well as in such languages. The provision of Article 35 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland says that *the Republic of Poland provides Polish citizens who belong to national and ethnic minorities with freedom of the preservation and development of their own language, preservation of customs and tradition, as well as development of their own culture*, which was mentioned in point d. Moreover, the right of people who are members of minorities to be taught native languages was specified in Article 8 point 4 of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language.

Polish system of education provides school children who belong to minorities with maintenance of their feeling of national, ethnic, language and religious identity and in particular with the possibility of learning the language as well as their own history and culture. The conditions and the way of carrying out these tasks were defined in the provisions of the educational law which were specified in detail in part III with reference to the implementation of Article 8 of the Charter.

g) facilitating people who do not use a regional or minority language, but who live in the areas where it is used, to learn such a language if they want to,

People not using a regional or minority language, but living in the area where it is used, have the possibility of learning such a language in accordance with the rules and procedures specified in the Act of 7 September 1991 on the system of education (Official Journal of 2004 No. 256, item 2572, with subsequent amendments). These issues were discussed more thoroughly in part III of the Report.

h) promotion of studies and research into regional or minority languages in universities or in similar scientific institutions,

The minister responsible for higher education supports the research projects concerning minority languages and a regional language. From 1996 to 2008, funds from the country's budget were spent on financing the research projects of Prof. Anna Taborska, PhD from the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences within the particular volumes of the "Etymological Dictionary of Kashubian". Total amount spent on the realisation of the said project came to PLN 333,000.00. The research activity concerning the Karaim language – Trakai and Lutsk-Halych, is conducted within the Turkology studies in the University of Warsaw (Anna Sulimowicz, doctorate), the Jagiellonian University (Michał Nemeth, doctorate), Adam Mickiewicz University (Karaim studies – Mariola Abkowicz, doctorate) and the Crimean dialect (Prof. Henryk Jankowski, Gulayhan Aktayewa, doctorate, Dorota Smętek, doctorate). In the period 2007-2010 there was planned the realisation of the research project of Prof. Henryk Jankowski, PhD from the Faculty of Neophilology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, entitled the "Karaim-English Dictionary. The Crimean Dialect". In the period 2008-2009 the last project was subsidised from the country's budget of PLN 35,000.00.

Numerous initiatives aimed to develop Kashubian education and Kashubian studies are taken by the University of Gdańsk. Currently, scientific and educational activities concerning the Kashubian language and culture are conducted within the research actions of the Faculty of History of the Polish Language, Dialectology and Onomastics, under the supervision of Prof. Jerzy Treder, PhD (the Institute of Polish Philology of the Faculty of Languages of the University of Gdańsk). In the Institute of Polish Philology there is employed a large group of researchers-experts on Kashubian studies.

It is also worth noting that the Unit of Anthropology of Literature and Kashubian-Pomeranian Study of the Institute of Polish Philology of the Pomeranian University in Słupsk has been for many years conducting research on literary space and culture of Kaszuby Region. The university also organises conferences and symposia in Kashubian studies together with the Western-Kashubian Museum in Bytów, aimed at e.g. the creation of a permanent place of study of Kashubian literature and culture.

Furthermore, information about minority languages and a regional language in higher education schools was provided in the point concerning the implementation of Article 8 point e (ii) of the Charter.

i) promotion of relevant kinds of international exchange, in the fields covered by the present Charter, among regional or minority languages which are used in the identical or similar form in two or more countries.

Information on the international exchange in the fields covered by the Charter among minority languages which are used in the identical or similar form in two countries was given in the point concerning the implementation of Article 14 of the Charter.

2. The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not done that yet, any unjustified differentiation, exclusion, limitation or preferential treatment related to the use of a regional or minority language whose objective is to discourage from using it or to endanger its preservation or development. Spending special measures on regional or minority languages which is aimed at promoting equality among users of these languages and the remaining part of the population or which properly considers their special conditions is not regarded as an act of discrimination of users of more popular languages.

The Republic of Poland does not implement any forms of differentiation, exclusion, limitation or preferential treatment related to the use of minority languages and a regional

language, whose objective is to discourage from using the foregoing languages or to endanger their preservation and development.

3. The Parties undertake to promote, by means of relevant measures, mutual understanding among language groups, and in particular to respect and tolerate regional or minority languages – within the objectives of education and trainings implemented in these countries – as well as to encourage the mass media to pursue the same goal.

With reference to the aims and rules specified in Article 7 (2) and (3) of the Charter, Article 6 of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language should be emphasised, which provides as follows:

1. It is forbidden to discriminate anyone who belongs to a minority.

2. Public authorities are obliged to take appropriate actions to:

1) support a full and real equality in the field of economic, social, political and cultural life among people belonging to minorities and those who are members of a majority;

2) protect people who are the object of discrimination, hostility or violence resulting from their membership of minorities.

It should be stressed that the above-mentioned provisions are applicable towards people using minority languages and the Kashubian language who are members of national and ethnic minorities as well as communities using a regional language.

Moreover, in accordance with Article 31 (2) sentence 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, *Everyone is obliged to respect the freedom and rights of others*, however, Article 32 of the Constitution provides that:

1. Everybody has equal rights. Everyone is entitled to equal treatment by public authorities.

2. Nobody can be discriminated in political, social or economic life for any reason.

The information provided by the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment shows that in the period from May 2008 to February 2010 no complaint was submitted to the Office concerning unjustified differentiation, limitations or preferential treatment related to the use of a regional or minority language.

However, it is worth stressing that the numerous activities concerning culture, specified in the *National programme for the prevention of racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance connected with them 2004-2009* (since July 2008 coordinated by the Plenipotentiary), treat a language as one of the elements of the preservation and development of culture of national and ethnic minorities.

With regard to the right of people belonging to national and ethnic minorities and a community using a regional language to the free use of their language in private and public lives, the Monitoring of Racism and Xenophobia Team of the Department of Controls, Complaints and Petitions of the Ministry of Interior and Administration, within its tasks, deals with e.g. monitoring events which are signs of xenophobic and racist behaviour towards people using minority languages. Recently, the Team has taken actions due to the acts of destroying information boards containing additional German names of places in communes situated on the territory of Opolskie Voivodship.

Furthermore, it should be mentioned that with regard to the problem of devastating the said boards, about which representatives of national and ethnic minorities and communities using a regional language informed the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities, in January 2010 the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Interior and Administration put forward to the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways and Opolskie Voivode, Podlaskie Voivode, Pomorskie Voivode and Śląskie Voivode a request to take actions aimed to appropriately secure the information boards containing additional names of places in minority languages and a regional language, and in the event of any damage to repair them immediately.

4. While determining their policies towards regional or minority languages, the Parties shall consider needs and requests of groups using these languages. The Parties are encouraged to establish organisations, if this is necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities in all matters connected with regional or minority languages.

People who use minority languages and the Kashubian language and who at the same time belong to national and ethnic minorities and communities using a regional language have the possibility of expressing their opinions on the implementation of their rights in the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities. The Commission was established based on Article 23 (1) of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language as a consultative and advisory body of the Prime Minister.

The Joint Commission is particularly responsible for:

- expressing opinions on the implementation of the rights and needs of minorities, including an assessment of the way of the implementation of these rights and making proposals within the activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of the rights and needs of minorities,

- giving opinions on programmes used for the creation of favourable conditions for the preservation and development of cultural identity of minorities,
- giving opinions on projects of legal acts concerning minorities,
- giving opinions on amounts and rules of dividing the financial measures allocated in the country's budget for the support of activities aimed to protect, preserve and develop cultural identity of minorities and to preserve and develop a regional language,
- taking actions for the prevention of discrimination of people who belong to minorities.

The Joint Commission comprises representatives of: the minister in charge of religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities, the minister in charge of the public administration, the minister in charge of culture and protection of national heritage, the minister in charge of education and behaviour, the minister in charge of public finance, the minister in charge of labour, the Minister of Justice, the minister in charge of interior, the minister in charge of social security, the minister in charge of foreign affairs, the President of the Central Statistical Office, the Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites, the Head of the Chancellery of Prime Minister and representatives of national minorities (Byelorussian, Czech, Lithuanian, German, Armenian, Russian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Jewish) and ethnic minorities (Karaim, Lemkos, Roma and Tatar), as well as representatives of communities using a regional language (Kashubian). Moreover, under the regulation of the Council of Ministers of 12 February 2010 on incorporation into the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities of a representative of the minister in charge of higher education (Official Journal No. 28, item 148), a representative of the said minister was incorporated into the Commission (on the day when the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language entered into force, the minister responsible for education was at the same time the minister in charge of higher education).

Members of the Joint Commission are appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister on application of the minister in charge of religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities. The co-presidents of the Joint Commission, who have equal rights, are: a representative of the minister in charge of religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities, and a representative of a minority and community using a regional language.

In accordance with the last Act, in order to appoint members of the Joint Commission being representatives of a minority and community using a regional language, the Minister of Interior and Administration submits to organisations of particular minorities and communities a request to appoint agreed candidates to the Commission and then presents to the Prime Minister the petition for appointing members of the Commission.

Costs connected with the functioning of the Joint Commission are covered from the budget of the country, whereas the organisational and technical service of the works of the Commission is provided by the Ministry of Interior and Administration.

Opinions of the Commission are submitted to the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. The Joint Commission can also turn with a request for information and positions to scientific institutions and circles, as well as social organisations. It can invite to its works representatives of territorial self-government units, social organisations and scientific circles.

By the end of March 2010 there were 20 sessions of the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities. Among other activities, every year the Commission gave opinions on the amount of financial measures planned in the budget of the country for the implementation of tasks aimed at preserving and developing cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities, as well as at preserving and developing their languages, and also at preserving and developing a regional language and on the rules of dividing the subsidies for the said activities granted by the Minister of Interior and Administration. Within the interest of the Joint Commission there was a project of the Act on ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and a number of projects of regulations of the Minister of National Education, concerning the issues of minority languages and a regional language. The Joint Commission actively participates in international meetings and consultations concerning the issues of minorities, their languages and a regional language.

5. The Parties undertake to apply mutatis mutandis the rules specified in sections 1-4 towards non-territorial languages. However, as regards these languages, the character and scope of the measures which are to be applied for the purpose of the implementation of the present Charter shall be determined in a flexible way, considering needs and requests and respecting tradition and features of groups using these languages.

The rules included in Article 7 (1-4) of the Charter are applicable towards non-territorial languages mentioned in the Declaration made by the Republic of Poland to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Furthermore, it should be emphasised that the Republic of Poland has undertaken to use the provisions of part III of the Charter towards the said languages.

**PART III:
MEASURES AIMED TO PROMOTE THE USE OF REGIONAL OR MINORITY
LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
COMMITMENTS MADE IN ARTICLE 2 (2) OF THE CHARTER**

Article 8

Education

1. *As regards education, the Parties undertake, on the territory where such languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each of these languages and without prejudice to teaching the official language (languages) of the country, to:*
 - a) *(i) make pre-primary education available in appropriate regional or minority languages*
 - b) *(i) make primary education available in appropriate regional or minority languages*
 - c) *(i) make secondary education available in appropriate regional or minority languages*
 - d) *(iii) consider teaching of appropriate regional or minority languages as an integral part of educational programme within technical and vocational education,*

Issues connected with the implementation of the right to learn a minority language or in such language and to learn history and culture of a minority, as well as the right to learn a regional language, are governed by the provision of Article 13 of the Act of 7 September 1991 concerning the system of education which reads as follows:

Article 13. 1 A public school and institution enables pupils to maintain the feeling of national, ethnic, language and religious identity, and in particular to learn the language, their own history and culture.

2. On application of parents, the learning defined in section 1 can be conducted:

1) in separate groups, departments or schools:

2) in groups, departments or schools with additional education of the language as well as their own history and culture;

3) in interschool educational groups.

3. The minister in charge of education and behaviour shall specify, by means of a regulation, the conditions and way of carrying out, by schools and institutions, the tasks defined in sections 1 and 2, especially the minimum number of school children for whom particular forms of education defined in section 2 are organised.

4. While teaching and upbringing, public schools ensure the maintenance of regional culture and tradition.

5. School textbooks and auxiliary books used for teaching pupils in the field which is necessary to maintain the feeling of national, ethnic and language identity, can be subsidised from the budget of the country from the part which is put at the disposal of the minister in charge of education and behaviour.

6. The minister in charge of education and behaviour shall take actions for the purpose of ensuring the possibility of educating teachers and the access to textbooks for use by public schools and institutions defined in section 1.

7. The minister in charge of education and behaviour shall take actions for the purpose of the popularisation of knowledge of history, culture, language and religious traditions of national and ethnic minorities as well as a community using a regional language.

Detailed issues connected with the organisation of the classes discussed are governed by the provisions of the regulation of the Minister of National Education of 14 November 2007 concerning the conditions and way of executing by public kindergartens, schools and institutions the tasks which enable the maintenance of the feeling of national, ethnic and language identity of school children who belong to national and ethnic minorities and communities using a regional language (Official Journal No. 214, item 1579).

Article 13 of the Act on the system of education and the implementing rules to the act guarantee the possibility of organising the learning of national and ethnic minorities and a regional language on all educational levels – on the level of kindergarten education, primary school, junior secondary school and post junior secondary schools. This possibility includes post junior secondary schools of all types and specialisations – thus, school children of secondary schools, technical secondary schools and vocational secondary schools have equal rights to learn minority or regional languages.

The learning of minority or regional languages is organised by a head of a kindergarten or a public school according to the voluntary principle, on application of parents or a pupil's legal guardians. There was also set the minimum number of school children being a base for teaching the native language other than Polish in such a way as to enable the organisation of teaching in small circles or in the conditions of dispersion of some minorities (this especially concerns the Ukrainian national minority and the Lemkos ethnic minority). The number of 7 school children on the level of primary education (primary schools and junior secondary schools) and 14 school children on the level of post junior secondary education is enough to

form a class in which the native language is taught. With regard to kindergartens, on the level of the particular department the number of 7 children is enough.

Based on the above-mentioned regulation, the following forms of the organisation of teaching a minority or regional language are possible:

- teaching in a minority language or regional language in schools or departments in which this language is the language of instruction, i.e. educational classes are conducted in this language, except classes which include:
 - a) in primary schools: during the 1st stage of education – integrated teaching within the content of teaching the Polish language; during the 2nd stage of education – the Polish language and the part of history and society concerning Polish history;
 - b) in other types of schools – the Polish language, the part of history concerning Polish history and the part of geography concerning the geography of Poland,
- teaching in schools and departments in which educational classes are conducted in two languages: in Polish and a language of a minority or a regional language being the second language of teaching,
- teaching a minority language as the additional subject, i.e. educational classes are carried out in Polish, except classes in a minority language or regional language,
- teaching a minority language or a regional language in interschool groups (if in particular schools, the number of people interested is too small).

In kindergartens the teaching of a minority language or a regional language can be organised:

- in kindergartens or kindergarten departments in which classes are conducted in a minority language or a regional language,
- in kindergartens or kindergarten departments in which classes are conducted in two languages: Polish and a minority language or a regional language;
- in kindergartens or kindergarten departments in which classes in a minority language or a regional language are conducted within 4 hours a week;
- in inter-kindergarten groups of teaching a minority language or a regional language.

Moreover, it should be mentioned that for children fulfilling the obligation of the year-long kindergarten preparation in kindergartens and kindergarten departments in primary schools in which classes are conducted in a minority language or a regional language, the classes are also carried out in Polish within 4 hours a week.

The teaching of a minority language and a regional language is financed from the budget of the country. On the basis of the regulation of the Minister of National Education concerning the way of dividing the parts of the total educational subsidy for territorial self-

government units given for the particular budget year the authorities which run (subsidise) schools organising the education for minorities have at their disposal the educational subsidy increased, in comparison to other schools, by 20% counted per one school child (with regard to schools in which the number of school children who belong to minorities exceeds 84 in a primary school and 42 in a junior secondary school and a post junior secondary school) or 150% (as regards schools in which there are fewer children belonging to minorities). With relation to all schools, the amount of the increased educational subsidy came to altogether in the year: 2008 – PLN 137,732,616, and in 2009 – PLN 170,197,043.

The table below shows the amount of educational expenses connected with teaching languages of national and ethnic minorities and a regional language in 2008 and 2009.

The financing of educational expenses in 2008 r. and 2009 r.						
Languages	2008 r.			2009 r.		
	Textbooks	Educational system subsidy	Educational, other	Textbooks	Educational system subsidy	Educational, other
Byelorussian	-	No data	-	-	9.890.159	-
Czech	-	-	-	-	6.840	-
Karaim	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kashubian	334.995	No data	16.624	200.000	47.215.061	-
Lithuanian	289.050	No data	-	345.250	1.620.051	29.900
Lemkos	127.950	No data	-	-	2.188.469	-
German	-	No data	-	-	82.085.686	-
Armenian	-	No data	-	-	98.521	-
Roma	-	No data	-	-	12.861.236	-
Russian	-	-	-	-	136.842	-
Slovak	-	No data	-	-	1.367.860	-
Tatar	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian	542.562	No data	30.000	367.738	12.054.875	36.500
Jewish	-	No data	-	-	671.443	-
TOTAL	1.294.557	137.732.616	46.624	912.988	170.197.043	66.400

On the basis of the regulation of the Minister of National Education of 30 April 2007 concerning the conditions and way of assessing, classifying and promoting school children and students as well as organising tests and examinations in public schools (Official Journal No. 83, item 562, with subsequent amendments), school children can take secondary education final examinations [“Matura”] in a language of a minority, write tests after primary schools and take examinations after junior secondary schools in a language of a minority or a regional language.

Provisions of the educational law also govern other detailed issues related to the organisation of teaching regional or minority languages, and in particular:

- the creation of chains of schools teaching minority languages or a regional language, without the necessity to set school districts – Article 58 (2) a of the Act on the system of education,
- the consideration, in the core curriculum of kindergarten education and general education, of the aim and the content of teaching in the field of languages of national or ethnic minorities and a regional language – regulation of the Minister of National Education of 23 December 2008 on the core curriculum of kindergarten education and general education in particular types of schools (Official Journal of 2009 No. 4, item 17) – applicable in the school year 2009/10 in the first classes of primary and junior secondary schools and the regulation of the Minister of National Education and Sport of 26 February 2002 concerning the core curriculum of kindergarten education and general education in particular types of schools (Official Journal No. 51, item 458, with subsequent amendments) – the core curriculum specified in the annexes to the last regulation is applicable in the remaining classes of primary, junior secondary and post junior secondary schools by the end of the teaching cycle,
- the fixing, in the framework teaching plans for particular types of schools, of hours intended for the education of a language of minorities, their own history and geography of the country with the cultural area of which the national minorities identify and a regional language – regulation of the Minister of National Education and Sport of 12 February 2002 on the framework teaching plans in public schools (Official Journal No. 15, item 142, with subsequent amendments),
- the permission to use in schools educational programmes and the permission to use in schools textbooks for learning languages of national or ethnic minorities, their own history and geography of the country with which the national minority identifies in terms of culture as well as for learning a regional language – regulation of the Minister of National Education of 8 June 2009 on the permission to use in schools programmes

of kindergarten education and teaching programmes and the permission to use in schools textbooks (Official Journal No. 89, item 730).

In bigger centres of people who use a minority language and a regional language there was established a chain of schools teaching these languages. In the school year 2008/9 it comprised 1008 units (including kindergartens, the reception class, primary schools, junior secondary schools and post junior secondary schools as well as interschool groups) and included in total 54 262 school children.

To the largest extent, the possibility of learning minority languages and a regional language is used by school children of primary schools. On higher stages of education the number of pupils interested in learning minority languages or a regional language is far lower. Moreover, on the level of post junior secondary schools, school children of secondary schools are much more often interested in learning a minority language or a regional language than of technical and vocational secondary schools.

Below there is a statement with numbers concerning kindergarten units, school units (including the reception classes and interschool groups) and school children learning a minority language or regional language as native languages, along with the list of voivodships in which school children are taught a minority language or in such a language (school year 2008/9 and school year 2009/10):

- German – voivodships: Dolnośląskie, Opolskie, Pomorskie, Śląskie and Warmińsko-mazurskie (in total 510 units, altogether 38 323 pupils – in the school year 2008/2009; in total 536 units, altogether 38 034 school children in the school year 2009/2010),
- Kashubian – Pomorskie Voivodship (in total 208 units, altogether 8 539 school children – in the school year 2008/2009, altogether 254 units, altogether 9 856 school children in the school year 2009/2010),
- Byelorussian – Podlaskie Voivodship (in total 40 units, altogether 3408 school children – in the school year 2008/2009; in total 40 units, altogether 3 214 school children in the school year 2009/2010),
- Ukrainian – voivodships: Dolnośląskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Mazowieckie, Podkarpackie, Podlaskie, Pomorskie, Warmińsko-mazurskie, Zachodniopomorskie (in total 142 units, altogether 2515 school children – in the school year 2008/2009; in total 139 units, in total 2 401 school children in the school year 2009/2010),
- Lithuanian – Podlaskie Voivodship (in total 18 units, altogether 689 school children – in the school year 2008/2009; in total 18 units, altogether 687 school children in the school year 2009/2010),

- the Lemkos language – voivodships; Dolnośląskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie (in total 37 units, altogether 385 school children – in the school year 2008/2009; in total 33 units, altogether 303 school children in the school year 2009/2010),
- Slovak – Małopolskie Voivodship (in total 11 units, altogether 230 school children – in the school year 2008/2009; in total 12 units, altogether 183 school children in the school year 2009/2010),
- Hebrew – Wrocław, Warszawa (6 non-public units, in total 296 school children – in the school year 2008/2009; 6 non-public units, in total 307 school children in the school year 2009/2010),
- Armenian – (one primary school in Kraków, 16 school children in the school year 2008/2009; in the school year 2009/2010 - 19 school children).

Taking account of the necessity of preserving and developing the Roma language and the need of supporting the kindergarten preparation of the Roma children, the Ministry of Interior and Administration and the Ministry of National Education in 2008 appointed a group of experts on the Roma language. The effect of the group's works is the proposal to standardise the spelling of Roma considering dialectological differences which occur in Poland, and the publication of primers for the Roma children, worked out by Karol *Parno* Gierliński, in the dialect of the Polish Roma and the Carpathian Roma, the creation of their multimedia versions and a web portal serving as a tool for further works and discussions related to the development of the Roma language.

The data concerning teaching languages of national and ethnic minorities and a regional language as native languages on particular stages of education is shown in the table below¹:

¹ The number of units given above is lower than the total number of units in the tabular depiction. This results from the fact that in the table there were separated kindergarten departments which are not independent units, however, they are integral parts of secondary schools. These departments are usually run in schools in which pupils learn minority languages or a regional language. The same applies to the interschool groups – they mainly function in schools in which school children learn minority languages or a regional language. In the descriptive part, primary school in which school children learn a language of a minority and at the same time functions a kindergarten department in which children learn such a language, is shown only once. The same also applies to schools in which interschool groups are run.

Type of the unit	2008/2009		2009/2010	
	Number of units	Number of school children	Number of units	Number of school children
The Byelorussian language				
Kindergartens	1	81	1	82
Kindergarten departments at primary schools	2	7	1	4
Primary school	24	1 524	22	1463
Junior secondary school	14	922	14	859
General secondary education school	3	777	3	787
Specialised secondary school	0	0	0	0
Vocational school	0	0	1	13
Interschool groups	2	97	2	6
Altogether	46	3 408	44	3 214
The Hebrew language				
Kindergartens	2	83	2	100
Kindergarten departments at primary schools	0	0	0	0
Primary school	2	176	2	180
Junior secondary school	2	37	2	27
General secondary education school	0	0	0	0
Specialised secondary school	0	0	0	0
Vocational school	0	0	0	0
Interschool groups	0	0	0	0
Altogether	6	296	6	307
The regional language - Kashubian				
Kindergartens	5	55	5	53
Kindergarten departments at primary schools	26	142	29	101
Primary school	162	6 981	185	8 211
Junior secondary school	46	1 158	52	1 257
General secondary education school	4	142	5	201
Specialised secondary school	0	0	0	0
Vocational school	1	8	0	0
Interschool groups	6	53	7	33
Altogether	250	8 539	283	9 856
The Lithuanian language				
Kindergartens	2	89	2	91
Kindergarten departments at primary schools	3	8	3	12
Primary school	9	332	8	296
Junior secondary school	4	162	3	167
General secondary education school	1	91	2	101
Specialised secondary school	0	0	0	0
Vocational school	1	1	0	0
Interschool groups	1	6	2	20
Altogether	21	689	20	687
The Lemkos language				
Kindergartens	1	10	1	4
Kindergarten departments at primary schools	3	3	4	4
Primary school	21	185	20	155
Junior secondary school	11	89	8	79
General secondary education school	1	10	2	13
Specialised secondary school	0	0	0	0

Vocational school	0	0	0	0
Interschool groups	11	88	6	48
Altogether	48	385	41	303
The German language				
Kindergartens	132	4 638	145	5 248
Kindergarten departments at primary schools	41	669	40	698
Primary school	266	23 519	277	23 885
Junior secondary school	89	9 450	89	7 948
General secondary education school	0	0	0	0
Specialised secondary schools	0	0	1	38
Vocational school	0	0	1	22
Interschool groups	5	47	11	195
Altogether	533	38 323	564	38 034
The Armenian language				
Kindergartens	0	0	0	0
Kindergarten departments at primary schools	0	0	0	0
Primary school	1	16	1	19
Junior secondary school	0	0	0	0
General secondary education school	0	0	0	0
Specialised secondary school	0	0	0	0
Vocational school	0	0	0	0
Interschool groups	0	0	0	0
Altogether	1	16	1	19
The Slovak language				
Kindergarten	1	18	1	1
Kindergarten departments at primary schools	3	7	3	5
Primary school	6	151	6	144
Junior secondary school	3	42	4	33
General secondary education school	0	0	0	0
Specialised school	0	0	0	0
Vocational school	0	0	0	0
Interschool groups	1	12	0	0
Altogether	14	230	14	183
The Ukrainian language				
Kindergarten	3	97	3	98
Kindergarten departments at primary schools	29	59	27	67
Primary school	70	922	68	822
Junior secondary school	45	519	43	506
General secondary education school	6	308	6	281
Specialised secondary school	2	6	2	6
Vocational school	0	0	3	22
Interschool groups	45	604	44	599
Altogether	200	2 515	196	2 401
Altogether all languages	1 119	54 401	1 169	55 004

The data shown in the table was given according to the record on 30 September of the particular school year.

The table does not include data on teaching the Roma language. The teaching of this language in public schools is in the phase of preparation of the didactic base in cooperation with the Roma circles.

There should also be indicated the fact of accepting, in 2002, the *Strategy for Development of Education of the Lithuanian Minority in Poland*, which is a document written jointly by representatives of the Lithuanian minority in Poland and representatives of the government and self-government administration. Provisions of the *Strategy* concern, among others, the problem of liquidation of small schools teaching the Lithuanian language on the territory of Sejny Commune. As a result of meetings and discussions there was made a decision on the liquidation indicating the possibility of concentrating the education for the Lithuanian minority on the territory of Sejny Commune within the Centre of the Lithuanian Education. Thanks to the commitment of Bishop Antanas Baranauskas Foundation „Dom Litewski” [Lithuanian House] in Sejny on 1 September 2005 there started to operate the Lithuanian school „Žiburys” which is run within the Centre for the Lithuanian Education in Sejny. The Centre comprises a kindergarten, a primary school and a junior secondary school with Lithuanian as the language of education. The primary school and junior secondary school have a status of non-public schools with public school rights, and their body of management is Bishop Antanas Baranauskas Foundation. The financial measures for the operation of the unit come from e.g. the budget of the country within the educational system subsidy given to territorial self-government units. Bishop Antanas Baranauskas Foundation also receives an additional subsidy from the budget of the country on the basis of the provisions of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language. In December 2006 there was also accepted the *Strategy for Development of Education of the German Minority in Poland* (in February 2007 approved by the Minister of Interior and Administration and the Minister of National Education). This document was written with the participation of territorial self-government units, superintendents of education, and also organisations of the German minority in Poland. The main objectives of the *Strategy* was the creation of bilingual schools with Polish and German as the languages of education and increasing the number of pupils continuing the learning of German as a native language in post junior secondary schools. The primary objective of this document is drawing up, for schools with a language of the German minority, all the necessary textbooks and teaching plans. Implementation of this aim requires close cooperation of experts on the organisations of the German minority (especially the Association for German Education), authors, publishers and the Minister of National Education. Another aspect significant for the development of education of the German minority in Poland is the assurance of

methodological care for those who teach German or in the German language. In accordance with the provisions of the *Strategy* in the Opole University there should be established a centre for educating teachers of German as a language of a national minority. The first step to achieve this aim shall be the inclusion in the programme of the studies, the methodology of teaching German as a language of a minority. The ultimate objective is the creation, in the Institute of German Philology of the Opole University, of the following specialisation – teaching German as a language of a minority.

e) (ii) ensure the possibility of studying these languages as subjects in educational system on the level of universities and higher education

In Poland there is a possibility of studying languages which are used by minorities as subjects in the educational system on the level of universities and higher education in the field of Philology. Moreover, the mentioned languages are taught during foreign language courses organised in various faculties of studies. The list of minority languages which in 2008 were the subject of education in universities and in higher education schools is in the annexe no. 1 to the Report.

It should also be emphasised that in the Institute of Russian Philology of the Pedagogical University of Cracow since the academic year 2001/2002 there has been a speciality of Russian Philology with the Rusyn-Lemkos language. The creation of the said speciality resulted from the need of educating teachers of the Lemkos language. Since 2008 the speciality of Russian Philology with the Rusyn-Lemkos language has been financed from the budget of the Minister of Interior and Administration. Students of this speciality, apart from substantive preparation for teaching the Lemkos language have also the possibility of undergoing such student practical trainings as: pedagogical, cultural studies and language studies, as well as workshops in ethnic journalism.

Furthermore, in the summer semester of the academic year 2009/2010 the University of Gdańsk introduced the speciality – Kashubian Studies in the faculty of – Polish Philology. Students of this speciality shall be familiarised with the qualities of the Kashubian language, literary and writing output in this language. Among the subjects taught are: Kashubian Literature, Practical Kashubian as well as History and Culture of Kaszuby Region. A graduate of the field of Polish Philology, specialisation - Kashubian studies, who has general humanistic knowledge and at the same time regional humanistic knowledge will be prepared for scientific work, for working as a teacher, culture animator, working in archives, publishing houses, editorial offices of magazines, the mass media. Extended teaching

specialisation will provide students with substantive preparation to teach Polish and the Kashubian language in different types of schools.

The University of Gdańsk also carried out three editions of postgraduate studies for teachers of the Kashubian language financed from the European Union. Due to extensive interest in the said studies, the university plans to continue them. Since 1989 the Institute of Polish Philology of the University of Gdańsk has also been running a Kashubian language course.

Furthermore, the Institute of Polish Philology of the Pomeranian University in Słupsk since the academic year 2009/10 has been running postgraduate studies with the methodological and cultural studies specialisation within the teaching of the Kashubian language. The studies are addressed to people who have a diploma of completion of the first or second degree studies in any field, who can speak and write in the Kashubian language. Graduates of the said studies gain qualifications necessary to teach the Kashubian language at school. In the school year 2009/10 there were about 60 applicants.

Representatives of national and ethnic minorities and communities using a regional language submit a demand to create a system solution related to the functioning of the Minority Language Philology, considering e.g. lower number of students in groups, and also introducing special rules concerning the minimum staff and the possibility of employing people from outside. In February 2010 the issue of the operation of the Minority Philology Schools was the discussion topic of the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities.

g) take actions aimed to ensure the education of history and culture corresponding with the particular regional or minority language.

Provisions of the Act on the system of education introduce the possibility of teaching history and culture corresponding with the particular regional or minority language, on the basis of the teaching programmes drawn up and approved by a school. Textbooks for teaching History are authorised for the school use by the Minister of National Education based on opinions of experts. Authors and publishers of textbooks for teaching History and Geography are obliged to take into account the recommendations of bilateral textbook commissions and other commissions and teams for textbooks, acting on the basis of transnational contracts concerning cooperation within education or contracts of the national committees of UNESCO.

h) provide teachers with a basic and further training necessary to implement the points from a to g accepted by the Party,

Qualifications of teachers of minority languages and a regional language were defined in the provisions of the regulation of the Minister of National Education of 12 March 2009 on detailed qualifications required from teachers and on specification of schools and cases in which there can be employed teachers who do not have higher education or who have not completed the teacher training institution (Official Journal No. 50, item 400).

On the basis of the provisions of the regulation of the Minister of National Education of 19 November 2009 concerning teacher training units (Official Journal No. 200, item 1537), there is a possibility of appointing methodological advisers within the teaching of minority languages and a regional language. In accordance with Article 5 (5) b and Article 5 a (2) point 3 of the foregoing Act on the system of education, voivodship in-service teacher training units which are run by the voivodship self-government are in charge of organising and conducting, according to the needs, methodological consultancy.

In 2009, the methodological care over schools for minorities was exercised by 5 teachers – consultants and 12 methodological advisers specialising in minority languages.

i) appoint a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the actions taken and the progress in the field of introduction or development of teaching regional or minority languages and for preparing periodical reports on conclusions drawn by them which shall be made public

Supervision over the correctness of the organisation of the process of teaching minority languages and a regional language in public schools on the territory of particular voivodships is within the competence of voivodship superintendents of education.

2. *With regard to the educational system and with reference to territories other than the ones on which regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of people using a regional or a minority language justifies it, to enable, encourage and ensure the education in a regional or minority language or the education of this language on all appropriate teaching levels.*

In the Polish system of education there is a possibility of teaching minority languages and a regional language in schools which are on the territories other than the ones where the said languages are traditionally used. The basis of conducting education of minority languages as native languages is the minimum number of school children, specified in the provisions of the educational law, whose parents or legal guardians informed about the need to organise the said education. This issue was discussed in the point concerning the implementation of Article 8 (1) of the Charter.

Article 9

Judicial authorities

2. The Parties undertake:

a) not to contest the validity of legal documents drawn up within the country only due to the fact that they have been written in a regional or minority language

The adoption by Poland of Article 9 (2) point a of the Charter is a confirmation of the validity of the legal documents drawn up in minority languages and in a regional language. In accordance with Article 2 point 2 of the above-cited Act on the Polish language, this Act does not infringe rights of national and ethnic minorities and a community using a regional language. However, it should be remembered that, in order to be able to successfully examine evidence in legal proceedings which is based on a document draw up in a regional or minority language it shall be necessary to translate such a document into an official language.

Article 10

Administrative authorities and public services

2. With reference to local and regional authorities on the territory of which the number citizens who use regional or minority languages is such that it justifies the measures mentioned below, the Parties undertake to allow or encourage

b) the possibility of submitting by users of regional or minority languages oral or written petitions in these languages

The Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language provides the possibility of using before commune authorities, apart from an official language, the languages of national and ethnic minorities and a regional language as auxiliary languages. In accordance with Article 9 of the foregoing Act, the auxiliary language can solely be used in communes

where the number of citizens of the commune belonging to a minority or using a regional language is not lower than 20% of the overall number of the commune citizens, and the commune itself has been entered into the Official Registry of Communes in which the auxiliary language is used. Introduction of the auxiliary language is currently possible in 51 communes on the whole territory of Poland, including in Podlaskie Voivodship in 13, in Opolskie Voivodship in 27, in Pomorskie Voivodship in 10 and in Śląskie Voivodship in 1 commune. The entry in the Official Registry of Communes is made by the minister in charge of religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities, based on a petition of the commune council.

Before the entry is made in the Official Registry of Communes, the minister verifies the petition of the commune and can refuse to enter the commune if the petition does not meet the requirements specified in the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language. In the event of the refusal to make the entry in the Official Registry of Communes, the commune council is entitled to file a complaint to the Administrative Court. On the basis of the authorization included in the Act, the Minister of Interior and Administration issued the regulation in which specified the way of maintaining the registry as well as an example of the petition for entering into this registry. Moreover, the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language provides that the commune can be crossed out of the registry only on application of the commune council.

The last Act also governs the scope within which a minority language can be used before commune authorities. It should be noted that an auxiliary language can solely be used in contacts between an authority and people who are members of a minority. The Act allows to refer to commune authorities in the auxiliary language in writing and orally, including submission of an application. A representative of a minority can also, at the express request, receive from the commune office an answer in the auxiliary language both in writing and in the oral form, with the reservation that the appeal procedure is carried out only in an official language.

The above-mentioned provisions show that an auxiliary language can be used in contacts between an authority and representatives of the particular minority, however, it does not influence the general rule of using an official language in contacts between an authority and petitioners and the service of people who are not members of a minority.

The Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language also introduced the mechanism aimed at encouraging employees of territorial self-government units to learn auxiliary languages and as a result ensuring high quality of service for people belonging to minorities in their native languages. In accordance with Article 11 (1) of the last Act, in a

commune entered into the registry, employees who work in the commune office, in auxiliary units of the commune as well as in communal units and budget institutions are entitled to receive a supplementary payment for knowledge of an auxiliary language. On the basis of the authorisation included in the Act, the Minister of Interior and Administration issued a regulation specifying the list of diplomas, letters of confirmation and certificates of a command of minority languages.

Pursuant to Article 15 of the Act, costs connected with the introduction and the use of an auxiliary language are covered from the budget of the commune.

According to the record on 29 September 2010, there are 30 communes entered into the Official Registry of Communes, including six communes of Podlaskie Voivodship (in one of the communes an auxiliary language is Lithuanian, in the remaining five – Byelorussian), two communes of Pomorskie Voivodship (in which the auxiliary language is Kashubian) and twenty-two communes of Opolskie Voivodship with German as an auxiliary language.

The first commune to have been entered into the Official Registry of Communes on 25 January 2006 was Radłów Commune with German as an auxiliary language. In 2006, into the said Registry there were incorporated next fourteen communes, in 2007 five communes, in 2008 one commune, in 2009 seven communes and in 2010 two communes.

In sixteen communes of Opolskie Voivodship, one commune of Pomorskie Voivodship and one commune of Podlaskie Voivodship, people who belong to a minority and community using a regional language referred to the commune authorities in an auxiliary language. In the said communes the people concerned received an answer in the auxiliary language both in writing and in an oral form. An exception was the commune in Podlaskie Voivodship where an answer was provided in Polish due to the fact that the applicants did not demand the reply in the minority language. The answers given in the auxiliary language concerned the following matters: public, social, insurance and taxes, inheritance, labour law, residency registration and general registry, personal documents (identity cards, certificates of births, marriages, deaths), environmental protection, purchase of lands, possibility of starting investments, cooperation with partner towns (in the economic and cultural sphere). On the territory of the said communes there are employed people with a very good command of auxiliary languages.

The list of the communes entered into the Official Registry of Communes in which there is used an auxiliary language, is available on the website of the Ministry of Interior and Administration. The Registry is run by the Minister of Interior and Administration in an electronic form.

The list of the communes incorporated on the basis of Article 10 of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language into the Official Registry of Communes, is in the annexe no. 2 to the Report.

g) the use or acceptance, if it turns out to be necessary, together with a name in the official language (languages), of traditional and correct forms of names of places in regional or minority languages.

The Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language provides the possibility of introducing on the territory of a commune additional traditional names of streets, places and physiographic objects in languages of national and ethnic minorities and in a regional language. Additional names of places can be introduced in a commune in two cases: if as a result of the last national census, the officially set number of residents of a commune declaring to belong to a minority or to use a regional language is not lower than 20% or if this requirement is not fulfilled, but on the territory of the commune there are places in which the majority of residents during consultations opted for establishing an additional name of the place in a minority or regional language.

The additional names of places cannot refer to the names from the period 1933-1945 granted by the authorities of the Third Reich or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. After 1933 the Nazi authorities on a mass scale changed names of places, a similar action – but to a smaller extent – was carried out by the Soviet authorities after 1939. The legislator intended to avoid a situation when additional names of places would refer to the foregoing totalitarian systems.

Furthermore, additional traditional names of places in the languages of national and ethnic minorities and in a regional language cannot be used separately. Based on the authorisation included in the Act, the Minister of Infrastructure issued, in agreement with the Minister of Interior and Administration, the regulation of 10 August 2005 on placing on signs and boards additional names in the languages of national and ethnic minorities and in a regional language (Official Journal No. 157, item 1320), according to which if on signs and boards there is one name in Polish, the size of the letters used to write the additional name should be the same as the size of the letters used to write the name in the Polish language. However, if there is more than one name in Polish, the size of the letters used to write additional names should be smaller by one-fourth. The style of the letters is the same in both languages. Moreover, additional names are written with letters of the alphabet appropriate for

the language of the particular national or ethnic minority or for a regional language, taking under consideration the specific for this alphabet diacritical marks.

In accordance with Article 12 (2) of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language, the condition required to introduce an additional name of a place, physiographic object or street in a minority or regional language is the incorporation of the commune into the Registry of Communes, maintained by the minister in charge of religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities, on the territory of which there are used names in a minority language. The minister makes the entry on application of the commune council.

On the basis of the authorisation included in the Act, the Minister of Interior and Administration issued the regulation specifying the detailed scope of information contained in the said Registry. This Registry pursuant to § 2 (2) of the regulation of the Minister of Interior and Administration of 30 May 2005 on the Registry of Communes in which there are used names in a minority language, on examples of petitions for entering into this Registry and on establishing an additional name of a place or a physiographic object in the language of a national or ethnic minority or in a regional language (Official Journal No. 102, item 85) comprises: the Registry of Communes on the territory of which there are used additional names of streets and the Registry of Communes where there are used additional names of places and physiographic objects. Petitions for establishing an additional name of a place or a physiographic object are evaluated by a Voivode and the Commission for Names of Places and Physiographic Objects. Procedure of the evaluation of the names of places and physiographic objects by the Commission is defined in the Act of 29 August 2003 on official names of places and physiographic objects (Official Journal 166, item 1612, with subsequent amendments) and in the regulation of the Minister of Interior and Administration of 5 August 2004 on the procedure of work of the Commission for Names of Places and Physiographic Objects and on the amount of remuneration for its members for the participation in the sessions (Official Journal No. 177, item 1831).

A negative opinion of the Commission results in a refusal to make the entry into the Registry and consequently in a lack of the possibility of using this name as an additional name on the territory of the commune. In the event of the refusal to make the entry, the commune council is entitled to file a complaint to the administrative court.

According to the record on 29 September 2010, there are 33 communes incorporated into the Registry, including twenty two communes of Opolskie Voivodship (additional names in German), seven communes of Pomorskie Voivodship (additional names in Kashubian), two communes of Śląskie Voivodship (additional names in German), one commune of Podlaskie

Voivodship (additional names in Lithuanian) and one commune of Małopolskie Voivodship (additional names in the Lemkos language). The first commune to have been entered into the Registry on 22 December 2006 was Radłów Commune with additional names in German, in 2007 into the said Registry there were entered next three communes, in 2008 fifteen communes, seven communes in 2009 and seven communes in 2010.

So far no commune filed a petition for entering into the Registry of Communes in connection with the intention of introducing on its territory additional names of streets in a minority language.

Furthermore, petitions of the communes: Orla, Reńska Wieś, Bierawa, Parchowo and Sulęczyno have been submitted to the Commission for Names of Places and Physiographic Objects.

The list of the communes incorporated into the Registry of Communes on the territories of which there are used names in a minority language is available on the website of the Ministry of Interior and Administration. The Registry is run by the Ministry of Interior and Administration in an electronic form.

The list of communes entered, on the basis of Article 12 of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language, into the Registry of Communes where there are used names in a minority language is in the annexe no. 3 to the Report.

In accordance with Article 15 (2) of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language, costs connected with a change of information boards resulting from the establishment of an additional name of a place or a physiographic object in a minority language are covered from the budget of the country.

On 10 March 2008 there was concluded the first agreement between the Minister of Interior and Administration and Radłów Commune concerning the transfer of financial measures from the budget of the country intended for the change of information boards in relation to the introduction of additional names of places in a minority language. By 29 September 2010 the Minister of Interior and Administration signed agreements concerning the implementation of the tasks connected with the change of information boards containing additional names of places in minority languages and a regional language with the following communes: Chmielno, Cisek, Stężycza, Chrzastowice, Izbicko, Tarnów Opolski, Puńsk, Dobrodzień, Leśnica, Ujazd, Gorlice, Zębowice, Biała, Walce, Głogówek, Komprachcice, Strzelecзки, Bytów, Sierakowice, Jemielnica, Szemud and Kolonowskie.

Currently, three communes are waiting for an award of the subsidy to cover the costs of changing the information boards. In 2008 from the budget of the Minister of Interior and Administration for the change of the information boards there was sent a subsidy of - PLN

443,532.92, in 2009 – PLN 537,446.55². The amount of PLN 600,000.00 is planned in the budget for the year 2010. Until now there have been used measures of PLN 597,569.00.

5. The Parties undertake to allow, on application of interested people, to use or assume surnames in regional or minority languages.

Polish citizens who belong to national and ethnic minorities, pursuant to Polish legislation, can change names and surnames to a version being in accordance with the pronunciation and spelling of a native language under the administrative procedures, on the basis of the Act of 17 October 2008 on the change of a name and surname (Official Journal No. 220, item 1414). Changes of spelling of names and surnames can be made in the Registries of Births, Marriages and Deaths appropriate for the place of residence. The right of people belonging to national minorities to use and spell their names and surnames in accordance with the spelling rules of a minority language, in particular to register in vital records and in identity documents, was also guaranteed in Article 7 (1) of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language. Pursuant to section 2 of the foregoing Article names and surnames of people who are members of a minority written in an alphabet other than the Latin alphabet are subject to transliteration. On the basis of the authorisation included in the Act, the Minister of Interior and Administration issued a regulation specifying the way of transliteration requiring to consider spelling rules of a minority language. This solution arose from the willingness of avoiding difficulties in reading names and surnames which would result from the spelling in other alphabets. The regulation of the Minister of Interior and Administration of 30 May 2005 on the way of transliteration of names and surnames of people belonging to national and ethnic minorities written in an alphabet other than the Latin alphabet (Official Journal No. 102, item 855), provides the conduct of the said transliteration towards names and surnames of people who belong to the following minorities: Byelorussian, Lemkos, Armenian, Russian, Ukrainian and Jewish.

The right to use names and surnames with the pronunciation of the language of a national minority is also guaranteed in the Treaties on Friendship and Good-Neighbourly Relations with the Federal Republic of Germany, Ukraine, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Lithuania.

² The amount given to communes for the implementation of the tasks related to the change of information boards resulting from the establishment of additional names in minority languages and a regional language. Measures for this aim were assured in the budget of the county of PLN 500,000.00. The reason for bigger, than it was planned, amount of the subsidies given to communes results from the fact that a part of the measures was not used and returned to the budget of the country and then again transferred to other communes.

In 2009, 100 people changed their names and surnames under the administrative procedures (83 people changed to the German language, 7 – to Lithuanian, 4 – to Hebrew, 2 – to Russian and Roma, 1 – to Ukrainian and Armenian).

Due to signals from representatives of national and ethnic minorities concerning the problem of insufficient knowledge of employees of the Registries of Births, Marriages and Deaths of the right of people who belong to a national minority to use and write names and surnames according to the spelling rules of a minority language, in particular to register in vital records and in identity documents, in December 2009 the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Interior and Administration turned to all Voivodes with a request to remind the Registries of Births, Marriages and Deaths of the right which minorities have. The information which the Minister of Interior and Administration received shows that Voivodes sent to commune authorities on the territories of their voivodships letters reminding of the foregoing right. Furthermore, the issue of spelling names and surnames of people who belong to minorities shall be the subject of a training for superintendents of the Registries of Births, Marriages and Deaths and shall also be subject to detailed control in the said offices.

Article 11

The media

- 1. The Parties undertake with regard to users of regional or minority languages on the territories where these languages are used, depending on the situation of each language, within the scope of direct or indirect competence of public authorities, their entitlements or the part which they play in this field, and in accordance with the rule of independence and autonomy of the media:*
 - a) to the extent within which radio and television fulfil a public service task:*
 - (ii) to encourage to create or to facilitate to create at least one radio station and one television channel in regional or minority languages, or*
 - (iii) to issue an appropriate provision requiring from broadcasters to offer programmes in regional or minority languages,*

With reference to the above-mentioned issues, it should be noted that the provision of Article 54 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland reads as follows:

- 1. Everyone is entitled to the freedom of expressing their views and of receiving and spreading information.*

2. *Preventive censorship of the media and the licensing of the press are banned. The Act can introduce an obligation of prior obtainment of the licence to run a radio or television station.*

Moreover, pursuant to the provision of Article 213 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland: *the National Broadcasting Council guards the freedom of speech, the right to information and public interest in radio and television broadcasting.*

The Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language introduced changes in the Act of 29 December 1992 on radio and television broadcasting (Consolidated text: Official Journal of 2004 No. 253, item 253, with subsequent amendments), extending the catalogue of tasks connected with the fulfilment of the public service task by adding the task related to the consideration of needs of national and ethnic minorities and communities using a regional language including the broadcasting of information programmes in the languages of national and ethnic minorities and in a regional language.

According to the National Broadcasting Council, the programmes addressed to national and ethnic minorities and communities using a regional language altogether meet the following criteria:

- they are fully dedicated to the issues concerning national, ethnic minorities and communities using a regional language,
- they are attended by representatives of national or ethnic minorities or a community using a regional language,
- they are addressed to national or ethnic minorities or a community using a regional language,
- they are broadcast in the language of national, ethnic minorities or in a regional language,
- they are edited by a team comprising representatives of interested national, ethnic minorities or a community using a regional language.

The programmes in the languages of national and ethnic minorities and in a regional language are financed from the measures of the National Broadcasting Council. While specifying the way of dividing receipts from subscription fees for using radio and television receivers, starting from the division for the year 2006, the National Broadcasting Council allocates financial measures for the costs of the programme broadcast by Radio Olsztyn S.A. [Radio Olsztyn PLC] for the Ukrainian minority. For financing this programme the National Broadcasting Council allotted in the period 2007-2009 the amount of PLN 207,000 each year.

Additionally within the measures intended to cover the costs of fulfilling the task, mentioned in Article 21 (1) of the Act on radio and television broadcasting, there were

allotted financial measures for financing direct costs of producing programmes for national and ethnic minorities in companies of regional radio broadcasting.

The summary record of amounts from the bank account of the National Broadcasting Council allocated through decisions of the National Broadcasting Council on financing direct costs of producing the foregoing programmes and on performance according to the data from regional companies, in the years 2007-2008, was as follows (in thousands of PLN):

Regional radio broadcasting company	year 2007		Col. relation (3:2)	year 2008		Col. relation (6:5)
	forecast of amounts from the account of the National Broadcasting Council based on the decision of the National Broadcasting Council	performance		forecast of amounts from the account of the National Broadcasting Council based on the decision of the National Broadcasting Council	performance	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1) Radio Białystok S.A. [Radio Białystok PLC]	560	490	87,5%	500	444	88,8%
2) Radio Gdańsk S.A. [Radio Gdańsk PLC]	249	272	109,2%	278	229	82,4%
3) Radio Katowice S.A. [Radio Katowice PLC]	87	78	89,7%	86	65	75,6%
4) Radio Kielce S.A. [Radio Kielce PLC]	16	60	375,0%	0	64	x
5) Radio Koszalin S.A. [Radio Koszalin PLC]	80	28	35,0%	80	34	42,5%
6) Radio Kraków S.A. [Radio Kraków PLC]	52	24	46,2%	52	15	28,8%
7) Radio Lublin S.A. [Radio Lublin PLC]	16	5	31,3%	9	22	244,4%
8) Radio Łódź [Radio Łódź PLC]	0	5	x	6	1	16,7%
9) Radio Olsztyn S.A. [Radio Olsztyn PLC]	46	61	132,6%	77	90	116,9%
10) Radio Opole S.A. [Radio Opole PLC]	208	182	87,5%	208	171	82,2%
11) Radio Rzeszów S.A. [Radio Rzeszów PLC]	116	116	100,0%	113	113	100,0%
12) Radio Szczecin S.A. [Radio Szczecin PLC]	14	8	57,1%	14	9	64,3%
13) Radio Wrocław S.A. [Radio Wrocław PLC]	19	6	31,6%	20	4	20,0%
14) IN TOTAL	1 463	1 335	91,3%	1 443	1 261	87,4%

For the year 2007 the National Broadcasting Council did not allocate financial measures for covering costs of the programmes for national and ethnic minorities in the local branches of Telewizja Polska S.A. [Polish Television PLC] in Warszawa, whereas measures

for covering costs of producing these programmes were allocated by the National Broadcasting Council for the year 2008 of PLN 1,404,000.

Telewizja Polska S.A. [Polish Television PLC] allotted in 2007 for financing costs of the programmes for national and ethnic minorities the subscription receipts of PLN 1,029,000 whereas in 2008 – of PLN 1,333,000.

While dividing the amounts from the bank account of the National Broadcasting Council for the year 2009, the National Broadcasting Council did not declare the amount of financial measures intended for the programmes for national and ethnic minorities, but it obligated the boards of directors of regional radio broadcasting companies and Telewizja Polska S.A. [Polish Television PLC] in Warszawa to allot within the receipts for financing the costs of the fulfilment of the task, measures for financing costs of the programmes for national and ethnic minorities. Telewizja Polska S.A. [Polish Television PLC] in Warszawa in 2009 allotted for financing the costs of the said programmes the amount of PLN 783,000.

While specifying the way of dividing the amounts from the bank account of the National Broadcasting Council for the year 2010, the National Broadcasting Council did not allocate financial measures for covering the costs of the programmes for national and ethnic minorities and a community using a regional language.

The broadcasts addressed to particular national and ethnic minorities and to a community using a regional language in their native languages and the Kashubian language appeared in regional programmes of TVP INFO [Polish Television INFO] - in the separate and common wave band as well as in the local broadcasting station of Polskie Radio [Polish Radio]. In 2009 for the said broadcasts Telewizja Polska [Polish Television] allowed 140,3 hours and the regional stations of Polskie Radio [Polish Radio] 1443,8 hours.

In the mentioned period, radio and television programmes in the languages of national and ethnic minorities and in a regional language appeared in the public media in the following forms.

In 2009, programmes in the Byelorussian language were broadcast by the local branch of TVP [Polish Television] and by the regional station in Białystok. In the programme of the local branch, once a week on Sunday mornings appeared *Tydzień Białoruski* [Byelorussian Week]. Last year an individual edition lasted 21 minutes. In total there were broadcast 76 editions of this programme.

In the programme of Radio Białystok appeared a broadcast called *Pod znakiem Pahoni* [Under the mark of Pahonia]. It was transmitted every day: on weekdays – in the evenings, and on Sundays – in the mornings. An individual edition lasted 15 minutes with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays when it lasted 30 minutes. Moreover, in the programme of Radio

Białystok there was a broadcast of listeners' wishes and songs called *Pażadalnaja piesnia* in the Byelorussian language. It appeared on every Saturday evening.

Programmes in the Kashubian language were broadcast by the local branch in Gdańsk (33,1 hours) and the regional station in Gdańsk (105 hours) and in Koszalin (29,3 hours). In the programme of the branch of TVP [Polish Television] on every Sunday morning appeared a magazine called *Rodnô zemia* (52 editions) and on every Tuesday a bilingual magazine called *Tede jo* (44 editions).

In the programme of Radio Gdańsk on Sunday mornings and at nights there was a 50-minute *Magazyn Kaszubski* [Kashubian Magazine], and from Mondays to Thursdays a news magazine *Klëka* which in the afternoons lasted 2 minutes (news bulletin), and at nights 15 minutes (magazine comprising a news part and a feature part). It informed about the participation of Kashubians in the political, social and cultural life of Pomorze Region. In the programme of Radio Koszalin on every Sunday there was broadcast a 15-minute *Magazyn Kaszubski* [Kashubian Magazine] and a 2-minute *Serwis Kaszubski* [Kashubian Bulletin] and on every Friday a 1-minute weather forecast in the Kashubian language.

Broadcasts in the Lithuanian language were in the programme of the local branch of TVP [Polish Television] and the regional station in Białystok. In the television programme there was a broadcast, 4 times a month on Sunday afternoons, called *Panorama Litewska* [Lithuanian Panorama]. Last year its each edition lasted 7 minutes. Altogether there were 50 editions of this broadcast. In turn, the radio station broadcast 3 times a week *Litewski magazyn* [Lithuanian magazine]. The editions on Tuesdays and Thursdays lasted 15 minutes, whereas on Sundays 30 minutes. On weekdays the programme was broadcast in the evenings and on Sundays very early in the mornings (6.30).

For the Lemkos ethnic minority in the programme of the regional station in Wrocław on every Sunday at nights there was broadcast a 30-minute news and feature magazine called *Sami swoi* [Among friends].

Broadcasts in German were offered by the local branch of TVP [Polish Television] in Katowice and Opole as well as by the radio stations in Katowice, Olsztyn and Opole. Most time for these broadcasts was allowed by the radio station in Opole. Once a week in the mornings the branch in Katowice broadcast the magazine *Schlesien Journal*. Last year there were 52 editions of this magazine. In the programme of the local branch of TVP [Polish Television] in Opole in the mornings there was shown the magazine *Schlesien Journal*. Last year there appeared 108 editions of this broadcast along with replays. Radio Katowice in its

broadcasting offer had a bilingual magazine *Pojednanie i Przyszłość* [Reconciliation and Future] which appeared on every Monday in the evenings. On every Sunday evening Radio Olsztyn broadcast *Audycja dla mniejszości niemieckiej* [Programme for the German Minority]. It was edited by members of the Association of the German Minority. The regional station in Opole, on every Sunday afternoon broadcast a 45-minute programme *Nasz Heimat*. These broadcasts which were in German and Polish took 104 hours of the programme.

For the Roma ethnic minority there were broadcast programmes by the local branch of TVP [Polish Television] in Kraków (2,8 hours) and the regional station in Koszalin (17,4 hours). Once a month in the mornings in the programme of the branch in Kraków there was broadcast *Informator Romski* [Roma Guide] (in the Roma language). Altogether there were 10 premiere editions and 12 replays. Last year the station in Koszalin on every Sunday and Thursday broadcast a 10-minut *Magazyn romski* [Roma magazine].

Broadcasts in the Russian language in 2009 took two hours in the programme of the local branch of TVP [Polish Television] in Białystok. The broadcast *Rosyjski Głos* [Russian Voice] was shown once a month on Sunday mornings. Last year an individual edition lasted 7 minutes. Altogether there were 15 editions of this programme. None of the regional stations broadcast programmes for the Russian minority.

In 2009 cyclical broadcasts in the Ukrainian language were included in the programme of the local branch of TVP [Polish Television] in Białystok and Olsztyn and the regional stations of Polskie Radio [Polish Radio] in Białystok, Koszalin, Kraków, Olsztyn, Rzeszów and incidentally in Lublin, Szczecin and Wrocław. The local branch in Białystok in its programme had a broadcast *Przegląd Ukraiński* [Ukrainian Review] which appeared 4 times a month on Sunday mornings. Last year there were 74 editions of this programme. In turn, the local branch of TVP [Polish Television] in Olsztyn had in its programme a 10-minute broadcast *Ukraińskie Wieści* [Ukrainian News] whose author was a journalist belonging to the Ukrainian minority. The programme appeared every 2 weeks on Tuesdays at 6.00 p.m. and was replayed on Wednesdays. During holidays the programme was suspended. Only the most interesting editions were replayed. In total there were produced 21 premiere editions of this programme. In the common wave band of the regional programmes of TVP INFO [Polish Television INFO] there was broadcast a cyclical programme in Ukrainian addressed to the Ukrainian minority *Telenowyny* in which there was presented the latest information from different spheres of life of the minority – from history to everyday problems. The broadcasts

were shown once a month. In 2009 it took 6,2 hours of the programme. In September 2009 the broadcasting of *Telenowyny* was over. After protests the programme again went on the air of TVP INFO [Polish Television INFO]. The programme which lasts 12 minutes is currently broadcast once a month (every last Saturday of a month) at 2.45 p.m.

Last year the regional station in Białystok 3 times a week broadcast the magazine *Ukraińska Dumka* [Ukrainian Dumka]. The programme on Monday and Wednesday was on air for 15 minutes, and on Sunday for 30. The station in Rzeszów allowed for the broadcasts addressed to the Ukrainian minority 141 hours of the programme. On every Thursday in the programme appeared the magazine *Skrynia*. Particular editions of the broadcast lasted, depending on the month, from 40 to 55 minutes. From Mondays to Thursdays in the evenings there appeared a 30-minute information magazine *Wiadomości dla Ukraińców* [News for Ukrainians]. On the first and third Sunday of a month in the evenings there was broadcast a programme *Z Karpackich hor.*

The regional station in Olsztyn has been broadcasting programmes in Ukrainian since 1958. These programmes are created together with the Association of Ukrainians in Poland. In the regional programme the broadcast in the Ukrainian language appeared on every Sunday at 8.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. Every day since the middle of January 2001 additionally from the transmitter in Miłki near Giżycko there were broadcast the following programmes addressed to the Ukrainian minority:

- news magazine – from Monday to Saturday: 10.50 – 11.00
- news magazine – from Monday to Friday: 6.10 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

From the transmitter in Miłki there were additionally broadcast 139 hours of the programme for the Ukrainian minority.

Broadcasts for the Ukrainian minority also appeared in the regional station in Koszalin. Every Sunday in the programme there were broadcast: a 5-minute bulletin and a 15-minute Ukrainian magazine. In total there were broadcast 35 hours of the programme. In Radio Kraków appeared the broadcast *Na wschód od zachodu* [To the east from the west].

The share of broadcasts in minority languages and a regional language shown in the regional programmes of Telewizja Polska SA [Polish Television PLC] in 2009

Name of local branch	Languages							Total
	Byelorussian	Kashubian	Lithuanian	German	Roma	Russian	Ukrainian	
	hours							
Białystok	27,7		5,9			2	13,4	49
Gdańsk		33,1						33,1

Katowice				10,1				10,1
Kraków					2,8			2,8
Olsztyn							11,4	11,4
Opole				27				27
Rzeszów							0,7	0,7
Total	27,7	33,1	5,9	37,1	2,8	2	25,5	134,1

Broadcasts addressed to national and ethnic minorities and a community using a regional language in the regional stations of Polskie Radio [Polish Radio] in 2009

Name of station	Languages							Total
	Byelorussian	Kashubian	Lithuanian	Lemkos	German	Roma	Ukrainian	
	hours							
Białystok	180		53				53	286
Gdańsk		105						105
Katowice					29,3			29,3
Koszalin		29,3				17,4	35,3	82
Kraków							17	17
Lublin							0,5	0,5
Olsztyn					22		26	48
Opole					104			104
Rzeszów							141	141
Szczecin					1		1	2
Warszawa	619							619
Wrocław				5			5	10
Total	799	134,3	53	5	156,3	17,4	278,8	1443,8

b) (ii) to encourage the regular broadcasting or to facilitate the regular broadcasting of radio programmes in regional or minority languages

As a supplement to the information in the point above it should be indicated that in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 (2) point 4 of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language, public authorities are obliged to take suitable measures in order to support the activities aimed at protecting, preserving and developing cultural

identity of minorities and at preserving and developing a regional language, and these measures can be, in particular, targeted or specified-user subsidies for supporting television programmes and radio broadcasts conducted by minorities. Moreover, the National Broadcasting Council while carrying out the licensing procedures takes into account needs about which organisations of national and ethnic minorities and a community using a regional language inform. In this field there should be mentioned the licence exercised by the Puck Region Association from Władysławowo granted by the National Broadcasting Council for the purpose of broadcasting the radio programme called Radio „Kaszëbë”. Radio „Kaszëbë” is a non-public radio station broadcasting a programme of universal character. In the radio most broadcasts have a form of news or feature, cultural, entertaining and educational programmes. Most of the station’s programmes concern widely-understood local issues. Furthermore, Radio „Kaszëbë” presents music in the Kashubian language. In 2008, Radio „Kaszëbë” which before had broadcast its programme from the transmitting stations in Gdynia and Gdańsk extended its broadcasting range by the transmitting station in Kościerzyna. The number of people covered by the broadcasting range of the programme currently amounts to 800,000 and involves the following towns: Gdańsk, Gdynia, Hel, Jastarnia, Kartuzy, Pruszcz Gdański, Puck, Reda, Rumia, Sopot, Wejherowo, Władysławowo, Kościerzyna and nearby villages and communes. Now, about 40 – 50 % of the programmes which are broadcast on the waves of the radio are the programmes carried out in a regional language. The radio’s activities are supported from the financial measures of the Government of the Republic of Poland.

Moreover, the possibility of broadcasting radio programmes addressed to minorities is used by three non-public radio broadcasters:

The Byelorussian Radio „Racja” [Radio Right] is a non-public radio station broadcasting a programme in Byelorussian. The station addresses its programmes to the Byelorussian minority in Poland and to citizens of the Republic of Belarus. The air is dominated by information, feature programmes, broadcasts of social and cultural character and music. The station broadcast its programme in the years 1999 – 2002. In 2002, the radio suspended its broadcasting for financial reasons. The broadcasting started again in February 2006. The radio’s activities are supported from financial measures of the country’s budget. On 3 June 2009 the „Białoruskie Centrum Informacyjne” Sp. z o.o [Byelorussian Information Centre, Limited Liability Company] obtained a licence for next 10 years to broadcast a radio programme called „Białoruskie Radio Racja” [Byelorussian Radio Right]. Its programme is currently broadcast from the transmitting stations in Białystok and Biała Podlaska. „Białoruskie Centrum Informacyjne Sp. z o.o.” [Byelorussian Information Centre, Limited

Liability Company] in order to extend its broadcasting range and to improve the quality of broadcasting the programme filed an application for increasing power of the transmitting stations in Białystok which would allow to extend the range of the station by approx 130,000 people. Now the number of residents who are within the range of the programme amounts to 815,000 and includes the following towns on the Polish side of the border with Belarus: Biała Podlaska, Białystok, Biała Piska, Bielsk Podlaski, Choroszcz, Czarna Białostocka, Goniądz, Jedwabne, Kleszczele, Knyszyn, Łapy, Mońki, Rajgród, Sokółka, Stawiski, Suchowola, Supraśl, Suraż, Szczuczyn, Tykocin, Wasilków Zabłudów and nearby villages and communes. In 2009 on the waves of the radio within the everyday programme broadcast in the Byelorussian language there were presented 5 cyclical programme blocks addressed solely to the Byelorussian minority (Podlaski tydzień [Podlaski week], Podlaski koncert życzeń [Wishes and songs of listeners from Podlasie], Kultura bez granic [Culture without borders], Audycja kulturalna dla młodzieży [Cultural programme for teenagers], Bajki dla dzieci [Fairy tales for children]). Total duration of the mentioned broadcasts came to over 250 hours. Radio “Racja” [Radio “Right”] broadcasts in the Byelorussian language.

Moreover, on the air of the private Radio “Vanessa” [Radio “Vanessa”] there are two programmes addressed to the German minority. The broadcast *Die deutsche stimme aus Ratibor* is directed to older generation of listeners. The programme includes reports from life of the German minority, local news, wishes and music. The other of the programmes is a magazine for teenagers – *Mittendrin*. The programme deals with actual matters from life of teenagers belonging to a minority. These broadcasts are carried out by people connected with the Social and Cultural Association of Germans of Śląskie Voivodship. Authors of the programmes pay a fee to Radio “Vanessa” [Radio “Vanessa”] for their broadcasting. Measures from the country’s budget are spent on financial support of the preparation and production of the two said broadcasts. On 7 August 2009 Radio “Vanessa” Sp. z o.o.” [Radio Vanessa, Limited Liability Company] obtained a licence for next 10 years. The programme is broadcast from the stations in Strzybnik near Racibórz. The number of people covered by the range of the programme amounts to 124,000 and includes the following places: Baborów, Kietrz, Krzanowice, Kuźnia Raciborska, Racibórz and nearby villages and communes. The programmes are broadcast in the German language.

Programmes in the German language are also broadcast on the wave bands of Radio “Park FM” from Kędzierzyn-Koźle. Once a week on the air of this radio there is a 1-hour broadcast in German „Kaffeeklatsch” co-produced by organisations of the German minority. Since 2009 measures from the country’s budget have been spent on financial support of the costs related to the preparation of the programme.

c) (ii) to encourage the regular broadcasting or to facilitate the regular broadcasting of television programmes in regional or minority languages,

The information provided by the National Broadcasting Council shows that it has not received a petition for granting the licence for broadcasting a television programme broadcast in the language of a national, ethnic minority or in a regional language.

d) to encourage the production and distribution of sound and audiovisual works in regional or minority languages or to facilitate such a production and distribution,

e) (i) to encourage the creation or to facilitate the creation or maintenance of at least one newspaper in regional or minority languages

f) (ii) to apply the existing financial support measures also with regard to audiovisual works in regional or minority languages,

With reference to the provisions included in Article 11 (1) points d, e (i), f (ii) it should be noted that in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 (2) point 3 of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language, the public authorities are obliged to take suitable measures in order to support the activities aimed at protecting, preserving and developing cultural identity of minorities as well as at preserving and developing a regional language, and these measures can be, in particular, in the form of targeted subsidies or specified-user subsidies for publishing books, magazines, periodicals and brochures in minority languages or in Polish, printed or in other techniques of recording picture and sound.

Subsidising tasks connected with culture and the language of national and ethnic minorities and a community using a regional language falls within competence of the minister in charge of religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities i.e. now within the Minister of Interior and Administration. The Minister of Interior and Administration takes care of enabling every national and ethnic minority to use at least one own magazine (in a native language or Polish, but magazines in a native language are preferred). Some minorities issue more than one magazine. Nearly all magazines of national and ethnic minorities and communities using a regional language are subsidised from the country's budget. In 2008 from the budget of the Minister of Interior and Administration there was spent the amount of PLN 3,485,657 on supporting the publication of 38 titles. In 2009 on publication of 37 periodicals there was spent, from the budget of the Minister of Interior and Administration,

the amount of PLN 3,406,944. In 2010 the amount of PLN 3,714,520 was spent on the publication of 36 titles.

Titles of the most important magazines of the particular national and ethnic minorities and community using a regional language are listed below:

The Byelorussian minority – „Niwa” – weekly, „Czasopis” – monthly, „Bielski Hostinec” – quarterly, „Białoruskie Zeszyty Historyczne” [Byelorussian History Notebooks] – half-yearly, „Termapity” – yearly.

The Czech minority – „Kalendarz Zelowski – rocznik społeczno-kulturalny czesko-braterskiej parafii ewangelicko-reformowanej w Zelowie” [Zelowski Calendar - social and cultural yearly of the Evangelical Reformed Parish of Czech-Brethren in Zelów].

The Karaim minority – „Awazymyz” – published three times a year.

The Lithuanian minority – „Aušra” – fortnightly, „Aušrelė” – monthly for children, „Šaltinis” – quarterly.

The Lemkos minority – „Besida” – quarterly, „Watra” – quarterly, „Rocznik Ruskiej Bursy” [Year-magazine of the Ruski Boarding House] - yearly, „Łemkiwska Storinka” – supplement to the Ukrainian weekly magazine „Nasze Słowo” [Our Word].

The German minority – „Schlesisches Wochenblatt“ – weekly, „Mitteilungsblatt“ – monthly, „Masurische Storchenpost“ – monthly, „Zeszyty Edukacji Kulturalnej-Heft für Kultur und Bildung“ [Notebooks of Cultural Education] - quarterly.

The Armenian minority – „Biuletyn Ormiańskiego Towarzystwa Kulturalnego” [Bulletin of the Armenian Cultural Association] – quarterly.

The Roma minority – „Dialog – Pheniben” [Dialogue – Pheniben] – monthly, „Rrom po Drom” – bimonthly, „Romano Atmo” – bimonthly.

The Slovak minority – „Život” – monthly.

The Tatar minority – „Gazeta Tatarska” [Tatar Newspaper] – quarterly.

The Ukrainian minority – „Nasze Słowo” [Our Word] – weekly, „Nad Buhom i Narwoju” – bimonthly.

The Jewish minority – „Dos Jidisze Wort – Słowo Żydowskie” [Dos Jidisze Wort – Jewish Word] – fortnightly, „Midrasz” [Midrash] – monthly.

Community using a regional language – „Pomerania” – monthly.

g) to support the training of journalists and other people employed in the media who use regional or minority languages.

In a number of universities and higher education schools in Poland there is a possibility of studying in the field of Journalism. Graduates of the said field of study also work in the media using minority languages and a regional language. Moreover, it is worth reminding of the possibility of participating in workshops in Ethnic Journalism within the studies at the faculty of Russian Philology with the Rusyn-Lemkos language.

2. The parties undertake to guarantee the freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcast from the neighbouring countries in a language used in the same form as or a similar form to a regional or minority language and not to object to the rebroadcasting of radio and television programmes in such a language from the neighbouring countries. Furthermore, the Parties undertake to ensure that there shall not be imposed any restrictions on the freedom of speech and on the free flow of information in the printed media in a language used in the same form as or a similar form to a regional or minority language. Since the use of the foregoing liberties entails obligations, it can be subject to the same formal requirements, conditions, restrictions or penalties as provided in law and as are necessary in the democratic society, as are in the interest of national security, territorial integrity or public security, on account of the necessity to prevent unrest or crime, protection of health and morality, protection of reputation and rights of other people, prevention of disclosure of information obtained as confidential, or maintenance of the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

Freedom of the reception of broadcasts from the neighbouring countries in a language used in the same form as or a similar form to a minority language is guaranteed by the Act on radio and television broadcasting. In accordance with the content of Article 1 (2): “Reception of national and foreign programmes intended by the broadcasters for common reception is free, subject to the conditions laid down in the legal provisions”.

It is also worth noting that the freedom of receiving and giving information in a language of national and ethnic minorities results from Article 54 of the Constitution concerning the freedom of speech and the press. It should also be emphasised that the right to spread and exchange information in the native language was provided in the treaties which were signed by Poland and: the Federal Republic of Germany, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Ukraine, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Lithuania.

3. The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of users of regional or minority languages shall be represented or considered in such organs as may be established in

accordance with law and at the same time to guarantee the freedom and pluralism of the media.

The amendments introduced to the Act on radio and television broadcasting also added the provision concerning the participation of representatives of minorities in programme councils of public radio and television. According to the Act, while appointing programme councils of the branches of public radio and television which broadcast programmes in the languages of national and ethnic minorities and a regional language, directors of the branches take into consideration candidates proposed by social organisations of these minorities and communities. The programme councils operating in the public media, in accordance with the Act on radio and television broadcasting, are appointed for the term of office lasting 4 years. During the elections conducted for the term of office in the years 2008-2012, the National Broadcasting Council appointed Michał Pulkowski to the Programme Council of Radio Rzeszów SA [Radio Rzeszów, PLC] who was recommended by the Association of Ukrainians in Poland and Roman Radziwonowicz to the Programme Council of Radio Koszalin SA [Radio Koszalin, PLC] who also represented the Association of Ukrainians in Poland.

Article 12

Cultural activities and objects of culture

- 1. With regard to cultural activities and objects – and in particular to libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, associations, theatres and cinemas, as well as to literary and film works, common forms of cultural expression, festivals and cultural organisations, including e.g. the use of new technologies – the Parties undertake, on the territories where such languages are used, and to the extent within which the public authorities are competent, have the right or within which play a part in this field:*
 - a) to support forms of expression and initiatives appropriate for regional or minority languages and to promote various forms of access to works made in these languages,*
 - b) to support various forms of access in other languages to works created in regional or minority languages through maintaining and developing activities within translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitles,*
 - c) to support access in regional or minority languages to works created in other languages through maintaining and developing activities within translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitles,*

- d) to ensure that organs responsible for organising and supporting various kinds of cultural activities, within an appropriate scope, use the knowledge and the command of regional or minority languages and cultures in actions which are initiated or supported by them,*
 - e) to promote solutions which ensure that organs responsible for organising and supporting various kinds of cultural activities have at their disposal employees who have a full command of an appropriate regional or minority language, as well as a language (languages) of the remaining part of the population,*
 - f) to encourage the direct participation of representatives of people using a particular regional or minority language during the formation of objects and while planning cultural activities,*
 - g) to support or facilitate the creation of institutions responsible for collecting, storing copies and presenting or publishing works made in regional or minority languages,*
- 2. With regard to territories other than the ones where regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of people using a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, support or ensure appropriate actions and cultural measures, in accordance with the previous section.*

The provisions laid down in Article 12 (1) points a, b, c, d, e, f, g and (2) of the Charter concerning cultural activities are implemented on the basis of Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. The said Article guarantees Polish citizens who belong to national and ethnic minorities the freedom of preservation and development of their own language, preservation of customs and tradition of their culture. People using the languages of national and ethnic minorities are entitled to establish their own educational, cultural institutions and institutions aimed at the protection of religious identity and to participate in settling matters concerning their cultural identity. Details of the issues and specification of sources of financing cultural activities of minorities were provided in Article 18 and Article 20 (2) of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language which impose on public authorities an obligation of taking suitable measures aimed to support the actions intended for the protection, preservation and development of cultural identity of minorities and their language as well as for the preservation and development of a regional language, which was mentioned in the point concerning the implementation of the provisions of Article 11 of the Charter.

The Act specifies ten groups of tasks on which subsidies can be spent. They are as follows:

- 1) activities of cultural institutions, the artistic movement and works of minorities and artistic events which are of significant importance to culture of minorities;
- 2) investments aimed at preserving cultural identity of minorities;
- 3) publication of books, magazines, periodicals and brochures in the minority languages or in Polish, printed and in other techniques of recording picture and sound;
- 4) support of television programmes and radio broadcasts produced by minorities;
- 5) protection of places connected with culture of minorities;
- 6) day-care room activities;
- 7) running libraries and carrying out the documentation of cultural and artistic life of minorities;
- 8) education of children and teenagers conducted in different forms;
- 9) promotion of knowledge of minorities;
- 10) other programmes aimed at supporting activities intended for the protection, preservation and development of cultural identity of minorities and programmes supporting civic integration of minorities.

It should be emphasised that apart from targeted subsidies for the implementation of the tasks defined above, there is a possibility of giving, from the country's budget, subsidies for investments and specified-user subsidies. The specified-user subsidies can be granted to organisations of national and ethnic minorities and to organisations of communities using a regional language, and also to cultural institutions which are of significant importance to culture of minorities. With regard to the subsidies granted for the implementation of the foregoing tasks, there are preferred organisations of national and ethnic minorities and organisations of communities using a regional language. It is also worth mentioning that subsidies can be granted to tasks implemented outside the territory of the Republic of Poland. This applies to activities of cultural institutions, artistic movement and works of minorities and artistic events which are of significant importance to culture of minorities, as well as education of children and teenagers, implemented on the territory of the European countries with which the particular national or ethnic minority is connected in terms of culture and history.

Every year, the Minister of Interior and Administration announces procedures concerning the granting of subsidies. It is worth noticing that representatives of national and ethnic minorities and a community using a regional language participate in working out the said procedures through the agency of the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities.

The amount of budget measures spent on the implementation of tasks aimed at protecting, preserving and developing cultural identity of minorities and preserving and developing a regional language has remained over the last years on a similar level.

Below there is a table with total amounts given to the particular minorities from the country's budget in the years 2009 – 2010 for the implementation of all the foregoing tasks, including tasks aimed at preserving and developing the languages of minorities and a regional language.

Subsidies for the implementation of tasks aimed to protect, preserve and develop cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities, their language and to preserve and develop a regional language.						
A national or ethnic minority or a community using a regional language	Year 2009			Year 2010		
	Targeted subsidies	Targeted subsidies for investments	Specified-user subsidies	Targeted subsidies	Targeted subsidies for investments	Specified-user subsidies
Byelorussian	1.764.572,74	314.000	62.054	1.749.556	360.000	108.002,67
Czech	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karaim	30.645	-	8.355,84	37.970	-	-
Lithuanian	422.120	1.500.000	183.968	437.600	1.840.000	168.712
Lemkos	784.200	527.998,58	106.400	746.500	150.998,85	106.510
German	1.100.953,68	48.000	547.860,96	1.153.110	-	475.700
Armenian	136.120	-	18.914	160.800	140.000	17.760
Roma	807.500 ³	-	100.683	428.750	-	70.544
Russian	80.260	-	12.760	81.800	-	10.300
Slovak	345.000	350.000	35.000	350.000	500.000	30.000
Tatar	59.950	-	-	66.000	-	-
Ukrainian	1.400.800 ⁴	90.000	212.800	1.308.400	160.000	210.800
Jewish	694.006	-	183.260	711.300	-	129.000
The Kashubian language	751.050 ⁵	474.000	177.944	685.700	408.965,52	160.000
Promotion	-	-	-	13.000	-	-
TOTAL	8.377.177,42	3.303.998,58	1.649.999,80	7.930.486	3.559.964,37	1.487.328,67

It should be noticed that the table does not include the measures which are used by people using minority languages and a regional language under the general rules (they are only the additional amounts connected with the preservation of cultural identity of minorities or the protection of the language). Moreover, it should also be emphasised that the foregoing data

³ Including PLN 50,000 given from the budget of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

⁴ Including PLN 100,000 given from the budget of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

⁵ Including PLN 77,150 given from the budget of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

includes only measures given from the country's budget, but does not include measures spent by territorial self-government units.

3. *The Parties undertake to appropriately consider, within the cultural policy conducted abroad, the regional or minority languages and cultures which correspond to them.*

Information on the implementation of the foregoing provisions was included in the point concerning the implementation of Article 14 of the Charter.

Article 13

Economic and social life

1. *With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake in the whole country:*
 - b) *to forbid to include in internal provisions of companies and private documents any clauses excluding or restricting the use of regional or minority languages, at least among users of the same language,*
 - c) *to object to actions aimed at discouraging from using regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities,*
 - d) *to facilitate or support the use of regional or minority languages by means of other methods than the ones specified in the points above.*

Provisions of Article 13 (1) points b, c and d are implemented in Poland based on Article 32 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, according to which:

1. *Everyone has equal rights. Everyone has the right to equal treatment by public authorities.*
2. *Nobody can be discriminated in public, social or economic life for any reason.*

Moreover, it must be emphasised that as regards the relations with the participation of consumers and during the implementation of the provisions within the Labour law, the Article 8 (1), 1 a and 1 b of the Act on the Polish language applies according to which the documents within the said scope, including in particular contracts with the participation of consumers and contracts within the Labour law, are drawn up in Polish, with the reservation that these documents can be written, at the same time, in a foreign-language version or versions. The

basis of their interpretation is the version in Polish if a person who performs work or a consumer are citizens of the Republic of Poland. Furthermore, an employment contract or another document resulting from the scope of the Labour law and also a contract whose party is a consumer, or other than a contract documents applicable in relations with the participation of consumers, can be draw up in a foreign language on application of a person performing work or a consumer who use this language, who are not Polish citizens and who were previously advised of their right to make a contract or another document in Polish.

2. *With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, to the extent within which public authorities have competence, on the territory where regional or minority languages are used, and to such an extent within which it is sensibly possible:*

b) in economic and social sectors being directly under their control (public sector), to organise activities promoting the use of regional or minority languages.

The provision of the said Article is implemented based on the Act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language. The provision of Article 21 (2) point 4 of the last Act says that the minister in charge of religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities propagates information on minorities and their culture and also initiates the research on the situation of minorities, including within the scope of discrimination resulting from the membership of a minority, signs of this discrimination as well as methods and strategies of preventing it. The foregoing provision is also applicable towards minority languages and a regional language. The Minister of Interior and Administration implements the said provision through the organisation of conferences and trainings for employees of the public administration in the field of using minority languages. Moreover, in 2008 the Minister of Interior and Administration announced an open tender offer for the implementation of the task called “Task aimed at promoting, before commune authorities, the use of a language of a minority or a regional language as an auxiliary language and using additional traditional names of places and physiographic objects in a language of a minority or a regional language”.

Article 14

Cross-border exchange

The Parties undertake:

a) to implement the existing bilateral or multilateral contracts which bind them

with countries where the same language is used in an identical or similar form, or, if it is necessary, to take actions to conclude such contracts, in such a way as to make favourable conditions for contacts among users of the same language in the interested countries in the field of culture, education, information, vocational education and continuing education,

b) for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate or support the cross-border cooperation, in particular among regional or local authorities on the territories of which there is used the same language in an identical or similar form.

The provisions of Article 14 points a and b of the Charter are implemented on the basis of a number of bilateral contracts which have been concluded between the Republic of Poland and the countries in which minority languages are used in an identical or a similar form. Based on the said contracts there was guaranteed the possibility of maintaining contacts between users of minority languages in the interested countries in the field of culture, education, information, vocational education and continuing education and also the possibility of developing the cross-border cooperation. The activities provided in the foregoing contracts include e.g. the activities connected with the preparation of teaching programmes, textbooks and didactic aids within the scope of teaching a minority language, literature, culture, history and geography, the supporting of institutions which carry out publishing activities in minority languages, exchange of students and the supporting of teachers of minority languages, the creation of favourable conditions for the preservation of cultural links of people belonging to minorities with users of the same language living on the territory of the country of the other Party, the exchange of information concerning systems of education, plans and directions of their reformation, the support of direct cooperation between schools, in particular in the border regions, the assurance of methodological help and the organisation of in-service teacher trainings, the implementation of joint educational and research actions, the support of direct contacts between social groups and associations such as cultural associations, artistic unions, the organisation of joint scientific events.

The legal framework of the cooperation of the Republic of Poland and the countries in which languages of minorities are used in an identical or similar form includes:

Contracts concluded with the Republic of Belarus

- The Treaty between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Belarus on Good Neighbourhood and Friendly Cooperation, signed in Warszawa on 23 June 1992 (Official Journal of 1993 No. 118, item 527);

- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Science and Education, made in Warszawa on 27 November 1995 (Official Journal of 1996 No. 76, item 365);
- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Recognition of Equivalency in Higher Education Schools, Equivalence of Scientific Degrees and Degrees within the Arts, made in Warszawa on 28 April 2005 (Monitor Polski of 2006 No. 26, item 288);

Contracts concluded between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (currently in force in the relations with the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic):

- The Contract between the Republic of Poland and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on Good Neighbourhood, Solidarity and Friendly Cooperation, made in Kraków on 6 October 1991 (Official Journal of 1992 No. 59, item 296);
- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation, made in Bratislava on 23 March 2000 (Monitor Polski of 2002 No. 6, item 123);
- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Mutual Recognition of Periods of Studies and Equivalence of Documents concerning Education and Granted Degrees and Titles obtained in the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic, made in Warszawa on 18 July 2005 (Monitor Polski of 2006 No. 14, item 187);
- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Czech Republic on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Education and Science, signed in Prague on 30 September 2003 (Official Journal of 2004 No. 244, item 2449);
- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Czech Republic on Mutual Recognition of Periods of Studies and Equivalence of Documents concerning Education and Granted Degrees and Titles obtained in the Republic of Poland and the Czech Republic, made in Prague on 16 January 2006 (Monitor Polski of 2008 No. 81, item 709);

Contracts concluded with the Republic of Lithuania:

- The Treaty between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania on Friendly Relations and Good-Neighbourly Cooperation, made in Vilnius on 26 April 1994 (Official Journal 1995 No. 15, item 71);

- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Education and Science, made in Vilnius on 17 December 1998 (Monitor Polski of 2002 No. 31, item 491);
- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Polish and Lithuanian Fund of Exchange of Young People signed in Płock on 1 June 2007 (Monitor Polski of 2007 No. 91, item 990);

Contracts concluded with the Federal Republic of Germany:

- The Treaty between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany on Good Neighbourhood and Friendly Cooperation, signed in Bonn on 17 June 1991 (Official Journal of 1992 No. 14, item 56);
- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cultural Cooperation, made in Bonn on 14 July 1997 (Official Journal of 1999 No. 39, item 379);
- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Recognition of Equivalency in Higher Education Schools, made in Warszawa on 23 July 1997 (Official Journal of 1998 No. 92, item 584);
- The Contracts between the Minister of National Education and Sport of the Republic of Poland and the Minister of Science, Research and Culture of the Federal State of Brandenburg on the Collegium Polonicum in Słubice, made in Warszawa on 2 October 2002 (Monitor Polski of 2003 No. 43, item 647);

Contracts concluded with the Russian Federation:

- The Treaty between the Republic of Poland and the Russian Federation on Friendly and Good-Neighbourly Cooperation, made in Moscow on 22 May 1992 (Official Journal of 1993 No. 61, item 291);
- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Science and Education, made in Warszawa on 25 August 1993 (Official Journal of 1994 No. 36, item 133);
- The Agreement between the Minister of National Education of the Republic of Poland and the Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Field of Education, signed in Moscow on 28 October 2005 (Monitor Polski of 2006 No. 10, item 132);

Contracts concluded with Ukraine:

The Treaty between the Republic of Poland and Ukraine on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation, made in Warszawa on 18 May 1992 (Official Journal of 1993 No. 125, item 573);

- The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Science and Education, made in Kiev on 21 January 1997 (Official Journal of 2000 No. 3, item 29).

In the Treaties on Friendly Relations and Good-Neighbourly Cooperation concluded between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania, Ukraine, the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany there were included provisions concerning the mutually beneficial cooperation between communes, towns and other administrative and territorial units and regions in particular in the border areas.

Specification of selected legal provisions included in the said bilateral contracts is in the annexe no. 4 to the Report.

CONCLUSIONS

The ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is a confirmation that the Republic of Poland is interested in the preservation and development of minority languages and a regional language.

Enabling users of minority languages and a regional language to choose provisions of the Charter to the implementation of which the Republic of Poland has obliged itself proves that the Polish Government attentively listens to the voices of its citizens who represent communities using minority languages and a regional language.

The Republic of Poland bases its policy, legislation and practice on the objectives and rules laid down in Article 7 of the Charter, takes actions aimed at promoting the use of minority languages and a regional language in public life. People who use languages of national and ethnic minorities and a regional language are provided with the possibility of enjoying e.g. the right to use minority languages in relations with local authorities, the right to introduce additional traditional names of streets, places and physiographic objects in languages of minorities and in a regional language, the right to learn minority languages and in such languages, as well as to use the said languages in radio and television. It is also worth emphasising that every year the Republic of Poland gives financial measures for the implementation of tasks aimed at preserving and developing minority languages and a regional language, and also enables users of minority languages to influence matters which concern them, mainly by the agency of the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities.

For Poland there are still a number of activities left which shall enable people using minority languages to fully enjoy their rights connected with the language e.g. within the scope of encouraging the creation of radio stations and television channels in minority languages and a regional language, ensuring efficient methodological consultancy for teachers of minority languages and also drawing up a model of the functioning of the Minority Philology Schools.