

# Multilingual Europe: Polish data

WG1 meeting: London

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AND HUMANITIES

- 38.5 mln citizens in 2013
- 94.8% of population claimed to be of exclusively Polish nationality, and 1.55% indicated national or ethnic identity other than Polish  
(2011 National Census of Population and Housing, Central Statistical Office of Poland)

Main countries of citizenship and birth of the foreign foreign-born population, 1 January 2013 (in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total foreign foreign-born population) - immigrants in Poland

Country:	Citizens of:			Born in:		
	Place:	(1000)	(%)	Country:	(1000)	(%)
Ukraine	1.	13.9	23.6	Ukraine	228.0	33.6
Germany	2.	5.2	8.8	Germany	84.3	12.4
Russia	3.	4.3	7.3	Belarus	83.8	12.3
Belarus	4.	4.0	6.9	Lithuania	55.6	8.2
Vietnam	5.	2.7	4.5	Russia	41.3	6.1
Other		28.8	48.9	Other	185.8	27.4

0.15% of total population

1.76% of total population

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration\\_and\\_migrant\\_population\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics)

# The specificity of Polish language

39 phonemes<sup>1</sup>; only 8 vowels<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Milewski, T. (2006). *Językoznawstwo*. Warszawa: PWN; Demenko, G., Wypych, M., & Baranowska, E. (2003). Implementation of grapheme-to-phoneme rules and extended SAMPA alphabet in Polish text-to-speech synthesis. *Speech and Language Technology*, 7, 79-97.

<sup>2</sup>Milewski, S. (1999). *Lingwistyczne i dydaktyczne aspekty analizy fonemowej*. Lublin: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie – Skłodowskiej.  
*A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy: University College London*

- subject-verb-object (S-V-O),
- inflectional language,
- nominal inflection (noun, pronoun, adjective) and inflection of the verb,
- word order can be changed,

Example: A child is eating an ice-cream.

Dziecko je loda. (this one is most likely to be spoken)

Loda je dziecko.

Je dziecko loda.

Lód jest jedzony przez dziecko. (a passive version)

1. Main morphemes (core)
2. Collateral morphemes (affixes): prefixes, suffixes, infixes (inclusions),

Example for “kot” – a cat (singular)

Mianownik: nominative - M. kot

Dopełniacz: genitive, possessive - D. kota

Celownik: dative - C. kotu

Biernik: accusative - B. kota

Narzędnik: instrumental - N. kotem

Miejscownik: locative - Ms. kotu

Wołacz: vocative - W. kocie!

## Example 2: to write

(past, indicative, active, perfective, differences in gender)

### singular

1. ja napisałem

2. ty napisałeś/napisałaś

3. on/ona/ono napisał/napisała/napisało

### plural

1. my napisaliśmy

2. wy napisaliście/napisaliście

3. oni napisali/napisali

Spelling established by applying  
the Latin lettering system to Polish phonetics.<sup>1</sup>

More transparency for reading and less for  
spelling<sup>2</sup>

Resulting inconsistencies, e.g. the softness of  
consonants can be determined using:<sup>3</sup>

- an accented character (e. g. dłoń),
- a digraph (e. g. dłonie).

<sup>1</sup>Bartnicka-Dąbkowska. (1968). *Gramatyka języka polskiego*. Warszawa: Wiedza Powszechna

<sup>2</sup>Szczerbiński, M. (2001). *Learning to read and spell single words: a case study of a slavic language*

<sup>3</sup>*Encyklopedia Języka Polskiego* (1994). S. Urbańczyk (Ed.) Wrocław: Zakład Narodowy



# Ortography

## Main rules:

1. Phonetic –spelling compatible with pronunciation.

*(matka, ładny, dobry)*

2. Morphological - meaningful parts of words (prefixes, suffixes, cores) written in a consistent manner, regardless of their pronunciation in a particular word.

*(od-dać, od-stąpić, bab-a, bab-ka)*

3. historical tradition - words with „ó” (córa, góra), with „rz” (rząd, rzepa, rzucać), borrowings: Latin (honor, historia), German (hetman, handel), Czech (błahy, ohyda), Ukrainian and Belarussian (hoży, hultaj)

**/u/ - /ó/; /ź/ - /rz/; /h/ - /ch/**

## a **West Slavic** language; differences:

1. it retains nasal vowels – /ą/, /ę/
2. has undergone ablaut – the change of the vowel “e” into “o” or “a” before consonants: “t”, “d”, “s”, “z”, “r”, “t”, “n”, e.g. žena > żona,
3. stress on the last but one syllable
4. The plural has two types: masculine personal, not masculine personal.

Lots of possibilities to create diminutives:

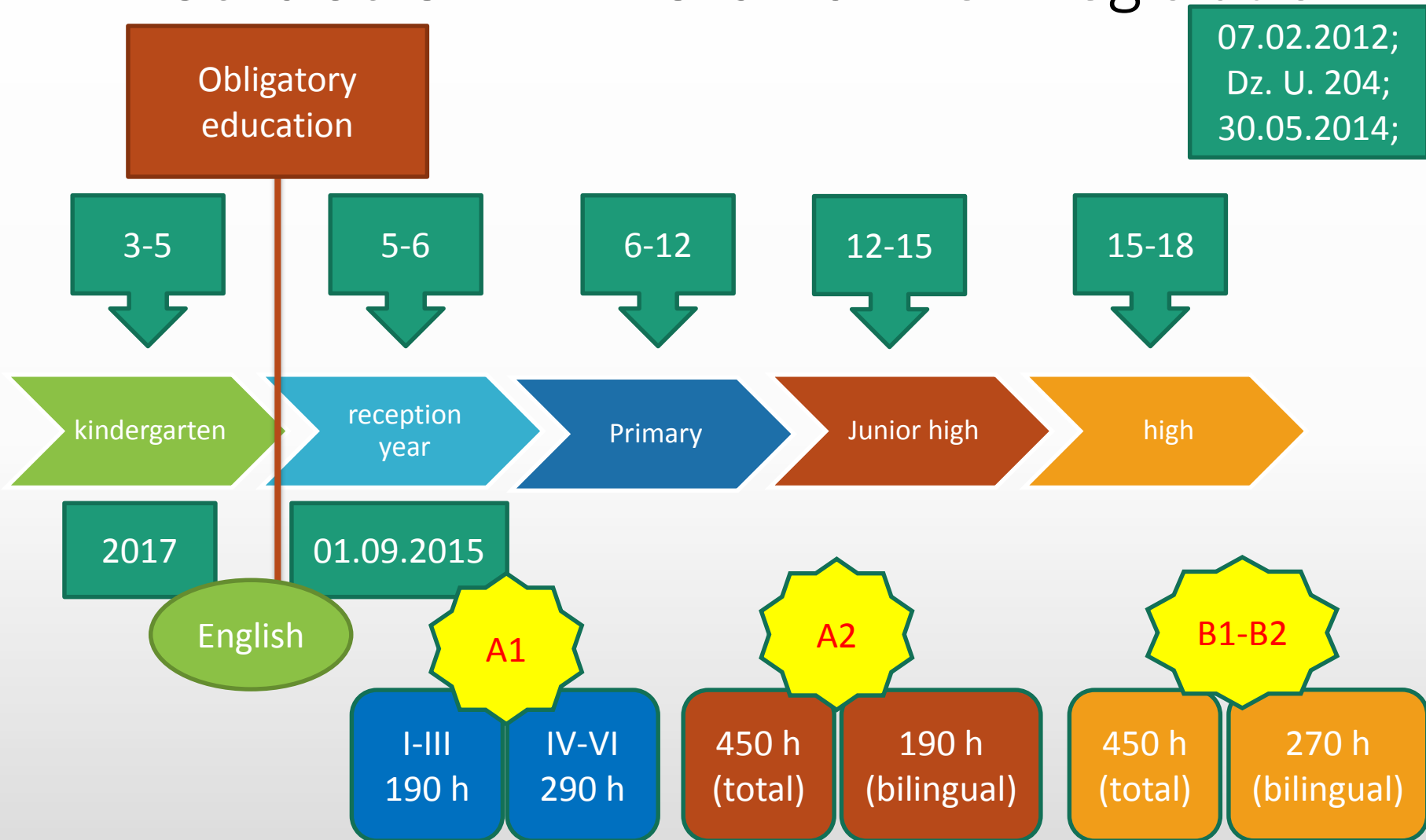
Small – mały, maleńki, malutki, maluteńki, malusieńki, malusi, malenieńki, maluni, maluczki

# L2 instruction in Poland: 2009/2010 in %

Lg	Primary school		Junior high		High school		Vocational school	
	obligatory	optional	obligatory	optional	obligatory	optional	obligatory	optional
English	87,4	4,5	84,2	7,5	97,2	0,8	45,7	
German	10,7	6,6	38,1	22,9	63,5	4,3	35,8	
Russian	0,8		3,6		9,3		11,8	
French	0,3	0,5	1,7	1,6	11,5	1,1	11,1	
Spanish	0,1		0,4		2,5			
Latin					3,8			



# L2 instruction in Poland: new legislation



<http://ore.edu.pl;>

[http://bip.men.gov.pl/images/stories/publikacja\\_ramoweplanynauczania.pdf](http://bip.men.gov.pl/images/stories/publikacja_ramoweplanynauczania.pdf)

- matura – final exam in high school, which is also the entrance exam for the university;
- Written exam:
  - L2 (basic level)
  - Minority language (basic level)
  - Optionally: L2 on an advanced or bilingual level
- Oral exam
  - L2 (and Polish)
- Matura in 2011 (mean scores for basic and advanced levels in brackets):
  - Belarussian: 264 (59,31%) students;
  - Ukraininan: 83 (67,61%) & 8 (67,61%) students;
  - Lithuanian: 27 (70,16%);
  - Kashubian: 9 (66,67%) & 10 (76,16%) students
    - Scores better than in Polish: 6% for basic level and from 8% to 20% for advanced level

Languages of **national minorities** (with Polish citizenship) – distribution, total population, demographic, children studying native language other than Polish at school: 2012

- **German** – south-west, 144 238; 38 783 students in 589 schools
- **Belarussian** – Podlasie (north-east); 43 880; 3 148 students in 47 schools
- **Ukrainian** – north-west; 38 797; 2 757 students in 169 schools
- **Lithuanian** – Podlasie (north-east), 7 347; 683 students in 19 schools;

<http://mniejszosci.narodowe.mac.gov.pl/mne/mniejszosci/charakterystyka-mniejs/6480,Charakterystyka-mniejszosci-narodowych-i-etnicznych-w-Polsce.html>

Languages of **national minorities** (with Polish citizenship) – distribution, total population, demographic, children studying native language other than Polish at school: 2012

- **Russian** – 8 796; XVIII-XX;
- **Jewish** – Warsaw, Wrocław; 7 353; X; 301 students in 7 schools (Hebrew); Yiddish taught by Jewish organisations
- **Czech** – central-south; 2 833; since XV-XIX
- **Slovak** – south; 2 740; 202 students in 12 schools
- **Armenian** – Warsaw, Kraków, 1 684; XI; 54 students in 4 schools

<http://mniejszosci.narodowe.mac.gov.pl/mne/mniejszosci/charakterystyka-mniejs/6480,Charakterystyka-mniejszosci-narodowych-i-etnicznych-w-Polsce.html>

Languages of **ethnic minorities** (with Polish citizenship) – distribution, total population, demographic, children studying native language other than Polish at school: 2012

- **Romani people** – southern; 16 725; XV;
- **Lemkos** – western; 9 641; 281 students in 35 schools
- **Tatars** – Podlasie; 1 828; XIV; speak Polish as L1
- **Karaims** – Warsaw, Łódź, Wrocław; 313; XIII-XIV; speak Polish as L1 (children study Karaim in Trakau, Lithuania, in summer schools)

<http://mniejszosci.narodowe.mac.gov.pl/mne/mniejszosci/charakterystyka-mniejs/6480,Charakterystyka-mniejszosci-narodowych-i-etnicznych-w-Polsce.html>



**Regional language:** Kashubian – distribution, total population, demographic, children studying native language other than Polish at school: 2012

- **Kashubian** – Pomorze (north); 108 140 (number of people who use this language as L1 at home); 15 842 students in 389 schools

<http://mniejszosci.narodowe.mac.gov.pl/mne/mniejszosci/charakterystyka-mniejs/6480,Charakterystyka-mniejszosci-narodowych-i-etnicznych-w-Polsce.html>

National or ethnic minority and regional language instruction is organised in:

- kindergarten,
- primary school,
- junior high school,
- high school.

by the head of the school; following parents' voluntary written application;

Legislation: Dz. U. from 2004, No. 256, item 2572, as amended, Dz.U. from 2014, 263; Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland). National Education Minister decrees: 08.06.2009, 30.04.2007, 10.08.2001

<http://www.jezyki-mniejszosci.pl>

<http://ore.edu.pl>

[www.dziennikustaw.gov.pl](http://www.dziennikustaw.gov.pl)

7 students (kindergarten, primary) and 14 students (high school)  
– a separate class

3 students: interschool class

necessary to start instruction;

financed by the government: 3 possibilities:

- **Minority language as additional language,**
- **Instruction in both languages: Polish and minority - Lithuanians**
- Instruction in minority language.

For Romani people: Romani education assistant teacher: helps in collaboration between children, school, & parents (from 2001).

<http://www.jezyki-mniejszosci.pl>

<http://ore.edu.pl>

- Minority & regional language are compulsory courses;
- History & culture are optional courses;
  - for students who apply to participate;
- Minimal number of hours:
  - yearly: I – III yrs in primary school: 450 h; IV – VI yrs in primary school and junior high school 380 h; high school: 360 h,
  - History & culture: 30 h (beginning in IVth year);
  - Geography: 15 h (beginning in IVth year);

All textbooks have to be accepted by the Ministry  
(based on an expert's opinion);

- free Polish classes, at least 2 hours a week, for **students who don't know Polish** well enough to learn and participate in the classes
  - an assistant teacher, who knows the minority language (for a period of up to 12 months)
  - a child might participate in additional classes in all subjects with which a child has problems; 1 class a week for 1 subject; maximum is 5 hours a week for one child.
- 
- Educational disadvantage: the Romani people

Bernacka-Langier, Dąbrowa, Pawlic-Rafałowska, Wasilewska-Łaszczuk, Zasuńska (2011). *Praca z uczniem cudzoziemskim Przewodnik dobrych praktyk dla dyrektorów, nauczycieli, pedagogów i psychologów*. Warszawa: Biuro Edukacji Urzędu m.st. Warszawy, Warszawskie Centrum Innowacji Edukacyjno-Społecznych i Szkoleń

**kaszubski**

**litewski**

**białoruski**

**niemiecki**



- More than 2 mln Polish citizens lived abroad in 2011 for a period longer than 3 months<sup>1</sup>
- 275 600 emmigrants in 2012 (4th place in the EU); emmigrants outnumbered immigrants<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup><http://stat.gov.pl/podstawowe-dane/>

<sup>2</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration\\_and\\_migrant\\_population\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics)