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Foreword

background

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

aim

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

target group

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

link with EURYDICE

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

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

contents

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

1 Introduction

language

Kashubian (or "Cassubian", in Kashubian: *kaszëbizna*) is a West Slavic language spoken in northern Poland in the province of Pomerania (*województwo pomorskie*)[1], mainly in the counties (*powiaty*) of Gdañsk/Gduñsk, Gdynia/Gdiniô, Wejherowo/Wejrowò, Puck/Pùck, Lêbork/Lãbòrg, Bytów/Bëtowò, Kartuzy/Kartùze, Koœcierzyna/Kòscérzna and Chojnice/Chòjnice.

The Kashubs (in Kashubian *Kaszëbë*, in Polish *Kaszubi*) inhabit an area of some 6,000 square kilometres on the southern coast of the Baltic Sea – a rectangular area approx. 130 km long and 50 km wide.

Historically and paleoethnologically, the Kashubs are said to be direct descendants of the Pomeranians, a Slavic people that inhabited the Baltic coast between the Vistula (Wisła) and the Oder (*Odra*) rivers, perhaps even as far westward as the Elbe, in the early Middle Ages, and who long constituted a serious threat to the Lekhits – the ancestors of what later would be the Polish nation. The modern history of Kashubian began in the mid-19th century, with ideas

brought by the Spring of Nations and the pan-Slavic movement (cf. Majewicz 1996, Treder 1997, Wicherkiewicz 2000). Since then, the sense of ethnic, regional and linguistic identity has been strengthened by the efforts of various Kashubian writers.

Nowadays, the Kashubian language area is located within the Polish state and simultaneously within the Polish linguistic area, and it is its geographic location that has determined the history, political and social conditions of its population. Kashubian has developed linguistic contacts with Polish (standard and dialectal) and German (standard High German and Low German dialects; cf. Zieniukowa 1997).

Kashubian is divided into numerous local dialects. Some dialectologists estimate that number at over 50; they can, however, be divided into three main groups: northern, central, and southern.

As far as literature, a bibliography of books in Kashubian published between 1944 and 1992 lists 172 titles. This number has grown significantly in the last decade, as some 10-20 new titles of books in Kashubian are being published yearly, among them first translations of world literature such as A.A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* (translated by B. Szymañska & T. Wicherkiewicz) The most important anthologies and handbooks of Kashubian literature are Neureiter 1973, Drzeżdżon 1986 and Neureiter 1991.

An annual competition of Kashubian poetry and recitation *Rodnô mòwô* ("mother tongue") has been organized for almost 20 years. The last two years also brought enormous popularity to the Kashubian spelling dictation competition; the recent edition being attended by 74 participants.

As far as the press in Kashubian, there are some media in the regional language:

- *Pomerania*, with an educational supplement *Najô ùczba* - in Polish and Kashubian
- *Òdroda* (http://www.zk-p.pl/odroda) entirely in Kashubian- *Norda* – a weekly supplement in Kashubian and Polish to the daily *Dziennik Bałtycki*

- *Przëjôcél ludu Kaszëbsczégò. Przyjaciel ludu Kaszubskiego. Friend of the Kashubian People* – a trilingual newsletter of the Kashubian Association of North America (http://ka-na.org).

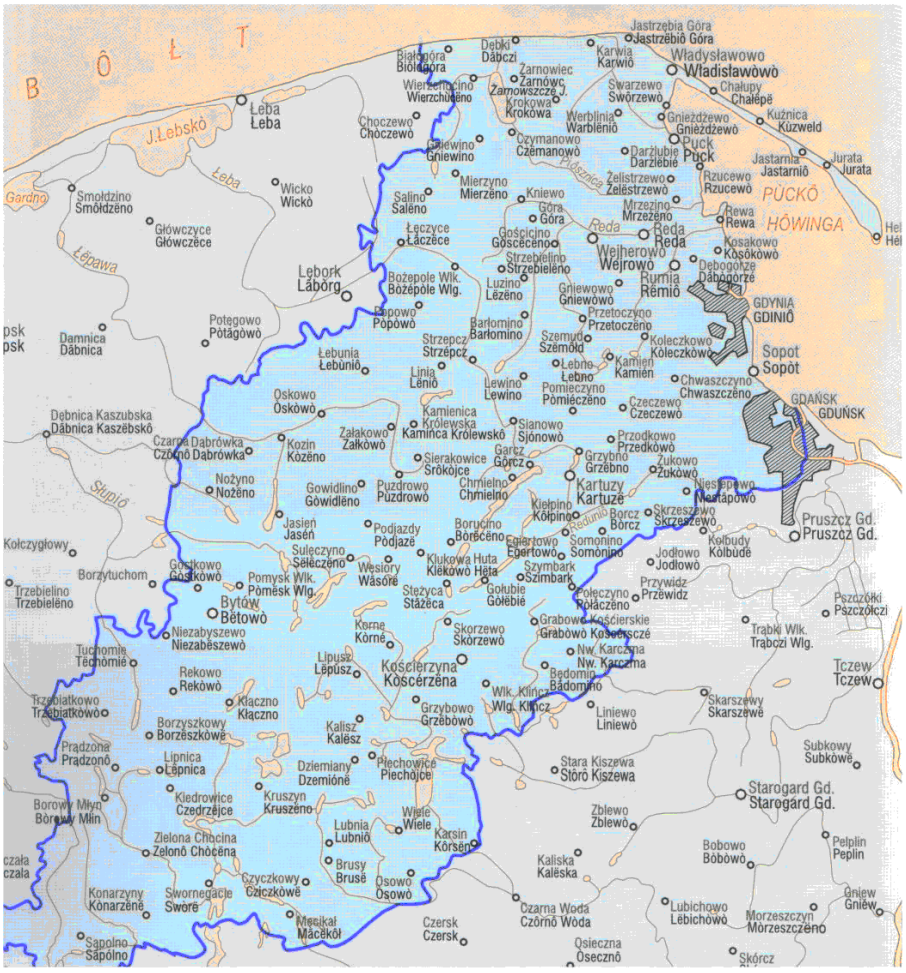
Furthermore there are two Kashubian youth clubs active: *Pomorania* (students' club) and *Tatczëzna* (http://www.zk-p.pl/tatczezna).

Besides numerous folk ensembles in almost every village and town of Kashubia, there are two fashionable youth pop groups that perform in Kashubian: *Chëcz* and *Kùtin*.

Kashubian also plays a role in ICT nowadays. The year 2003 saw the first ever word processor in Kashubian (*Kasz-ed*, http://www.kaszubia.com/pl/komputery/kaszed.htm), the international coding standard (CSB) for Kashubian (http://www.kaszubia.com/kasz/komputre/kaszebsczi_html.htm), Kashubian fonts (http://www.kaszubia.com/kasz/komputre/pdf.com) and a Kashubian Internet browser (http://k-meleon.kaszubia. com).



Kashubian-speaking area in northern Poland



Kashubian language territory / Kashubian municipalities (cf. Borzyszkowski, Mordawski & Treder 1993: 190)

population

The area inhabited by the Kashubs has diminished significantly over the centuries. The origin of the Kashubs as an ethnic group can be found among the Pomeranians (cf. above). The Pomeranians moved eastward under the

pressure of German colonization and the Slavic elements east of the Oder river disappeared. The Kashubian territory has not changed significantly since the 18th century, apart from specific losses in the western region (present counties of Słupsk/Slëpsk, Lêbork/Lãbòrg and Bytów/Bëtowò[2]), inhabited earlier by Protestant Kashubs and their linguistic subgroup – Slovincians. Periods of Germanization alternated with waves of Polonization. As the Kashubs were traditionally Catholic, their nobility and middle classes assimilated with the Polish majority.
During the 20th century, the population of Kashubs was estimated as follows:

- 1900 – 102 thousand[3],
- 1910 – 111 thousand[4],
- 1926 – 155 thousand[5],
- 1968 – 140-150 thousand[6],
- 1975 – 150-220 thousand.

According to the results of the first ever sociodemographic and sociolinguistic research in the late 1980s, the number of Kashubs (i.e. persons who regard themselves as Kashubs or "half-Kashubs") has been estimated to be between **350 and 500 thousand**, including **150-250 thousand** of those who were familiar with or could speak Kashubian to some degree (Iskierski & Latoszek 1995). The region of Kashubia is inhabited by a total of 1.5 million people.
The population census of 2002 (the first since 1931!) contained two questions dealing with the questions of "nationality" and "home language":

1. *"Which nationality do you most identify with?"*[7]
2. *"Which language(s) do you speak most often at home?"*

A total of **5,062** persons answered "Kashubian" for the first question, almost all of whom reside in the Province of Pomerania (**4,897**). Answers to the second question were "**Kashubian**", "**Kashubian** and Polish" and "Polish and

Kashubian" (no distinct data have been published), given by **52,665** persons - cf. http://sp.stat.gov.pl/spis/ludnosc/tab_wynik.xls.[8]
Several thousand Kashubs live abroad; worth mentioning are Kashubian enclaves in Ontario, Canada.
As the Kashubs are traditionally very much affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church, developments concerning the position of Kashubian in religious life are of extreme importance. At present, masses are celebrated in Kashubian on a weekly basis (in one parish), once a month (in 23 parishes), and 4-5 times a year (in 8 parishes).
In addition to the two translations of the New Testament mentioned below, the publication of a prayer book (Gołąbk & Pryczkowski 1998) is also worth mentioning.

language status

Until the 1990s, during the communist area, according to most linguistic sources, Kashubian was regarded as the most distinct or one of the most distinct dialects of Polish (contemporary Polish is traditionally divided into Great Polish, Little Polish, Mazovian, Silesian, and Kashubian dialects). Those who regard Kashubian as a separate language classify it as a West Slavic languages (together with Polish, Upper and Lower Sorbian, Czech and Slovak), forming with Polish and extinct Polabian, a separate subgroup of so-called Lekhitic languages.
Until 1989, it was prohibited by the Communist censorship to use the noun *jêzyk* (Polish for "language") in connection with Kashubian. Therefore, the Kashubian scholars, writers and activists used to call their ethnolect *kaszubszczyzna* ("Kashubianness") or *mowa kaszubska* ("Kashubian speech").
Since 1989, Kashubian has upgraded its linguistic status significantly. The most important factors contributing to its present position have been:

- Activities of the pan-Kashubian association *Zrzeszenie Kaszubsko-Pomorskie*, founded in 1956,

- Translation of the New Testament - *Kaszëbskô Biblëjô* (1992) by F. Grucza and *Swiêté Pismiona Nowégo Testameñtu* (1993) by E. Gołąbk,
- Agreement on a unified spelling system for literary Kashubian (cf. Breza & Treder 1984, Gòłąbk 1997) (two competitive systems had been used prior to 1996),
- Continuous efforts on the part of Kashubian activists to have the language included in all legal acts pertaining to minority issues and official nomenclature[9],
- Organization of the 39th Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities in Gdañsk in 1994,
- Organization of the 6th International Conference on Minority Languages in Gdañsk in 1996 (cf. Synak & Wicherkiewicz 1997).

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

"Art.27.
Polish shall be the official language of the Republic of Poland. This provision shall not infringe upon national minority rights resulting from ratified international agreements.
(...)
Art.35.
1. The Republic of Poland shall ensure Polish citizens belonging to national or ethnic minorities the freedom to maintain and develop their own language, to maintain customs and traditions, and to develop their own culture.
2. National and ethnic minorities shall have the right to establish educational and cultural institutions and institutions designed to protect their religious identity, as well as to participate in the resolution of matters connected with their cultural identity."

The 1999 Law on the Polish Language provides for the possibility to introduce a minority language as an "auxiliary"

language in those areas with a "considerable share of non-Polish population", where minority languages could be used in bilingual place names, in personal first names and surnames, and occasionally in local administration. However, the law lacks appropriate executive regulations, nor does it contain any provisions for usage of minority languages in jurisdiction or state/central administration.

The *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* was signed by Poland in 1995 and ratified in 2000. It has, however, no impact on the legal situation of the Kashubian language, since the (majority of) Kashubs are neither regarded nor regard themselves as a national minority.

In 2003, the government of the Republic of Poland signed the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.* Its ratification will probably follow the adoption of *Law on National and Ethnic Minorities and on the Regional Language* by the Polish Parliament. Chapter 4 (art. 17 and 18) of the most recent project as part of the latter contains the following provisions:

"Art. 17:

The regional language as understood by the law is the Kashubian language. The regulations of articles 7-14 will be applied respectively (those pertaining to the usage of minority languages in:

- the spelling of Christian names and family names, private and public life, the official sphere as auxiliary languages, information, as well as geographical names, street names, names of offices and institutions).

Art. 18:

1. The educational rights of persons who speak the language mentioned in art.17 will be exercised on the basis of art. 15 (Article 15 pertains to the rights of persons belonging to minorities to be taught in their minority language and/or in a minority language, as well as to be taught the history and culture of the minority group).

2. The persons who speak the language mentioned in art. 17 have the right to found and run schools and educational institutions that enable teaching of or in the language based on the general regulations.
3. The public authorities are obliged to undertake appropriate measures in order to support all activities aimed at the preservation and development of the language mentioned in art. 17 based on the general regulations.
4. The measures stated in §3 may be granted from the budget of a territorial self-government unit to organizations and institutions that fulfil the tasks aimed at the preservation and development of the language mentioned in art. 17."

The 1992 *Law on radio and TV broadcasting* contains a general obligation to meet the needs of national and ethnic minorities in public media.
There is one TV program entirely in Kashubian, *Rodnô Zemia* ("motherland"), which is broadcast twice a week (10 minutes each) by the regional TV station in Gdañsk. Regional TV programs in Gdañsk and Słupsk contain materials in Kashubian and are broadcast twice a week for 23 and 20 minutes, respectively.
Two radio programs (mainly) in Kashubian, *Na bôtach ë w bòrach* ("in boats and woods") and *Klëka* ("news"), are broadcast once a week by the regional radio station in Gdañsk (the former is repeated by the station in Chojnice) for 55 and 10 minutes, respectively. The radio station in Koszalin broadcasts weekly a 5-minute Kashubian news program.
Kashubian radio programs are also available online, such as *Wasze Radio* ("your radio", http://www.waszeradio.prv.pl) and *Domoce zwãczi* ("home bells", http://www.sar.pg.gda.pl).

status of language education

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

- *Law on the system of education* of 1991, which grants pupils the right to maintain their national, ethnic, religious and linguistic identity, and in particular to be given classes in/on their mother tongue, as well as their history and culture;
- *Decree of the Minister of National Education and Sports on conditions and methods for enabling pupils belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups to maintain their national, ethnic and linguistic identity* of 2002 (substituting the previous one issued in 1992, which pertained solely to "national minorities"; the former decree was applied also in relation to the Kashubian language group on the basis of an internal amendment by the then in-office Minister of Education).

education system

The present system of education in Poland has been in effect since September 1999, when the most significant education reform in the recent history of the country took place. School attendance is compulsory between the ages of 6 to 15-16.

The education system in Poland is structured as follows:

I. Kindergarten (***przedszkole***) – 3-4 to 6-7 years
II. Primary school (***szkoła podstawowa***) – 6-7 to 12-13 years
III. Lower secondary school (***gimnazjum***) – 12-13 to 15-16 years
IV. Upper secondary school of general education *(**liceum ogólnokształcące**)* – 15-16 to 18-19 years

or

Vocational secondary school (***technikum*** or ***liceum techniczne***) –15-16 to 18-19 years

or

General vocational/trade school (***zasadnicza szkoła zawodowa***) – additional 2 years after *gimnazjum* [to be abolished soon]

V. University (***uniwersytet****, akademia, wyższa szkoła*) – 18-19 to 23-24 years; some universities introduced

two-degree study curricula: 3-year Bachelors degree program (*studia licencjackie*) followed by a 2-year Masters degree program (*studia magisterskie*)

VI. Postgraduate education: 4-year Ph.D. program (*studia doktoranckie*) or 1-2 year special graduate program (*studia podyplomowe*).

private and public education

In general, according to the Law on the System of Education, Polish educational institutions can act as public institutions, institutions founded by communities or foundations (*społeczne* = "social") or private establishments. At this time, there are no private schools providing education about/in Kashubian. The existing schools in Kashubia are predominantly public or community ones (the first community school was the Community School of Głodnica, in the municipality of Linia).

bilingual education

In the 1990s, only one primary school provided bilingual education in Polish and Kashubian to around 20 children (the community school in Głodnica, municipality of Linia). Due to financial and educational restraints, the school has been transformed into a school with additional (although compulsory) education about the Kashubian language (3 hours a week).

administration

The pre-primary level of education (nursery and kindergarten) is not obligatory. It is organized, supervised and financed by the municipalities (*gmina*). The compulsory primary and lower secondary education is organized and financed by the communes from funding provided through the central education authorities. The upper secondary education is organized and financed by the counties from funding provided through the central education authorities. Higher educational institutions are autonomous but financed and supervised by the Ministry of National Education and Sports and Ministry of Science and Information Technology, except for specialized universities of medicine and agriculture, as well as academies of music and fine arts,

and military academies which are supervised and financed by the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Culture and Defence, respectively.

inspections

Lower and upper secondary schools are primarily supervised and controlled by the provincial Boards of Education (*kuratoria oœwiaty*).

2 Pre-school education

target group

This level of education is not compulsory in Poland. It is intended for children between 3-4 and 6 years of age. There are public kindergartens (run by communes), so-called social ones (run by associations), and private ones. Education for 6-year-olds became compulsory in September 2003 (cf. below). In 2000/2001, 51.2% of 3 to 6-year olds attended pre-school; in 2002/2003 this percentage dropped to 48%. The main reasons for the decrease are financial strains on the communes and parents; parents, for example, are personally responsible for transporting their pre-school children. In 2001/2002, 89.7% of 6-year-olds attended the "zero classes".

structure

Since September 2003, the Ministry of National Education and Sports decreed that all 6-year-olds must be included in the system of compulsory education - the communes should establish so-called "zero classes" (*zerówka*), either in public primary schools or in kindergartens. All of the "zero classes" are expected to be taken over by kindergartens. Just before this decision came into force in 2002/2003, 841 thousand children countrywide had attended "zero classes", either in kindergartens or in primary schools.

legislation

The pre-school education (kindergartens) is organized according to the December 1999 Appendix "Framework statute of public kindergartens" to the *Decree of the Minister of National Education on changes in the frame-*

work statutes of public 6-year primary schools and public lower secondary schools.

language use

Kashubian is used during pre-school education in only 2 private kindergartens, attended by around 30 children. An early immersion language program, based on the experiences of similar programs in Wales, Brittany and Lusatia is planned to start in 2005, probably under the name *Pùfôtk* (Kashubian for "Winnie the Pooh"). The first workshop devoted to this method is planned for late 2004.

teaching materials

There are no Kashubian-language teaching materials published. The kindergarten teachers produce some makeshift materials themselves for their own use.

statistics

Pre-school education countrywide (ages 3-6)

Year	Percentage
2000/2001	51.2%
2002/2003	48%

"Zero classes" countrywide (6-year-olds)

Year	Percentage
2001/2002	89.7%

Kashubian in pre-school education

Year	Kindergartens	Children
2002/2003	2	around 30

3 Primary education

target group

In the Polish education system, primary education is followed directly by lower secondary school education, which is also compulsory. Primary education is intended for children ages 6 or 7 to 12-13 (exclusively from ages 7 to 13 in the future). Lower secondary school education includes children ages 12-13 to 15-16 (exclusively ages 13 to 16 in the future). Both levels are compulsory.

In the 2003/2004 school year, almost 2.8 million pupils attended primary schools and 1.7 million attended lower secondary schools. In other words, a total of more than 4.6 million pupils are subject to these two compulsory levels of education.

structure

Every March, the school board of teachers takes the decision to introduce classes in Kashubian starting September 1st (start of the new school year), supported by a resolution of the School Board. Seven written applications from parents are required in order to open a class (or class section) with instruction in Kashubian.
The State provides funding for teaching Kashubian if its weekly provision amounts to 3 hours of classes. The subsidy rate for schools providing education in/about minority languages is 120% the rate for other schools. If the number of pupils in such a school does not exceed 42, the rate increases to 150%. Funding for the first four months of language instruction, however, must be laid out by the municipality. In some cases, this amount may also be paid out by the Ministry of National Education and Sports at the start of the school year.
The teaching programs for primary and lower secondary schools providing Kashubian education were accepted by the Ministry of National Education and Sports in 2002.

legislation

Primary and lower secondary school education in Poland falls within the jurisdiction and supervision of the Ministry of National Education and Sports. It is compulsory for all children. The primary and lower secondary schools are organized and financed by the communes from funding provided through the Ministry. The most important laws relevant to primary, lower and upper secondary education (all three levels are generally dealt with together) are the September 1991 *Law on the system of education*, the January 1999 *Law on regulations introducing the reform of the schooling system*, with major amendments made in December in 2000, and with special respect to schools providing education in/about minority languages – the December 2002 *Decree of the Minister of National Education and Sports on conditions and methods of enabling pupils belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups to maintain their national, ethnic and linguistic identity.*

language use

The respective subjects are labelled "Kashubian language", "Kashubian language with elements of regional culture", or "Regional education with elements of Kashubian language" and are taught 3, 2, or 1 hour(s) a week. The languages of instruction are both Kashubian and Polish

teaching materials

The first ever teaching materials for/in Kashubian were published only recently, including a primer –(Bòbrowsczi & Kwiatkòwskô 2000), a primary school dictionary (Kwiatkòwsko & Bòbrowsczi 2003), and other aids, such as a language course book for younger students –(Pioch 2001) and a teaching program and materials for language teachers –(Pioch 2000, Czedrowskô, Pioch & Tréder 2001).

statistics

A total of **5113** schoolchildren at the primary and lower secondary levels were provided with some form of Kashubian education at **82** schools. The tables below show the numbers of children who were provided with some form of Kashubian education and for how many hours a week.

Children in primary and lower secondary education countrywide

Year	Primary schools	Lower secondary schools
2003/2004	2,857 thousand	1,694 thousand

Primary schools offering Kashubian classes in 2003/2004

Subject	Number of schools	Hours per week	Number of children
Kashubian language	1	4	total: 2,951
	31	3	
	18	2	
	2	1	
	total: 52		
Kashubian language and regional culture	3	3	total: 358
	2	2	
	1	1	
	total: 6		
Regional education with elements of Kashubian language	4	3	total: 1,358
	5	2	
	4	1	
	total: 13		

Lower secondary schools offering Kashubian classes in 2003/2004

Subject	Number of schools	Hours per week	Number of children
Kashubian language	5	3	total: 179
	1	2	
	1	1	
	total: 7		
Kashubian language and regional culture	3	2	total: 159
	total: 3		
Regional education with elements of Kashubian language	2	2	total: 108
	2	1	
	total: 4		

4 Secondary education

target group

Scondary education (understood here as upper secondary schools of general education) is not obligatory in Poland and is intended for pupils ages 15 or 16 to 18-19 (exclusively from ages 16 to 19 in the future). In 2003/ 2004, nearly 923,000 pupils attended upper secondary schools (of general education).

structure

The regulations for introducing Kashubian classes are generally the same as in the case of primary/lower secondary schools, the only difference being the number of written applications from pupils or pupils' parents, namely **14**.
The State provides funding for the teaching of Kashubian if its weekly provision amounts to 3 hours of classes. The subsidy rate for schools providing education in/about minority languages is 120% the rate for other schools. If the number of pupils in such a school does not exceed 42, the rate increases to 150%. Funding for the first four months of language instruction must be provided by the commune. In some cases, this sum may also be paid out by the Ministry of National Education and Sports at the start of the school year.
The teaching programs for upper secondary schools providing Kashubian education were accepted by the Ministry of Education in Sports in 2002.

teaching materials

There is a language course book for the older classes, compiled by Cybulski & Wosiak-Śliwa in 2001. A teaching program and materials for language teachers were also developed by Czedrowskô, Pioch & Tréder in 2001.

legislation

As with the lower educational levels, upper secondary education in Poland falls under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Ministry of National Education and Sports. The upper secondary schools, however, are organized and financed by the counties (and not the municipalities) from

funding provided by the Ministry. The most important laws relevant to upper secondary education are the same as with primary and lower secondary schools, since all three levels are generally dealt with together.

language use

In 2002/2003, only **3** upper secondary schools provided Kashubian education of some kind:

one school –Kashubian language classes (3 hours a week) – **66** students,
one school –Kashubian language and regional classes (2 hours a week) – **232** students,
one school –regional education classes with elements of Kashubian language (1 hour a week) – **14** students.

A total of **312** students at the upper secondary level were provided with some form of Kashubian education. The languages of instruction in the Kashubian language classes are Kashubian and Polish.

statistics

Pupils in upper secondary (general) education country-wide

Year	Pupils
2003/2004	923 thousand

Upper secondary schools offering Kashubian classes in 2003/2004

Subject	Number of schools	Hours / week	Number of pupils
Kashubian language	1	3	66
Kashubian language and regional culture	1	2	232
Regional education with elements of Kashubian language	1	1	14
	total: 3		312

5 Vocational education

target group

Vocational education falls under the system of upper secondary education, as an alternative to upper secondary schools of general education. It is not obligatory in Poland and is intended for pupils ages 15 or 16 to 18-19 (exclusively from ages 16 to 19 in the future).

structure

The provisions for teaching Kashubian (as well as all other minority languages) are the same as in the upper secondary schools of general education (cf. above).

legislation

Vocational education in Poland falls into the category of upper secondary education and the regulations for the two types of schools are all the same.

language use

In 2002/2003, only **one** vocational school of secondary level provided regional education classes with elements of Kashubian language (2 hours a week) for **26** students.
The teaching programs for vocational schools providing a Kashubian education were accepted by the Ministry of Education in Sports in 2002. The language of instruction during classes of regional education is predominantly Polish, with some interludes in Kashubian (songs, poems, literature excerpts, etc.).

statistics

Vocational schools offering Kashubian classes in 2003/2004

Subject	Hours per week	Number of schools	Number of pupils
Regional education with elements of Kashubian language	2	1	26

There is only one vocational school with “regional education with elements of Kashubian language” classes. The

pupils at such schools are generally interested solely in technical subjects; even classes on the history of the Polish language are often neglected in the school curriculum.

6 Higher education

structure

The institutions of higher education are autonomous, but financed and supervised by the Ministry of National Education and Sports and Ministry of Science and Information Technology, except for specialized universities of medicine and agriculture, as well as academies of music and fine arts, and military academies which are supervised and financed by the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Culture and Defence, respectively.
All universities and so-called "high schools" or "academies" in the region of Kashubia are located in the Tri-City agglomeration (Gdañsk, Sopot, Gdynia), except for the private Kashubian-Pomeranian High School in Wejherowo.[10] The state universities are the University of Gdañsk, Academy of Music, University of Medicine, Academy of Fine Arts, University of Physical Education, Technical University of Gdañsk, Naval Academy, Maritime Academy. There are two Diocesan Seminaries (in Gdañsk and in Pelplin) as well as 13 private institutions of higher education.

language use

Since 1992, Kashubian has been taught as an elective language course at the University of Gdañsk for students of Polish language and literature.
At the Diocesan Seminary in Pelplin, Kashubian is taught 2 hours a week every year as a language course to some 15 seminarists.
The only language course book for university students was published by Cybulski & Wosiak-Œliwa in 1992.

teacher training

In December 2002, the second edition of a "Qualification course for teachers of Kashubian language and regional

culture" was launched at the University of Gdañsk in cooperation with the Section for Education of the Kashubian-Pomeranian Association. Each course is planned for 1½ years (3 semesters). Forty-one persons completed the first edition (in 2002) and the second one, attended by 51 teachers, will end in May 2004. The first 25 teachers have been qualified on an individual base, mostly during their studies as teachers of Polish language and literature at the University of Gdañsk. At present there are 25 qualified teachers of Kashubian, 41 graduates from the first edition of the course for teachers, and 51 students from the second edition (a total of **117** teachers).

statistics **Teachers of Kashubian in 2004**

Qualified teachers	25
Graduates of the first edition of the course for teachers	41
Students of the second edition of the course for teachers	51

7 Adult education

The only forms of adult education in Kashubian are the above-mentioned qualification courses for teachers of Kashubian, as well as three editions of Regional and Alternative Education Courses, Postgraduate Courses on Pomeranian Studies as well as freelance courses on reading and writing in Kashubian. The language is taught predominantly through the medium of Polish.

In 2002/2003, courses on Kashubian language and culture were organized in 3 centres (Gdañsk, Kartuzy and Władysławowo) and attended by 46 participants.

The so-called "Kashubian Folk Universities" in Wieżyca and Starbienino do not organize language courses of any kind.

8 Educational research

For political reasons, educational and sociolinguistic research of minority language communities has little developed since World War II. Questions related to ethnicity and minorities have not been included in population censuses since the 1930s.

In spite of this, linguistic research on Kashubian has been carried out at the Universities of Gdañsk and Poznañ, the Silesian University in Katowice, the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Institute of Slavistics in Warsaw. The Kashubian Institute as an independent scholarly institution was founded in 1998. It publishes the annual *Acta Cassubiana*. Since 2003, *Cassubia Slavica* has been published in Hamburg as an international annual of Kashubian studies (cf. Bobrowski, Kwidziñski & Toby 2003; http://www.cassubia-slavica.com). Kashubian studies are also carried out at three universities abroad: University of Oxford (Prof. Gerald Stone), University of Tartu / Estonia (Prof. Alexandr Dulièenko) and the University of Groningen / Netherlands (drs. Hania Toby).

Research on Kashubian education is in fact limited to the Institute of Pedagogy at the University of Gdañsk (cf. Kossak-Główczewski 1999).

9 Prospects

Recent research (cf. e.g. Iskierski & Latoszek 1996) has provided some reliable data on the situation of Kashubian. The results of the 2002 population census could be disappointing in that respect, but considering its pioneering character, unclear criteria and a certain lack of confidence as far as all national and/or ethnic question are concerned, the number of **52,665** persons declaring Kashubian to be their home language is undoubtedly an important indicator for language planners and educational activists.

Taking into account that Kashubian was introduced (in a very modest way and dimension) as late as 1991, the total number of **5,451** pupils who are taught Kashubian (in any form) by **117** teachers is quite impressive. During the past 13 years, the most important obstacle to education about and in Kashubian has been abolished – namely the traditional school system. It was the school that imposed the conviction of the superiority of "urban Polish" culture to "rural Kashubian". Pupils and parents alike privately blamed the "backwardness" of Kashubian with their children's limited career options. A mental change has clearly taken place since then.

Further development of Kashubian education undoubtedly depends on the efforts of regional activists and the further training of qualified teachers. Crucial in that respect are also the ratification of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* by Poland, preceded by the internal *Law on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language.*

10 Summary of statistics

Kashubian in pre-school education

Year	Kindergartens	Children
2002/2003	2	around 30

Primary schools offering Kashubian classes in 2003/2004

Subject	Number of schools	Hours per week	Number of children
Kashubian language	1	4	total: 2,951
	31	3	
	18	2	
	2	1	
	total: 52		
Kashubian language and regional culture	3	3	total: 358
	2	2	
	1	1	
	total: 6		
Regional education with elements of Kashubian language	4	3	total: 1,358
	5	2	
	4	1	
	total: 13		

Lower secondary schools offering Kashubian classes in 2003/2004

Subject	Number of schools	Hours per week	Number of children
Kashubian language	5	3	total: 179
	1	2	
	1	1	
	total: 7		
Kashubian language and regional culture	3	2	total: 159
	total: 3		
Regional education with elements of Kashubian language	2	2	total: 108
	2	1	
	total: 4		

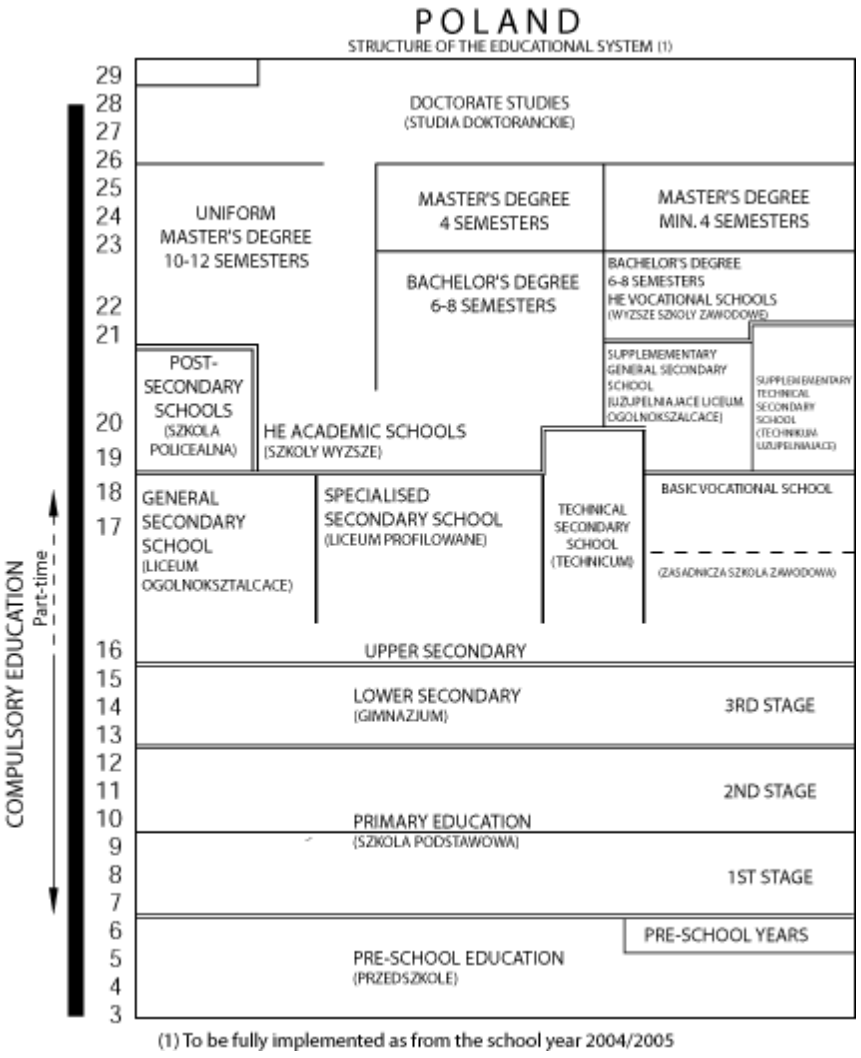
Upper secondary schools offering Kashubian classes in 2003/2004

Subject	Number of schools	Hours per week	Number of pupils
Kashubian language	1	3	66
Kashubian language and regional culture	1	2	232
Regional education with elements of Kashubian language	1	1	14
	total: 3		312

Teachers of Kashubian in 2004

Qualified teachers	25
Graduates of the first edition of the course for teachers	41
Students of the second edition of the course for teachers	51

Education system in Poland (Eurydice)



Addresses

Zrzeszenie Kaszubsko-Pomorskie
Zarząd Główny & Komisja Oświaty
[Kashubian-Pomeranian Association;
Headquarters & Commission of Education]
ul. Straganiarska 20-23
PL- 80-837 Gdańsk
Tel. +48 58 3012731
Fax +48 58 3462613
E-mail: zkp@kaszubi.pl
domkaszubski@wp.pl
http://www.kaszubi.pl
http://www.zk-p.pl/xoops

Uniwersytet Gdański
Instytut Filologii Polskiej
[University of Gdańsk;
Institute of Polish Philologu]
ul. Wita Stwosza 55
PL- 80-952 Gdańsk
Tel. +48 58 5529185
E-mail: ifpug@univ.gda.pl

Uniwersytet Gdański [University of Gdańsk]
Podyplomowe Studium Kwalifikacyjne
Pedagogiczno-Metodyczne Jêzyka Kasuzbskiego
[Postgraduate qualification course for teachers of
Kashubian]
ul. Wita Stwosza 55
PL- 80-952 Gdańsk
Tel. +48 58 5529661

Instytut Kaszubski [Kashubian Institute]
ul. Straganiarska 20-22
PL- 80-837 Gdańsk
Tel. +48 58 3462327, 3462231

Fax. +48 58 3462613
E-mail: instytutkaszubski@wp.pl
http://instytut-kaszubski.webpark.pl

Centrum Edukcaji Nauczycieli
[Centre for Teachers' Education]
ul. gen. J. Hallera 14
PL- 80-401 Gdañsk
Tel. +48 58 3419373, 3404100
Fax +48 58 3410763
E-mail: cen@cen.gda.pl
http://nowaedu.cen.gda.pl
http://nowaedu.cen.gda.pl/konsultanci/!regionalna/regionalna.htm

Ministerstwo Edukacji Narodowej i Sportu; Departament Kształcenia i Wychowania
[Ministry of National Education and Sports; Department of Education]
al. Szucha 25
PL- 00-918 Warszawa
http://www.men.waw.pl/oswiata
http://www.men.waw.pl/oswiata/biezace/ar-2001-2/ed_regio.htm

Online sources

- http://www.kaszubia.com (general information on Kashubian in Kashubian, Polish and German)
- http://www.zk-p.pl, http://www.kaszubi.pl (official websites of the Kashubian-Pomeranian Association; in Polish and Kashubian)
- http://odroda.zk-p.pl (online newspaper in Kashubian)
- http://www.rastko.net/rastko-ka (multilingual website on Kashubia, Kashubian, and Kashubs)
- http://www.czetnica.kaszubia.com (collection of Kashubian literature; in Kashubian)

- http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Pomeranian_Griffin (Pomeranian history, culture, geography, genealogy and projects; in English, German, Low German, Kashubian, Polish)
- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaszebsko (multilingual discussion group on Kashubia; in Kashubian, Polish, German, English)
- http://www.ka-na.org (website of the Kashubian Association of North America; in English)

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Endnotes

1. The corresponding historical German names of the county towns are provided for German-speaking readers: Danzig, Gdingen, Neustadt, Putzig, Lauenburg, Bütow, Karthaus, Berent and Konitz.
2. German names: Stolp, Lauenburg and Bütow
3. Official census of the German state
4. Official census of the German state
5. According to Meillet, Antoine 1928. *Les langues dans l'Europe nouvelle.* Paris.
6. According to Kloss, Heinz & G.D. McConell 1984. *Linguistic Composition of the Nations of the World.* Vol.5. *Europe and the USSR.* Québec.
7. The definition of "nationality" was provided: *Nationality is everybody's declarative (i.e. based on an subjective feeling) individual feature which expresses one's emotional, cultural or genealogical affiliation with a specific nation.*
8. The Census included a total of 38,230,080 inhabitants of the country, 37,529,751 of whom were Polish citizens, 492,176 of whom reported a non-Polish language as one of the languages used most often at home and 46,559 of whom reported a non-Polish language as the only language used at home.
9. The Kashubs have successfully applied for recognition as an "ethnic minority".
10. The adjective "Kashubian" indicates here the regional, not ethnic, affiliation.

Other websites on minority languages

Mercator	**www.mercator-central.org** General site of the Mercator-project. It will lead you to the three specialized centres:
Mercator-Education	**www.mercator-education.org** Homepage of Mercator-Education: European Network for regional or minority languages and education. The site contains the series of regional dossiers, a database with organisations and bibliography and many rated links to minority languages.
Mercator-Media	**www.aber.ac.uk/~merc/** Homepage of Mercator-Media. It provides information on media and minority languages in the EU.
Mercator-Legislation	**www.ciemen.org/mercator** Homepage of Mercator-Legislation. It provides information on minority languages and legislation in the EU.
European Union	**http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/langmin.html** At the website of the European Union an explanation is given of its support for regional or minority languages.
Council of Europe	**http://conventions.coe. int/** *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*. (1992) and *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (1995) European Treaty Series/Série des traités européens ETS 148 and 157, Strasbourg.
Eurydice	**www.eurydice.org** Eurydice is the information network on education in Europe. The site provides information on all European education systems and education policies.
EBLUL	**www.eblul.org/** Homepage of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. This site provides general information on lesser used languages as well as on projects, publications and events.
Eurolang	**www.eurolang.net** Eurolang provides coverage of the concerns felt in the minority language regions in the European Union. Eurolang is EBLUL's news service