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LESSER-USED LANGUAGES IN STATES APPLYING FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

**(CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA,
HUNGARY, POLAND and SLOVENIA)**

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INTRODUCTION

This report is a succinct description of the sociolinguistic situation of a number of minority language communities living in the following six European States applying for European Union membership: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia.

Minority language communities studied

In each country there is a varying number of minority language communities. This report takes account of nearly all of them. The thirty-three language communities are:

- * three in Cyprus: Turkish, Armenian and Arabic;
- * seven in the Czech Republic: German, Polish, Romany, Slovak, Croatian, Hungarian, and Ukrainian (including Ruthenian);
- * four in Estonia: Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian and Finnish;
- * seven in Hungary: Croatian, German, Romanian, Romany, Serb, Slovak and Slovene;
- * nine in Poland: Belorussian, German, Kashubian, Lithuanian, Romany, Slovak, Ukrainian (and Ruthenian), Russian and Yiddish (with a reference to Karaim); and
- * three in Slovenia: Italian, Hungarian and Romany.

Several groups are excluded due to the redundancy of a small number of very weak groups, the different criteria used in different countries to define linguistic minority groups, and the limitations in the length of the report.

Method

Experts on linguistic minorities have been responsible for drafting the reports for each of the six countries, in accordance with the structure mentioned above. Their work has involved documentary research as well as on-site visits and interviews with local specialists. The drafts were submitted to a process of editing in order to ensure, as far as possible, homogeneity in the treatment of each community's report and that the overall length of the report fell within the parameters given.

Despite the efforts of the experts, the co-ordinator, and those who provided information, the enormous variety in the amount, depth and reliability of the information available on each minority language community is reflected in the end product.

THE COUNTRIES STUDIED

A short commentary on some of the more interesting outcomes of the research done in each country now follows.

International conventions¹

1. European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Country	Signed	Ratified
Cyprus	12 November 1992	
Czech Republic	9 November 2000	
Estonia		
Hungary	5 November 1992	26 April 1995
Poland		
Slovenia	3 July 1997	4 October 2000

2. Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Country	Signed	Ratified
Cyprus	1 February 1995	4 June 1996
Czech Republic	28 April 1995	18 December 1997
Estonia	2 February 1995	6 January 1997
Hungary	1 February 1995	25 September 1995
Poland	1 February 1995	20 December 2000
Slovenia	1 February 1995	25 March 1998

Common characteristics

- a. Many of the minorities in central and eastern Europe owe their existence to population movements caused by the expansion of the Ottoman empire in the 16th century.
- b. Border changes resulting from World War I also contributed significantly to the present existence of many minorities.
- c. The Roma suffered particularly harshly during World War II, and there was massive resettlement of some minorities soon afterwards, for example the Germans and the Ukrainians in Poland.
- d. Estonia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic have become independent States in the recent past. The scale of the population of non-native origin is very much greater in Estonia where less strict criteria have been adopted for granting citizenship.
- e. Several countries (and particularly Hungary) have established a policy of treaties and other agreements with kin-states of their own national minorities. The importing of textbooks, the training of teachers and in some cases (such as the Slovak-speaking

¹ Status as of 3 May 2001.

community in Poland) even providing secondary education, are good examples of international co-operation.

f. At a less formal level, many minority language communities can receive radio and television programmes from the kin-state. Their popularity seems to vary considerably according to (among other factors) the quality of the programmes offered.

g. Some minority language communities, such as the Germans in Poland or the Czech Republic, find that the prestige and economic influence of their kin-state has raised the status of their language. These languages are taught in schools and available in periodicals as an important foreign language rather than as the language of a minority.

h. A promising development in Hungary and Slovenia is the establishment of procedures, which allow local minority language communities to set up their own local self-governments. Another interesting development is the establishment, with the co-operation of the European Commission, of an official Language Strategy Centre in Estonia which it is hoped will assist the process of integration of the non-Estonian population.

i. The lack of reliable statistics on the size of the minority language communities in some countries makes general demographic statements on these communities impossible. Nevertheless, it seems clear that some of these groups are quite large: there are more than 400.000 ethnic Russians in Estonia; Slovak is spoken by ca. 240.000 people in the Czech Republic; In Poland Ukrainian is spoken by perhaps 150.000 people, Kashubian by ca. 100.000 and a similar figure for German. In Cyprus there are over 100.000 native Turkish-speakers. The Roma communities are especially strong in Hungary, though there are social reasons to doubt whether the census data are reliable.

j. Cyprus is a special case, both in not having been in the Communist bloc of eastern and central Europe, and also in not having clear borders despite being an island. However, since the invasion by Turkish armed forces in July 1974, the military and political partition of the island has in effect allowed the native Turkish-speaking inhabitants to exercise their linguistic rights as if they were in a sovereign Turkish-speaking State.

k. Though the study is on minority language communities, in some cases the cohesion of the group is based on religion rather than language: the Arabic-speaking Maronites are a good example of this. Indeed, as often happens, few of them actually retain the use of their language.

l. It is worth making special mention of the interesting bilingual school model employed in the mixed Hungarian-Slovenian-speaking region in Slovenia. All pupils regardless of language attend bilingual primary schools whose aim is full bilingual competence; there is no segregation of pupils into separate schools. Both languages are used during each lesson, for all curriculum subjects. Teachers and non-teaching staff are required to be bilingual.

SUMMARIES

Short summaries of each report now follow. Readers are strongly urged to consult the full reports for more detailed information.

In each case:

INT stands for Introduction,

OFF for official recognition and use,

EDU for the language in education,

MED for the language in the media,

CUL for cultural organisations and activities and

CON for a conclusion.

Lesser-used language groups in Cyprus

Turkish in Cyprus

INT / Sub-group of the Turkic languages (Uralo-Altaic family). There are 200.587 Turks (1997), of whom 89.000 are native Turkish Cypriots. The Turkish speakers live in the northern part of the island. Turks first arrived in Cyprus in 1570-71, although many left in 1974 after the Turkish invasion.

OFF / Alongside Greek, Turkish is an official language of the Republic.

MED / *Radio* - 11 hours of Turkish programmes are broadcast every day on State radio (RIK 2), but most Turks listen to the Turkish Cypriot public radio station. There are 12 private radio stations. News is broadcast in Turkish on RIK 2 TV and there is a Turkish Cypriot public TV station. Eight to ten TV channels broadcast from Turkey. Eight local newspapers, one weekly publication, and one monthly periodical are in Turkish.

EDU / Education is in Turkish in the north. Most students go to university in Turkey or to the public Pedagogical Academy. All teaching material for all educational levels is imported from Turkey.

CUL / Full range of organisations, equivalent to those of an independent State.

CON / The future status of Turkish in Cyprus is tied to the solution to the division of the island.

Armenian in Cyprus

INT / A separate branch of the Indo-European languages. There are ca. 2.500 speakers, all bilingual, who live in Larnaca, Limassol and Nicosia. There are also ca. 1.000 Armenians who are not Cypriot citizens. The Armenians first settled on Cyprus in the late 6th century AD, but most of the present Armenians settled in Cyprus after 1922.

OFF / There is no provision for the use of the language in dealings with the authorities. The Armenians are recognised as a *religious group*, and have one representative in the Cypriot Parliament.

MED / The Cyprus Radio Foundation station (RIK 2) provides a 1-hour daily programme in Armenian and there are two monthly periodicals.

EDU / Three public primary schools teach in Armenian, Greek, and English. There is one private high school for Armenian pupils (only 35 pupils are Cypriots).

CUL / There are six active associations (theatre, music, etc.).

CON / The Armenian language is prospering in Cyprus.

Arabic in Cyprus

INT / A Semitic language, Arabic is spoken by fewer than 1.000 of the constitutionally recognised Maronite religious community (who also use Aramaic for their religious rites). All present speakers, most of whom live in Nicosia, are from one village, Kormakitis, and are now thought to be over the age of 50. The first Maronites settled in Cyprus in the 7th century.

OFF / Arabic does not have a legal status in Cyprus, nor is its use provided for by the authorities.

MED + EDU / There are no media in Arabic, and Arabic is not taught in schools.

CUL / There are five Maronite cultural associations, with considerable cultural activities, one of which has a specific interest in the preservation of the language.

Lesser-used language groups in the Czech Republic

German in the Czech Republic

INT / A west-Germanic language. In 1991 ca. 49.000 people, most of whom live in the border areas, claimed German nationality. Of the ca. 3,5 million who lived in inter-war Czechoslovakia, nearly all were deported or expelled after 1945.

OFF / German is used very rarely as an auxiliary language of local administration for dealing with elderly people.

MED / There are two German-language weekly publications (one for the German minority and one for tourists). A few books are published in German. 50-minute fortnightly programmes in German on Czech radio.

EDU / There is no German education, although the language is taught as a voluntary subject in some areas.

CUL / The main organisation has 39 local branches. The language is used in plays and other cultural events. Regional German cultural associations have built up their own libraries. Many public libraries have German-language sections.

CON / The German minority-language group is largely "hidden" in the Czech population. Those born since World War II have been largely assimilated, yielding the present unfavourable age structure of this linguistic group.

Polish in the Czech Republic

INT / A Slavonic language. In 1991 59.000 people claimed Polish nationality, mostly in northern Moravia, along the Polish border.

OFF / Polish is hardly used in official situations.

MED / Czech Radio broadcasts 20 minutes in Polish every day (30 minutes on Sundays) at off-peak times. Radio and TV from Poland are popular. Six newspapers and magazines are in

Polish: one appears three times a week, the others are published monthly. A Czech magazine publishes columns in Polish. Ca. five Polish books are published annually by the *Olza* publishing house.

EDU / There is public Polish-language education in 38 kindergartens (852 children), 29 primary schools (2.751 pupils) and a grammar school (305 students). Several secondary schools have bilingual Polish streams (340 students). An Education Centre for these schools publishes textbooks, organises in-service teacher training, etc. Most primary school teachers are trained in Poland.

CUL / There is a cultural centre in Český Tešín. There are ca. 15 Polish organisations, which are grouped together, but only some get subsidised. A documentation centre acts as archive, museum and library. There are a professional theatre company and a professional puppet stage; also several amateur groups. 25 libraries have a Polish section.

CON / The Polish speakers form well-organised communities and have a wide range of institutions but they are limited by the assimilation impact of Czech society and language.

Romany in the Czech Republic

INT / An Indo-Iranian language. According to the 1991 census only some of the 33.000 Roma have a good command of, or use, the Romany language, whose four main dialects have yet to be codified. Most Roma live in towns and cities, though they are highly mobile. The Roma first arrived in Bohemia and Moravia in the 13th century. Most of the Czech Romas (the Sintis) died in the Nazi holocaust. After 1945 the Roma group moved from what is today Slovakia and some are Slovak citizens.

OFF / Romany is not used in administrative procedures.

MED / 30-40% of articles in a fortnightly publication are in Romany. A magazine for children, *Kereka*, has appeared. A few books are published in Romany, but there are few qualified writers. Czech Radio broadcasts 100 minutes of Romany programmes fortnightly. A monthly 1-hour television programme, *Romale*, is broadcast in Czech for the Roma population.

EDU / There are no Romany-medium schools in the Czech Republic. Since 1998 Romany has been taught as a subject in a pilot scheme at 11 junior secondary schools.

CUL / *Romská občanská iniciativa* (ca. 12.000 members) is the largest of 35 associations. Singing and dancing are popular (from local festivals to the central Festival of Romany Culture). The Museum of Romany Culture in Brno plans a library of Romany Studies literature, mostly in Czech.

CON / Despite steps towards the standardisation of Romany and towards its use in the media and schools, language assimilation continues amongst youth.

Slovak in the Czech Republic

INT / A Slavonic language, closely related to Czech. In the 1991 census ca. 240.000 people claimed to be Slovak-speakers and they are dispersed throughout the Republic. The first Slovaks settled in the Czech Republic quite recently, most notably when the Czech borderland with Germany was resettled after 1945.

OFF / Some Slovak speakers with limited Czech use Slovak (or a Czech-Slovak mixture) in dealings with officials and, to a certain extent, in some work places, e.g. judiciary, army etc..

MED / Three monthly publications are in Slovak. Only one to three books in Slovak are published per year. Czech Radio provides 130 minutes of programming fortnightly in Slovak.

EDU / There is one Slovak-medium primary school (ca. 100 pupils). Despite several attempts to create them, few Slovaks feel a need for schools in their language.

CUL / Ca. Eight to ten Slovak cultural organisations belong to the umbrella organisation *Fórum slovenských aktivít*. Occasional plays are in Slovak. A few libraries have a Slovak section.

CON / The Slovaks are largely "hidden" in the Czech population, largely because of the linguistic, cultural and historical proximity. Continued assimilation and the declining use of Slovak are to be expected.

Croatian in the Czech Republic

INT / A south-Slavonic language spoken by fewer than 850, mostly elderly, people. The Croats speak the Chakavian dialect and descend from Croats who settled in southern Moravia in the 16th century. They were dispersed throughout the country in 1948.

EDU / There is no provision for Croatian in the education system.

MED / Czech Radio offers 20 minutes in Croatian fortnightly.

CON / This group faces imminent and total assimilation.

Hungarian in the Czech Republic

INT / A Finno-Ugric language. 19.900 people claimed Hungarian nationality in 1991. The speakers live throughout the country, and descend from Hungarians in southern Slovakia who were forced to resettle in the Czech borderland in 1945.

MED and CUL / A Hungarian periodical is published five times a year. Czech radio provides 20 minutes fortnightly in Hungarian.

EDU / There is no provision for the Hungarian language in the education system in the Czech Republic.

CON / The Hungarian speakers are largely hidden inside the Czech population.

Ukrainian (including Ruthenian) in the Czech Republic

INT / An east-Slavonic language. 8.200 people claimed Ukrainian nationality, and 1.900 claimed Ruthenian nationality in 1991. Both groups live throughout the Republic. There was strong emigration from the Ukraine after 1918, and again after 1945.

EDU / Ukrainian is not taught in any schools.

MED / There are three Ukrainian-language quarterly publications. Czech Radio broadcasts 20 minutes fortnightly in Ukrainian.

CON / These groups are largely "hidden" in the Czech population. The new possibility to claim "Ruthenian" nationality has split the group in two.

Lesser-used language groups in Estonia

Russian in Estonia

INT / A Slavonic language. In the 1997 census 412.000 people claimed to be native speakers, they live in the north and north-east of Estonia. Very few of the Russian speakers are fluent bilinguals. In Tallinn ca. 50% of the population are Russian, rising to 75-80% in the north-east, and reaching 95% in the border city of Narva. In 1934 ca. 92.700 Russians lived in Estonia. Following the annexation of Estonia, the proportion of Russians grew almost 7-fold from 1940 to 1989.

OFF / Russian has had a very strong impact in all fields of Estonian society. Many local communities still use Russian alongside Estonian.

MED / One public radio station is in Russian. four local private radio stations also broadcast in Russian 24 hours a day, and at least three stations are bilingual. There are seven hours a week of programming in Russian on a public TV-channel, "*Eest Televisioon*". two private TV-stations are Russian, though one only broadcasts for three hours a week. A national, private channel has some programmes in Russian. A Russian Federation TV-channel is watched by Russian-speakers. There are 19 newspapers, which are published in Russian, three newspapers are bilingual and six newspapers are produced more than twice a week. Six magazines are published in Russian while three others have articles in Russian.

EDU / Russian-speakers have their own school system, from kindergarten to university. Of 730 schools, 111 are Russian and 23 are bilingual, and are divided thus: 10 primary schools (plus two bilingual), 38 primary schools (plus eight bilingual), and 63 secondary schools (plus 13 bilingual). 35% of secondary schools are Russian. 66.000 pupils in grades 0-13 (30% of the total) are taught in Russian. 9.700 pupils receive vocational and professional secondary education in Russian (31% of the total). 4.732 university students (13,7%) are taught in Russian.

CUL / Much cultural activity is connected to the Russian schools and mass media. Public libraries have many Russian books. 94 Russian, and 40 bilingual, schools have libraries. One professional theatre is Russian.

CON / The group is very heterogeneous. Those with Estonian citizenship wish to integrate into Estonian society and learn and use Estonian. Russian citizens are more reticent, while the most frustrated group is that of the Russian-speakers without citizenship.

Ukrainian in Estonia

INT / A Slavonic language, spoken by ca. 10.000 of the 37.000 Ukrainian-nationality residents.

EDU / There is a Ukrainian class in a secondary school in Tallinn.

CON / The Ukrainian ethnic group is largely Russified and thus hidden in the Russian-speaking group.

Belorussian in Estonia

INT / An East-Slavonic language, spoken by ca. 7.000 of the 21.000 Belorussian-nationality residents, who live in south-eastern Estonia.

CON / The Belorussian speakers are largely Russified and thus hidden in the Russian-speaking group. They have a cultural organisation in Tallinn.

Finnish in Estonia

INT / A Finno-Ugric language, spoken by ca. 4.000 of the 13.600 Finnish-nationality residents.

MED / There is one monthly magazine, and some multilingual magazines with texts in Finnish for the private sector and for Finnish tourists.

EDU / There is no Finnish education.

CON / The Finnish-speakers consist of an old settlement of Ingerians Finns, and new immigrants employed by Finnish/Estonian companies. Proximity to Finland and to Finnish gives opportunities to take part in Finnish culture.

Lesser-used language groups in Hungary

Croatian in Hungary

INT / A Slavonic language claimed as their mother tongue by 17.600 people in the 1990 Census. 17.000 more speak it as a second language. The speakers are an ageing, largely rural population living in specific villages throughout Hungary. They first settled in modern Hungary as refugees at the end of the 15th century, as the Ottoman Empire expanded.

OFF / There are 57 local Croat minority self-governments.

MED / National radio broadcasts 30 minutes per day in Croatian; a further 90 minutes more are provided regionally. A 25-minute Croatian television programme is broadcast twice a week. The weekly magazine, '*Hrvatski Glasnik*', has a state subsidy.

EDU / Education is in Croatian in 40 pre-school institutions and 41 primary schools. There are seven bilingual and transitional language-teaching schools in the country. 214 pupils study in Croatian at two grammar schools.

CUL / There are traditional ensembles, orchestras and choirs in most of the villages inhabited by Croats. Four Croat libraries and a network of village and school libraries cater for Croatian-readers. There is a Croat museum and an independent Croat theatre.

German in Hungary

INT / A west-Germanic language, with 37.511 native-speakers (1990). German minority organisations claim the numbers are much larger. It is an ageing group, largely farmers living in villages where they form the majority. Most are descendants of Germans who arrived in Hungary between the end of the 17th and the mid-19th centuries. After World War I assimilation grew. After World War II most left or were deported.

OFF / There are 162 German minority local self-governments.

MED / Hungarian Radio has a daily 30-minute German programme. A regional 2½-hour daily German programme is also produced in Pécs. Some local radio stations have programmes in German. Hungarian TV has a 25-minute nation-wide German programme

twice a week. Many local cable television networks also broadcast programmes in German. The German community in Hungary has a weekly newspaper.

EDU / 14.800 children in 198 German pre-schools; 900 primary school children receive German-language education, and 5.500 others receive bilingual education. Nearly 35.000 pupils study the language. Nine private grammar schools have a German faculty.

CUL / A German Theatre operates independently. Over 100 twinning agreements with towns or villages in Germany and Austria stimulate cultural exchanges.

Romanian in Hungary

INT / A neo-Latin language spoken by ca. 8.700 people (1990); nearly all live in areas bordering on Romania. One settlement is entirely composed of ethnic Romanians. The first settlements creating areas with a Romanian majority appeared between the end of the 17th and the end of the 19th centuries. Most descendants of Romanians the second wave (1880 - 1940) have been assimilated.

OFF / There are 11 local Romanian self-governments.

MED / Hungarian Radio has a daily 90-minute regional programme and a daily 30-minute national programme in Romanian. Hungarian Television has a weekly 25-minute national programme. There is a weekly publication, *No*.

EDU / In 1996, 12 Romanian pre-schools, 11 Romanian primary schools and a Romanian grammar school in 11 settlements provide bilingual programmes for 638, 915 and 114 school children respectively. Five primary schools are run privately by the Roman Catholic Church. Eight to ten students attend universities in Romania every year, with grants from both States.

Romany in Hungary

INT / An Indo-Iranian language. The largest group, the Hungarian (Romungró) Roma, mostly speaks only Hungarian. The "Oláh" Roma speak Hungarian and several dialects of the "Oláh" Romany language. The others are "Beás" Roma, who speak Hungarian and archaic Romanian. 48.000 people speak Romany or Beas as their mother tongue (out of 142.000 - 600.000 total). Roma live throughout Hungary, though few live in the west of the country. The Roma fled into Hungary in the 15th-16th centuries to escape from the Turks. Settled societies living in villages appeared in the 17th century. Ca. 30.000 Roma died in Nazi concentration camps. Ca. 30% are urban dwellers, while 14% live on separated sites.

OFF / There are neither legal provisions for the Romany language(s) nor public services in these languages. 476 Roma Local Minority Self-Governments were elected in 1994-95.

EDU / The Roma community is highly fragmented: it has several languages and several sets of cultural traditions. Roma culture lacks a widely known written form. In 1995, 189 nursery schools had groups where at least half of the children were Romas. Under 1/3 of the Romas are non-Hungarian-speakers, yet it is still the biggest linguistic minority in Hungary. There is no public education in Romany (due to a lack of teachers, books, etc.).

MED / Hungarian Radio broadcasts a weekly 'Romany half-hour'. Hungarian TV broadcasts a 25-min programme for Roma twice a week. Several Romany periodicals exist, and six receive a state subsidy.

Serb in Hungary

INT / A west-Slavonic language spoken as mother tongue by 3.000 people living throughout Hungary. During the 16th and 17th centuries, fleeing from the Turks, the Serbs left their homeland and settled along the Danube River.

OFF / Local Serb minority self-governments have been established in 18 settlements and in Budapest.

EDU / Four villages have separate Serb nursery groups. There are two 8-grade Serb-language schools, and a mixed-grade primary school. It is a voluntary subject in seven villages. A Serb grammar school operates in Budapest, for children of the Serb minority and children of Yugoslav nationals.

MED / Hungarian Radio offers 30 minutes daily for nation-wide independent Serb language programmes, and 70 minutes on regional radio in the Pécs area. There is a nation-wide 25-minute TV broadcast in Serb twice a week. There is an independent weekly newspaper in Serb (1.700 copies).

CUL / There is a Serb Theatre.

Slovak in Hungary

INT / A Slavonic language, with 12.700 native speakers, though many more claim Slovak nationality. They live in 105 villages, in eleven counties, formed by migrants in the 17th and 18th centuries who arrived after the country's liberation from Turkish rule. After World War II most Slovaks voluntarily resettled in Czechoslovakia.

OFF / 51 Slovak minority self-governments were set up in 1994-95.

MED / Public radio has a daily 30-minute national programme and a daily 90-minute regional programme for the Slovak minority. A weekly 25-minute television programme is broadcast in Slovak.

EDU / 3000 children are in 74 Slovak nursery schools. 840 primary school children study (partly or wholly) in Slovak in eight schools; 4.000 pupils take the language as a subject. 165 pupils attend Slovak grammar schools, and a further 40 go to a vocational school with a Slovak stream. In 1995-96 12 teachers from Slovakia worked in Hungary.

Slovene in Hungary

INT / A Slavonic language spoken by 2.600 generally elderly people in seven neighbouring villages near Szentgotthárd. Slovenes settled in Hungary between the 13th and 16th centuries, and their villages have survived.

OFF / There are six Slovene minority self-governments.

EDU / Five nursery schools cater for Slovene-speakers. 160 primary school pupils are taught the Slovene written language as a subject. One to four pupils enter a bilingual stream at a grammar school. Every year one to three students start their university studies in Slovenia.

MED / There is a weekly 25-minute regional radio programme for the Slovene minority and a fortnightly 25-minute TV broadcast. The bi-weekly magazine of the Hungarian Slovenes has articles in the local dialect, in the official, written language and sometimes in Hungarian.

Lesser-used language groups in Poland

Belorussian in Poland

INT / An east-Slavonic language, spoken by some of the 97.500-300.000 Belorussians. No linguistic statistics exist. Most speakers live in the rural eastern counties along the Belarus border, which was settled in 14th century.

OFF / Belorussian cannot be used in public services. Personal names are only occasionally provided with their Belorussian counterparts. All place names of Belorussian origin were Polonized after World War II. Belorussian speakers are Russian-Orthodox; Belorussian is used in one parish (elsewhere ceremonies are in Old Church Slavonic, but sermons are in Russian or Polish). In 1991-93 Belorussians had an MP.

MED / A radio station broadcasts daily in Belorussian for 15 minutes (30 minutes on Sundays). There is now a monthly, 20-minute TV programme in Belorussian. Both of these initiatives are state-funded. Radio and TV from Belarus have little popularity. There are one weekly and one yearly, two monthly and two quarterly magazines published in Belorussian.

EDU / There is one private Belorussian kindergarten. No schools teach in Belorussian. Belorussian is a subject (three hours a week) in 43 public primary schools (3.075 pupils) and (four hours a week) in two secondary schools (878 pupils). Materials for secondary schools are imported from Belarus.

CUL / Several Belorussian books are published every year. Eight Belorussian libraries have 17 branches, though many have closed. Annual festivals include the Belorussian Song and Belorussian Culture, Music of Belorussian Youth, and the Festival of Orthodox Choirs. There are local choirs, folk and children's ensembles, rock bands, lecture groups, etc. The groups have issued several recordings. A museum is being built.

CON / The Russian Orthodox religion keeps the Belorussians together, but the social position of the language in Poland is steadily declining.

German in Poland

INT / A West-Germanic language spoken by only a fraction (6-30%) of the 300.000 - 400.000 inhabitants of German descent. Most Silesians learn standard German as a second language. Elsewhere most are monolingual Polish-speakers. Most live in Upper Silesia or Varmia-Masuria; some live in Pomerania and Lower Silesia. Ca. 100 elderly people speak a Middle-High-German dialect, Wilamowicean. After World War II, 3,2 million ethnic Germans were deported from Poland.

OFF / German cannot be used in public services despite demands for official bilingualism. Personal names can now be used in German and Polish, but not place names. Masses are regularly said in German in 120 Catholic parishes. Evangelical services are held in German in three towns in Masuria. Many local councillors in Opole province are Germans. In 1997 two deputies and one senator were elected to Parliament.

MED / Two radio stations have weekly one hour of bilingual programmes. There is a fortnightly 30-minute TV programme for the German minority. These programmes are state-funded. Radio and TV from Germany can be received. A German-language weekly publication, three monthly publications and a bilingual quarterly publication are subsidised by the Ministry of Culture; Germany supports three others. Five organisations publish bulletins.

EDU / German, which was banned from schools in Opole province from 1963 to the 1980s, is not used as a language of instruction. It is taught as a first language to 16.000 pupils in 164 public schools (1997). Teachers are often sent from Germany to Silesia. Most teaching aids are imported.

CUL / Few books for the German minority are published in Poland; most are imported. There are libraries in ca. 30 German community centres. Two travelling libraries in the Opole Diocese serve 5.800 readers in 40 localities. There is a German library in Olsztyn. Folk festivals, choir concerts, lecture and language contests, meetings of theatre groups and youth ensembles are held. Most German villages have a choir or music ensemble.

CON / Institutional life keeps the German minority in Poland together, rather than the language, which is hardly used in everyday life.

Kashubian in Poland

INT / A west-Slavonic speech form claiming the status of a regional language. Attempts to create standard Kashubian began in the mid-19th century. 330.000-550.000 people define themselves as Kashubs, about 100.000 have it as their mother tongue. They live compactly in a single, new province: Pomorskie, and are said to descend from Slavic tribes who lived on the Baltic coast in the middle ages and were pushed eastwards by German colonisation. Since the 18th century their territory has changed little.

OFF / Kashubian cannot be used in public services. Kashubs are well represented in local and provincial councils; they have four MPs and three senators. Religious services in Kashubian are held monthly in nine parishes, quarterly in three, and occasionally in others.

MED / Two radio stations broadcast for 40 minutes a week in Kashubian. There is a twice-weekly 20-minute TV programme in Kashubian. A bilingual monthly publication sells 2.000 copies. Most other periodicals, which are published by local authorities, are in Polish with short texts in Kashubian.

EDU / In 1998 Kashubian was offered as a subject in nine primary schools, a vocational secondary school, and in a regional inter-school centre. A small handbook for learners of Kashubian is the only published teaching aid. In 1998 the first nine teachers of the language graduated from university.

CUL / Groups have started to promote the Kashubian culture and language. Over 200 books have been published in Kashubian since the end of the Second World War, including the New Testament. A well-stocked Museum of Literature and Music is active. There is an annual Festival of Kashubian culture. Local communities have drama groups, choirs, folk and children's ensembles, rock bands, lecture groups, etc.

CON / Respect for language, traditional culture and regional identity are the bases for cohesion. The status of Kashubian has greatly improved in recent years. A spelling system was agreed upon in 1996, after decades of dispute.

Lithuanian in Poland

INT / A Baltic language. There are ca. 20.000 - 30.000, mostly rural, Lithuanians, with 9.000-15.000 living compactly in the north-eastern border area. Nearly all are native Lithuanian-speakers and bilingual. Lithuanian and Polish enjoy a similar social status in the area. In the 15th century the area was contested by Lithuania and the Teutonic Order. Poles

settled in the area in the 16th century. During the partition of Poland the area belonged to the Russian Empire. Since World War I it has belonged to Poland.

OFF / Lithuanian cannot be used in public services, though in several towns most of the population and civil servants speak it. Lithuanian place names are not allowed, but some remote villages use them on signposts. Bilingual signs have now been officially installed in all local schools. It is often used in religious services. Lithuanians are widely represented in the local councils.

MED / There are three 20-minute radio programmes a week in Lithuanian, as well as a 20-minute monthly TV programme (with Polish subtitles), both are state-funded. Many people can receive radio and TV from Lithuania. A state-subsidised bi-weekly in Lithuanian sells 1.500.

EDU / Four kindergartens, four primary schools (182 pupils) and two secondary schools (161 pupils) teach through Lithuanian (1997). Two bilingual primary schools have 318 pupils. 148 other primary pupils study Lithuanian. The 30 teachers have no training system. Teaching material is published by the state publishing house; some is imported from Lithuania.

CUL / Under 20 books (mostly poetry) have been published in Lithuanian since the end of the Second World War. The House of Lithuanian Culture (which has an amateur theatre and a history museum) will soon open a library. An important annual Lithuanian cultural festival attracts folk, children and rock groups from Poland and Lithuania.

CON / Contacts with Lithuania have recently increased. Prospects for the language are good. Lithuanians are one of the most emancipated minorities in Poland, and the Roman Catholic Church actively promotes Lithuanian in religious life.

Romany in Poland

INT / An Indo-Iranian language. The 20.000-25.000 Romas in Poland speak various dialects. Most have Romany as their mother tongue and some knowledge of Polish, but dialectal, social and ethnic diversity hinders inter-group communication. Standard Romany remains rare, although it is now taught to some groups of children. Most Roma are nomads.

OFF / The Romas have not tried to introduce their language into public services. Most are Roman Catholics; several priests provide religious services and education in Romany.

MED / There are no Romany-language radio or television programmes in Poland. A bilingual monthly (4.000 copies) is state-subsidised. A religious brochure appears periodically.

EDU / State schools have 24 experimental classes for Roma children, but Roma is only taught in one (private) primary school.

CUL / There is an annual International Meeting of Roma Ensembles. A Centre of Roma Culture organises vocational courses for Roma youth, exhibitions and conferences, and folk festivals.

CON / Despite social and economic problems, prospects for the language are good. Intense efforts are being made to standardise Romany.

Slovak (and Czech) in Poland

INT / A West-Slavonic language. Ca. 20.000 Slovaks live in a specific, rural area along the border with Slovakia. Nearly all have Slovak as their mother tongue and are bilingual. In

1920 the area was taken from Hungary and passed to Poland (and Czechoslovakia). A small Czech community (1.500-3.000 people) lives in three enclaves: all the speakers are bilingual.

OFF / Slovak (and Czech) cannot be used for public services. Officials use only Polish forms of personal and place names, with few exceptions. Slovak is used in Sunday masses in seven local Roman Catholic churches; but few priests speak Slovak, and Slovak sermons are only given in one church. Czech is used occasionally in services in the Calvinist Church. Slovaks are scarcely represented in local councils.

MED / A Slovak-language monthly (2.200 copies) is state-subsidised; it has a short section in Polish. There are no radio or television programmes in Slovak or Czech, but many people can receive them from Slovakia.

EDU / Public schooling for Slovaks started in 1947. Two primary schools (125 pupils) teach in Slovak. It is a subject in a kindergarten (six pupils), 11 primary schools (346 pupils) and a secondary school (38 pupils). Some pupils attend secondary schools in Slovakia. Most of the 21 teachers were trained in Bratislava or Prague. Geography and history syllabi are being drafted, but teaching material is regularly brought from Slovakia. Czech is not taught at any school.

CUL / The only Slovak-language periodical is an almanac published at irregular intervals. Slovak community centres and schools have small libraries, as does the House of Slovak Culture. Polish Slovaks hold amateur theatre, folk ensembles, and poetry and prose contests. There is an open-air ethnographic museum. The Czechs have no important cultural organisations.

CON / Regional identity helps give cohesion to the Slovak community in Poland. Demography is fairly stable, but the decline of agriculture may harm its socio-economic status. The solving of local conflicts between Polish- and Slovak-oriented inhabitants is crucial for the future of the latter. Contacts with Slovakia are quite strong. However, there are no prospects for the survival of Czech in Poland.

Ukrainian (including Ruthenian / Rusyn / Lemkian) in Poland

INT / Ukrainian is an east-Slavonic language spoken by all the 150.000 - 300.000 (bilingual) Ukrainians in Poland. The young tend to have Polish as their first language. Up to 60.000 Ruthenians (Lemkians) are included who speak what is regarded as either a (western) dialect of Ukrainian or a separate language; a written standard has recently been developed. More Ruthenians use their language (and standard Ukrainian) than do Ukrainians. Ukrainians settled in the south-east in the 11th-14th centuries. From 1944 to 1947 they were deported to the west and north. Some returned home after 1956, as did many Ruthenians who had been expelled from an area near the border with Slovakia. Ukrainians are no longer a majority outside a few villages in the north.

OFF / Ukrainian cannot be used in public services. Most of the 120 municipalities in the south-east have official Ukrainian names (following the lifting of a ban which was in operation from 1977 to 1981). Personal names are used officially in Polish; occasionally Ukrainian forms (in Cyrillic script) also appear. Ukrainian is commonly used in Orthodox and in Greek Catholic churches (the latter were legalised in 1989) in the area. Ukrainians are represented in the local councils where they live. They had one MP until 1997.

MED / Six public radio stations broadcast in Ukrainian, the amount of programming ranges from 25 minutes a month, to an hour a week. Ca. eight private radio stations also broadcast for Ukrainians or in Ukrainian. Radio programmes are funded by the State. Warsaw TV broadcasts in Ukrainian for the Podlasie region for 20 minutes per month, and countrywide

for 10 minutes monthly. Radio and TV from Ukraine can be received in south-eastern Poland. The Ruthenians have no programmes. Several magazines are published in Ukrainian: a weekly publication (5.300 copies), an irregular student's magazine (1.000 copies), a religious magazine; and in bilingual form, a bimonthly (1.500 copies) and a yearly Almanac; Two literary journals are in Polish. A regional magazine is in Ukrainian and Ruthenian, and an Orthodox magazine's supplement is in Ukrainian. All these, and a bilingual bimonthly, are State-subsidised. Several organisations have their own bulletins.

EDU / Schooling for Ukrainians started in 1956. Four primary schools (393 pupils) and three secondary schools (372 pupils) teach in Ukrainian (1995). 1.174 pupils at 52 primary schools study it as a subject. A new Ukrainian secondary school has opened. 70 Ukrainian classes teach ca. 600 children thanks to the Union of Ukrainians in Poland. Ukrainian is taught by 82 teachers. New syllabi are now used in all types of schools but much of the teaching material is outdated. Ruthenian is not taught in any schools.

CUL / Since the end of the Second World War, ca. 40 books have been published in Ukrainian. Since 1989, several books have been published in Ruthenian. In 1990 there were nine Ukrainian libraries. The most important Ukrainian cultural events are the annual Festival of Ukrainian Culture, the Ukrainian Youth Fair, the Festival of Bandore Music, the Festival of Youth Ensembles, the Festival of Ukrainian Culture, and the Ukrainian *Vatra* ('watch-fire'). Local communities organise choirs, folk music and children's ensembles, amateur theatre, rock bands, etc. Several recordings have been made and sold. There is a world-famous Ukrainian choir in Warsaw. The Ruthenians have two important festivals, one pro-Ukrainian, the other separatist; they have many folk ensembles and choirs, and two splendid museums.

CON / The Polish Ukrainians are well organised. Assimilation has affected their cultural and linguistic identity, but traditional folk culture, language and Greek-Catholicism keep the group strongly together. The prospects for Ukrainian in Poland are fairly good. Conflict between the two Ruthenian groups imperils the survival of their culture, yet language is still a strong cohesive factor for them in Poland.

Russian in Poland (Russian Old-Believers)

INT An east-Slavonic language spoken by ca. 2.500 Russian-speaking Old-Believers in Poland. They have traditionally been multilingual: a Russian dialect as mother tongue, a good knowledge of Old-Church-Slavonic (liturgy), standard Russian, local German and later Polish. They have lived in isolated villages in Varmia-Masuria and Podlaskie provinces since the 17th century. In pre-Second World War Poland they numbered up to 90.000.

OFF / The Old-Believers have not tried to introduce Russian into public services or gain any legal provisions. Old-Believers' churches use either Old-Church Slavonic or the Russian dialect.

MED / There are no radio, TV programmes, or periodicals produced in Russian.

EDU / Catechism classes, for ca. 100 children, are given in Russian. 10 adults teach Russian to the children.

CUL / There is a small library in Bór (Augustów county) and many old books are preserved in the convent. A female choir is active.

CON / Religion and language help to keep the community alive, as do its geographical and social isolation. Despite a decline in numbers, the prospects for its survival seem quite good.

Yiddish (and Karaim) in Poland

INT / A West-Germanic language. 6.000-15.000 Jewish people live in Poland. Only a few (mainly the older generation) speak good Yiddish. They live mainly in the cities. Some 90% of the 3,5 million Polish Jews died in the holocaust, and many survivors emigrated.

OFF / The Jews have not tried to introduce Yiddish (or Hebrew) into public services.

MED / There are no Yiddish-language radio or television programmes in Poland. There are a bilingual Yiddish-Polish biweekly magazine (1.100 copies) and an annual Hebrew and Polish religious yearly publication which are state-subsidised.

EDU / From 1968 to the late 1980's, there were no Jewish schools. Two private schools (a kindergarten with 30 pupils, and a primary school with 60 pupils) now teach Yiddish and Hebrew, and Jewish culture and history.

CUL / Most Jewish cultural institutions are in Warsaw: the professional State Jewish Theatre (which performs in Yiddish), an Information and Education Centre, and a sports club. There is an annual European Festival of Jewish Culture in Cracow, and also many song ensembles and theatre groups.

CON / Despite a growing interest in the Jewish languages the prospects for the survival of Yiddish in Poland are poor. Although the Karaim religion is often regarded as a form of Judaism, there is no linguistic relationship between the ca. 200 Polish Karaims and the Jews: Karaim is a non-Indo-European language. Karaim is spoken only by the elderly, and has no legal status, media or education. The only organisation is the Karaim Religious Union. There are no prospects at all for the language.

Lesser-used language groups in Slovenia

Italian in Slovenia

INT / Italian is a Romance language. 4.009 people in Slovenia have it as their mother tongue (1991). 3.064 of the speakers claim Italian nationality. Most live in three coastal municipalities in the west of the country, close to the Italian and Croatian borders. In this area they now form 4,2% of the local population, following the cession of a larger area by Italy, to Yugoslavia after World War II, when ca. 19.000 Italians left.

OFF / Italian may legally be used in relations with the authorities and the courts. The 1991 Constitution of Slovenia made Italian official in the area. It is widely used by the civil authorities, by public officials, in bilingual forms, on signs and in the courts (which have at least one Italian-speaking employee). The use of Italian is guaranteed right up to the High Court of Justice. Deputies can use Italian in the National Assembly. Bilingual civil servants receive a financial bonus. Identity cards and passports in the area are multilingual.

MED / The one radio station broadcasts 14 hours a day in Italian. There is one television channel in Italian (serving the Italian minorities in both Slovenia and Croatia) which broadcasts ca. 10 hours a day. Both are very popular, as are RAI broadcasts from Italy. Ca. 300 copies of a daily paper are sold in Slovenia, as are 600 copies of a weekly, 50 copies of a quarterly literary magazine and 350 copies of a children's magazine. Both Croatia and Slovenia help finance these initiatives. Several cultural associations issue bulletins. Many newspapers and magazines published in Italy are sold in the area.

EDU / Education for the children of the Italian minority is in Italian; Slovene is a compulsory subject. All staff are native Italian-speakers, and all communication in school and with

parents is in Italian. 179 children are enrolled in Italian kindergartens, 526 in the nine primary schools and 319 in the three secondary schools (1998). Italian is compulsory in all Slovene kindergartens, primary and secondary schools in the area. School graduates can study in Italian at university in Italy or at nearby Croatian universities. A teacher training college in the area teaches Italian, and universities in Trieste (Italy) and in Croatia also train teachers for these schools. Only a few of the teachers are from Croatia or Italy. Material is from Slovenia or Italy; some textbooks, adapted to the Slovenian context, are published in Croatia. Minority schools may cooperate with institutions in the kin-state.

CUL / There are four cultural associations in the area. Two important Italian cultural institutions in Croatia (a theatre and a Centre for Historical Research) are supported by Slovenia.

Hungarian in Slovenia

INT / A Finno-Ugric language, spoken as a native language by 9.240 people (1991). 8.503 speakers claim to be Hungarian. The speakers form 51% of the inhabitants of an area along the Slovene-Hungarian border in the Prekmurje region (200 km²), where Hungarian is official alongside Slovenian. This area was ceded by Hungary to the new Yugoslavia in 1920. Hungarians were granted basic national rights, including press and education.

OFF / The 1991 Constitution makes Hungarian official in the area and it is widely used by the civil authorities, by public officials, in bilingual forms, on signs, and in courts, which have at least one Hungarian-speaking employee. Hungarian may be used right up to the High Court, and by MPs in the National Assembly. Bilingual civil servants receive a financial bonus. Identity cards and passports issued in the area are multilingual. In 1992 Slovenia and Hungary agreed to provide special rights for their respective minorities.

EDU / Compulsory bilingual education for all children was introduced in the area in 1959, following the failure of the post-war system of separate Hungarian and Slovene schools. All staff have to be bilingual, as do all written documents and communications and most textbooks. There are 11 bilingual kindergartens (505 pupils in 1997-98), five central bilingual elementary schools (1.020 pupils), six local bilingual elementary schools (140 pupils) and a bilingual secondary school (338 pupils). Many students continue secondary and tertiary education in Hungary. Cooperation with Hungary is also well established in other fields. Joint cultural and sporting events take place in border towns.

MED / A Hungarian-language weekly sells ca. 2.000 copies and has a literary and cultural supplement. A yearly almanac is in Hungarian. An independent magazine appears twice a year. Newspapers, magazines and books from Hungary are on sale in the area. The National Broadcasting Company offers seven hours of radio daily and a 30 minutes twice weekly TV programme. Programmes from Hungary are quite successful.

CUL / The Hungarian Nationality Cultural Institute of Muravidék organises and promotes culture. 30 cultural associations organise recitals and drama production, zither music and folk dancing, etc. The central library and its branches have 20.000 books and periodicals in Hungarian; there are many more at a regional library. Libraries also have special programmes, e.g. Hungarian storytelling for children and literary evenings with authors from Hungary. Cultural cooperation with Hungary is well developed; many activities are subsidised by the Slovenian government.

CON / Legislation on the use of Hungarian seems sufficient, though linguistic rights cannot always be exercised in everyday life. There is concern within the group that the new political system has not improved minority protection.

Roma in Slovenia

INT / Language group - Roma is an Indo-Iranian language. In Slovenia it comprises several local dialects. Attempts to codify Romany have not succeeded. 2.847 claim Romany as their native language (1991). 2.293 claim to be Romas, though the real figure may be as high as 7.000-10.000. They first arrived in Slovenia during their migration to Europe in the 14th and 15th centuries. Most live in the east and in the south, close to the Croatian border, in segregated settlements in poor living conditions.

OFF / There are no provisions for the official use of Romany.

EDU / There is no provision for education in Romany. Many children start their schooling speaking only their own language, but there are no Romany-speaking teachers to offer even initial education in Romany.

MED / Two local radio stations make one hour weekly broadcasts, only partly in Romany; they have quite a wide audience, among both Slovenes and Romas.

CUL / In 1991-96 six cultural societies were founded. Local societies belong to the National Romany Union. The main cultural event is the International Romany Assembly. Some Romany cultural societies occasionally publish their own bulletins, mostly in Slovene.

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