

EQUALITY – The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Ambition and Realty in Germany, Iceland, Poland and Turkey



-POLAND-



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EQUALITY - THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
AMBITION AND REALTY IN GERMANY, ICELAND, POLAND AND TURKEY

Table of Contents

Our Country	- 6 -
History	- 6 -
Population	- 6 -
Size.....	- 7 -
Weather.....	- 7 -
Expenses.....	- 7 -
Social Life In Poland.....	- 8 -
Place To Visit.....	- 8 -
Fun Facts.....	- 9 -
Lubliniec.....	- 10 -
Location	- 10 -
How many people live in your city?	- 10 -
History	- 10 -
Which places of interest can you recommend to me to visit?.....	- 10 -
The Town Market Square	- 11 -
Fun Facts.....	- 11 -
Our School	- 12 -
Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcąco-Technicznych w Lublińcu	- 12 -
Students.....	- 12 -
Teachers	- 12 -
Administartion.....	- 12 -
What can you study?	- 12 -
Landscape Architecture College	- 13 -
Construction College	- 14 -
Hospitality College.....	- 15 -
IT College	- 16 -
Logistics College.....	- 17 -
Mechanical College.....	- 18 -
Manager Class	- 19 -
The End Of School.....	- 19 -
Fun Facts.....	- 20 -
Assignment	- 23 -
Gender Equality	- 23 -
Equal Opportunities In Life	- 23 -
Workplace Equality.....	- 23 -
Gender workplace equality	- 23 -

Sexual orientation workplace equality	- 24 -
Acceptance In The Community.....	- 25 -
A change	- 25 -
Women in society:.....	- 26 -
Feminist Organisations and Movements:.....	- 26 -
Laws Regarding The Topic	- 26 -
LGBT law in Poland	- 26 -
So, what is missing in the Polish law?	- 27 -
Stereotypes.....	- 27 -
Famous People Fighting For LGBT Rights	- 28 -
Assignment	- 28 -
Elderly People.....	- 28 -
Equality In Relation To The Disabled And The Elderly.....	- 28 -
Polish Laws Regulating The Situation Of Older People	- 28 -
The Implementation Of The Above – Mentioned Rights Towards The Elderly Includes	- 30 -
Activities For The Elderly Conducted In The Śląskie Voivodeship	- 30 -
Day care centre “Senior Club”	- 31 -
Municipal Social Welfare Center	- 32 -
Other Organisations Working For The Benefit Of The Seniors.....	- 32 -
Conclusions and recommendations:	- 32 -
Persons With Disabilities	- 33 -
Main Pieces Of Legislation For People With Disabilities	- 34 -
Implementation Of The Rights Of People With Disabilities, Examples	- 34 -
The Rights Of Disabled People In Lubliniec	- 35 -
The availability of Municipal in Lubliniec for disabled people :	- 35 -
Centre of Residents Service:.....	- 35 -
The main building:	- 36 -
County Family Support Center (PCPR).....	- 37 -
"Zameczek"	- 37 -
DPS Nursing Homes	- 38 -
Conclusions and recommendations:	- 38 -
Assignment	- 39 -
Equality concerning national, ethnic and religious minorities	- 39 -
National and ethnic minorities.....	- 39 -
National Minorities In Poland.....	- 43 -
Germans	- 43 -
Ukrainians.....	- 43 -

Armenians.....	- 43 -
Belarusians.....	- 44 -
Czechs	- 44 -
Lithuanians	- 44 -
Russians	- 45 -
Slovaks	- 45 -
Jews	- 45 -
Ethnic Minorities In Poland	- 46 -
The Tatars	- 46 -
The Lemkos.....	- 46 -
The Karaims	- 47 -
The Roma.....	- 47 -
Assignment	- 47 -
Assignments - Answer Key.....	- 48 -
Country, city and school	- 48 -
Gender equality and sexual identities/sexual orientation	- 48 -
Equality in relation to the disabled and elderly people	- 48 -
Equality concerning national, ethnic and religious minorities	- 48 -
Bibliography.....	- 49 -

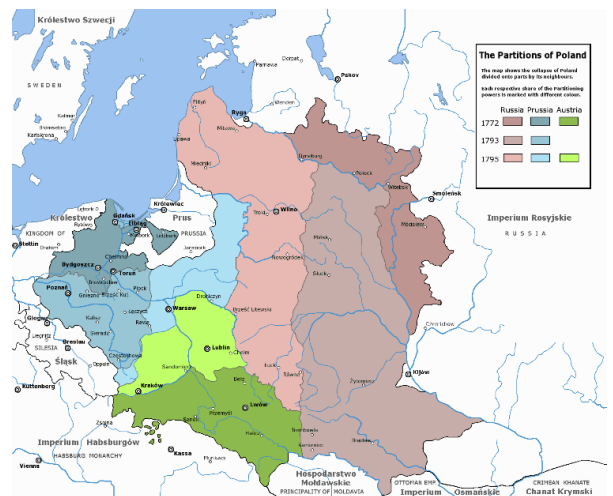
POLAND

Our Country

History

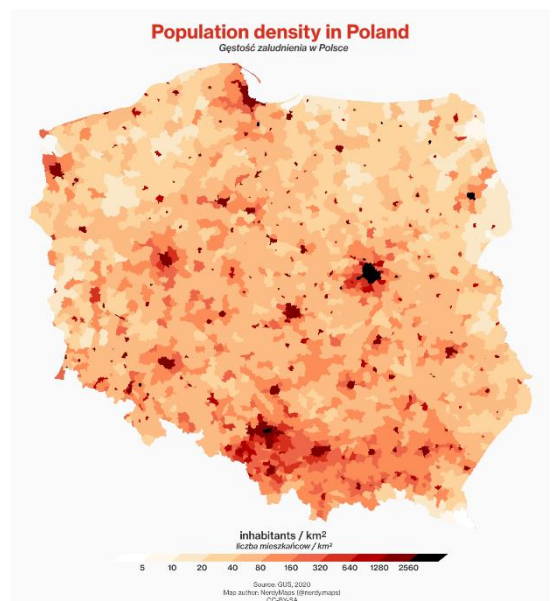
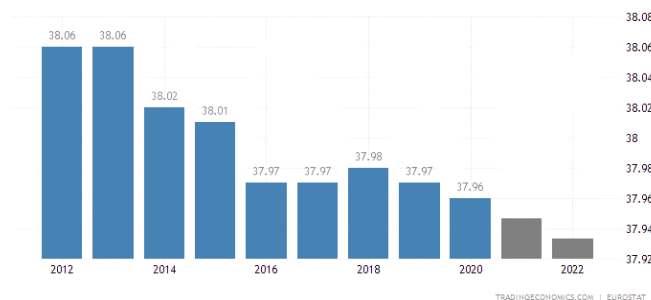
The first historically confirmed date describing the history of Poland is the year 966, when Prince Mieszko I was baptized. In 1025, the Kingdom of Poland was established, of which the first king was the son of Mieszko I, Bolesław Chrobry. In 1385, Poland concluded an agreement with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, signing the act of union in Krewo. The relationship between these countries was tightened by the Union of Lublin in 1569. As a result, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was established. Poland ceased to exist as a result of the Third Partition in 1795. Its territory was divided between Russia, Austria and Prussia.

After 123 years, at the end of World War I, in 1918 Poland regained independence (the reborn statehood was called the Second Polish Republic). On September 1, 1939, with the attack of Germany on Poland, World War II began, and on September 17 of the same year, there was an attack by the ZSRR. The entire territory was under German and Soviet occupation. As a result of World War II, over 6 million citizens lost their lives. After World War II, the present borders were established.



Population

The population of Poland in 2022 is 37 557 041. The population density is 123.2 per km².



Size

The area of Poland is 312 679 km². This area gives us 69th place in the world, and 9th in Europe. Poland is divided into 16 voivodships. Its largest city and capital is Warsaw.



Weather

The weather in Poland is largely unpredictable and varied. Our country is located in a temperature, warm, transitional climate. The average annual temperature in Poland is around 6-8 degrees Celsius. We distinguish 4 seasons of the year and 6 thermal seasons, which are: spring, early spring, summer, autumn, pre-winter and winter.



Expenses

Statistically, Poles spend most of their budget on food, alcohol and home maintenance, while they are able to save on clothing and shoes, as well as entertainment. Poles spend the most on food (an average of 15% of monthly income). In second place in the category of fixed expenses is fuel (7.5% of monthly income).

- clothes
- food
- furnishing and maintaining the home



Social Life In Poland

Young people in Poland focus mainly on spending time outside, preferably in the company of their friends. As soon as it gets warmer, social life flourishes in Poland. People go outside, hang out with friends, ride bikes, go to the movies and even party together.



Place To Visit

In our country, we have many beautiful cities that are worth seeing during your stay.



1.Cracow



2.Tri-City



3.Tatry Mountains



4.Warsaw



5.Wroclaw

1. Cracow

The heart of Krakow is the Main Market Square – the largest in Poland and one of the most beautiful in Europe. Its boundaries are marked by ornate facades of historic tenement houses, each of which has its own fascinating history. On the market square itself and in its vicinity there are important monuments – St. Mary's Church, Cloth Hall, St. Adalbert's Church, St. Florian's Gate or Town Hall Tower. Wawel Hill together with the Royal Castle is in fact a treasury of Polish history and culture. Under the Wawel Hill stretches the most famous Polish cave – Dragon's Den.

2. Tri-City

Tri-city is not a homogeneous urban entity, but three cities, each of them with several, if not more, of their characteristic features. It is hard to imagine Tri-city without Neptune Fountain, the majestic Żuraw crane and the Shipyard cranes - the inherent elements of the panorama of Gdansk, without the Sopot Pier or Gdynia's cliffs, 'Błyskawica' ship and 'Dar Pomorza' tall ship.

3. The Tatra Mountains

The Tatra Mountains are the most popular destination for hikers.

4. Warsaw

Walking around Warsaw, you can admire both historic tenement houses and modern skyscrapers. The city centre has many sights such as the Palace of Culture and Science or the Old Town, which impresses with its picturesqueness. At the same time, the city is constantly developing and new, modern buildings are being built, such as the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews or the Fryderyk Chopin Museum. At the same time, Warsaw is a place where numerous festivals and events take place, such as the Warsaw Film Festival or the Warsaw Theatre Festival.

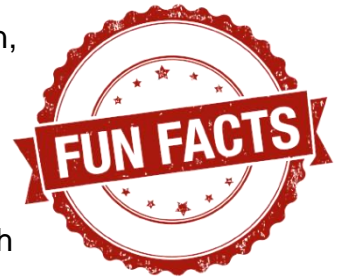
5. Wrocław

Among the interesting locations in Wrocław are museums such as the National Museum, the renovated Raławice Panorama and the Ossolineum.

A very popular place among visitors is the Market Square in Wrocław with the adjacent streets of the old town.

Fun Facts

- Radom has a much larger area than the capital of France - Paris. Interestingly, in the case of Paris, the population is almost ten times greater than in the case of the Polish city.
- 17 Poles received the Nobel Prize, which is more than in Japan, China, India or Australia.
- An average adult Pole drinks up to 94 liters of beer a year. This means that an average Pole drinks half a liter of beer every other day.
- Drinking beer with juice and in the form of mulled wine is a Polish idea, rarely found in other parts of the world.
- Many specialists estimate that in the course of several dozen or several hundred years, the Hel Peninsula will be flooded by sea waves and will simply disappear.



Lubliniec

Location

The town of Lubliniec is located by the Lublinica River, in the Valley of The Mała Panew River. It is situated in the Silesian Voivodeship. Lubliniec is an important rail hub, with two major lines crossing there

- east-west (from Częstochowa to Opole)
- south-north (from Katowice to Poznań).

Location: N= 50 41' E=18 41'



How many people live in your city?

Data on December 31st, 2021, Lubliniec has 22 938 inhabitants, including 11 866 women and 11 072 men.



History

The beginnings of Lubliniec bring us back to the thirteenth century. It is said that Lubliniec started with a hunting castle and a chapel, built around 1272 by Duke Władysław Opolski. According to a legend the name of the town originates from the words said by Władysław I Opolczyk while hunting in the local woods: "I enjoy being here" (association between "Lubliniec" and a Polish verb "lubić" – to enjoy, to like). These very words are believed to constitute the origin of the name Lubliniec.



Which places of interest can you recommend to me to visit?

Tourists visiting the town can visit not only the monuments of architecture and culture situated in Lubliniec but also in other locations of the Lubliniec Region. The Lubliniec Region's landmarks are wooden churches – there are many of them dating back to 17th, 18th and 19th century.



There is also a castle in Lubliniec, which is now a hotel and restaurant.



The Town Market Square



Fun Facts

The town is excellent for relax as it's located amongst woods and numerous water reservoirs. These advantages make the town perfect for practising various forms of recreation, especially cycling, trekking, water sports and cultural tourism. Everybody is welcomed to take part in "Bieg Katorżnika" race (running in extremely hard conditions) or "Bieg o Nóż Komandosa" race (long distance running).



Our School

Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcąco-Technicznych w Lublińcu

Students

642 students study at our school. There are both girls and boys here. There are 271 girls and 371 boys in total.



Teachers

The school has an educated teaching staff. Our teachers are women and men. There are 46 women. There are 21 men.



Administartion

The entire administration also plays a very important role in our school. We have 9 wonderful women and 2 men who are not afraid of work. There is also a hygienist who always cares about our health.



What can you study?

ZSO-T school complex includes technical colleges and general comprehensive school classes.

Technical colleges teach students in following professions:



Landscape Architecture College

Students are prepared to design the landscape in accordance with the aesthetic requirements and the principles of ecology. They learn how to design gardens, parks, greenery in housing estates. They learn about new variants of ornamental plants and how to operate technical devices used at work. They will be able to prepare cost estimates and drive a tractor. Landscape architecture technician is interested in botany and art.

Extended level subjects:

- Biology
- English



Graduates of landscape architecture have unlimited work opportunities in:

- companies producing seedlings, seeds and elements of garden architecture,
- offices, institutions and organizations dealing with the care and protection of landscapes,
- gardening companies.

Moreover, they can set up their own business which will design and maintain gardens, greenery in public spaces or produce seeds or plants.



Construction College

A construction technician is a profession of the future. Students go through the design, costing and construction supervision up to the implementation of all building structures: roads, housing, industrial, small architecture.

Extended level subjects:

- Mathematics
- English



Graduates of construction college have unlimited work opportunities in:

- own construction and renovation company
- work in stores with building materials
- work with technical drawing and computer design
- making cost estimates



Hospitality College

Students learn about the principles of the hotel operation, learn to organize leisure for clients and integration events for companies, as well as to serve hotel guests. They also learn valuable skills regarding guest service in hotel restaurants.

Extended level subjects:

- Geography
- English



Graduates of hospitality college can find employment, among others, in such sectors of the economy as:

- own companies, e.g. guesthouses, agritourism farms,
- restaurants, bars, cafes, tourist information points,
- holiday and recreation centers,
- on cruise ships and ferries,
- passenger planes
- travel agencies,
- tourist hostels,
- hotels.



IT College

Students learn about the management of operating systems and computer networks, the principles of selecting, assembling and configuring computer systems, as well as equipment and network cabling. They also learn how to create dynamic websites or internet applications that work with databases. Moreover, they learn the principles of creating and managing databases as well as providing protection in the area of cyberspace.

Extended level subjects:

- Mathematics
- Information Technology



Graduates of the IT technical school find employment, among others, in such sectors of the economy as:

- service points (computer repair, data recovery)
- IT service departments of each company,
- operation and administration of computer networks,
- graphic service departments of publishing houses
- advertising service departments of companies,
- website administration
- computer stores



Logistics College

Students learn about warehouse management, fast shipment of goods from the producer to the consumer. They will be responsible for procurement to ensure the continuous operation of the enterprise, select suppliers and analyze the condition of goods in the warehouse. They learn the rules of selecting the right means of transport, how to calculate service prices and keep documentation. At school they turn into quality control staff. The students control the quality on the food products.

Extended level subjects:

- Geography
- English



Graduates of the logistic technical college find employment, among others, in logistics, transport and trade companies:

- forwarder,
- sales representatives,
- warehouse workers,
- sales specialists.



Mechanical College

Students learn to design, manufacture and use machines and mechanical devices. CNC machines, which are computer-controlled, shorten the production time but require specialist to operate them. Currently, there is a great demand for specialists in programming and operating computer controlled machine tools.

Extended level subjects:

- Mathematics
- English



Graduates of mechanical college have almost unlimited work opportunities:

- companies involved in the production, assembly and repair of machines and devices,
- technical supervision,
- mechanical departments of production companies in the operation and assembly of machines,
- mechanical workshops,
- shops with technical articles.



Manager Class

High school students learn to work in a group, logical thinking, planning, prepare for the organization of various marketing events, organize numerous school events.

Extended level subjects:

- Geography
- the Polish language literature
- English



The class prepares students for university studies:

law, foreign trade, journalism, pedagogy, political science, psychology, tourism and recreation, international relations as well as polytechnic and economic faculties: management, administration.



The End Of School

In Poland, technical secondary school lasts 5 years, and secondary school 4 years. Each class ends school with a high school diploma. All graduates can join it. If students pass the exam and want to continue their studies, they can start their studies in any major.



Fun Facts

1. We have themed days:

- No backpack day

On that day, the students came to school without a backpack. They kept books in other items (wheelbarrow, basket, blanket, suitcase, cardboard or toy car)



- World Down Syndrome Day

Colorful socks day

For many years our school community has been celebrating this day by wearing two different socks, symbolizing the third arm of the chromosome, which is "mismatched".



- National Happiness Week
There was a happiness board in the hall of the school. Students could write down what happiness means to them or what it brings them. There was also a basket of kindness that attracted a lot of attention.



- Character Day from the movie
Students came to school dressed as their favorite movie characters.



2. Dancers

Various events take place in our school. We are very happy to take part in them. We like to dance together.



3. The best dancer

One of our teachers is called the best dancer because he always performs dancing at school events.

4. The title of the Golden and Bronze Schools in 2022

Our school is happy to maintain an excellent position and win prestigious titles. For years, they have occupied rankings that are envied by other schools in the region.

We got:

- The title of the "Golden School" in the technical college ranking for the 47th place in Poland and the 6th place in the province of Silesia,
- The title of the "Bronze School" for high school ranking for the 544th place in Poland and 63rd place in the province of Silesia.

The ranking takes into account the successes of schools in the Olympics and the results of finals exams



Assignment

1. When was the Kingdom of Poland established?
2. How many inhabitants are there per km² in Poland?
3. What are the most popular places to visit?
4. Where is Lubliniec situated?
5. What professions can you learn at our school?

Gender Equality

Equal Opportunities In Life

In Poland, same-sex couples cannot get married. According to the survey conducted in 2019 by IPSOS, more than 50% of Poles do not support same-sex marriages. Consequently, they cannot enjoy certain privileges and do not receive certain material and non-material benefits.

What does that mean?

- Lack of ability to use community property and tax settlements,
- Problem with getting information about the state of health of an unconscious partner,
- No inheritance right when a partner dies,
- No allowance for people to take care of a partner who is seriously ill.

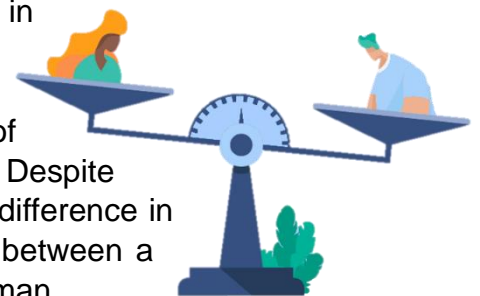


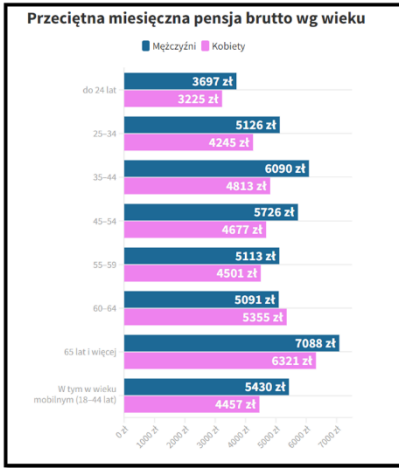
In Poland, homosexual couples also do not have the right to adopt children. 77% of Poles believe that adoption by LGBT couples is harmful for the children because a child should have a male and female example of a family in their life.

Workplace Equality

Gender workplace equality

In the European labor market we can see a clear division in professions that are male or female dominated - in Poland the situation is the same. According to the latest report published by Eurofound in 2021, 60 percent of women and 64 percent of men work in a profession which is conditioned by their gender. Despite the fact that women are much better educated than men, the difference in earnings is very big. Moreover, if an employer has a choice between a woman and a man for a managerial position, he will employ a man.





Gender pay gap exists as well. In the last few years earning difference between men and women has become bigger. Men earn about 10 percent more than women. The difference is not dependent on age. Regardless of the length of employment, women earn less. What's more, the data suggests that the longer the period of employment, the greater the difference in income.

Typical men dominated occupations:

- construction workers (99 percent of them are males),
- drivers and vehicle operators (96 percent of them are males),
- metalworkers (95 percent of them are males).



Typical women dominated occupations:

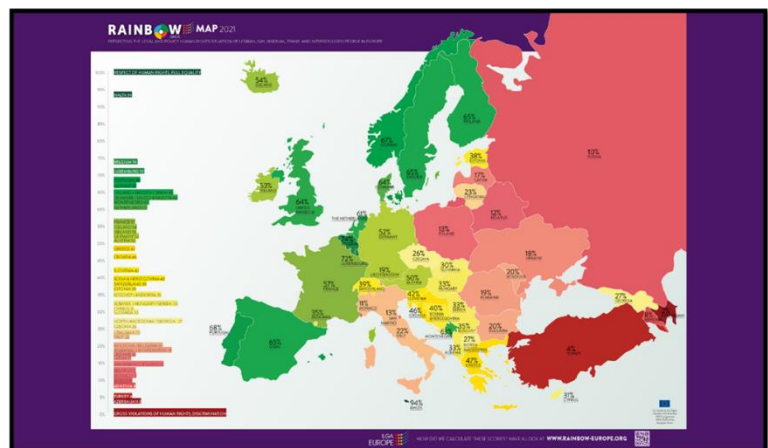
- cleaning ladies (79 percent of them are females),
- nurses (80 percent of them are females),
- personal care workers (87 percent of them are females).



Sexual orientation workplace equality

Studies show that homophobia is unfortunately wide spread in Poland. And because of this people of a different sexual orientation cannot feel safe in a workplace and in a company of co-workers. Often homosexual or transsexual people don't get a job because of their appearance or behavior.

According to the ranking of ILGA Europe, the most important European ranking examining the level of equality of LGBTQ+ people, in 2021 Poland is reported to be the least LGBT friendly country with the result of 16 percent among all countries belonging to the European Union. In Europe we are 43rd out of 49 countries ranking even in a lower place than the previous year.



Acceptance In The Community

Social situation of LGBT+ community is connected with such issues :

- social acceptance,
- violence against LGBT+,
- media and culture connected with LGBT+ community.



Kampania Przeciw Homofobii i Stowarzyszenie Lambda Warszawa

According to the research done by KPH (Campaign Against Homophobia) and Lambda Association in 2019-2020:

- Almost 21% of LGBT community lost a loved one because of their coming-out,
- 98% of LGBT+ community experienced some type of microaggression [in 2019 and 2020],
- More than a half of interviewed people experienced worse treatment in public when their identity or sexual orientation were evident,
- In the last 4 years the number of LGBTQ+ people with depression has increased to more than 50% and 55% of interviewees claimed to have suicidal thoughts,
- In the last 9 years the percentage of people willing to get married has increased and in the previous year it was 70%,
- A vast majority of interviewees (more than 90%) support the LGBT community rights.

A change

According to the research conducted by CBOS within a period of 2001-2013 acceptance of homosexual people rights had been rising. Then in 2017 this trend slowed down. The election was won by a conservative political party.



Women in society:

- Violence against women and girls is defined as gender-based violence. According to some, Poland is one of the European countries with the lowest level of violence aimed at women, however, the severity is very high,
- Reproductive rights in Poland are very strict so women in most cases can't make decisions about themselves and their bodies,
- When it comes to the role of women in society, it's very conservative and connected with stereotypes.

Feminist Organisations and Movements:

- Social movement "Ogólnopolski Strajk Kobiet" (translation: All-Poland Women's Strike),
- Social movement "Dziewuchy Dziewuchom" (translation: Girls for Girls).



Laws Regarding The Topic

LGBT law in Poland

As we already know, the right for private and family life of LGBT people is a legal area considered to be the worst implemented and the least protected by the Polish law. In these areas, Poland remains far from meeting the international standard, as defined by the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.

- the inability to legalize same-sex relationships in Poland violates Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Ombudsman receives complaints from:

- non-heterosexual people living in the same-sex relationships who accuse Poland of violating their right for private and family life by preventing them from legalizing their relationship, recognizing it by the state and ensuring its legal protection,
- non-heterosexual people living in the same-sex relationships who cannot receive Polish documents for their children born abroad,
- transgender people due to the lack of the law concerning legal gender reconciliation.

Famous People Fighting For LGBT Rights



Anja Rubik



Krzysztof Zalewski



Doda

Assignment

1. Why do 77% of Poles think adoption by LGBT couples is harmful?
2. Has Poland been recognised as an LGBT-friendly country? Which position does it hold among European countries?
3. Which feminist organisations and movements exist in Poland?
4. What are the stereotypes of LGBT+ people in Poland?

Elderly People

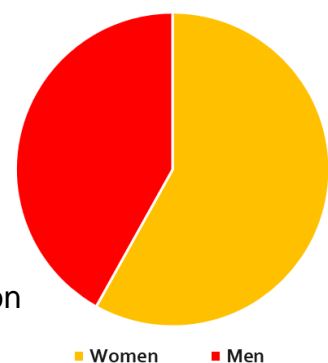
Equality In Relation To The Disabled And The Elderly

An elderly person in Poland is someone who has reached the age of 60 (according to Article 4 of the Act of 11 September 2015 on elderly persons).

According to the Central Statistical Office, people of 60 years of age and older in Poland in 2021 :

- accounted for 25.5% of the total population, or approximately 9,700,000 (19.9% in 2011),
- gender structure of the elderly was dominated by women: 28.8%, men 22.1% of the total population,
- in the employment structure, older people (65 - 89 years) accounted for 2.6% of the workforce, mainly those with higher education (36.8%).

Gender structure of older people - 2020



Polish Laws Regulating The Situation Of Older People

The Act of 11 September 2015 on older persons which:

- defines the scope of monitoring and reporting on the situation of older people, the entities involved in this task and the sources of their financing,
- monitor the situation of older people that is conducted by public administration authorities, state organisational units and other institutions.

The scope of monitoring the situation of the elderly includes demographic and income situation, housing conditions, professional activity, family situation and household structure, social and civic activity, educational and cultural activity, sport and recreational activity, health status, availability and level of social services, equal treatment and counteracting age discrimination, and implementation of senior policy.



The Council of Ministers shall present to the Sejm and Senate annually until 31st October the information on the situation of the elderly people based on the aforementioned monitoring.

The topic of the information on the situation of the elderly such as:

- demographic situation of the population and the age structure of the elderly population, forecasts for the coming years;
- income situation, living conditions including housing;
- professional activity;
- family situation and household structure;
- health condition and its determinants and health-related quality of life, including accessibility to publicly funded healthcare services;
- availability and level of social services including care services;
- situation of people with disabilities and their careers;
- social and civic, educational and cultural, sporting and recreational activities;
- equal treatment and counteracting discrimination;
- evaluation of the implementation of senior citizens' policy, including the conclusions and recommendations made in the previous information;
- conclusions and recommendations for future tasks and initiatives to be taken to shape the conditions for dignified and healthy ageing.

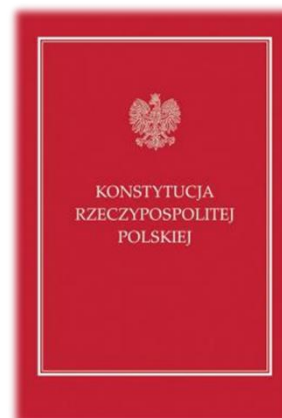
Human rights protected by the Polish Constitution and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. We highlight four most relevant for the elderly.

These are human rights protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union:

- Article 7 – The right to respect for private and family life, home and communications.

Human rights protected by the Polish Constitution:

- Article 67 – The right to social security,
- Article 68 – The right to health care,
- Article 40 - Law prohibiting torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.



The Implementation Of The Above – Mentioned Rights Towards The Elderly Includes

The right to social security

Social assistance is provided to the elderly due to poverty, disability, a long-term or serious illness, a random event or a crisis situation. Providing the elderly with the help when they are unable to provide themselves with living conditions is mostly the responsibility of local governments. Its task is to provide seniors with housing, clothes, meals or burial.



The right to healthcare

The Ministry of Health implements a number of actions aimed at improving health-related quality of life of the elderly, including improving access to healthcare services and medicines, and by providing properly trained medical staff. There are more and more elderly people in the Polish society. Maintaining the longest possible social, professional, and family activity also depends on the right habits, behavior, and an active lifestyle.

The implementation of the above – mentioned rights towards the elderly includes

Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The right to be treated with dignity is an absolute right that may not be violated or limited. There are situations in which elderly people experience inhuman or degrading treatment, both in family homes and institutions, such as nursing homes and hospitals.

The right to respect for private and family life, home, and correspondence

The right to respect for family life includes the possibility of living together with the family, and if that is impossible, of maintaining regular contact with it.

Activities For The Elderly Conducted In The Śląskie Voivodeship

"Strategy of the Social Policy of the Śląskie Voivodeship for the years 2020-2030" (Resolution VI / 25/1/2020 of the Silesian Voivodeship Sejmik of November 16, 2020)

contains goals devoted to the issues of elderly people such as:

- Developing community-based care in local communities targeted to support dependent seniors,
- Eliminating barriers to the access of seniors to the market of goods and services, the project "Śląskie dla Seniora - Śląsk Senior Card", which includes an offer of special services, allowances and special rights enabling access to the resources of cultural and recreational institutions and education in the Śląskie Voivodeship to provide additional support to people who are 60 years old,
- Promoting a positive image of the elderly,
- "Program for counteracting poverty and social exclusion in the Śląskie Voivodeship



University of the Third Age (UTW)

The main task of the UTW is education, integration and encouraging elderly people to improve the quality of their life and to increase their part in the community.

Activities held through the UTW in Lubliniec:

- IT workshops,
- Cultural workshops e.g. Meeting with the Spain culture,
- Sightseeing trips (this year to Nysa, Opole, Landscape Park of Beskid Śląski),
- Cycling trips,
- Meetings with the travellers, watching movies and pilgrimages
- Foreign trips, e.g. to Turkey,



These activities are supported by: Program for the benefit for Elderly People called “Aktywni+” for years 2021-2025, and “AKTYWNY SENIOR 2022” program.

Day care centre “Senior Club”

The senior club is mainly for retired people, but also for lonely people at the age of 60 and older. Meetings in the club allows to overcome their loneliness, gives the feeling of security and minimizes the discomfort of psychophysical limitations related to age. The classes are run by qualified staff and are meant to increase physical and mental performance of the club members, such as:

- Mental training,
- Art and craft classes,
- Music classes,
- Theatre classes,
- Library classes,
- Free time arrangement training,
- Culinary classes,
- Recreational activities and others.



Municipal Social Welfare Center

Municipal Social Welfare Center (MOPS) in Lubliniec, implements the programs of Ministry of Family and Social Policy such as:

- THE ASSISTANCE CORPS FOR THE SENIORS – the program is based on providing seniors with so called “safety wristbands” that possess functions such as: safety button – SOS signal, fall detector, GPS locator, fall detector, functions enabling communication with the service centre and caregivers.
- STOP ABUSE AGAINST SENIORS – a local social information and education campaign on counteracting domestic violence.



Other Organisations Working For The Benefit Of The Seniors

Polish Association of Pensioners,
Pensioners and Invalids in Lubliniec

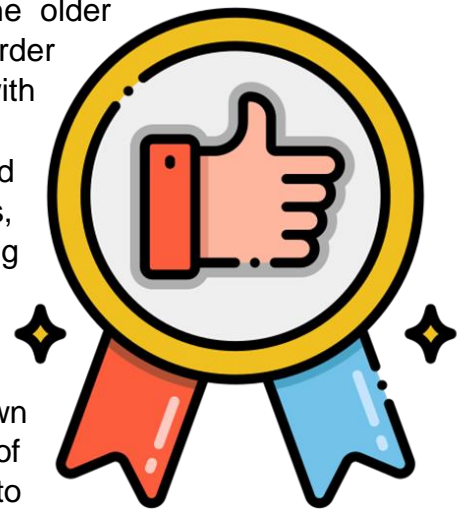


Golden Years Association



Conclusions and recommendations:

- providing people in the pre-retirement age and seniors with equal access to the labour market and popularising good age management practices should ensure the effective use of the knowledge and experience accumulated by older workers. Organising classes, trainings, courses, etc. to enable gaining new skills and competencies among older people and strengthening their position in the local environment and labour market;
- creating a positive image of older people in the society and using their potential, knowledge and experience in, for example, voluntary work for the benefit of the local community;
- adapting housing conditions of senior citizens to their needs, too often the living space per person in senior citizens' households is too large, resulting in high rent and heating costs;
- actions aimed at improving financial situation of the older people, particularly those with the lowest incomes, in order to ensure economic security and enable them to live with dignity;
- preventing and combating manifestations of social and financial exclusion through integration activities, supporting the families of the older people, facilitating intergenerational contacts;
- the network of Universities of the Third Age should be strengthened and digital education there should be supported financially; COVID-19 pandemic has shown that it is necessary to develop digital competences of senior citizens, who, faced with isolation, were forced to deal with an increasing number of everyday life using ICT,
- providing proper medical and social services and educating people about the issues related to ageing and old age; violence and discrimination against the elderly,
- ensuring optimal access to health, rehabilitation and caring and nursing services adapted to the needs of older people, including telecare and telemedicine,
- supporting dependent older people and their carers in their daily activities,
- organising cultural, educational, sporting, recreational activities to manage the leisure time of older people, including using e-products/services,
- strengthening intra- and intergenerational integration, especially in the local community, for example senior homes and clubs, care services, assistants for seniors with disabilities, which also counteracts feelings of isolation and loneliness.



Disabled People In Poland

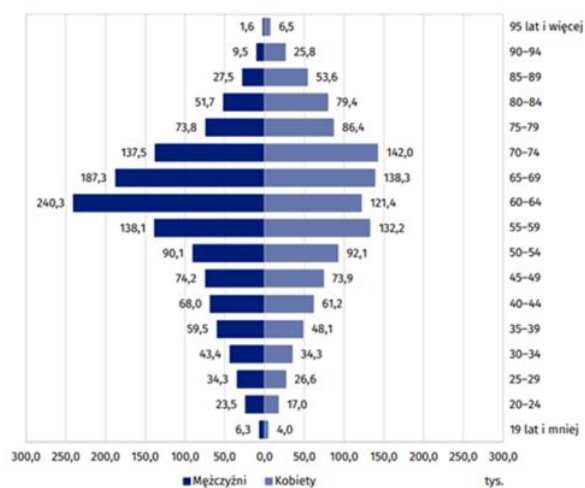
Persons With Disabilities

A disability is a permanent or temporary inability to fulfil social roles due to a permanent or permanent impairment of the performance of the body, in particular due to incapacity for work (according to the Act of 27 August 1997 on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities).



In Poland there are more than 3 million people with a legal disability, in fact there are many more – between 4 and 7 million.

Wykres 2. Osoby posiadające orzeczenie o stopniu niepełnosprawności lub stopniu niezdolności do pracy według płci i grup wieku w 2020 r.
Stan w dniu 31 grudnia



Main Pieces Of Legislation For People With Disabilities

- Act of 27 August 1997 on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities – contains provisions to make it easier for people with disabilities to obtain adequate employment and maintain their professional advancement by providing them with vocational guidance, vocational training and job placement.
- Entitlement to Reduced Mass Public Transport Travels Act – regulates the authorization of discounted travel on public transport services.
- Social Assistance Act – enables individuals and families to overcome difficult life situations they cannot overcome by using their own powers, resources and opportunities.
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) – aims to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities.
- The Constitution of the Republic of Poland prohibits discrimination against persons in social and economic life on any grounds (including disability), the obligation of the State towards persons with disabilities to provide them with special health care, and the obligation of the State towards persons with disabilities to provide them with decent work adapted to their needs.



Implementation Of The Rights Of People With Disabilities, Examples

- Appointment of The Government Plenipotentiary for Disabled People, which with the help of the Office of Plenipotentiary is an organisational unit of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy.
- Children and young people with disabilities or disabilities receive a 78% discount on public transport by rail and bus.
- A disabled adult and their career may receive the following benefits: social pension – PLN 1100 gross, care allowance 184,42 PLN, temporary allowance – PLN 418, special allowance – PLN 701 for single persons, housing allowance – PLN 200 (depending on municipality), special care allowance or care allowance – PLN 846,42 gross (incl. the insurance contribution paid by the State for the career).
- 500+ is a supplementary benefit for people who are unable to live independently
- The programme of the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities PFRON “Active Self-Government”: enables at least one of the following: it subsidises for the purchase of a driving license, the purchase of an electric scooter, the equipment of the car, the purchase of prostheses, the purchase of electronic equipment, training in the use of electronic equipment acquired under the programme and assistance in obtaining higher education.
- Additional programmes for the vocational activation of people with disabilities:
 - The “Absolvent” programme supports people with disabilities in planning and implementing their individual careers and it helps to improve their professional qualifications.



- The “Stable Employment” programme includes, among other things, adapting the premises and environment of the place of work, equipping the workplaces to the needs of people with disabilities, and training.
- The Work Integration Programme – aims, among other things, at removing obstacles to taking up employment, e. g. purchasing technical equipment, hiring a job assistant or coach, commuting.
- Social and vocational rehabilitation outside the home:
 - Development of a network of self-help centres with seating around the clock and financing of participants' stay.
 - Workshops for Occupational Therapy (WTZ) are establishments which offer disabled and incapable of working the possibility of social and vocational rehabilitation in the field of acquiring and restoring the skills necessary for taking up employment.
 - Workplaces are places where people with disabilities work.

The Rights Of Disabled People In Lubliniec

The availability of Municipal in Lubliniec for disabled people :

The Municipal in Lubliniec is located within two buildings: main building and the Centre of Residents Service.

Centre of Residents Service:

- Wheelchair ramps to the Centre from parking level ,
- The Centre is located on the ground floor,
- No lifts,
- The building has 1 parking space for the disabled,
- It is possible to go inside the building with a guide dog,
- If the right unit of the Office cannot be reached, the employee can go down to the ground floor and help at the Office Residents Service Centre,
- Toilets for visitors are located on the ground floor and are adapted to the needs of the disabled,
- There are no Braille markings or contrast markings in the building for the blind and partially sighted,
- There are no hearing aid induction loops in the building.



The main building:

- It is possible to drive a wheelchair to the main entrance, but it does not have a wheelchair ramp,
- The building offers a public car park with 1 parking space for disabled people,
- There is no lift in the building and the offices are located on the ground floor, first floor and second floor of the building,
- If a disabled client can't reach the appropriate office in the building, it is possible for the employee to go to the ground floor and help (first the employee should be called using an appropriately marked bell located at the main entrance to the building),
- It is possible to go inside the building with a guide dog,
- Toilets are not adapted to the needs of disabled people,
- There are no Braille markings or contrast markings in the building for the blind and partially sighted,
- There are no hearing aid induction loops in the building,
- The Office enables access to communication tools like e-mail, and also provides free access to the services of a sign language interpreter and a guide-interpreter.



County Family Support Center (PCPR)

Performs tasks in the field of social assistance, social rehabilitation of the disabled, and counteracting domestic violence. The centre cooperates with social organisations, churches, foundations and employers. PCPR is focused on organising and financing family foster care, organising counselling, providing institutional support (social welfare homes, care and educational institutions), and providing financial help to people with disabilities from PFRON funds (governmental agency).



"Zameczek"

"Zameczek" nursing home intended for intellectually disabled children and youth and intellectually disabled adults:

- A stationary type home, provides round-the-clock care and is intended for intellectually disabled children and teenagers as well as intellectually disabled adults;
- The house offers 73 places;
- It carries out care and therapy, medical and rehabilitation, social and living activities;
- Equipment: devices for physical therapy, kinesitherapy, hydrotherapy
- The house conducts therapeutic classes in the following studios: art, cooking, tailoring, ceramics and computers;
- Residents are provided with assistance in meeting their cultural, religious, recreational and educational needs as well as in solving personal problems.



DPS Nursing Homes

Nursing Home for chronically mentally ill people:

- It is a stationary unit with 278 places,
- Services provided: medical-rehabilitation, social and psychological services,
- Home furnishings: cafe, hairdresser, doctor's office, as well as a chapel where the sick can fulfill their religious and spiritual needs,
- Residents take advantage of various forms of therapeutic activities, and organise sightseeing tours and artistic performances,
- The House runs Occupational Therapy Workshops, which offer: art, tailoring, embroidery, carpentry, modelling, household, music therapy and education of different kinds,
- Each resident is treated as a person with individual needs, abilities and possibilities of social functioning.



Conclusions and recommendations:

- To increase physical activity level of disabled people; to create a system of early rehabilitation which prevents from disabilities and their increasing
- To create a complete constant care department to provide citizens with proper quality of care and attendance services in place of residence as well as providing better access to the services
- To prevent and combat the symptoms of social and financial exclusion and, thanks to easy integration activities, to support families of disabled people;
- To oblige local authorities to create and draw situations for the disabled;
- To eliminate architectural barriers: high thresholds, curbs and stairs.



Assignment

1. Who is considered an elderly person in Poland?
2. Name three human rights protected by the Polish Constitution.
3. What is the main task of the University of the Third Age?
4. How many people with legal disabilities are in Poland?
5. What discount on public transport do children and youth with disabilities receive in Poland?

Equality concerning national, ethnic and religious minorities.

National and ethnic minorities.

According to the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and regional languages, a national minority is:

A group of Polish citizens who together meet the following conditions :

- is numerically smaller than the rest of the population of the Republic of Poland;
- significantly differs from the remaining citizens in its language, culture or tradition;
- strives to preserve its language, culture or tradition;
- is aware of its own historical, national community, and is oriented towards its expression and protection;
- its ancestors have been living on the present territory of the Republic of Poland for at least 100 years;
- identifies itself with a nation organized in its own state.

An ethnic minority is a group of Polish citizens who meet the above criteria, but (unlike a national minority) do not have and have never had their own state.

National and ethnic minorities in Poland:

According to the Polish law, there are representatives of 9 national minorities living in the country: Byelorussians, Czechs, Lithuanians, Germans, Armenians, Russians, Slovaks, Ukrainians, Jews, and 4 ethnic minorities: the Lemko, the Roma, the Karaim, the Tatar.

General characteristics:

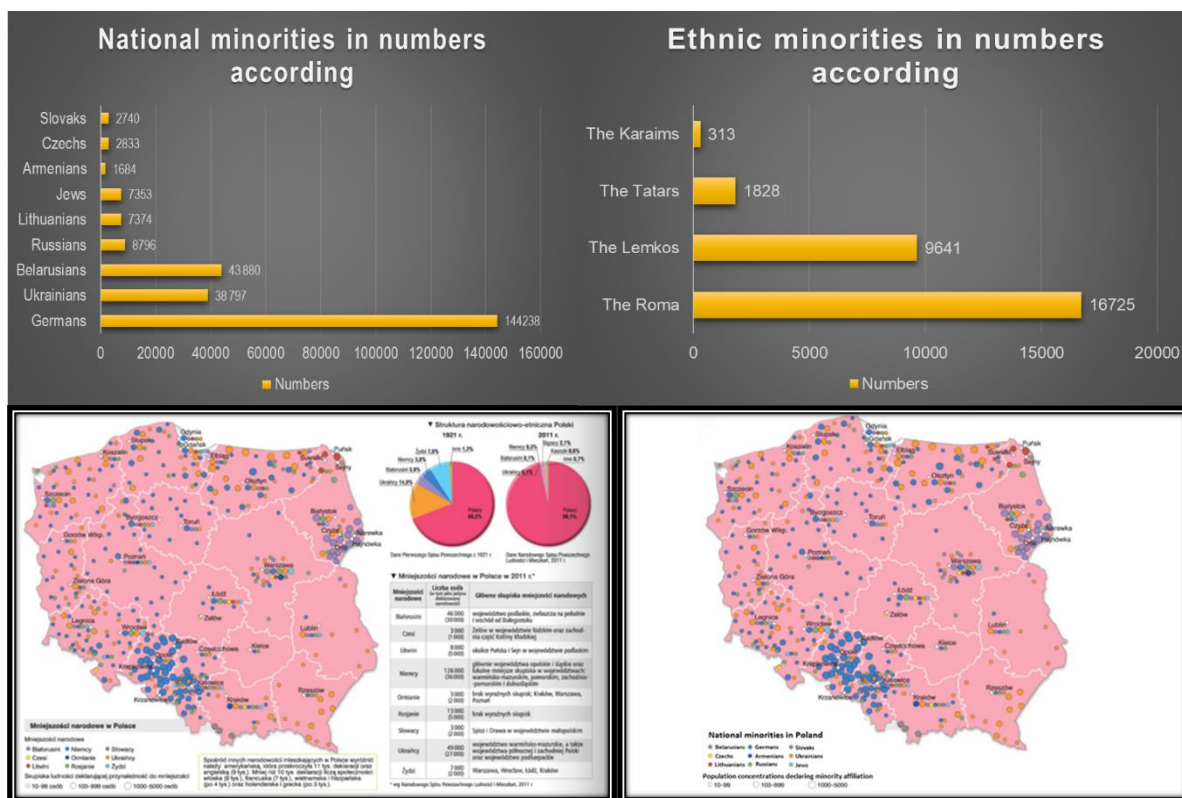
- constitute about 2- 4% of the total Polish population,
- apart from Catholicism, they are followers of other branches of Christianity, hence the presence in Poland of followers of Orthodoxy and Protestantism, but also other religions such as Judaism or Islam,
- usually reside in the Polish territories near the border with their own country or in the lands that historically belonged to neighboring countries (countries of origin of these minorities).



The exceptions are:

- Jews and the Roma, who live mainly in large cities, are widely dispersed in Poland,
- Ukrainians and Lemkos (except in south-eastern Poland) inhabit the areas of north-western Poland, which is the result of forced resettlement after World War II (1947) carried out by the Polish authorities called Vistula Operation.

Poland's national and ethnic minorities in numbers according to the 2011 census.



Church	Number of believers/religionists
Roman Catholic Church (Latin rite)	32346382
Greek Catholic Church (Byzantine-Ukrainian rite)	50000
Armenian Church (Armenian rite)	650
Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church	503996
Evangelical-Augsburg Church (Protestant)	60425
Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Republic of Poland	1704
Muslim Religious Union in the Republic of Poland	519

Compared to Europe, Poland is homogeneous regarding religion and denomination:

- the vast majority of our country's population are Christians, and among them Catholics are the most numerous group,
- followers of the Orthodox Church are mainly Byelorussians, Ukrainians and Lemkos living in north-eastern, northern and western Poland,
- followers of the Protestant Church (Germans) live in Upper Silesia and Opole Silesia,
- Orthodox Christians, Protestants, followers of other rites of Catholicism, make up a small part of Poland's population, although the percentage of Orthodox and Greek Catholics has increased due to the number of immigrants from Ukraine,
- followers of Islam - Muslims are descendants of the Tatars, and reside in north-eastern Poland,
- followers of Judaism - Jews from Jewish communities in Warsaw, Lodz, Krakow and Wroclaw.

Polish legislation defines in detail the rights of national and ethnic minorities. The most important are:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Poland, Article 35,
- Act of 6 January 2005 on National and Ethnic Minorities and Regional Languages,
- Act of 5 January 2011, the Election Code,
- Act of 7 September 1991 on the Educational System,
- Act of 29 December 1992 on Radio and Television Broadcasting,
- Act of August 29, 1997 on the Protection of Personal Data.



The basic rights of minorities, guaranteed by the Polish law, are:

- prohibition of discrimination and the existence of organizations whose program or activities imply or permit racial and national hatred,
- freedom to preserve and develop one's own language,
- the right to be taught the language of the minority and the right to the education in the language of the minority,
- electoral preferences for election committees of minority organizations (exemption of election committees formed by national minority organizations from the requirement to exceed the 5% electoral threshold),
- the right to establish their own educational and cultural institutions and those designed to protect religious identity,
- the right to prohibit the processing of personal data revealing ethnic origin,
- the right to have the needs of national and ethnic minorities taken into account in public broadcasting,
- the right to participate in the resolution of matters concerning one's national identity,
- the right to practice own religion.

Benefits to the state from the presence of national, ethnic and religious minorities:

- enrichment of the Polish culture by assimilation of elements of other cultures,
- presence of objects related to a particular culture, e.g. sacred: synagogues, mosques,
- organization of cultural events: festivals, concerts, exhibitions, competitions,
- economic benefits from ties with a richer country than Poland, such as Germany,
- increasing the tourist attractiveness of Poland,
- developing tolerance,
- building an open society,
- combating xenophobia,
- attracting employees.



Reasons why full assimilation of national, ethnic and religious minorities with the rest of the Polish society doesn't occur:

- a strong sense of religious distinctiveness, e.g. Judaism professed by the Jews,
- attachment to the values of their own culture and traditions, which are strongly rooted in the communities, e.g. the Jews, the Roma,
- poor language skills, e.g., the Roma,
- low level of education, e.g., the Roma,
- aversion of many Poles to people who declare belonging to other nations,
- protection of one's own religion, life patterns and customs threatened by influence from other cultures,
- stereotypes and prejudices, e.g., towards the Roma population,
- fear of losing one's own heritage, sometimes even cultural identity,
- difference in living standards between Poles and some national and ethnic minorities, which can also make the integration difficult,
- integration, e.g. with Ukrainians, Russians or Germans is hindered by a difficult historical past (partitions, World War II), while contemporary perceptions of Russia/Russians are affected by the war in Ukraine.

National Minorities In Poland

Germans

- The largest minority in number among the national minorities in Poland,
- declared by 144,238 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- for historical and geographic reasons, the place of residence of this minority is the areas that historically were located on the Polish-German border,
- in 31 municipalities of Opole and Silesian regions, 359 additional German names have been introduced for cities, villages and their parts,
- the largest association of the German minority in Poland is the Socio-Cultural Society of Germans in Opole Silesia,
- representatives of the German minority are mostly Catholics, with a few declaring affiliation with the Evangelical-Augsburg Church.



Ukrainians

- Declared by 38,797 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- as a result of the Vistula Operation carried out by the communist authorities in 1947, almost the entire Ukrainian population living in south-eastern Poland was resettled in northern and western Poland, where they now have their largest communities,
- Ukrainians in Poland mostly belong to two churches: the Catholic Church of the Byzantine-Ukrainian rite and the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church,
- main organizations: Union of Ukrainians in Poland.



Armenians

- Declared by 1684 Polish citizens during the 2011 National population and housing census,
- representatives of the Armenian minority are mostly Armenian or Latin rite Catholics or belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church,
- main organizations: Polish Armenian Culture and Heritage Foundation, based in Warsaw.



Belarusians

- Declared by 43,880 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- traditionally reside in Podlaskie province,
- belong to the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church,
- Belarusian language,
- in many educational institutions in Podlaskie province, Belarusian is taught as an additional minority language,
- additional place names in this language have been established for the municipality of Orla,
- main organization: the Belarusian Social and Cultural Society.



Czechs

- Declared by 2833 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- Czechs came to the territory Poland in the mid-16th century, which was related to the religious persecution of the Czech Brethren,
- the Czech language belongs to the group of West Slavic languages,
- famous Poles of Czech origin: Jan Matejko, a painter, Wojciech Żywny, a pianist and composer, the teacher of Frederic Chopin,
- Czechs living in Poland are traditionally evangelicals.



Lithuanians

- Declared by 7374 Polish citizens During the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- reside in the northern areas of Poland, mainly in Podlaskie province, mainly the municipality of Pusk 75.7% of the population,
- speak Lithuanian language, which belongs to the Baltic languages,
- the vast majority are Catholics,
- main organization: the Community of Lithuanians in Poland.



Russians

- Declared by 8796 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- Russians living in Poland come mainly from successive waves of migration when they arrived in Poland: during the period of partitions, after the October Revolution, at the times of the Polish People's Republic and after the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
- representatives of the Russian community mostly belong to the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church,
- major organizations: Association "Russian Home" based in Warsaw.



Slovaks

- Declared by 2,740 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- Slovaks traditionally live in the Spiš and Orava regions in the south of Poland,
- Slovaks are mostly believers of the Roman Catholic Church,
- main organization: the Society of Slovaks in Poland.



Jews

- Declared by 7353 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- the first mention of the Jews in the Polish territory dates back to the 10th century, and the first official Polish document granting privileges and autonomy to Jews was the Statute of Kalisz from the 13th century,
- Jews are followers of the Mosaic religion,
- in the life of the Jewish minority, a major role is played by the activities of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Republic of Poland and its affiliated communities,
- main organizations: Social and Cultural Society of Jews in Poland.



Ethnic Minorities In Poland

The Tatars

- Declared by 1,828 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- the Tatars in Poland have lost the knowledge of their native language,
- followers of Islam,
- a great importance in the life of the Tatar minority is played by the activities of the Muslim Religious Union in the Republic of Poland,
- main organization: the Union of Tatars of the Republic of Poland.



The Lemkos

- Declared by 9641 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- traditionally, members of this minority live in the Low Beskid and part of the Sadecki Beskid in southwestern Poland,
- belong to two Churches: the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church of the Byzantine-Ukrainian Rite,
- main organization: the Association of Lemkos, - famous Lemkos: Nikifor Krynicki, an artist, Igor Herbut, a singer.



The Karaims

- The least numerous ethnic minority in Poland,
- declared by 313 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- teaching children and young people the Karaite language takes place during the Karaite language summer schools held in Trakai Lithuania,
- Karaims are followers the Karaite religion, which comes from Judaism,
- the activity of the Karaite Religious Union in the Republic of Poland is important in the life of the Karaite minority,
- the main organization: the Union of Polish Karaites.



The Roma

- Declared by 16725 Polish citizens during the 2011 National Population and Housing Census,
- the Roma in Poland are the followers of the Roman Catholic Church,
- main organization: the Union of Polish Roma,
- famous Roma: Bronislawa Wajs "Papusza", a poet.



Assignment

1. What is the biggest national minority in Poland?
2. Are the Jewish an ethnic minority in Poland?
3. What is the name of the ethnic minority following Islam in Poland?
4. What church does the Ukrainian minority belong to?

Assignments - Answer Key

Country, city and school

1. In 1025
2. The population density is 123,2 per km².
3. The Tatra Mountains, Warsaw, Cracow, Wroclaw, Tri- City.
4. In the south of Poland, in the Silesian Voivodeship.
5. You can learn: Landscape Architecture, Construction, Hospitality, IT Logistics, Mechanic
There is also a grammar school for students preparing for university.

Gender equality and sexual identities/sexual orientation

1. Most Poles think that a child should have a male and female example of a family in their life.
2. Poland has been recognised as the least LGBT-friendly country among all European Union member states. We are ranked 43rd in Europe out of a possible 49.
3. All-Poland Women's Strike and the Girls for Girls
4. For example: people identifying with LGBT+ community are insane, homosexual men are girly and would never be men fully, they flaunt their sexuality and they are pedophile and want to sexualize children.

Equality in relation to the disabled and elderly people

1. An elderly person in Poland is someone who has reached the age of 60.
2. Article 67 - The right to social security, Article 68 - The right to health care and Article 40 - Law prohibiting torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.
3. The main task of the UTW is education, integration and encouraging elderly people to improve the quality of their life and to increase their part in the community.
4. In Poland there are more than 3 million people with a legal disability.
5. Children and young people with disabilities receive a 78% discount on public transport.

Equality concerning national, ethnic and religious minorities

1. German minority is the biggest national minority in Poland.
2. No, the Jewish are a national minority.
3. The Tatars are the only ethnic minority following Islam in Poland
4. Ukrainians in Poland belong to the Catholic Church of the Byzantine-Ukrainian rite and the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

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<https://tinyurl.com/3b9wjrpb>
<https://tinyurl.com/yakf6z4x>
<https://tinyurl.com/3zre3aaf>
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9bj5tw>
<https://tinyurl.com/vz3a4xmv>
<https://tinyurl.com/4dtc9n2>
<https://tinyurl.com/mvsskaw2>
<https://tinyurl.com/3tjm5meb>
<https://tinyurl.com/53muhfpr>
<https://tinyurl.com/2ef6a4z2>
<https://tinyurl.com/yc8zys69>
<https://tinyurl.com/2yxhykjm>
<https://tinyurl.com/44drvfnh>