

This work takes interest in the present-day indigenous minority of Sorbs and their life in a mainly German-speaking environment. All of the field research was done in 2014 and 2016 during

the important festival and celebration The Easter ride of Crusaders in the Catholic part of Upper

Lusatia, which is a sign of the community and religious communal strength.

The Sorbs are the rural population, which has never demanded its rights in a violent way.

On the contrary, their traditional weapons throughout history were their conservative mentality,

passiveness and isolation. The Sorbs have a double identity, they are bilingual and they can change

the language they are speaking in an instant. The church was historically the only place where Sorbian was strictly the only language used. In fact, outside of the family German was the dominant

language at all other institutions.

The main differences that the Sorbs noticed between themselves and their German neighbors was a different language, being Catholic instead of Protestant, maintaining their own traditions,

which the Sorbs believe can be a source of fear in the majority of the unknown. In the interviews,

all of the problems that the Sorbs had with the majority Germanic people were mentioned in past

tense. Compared to the post war generation, they now do not have to fear repercussion and can

represent their culture freely without any problems.

According to the Saxony, Brandenburg and countrywide constitutions the Sorbs are officially recognized as a national minority and thus they have financial and lawful protection.

After

1948 (Saxony) and 1950 (Brandenburg) according to the so called Serbian law in Upper and Lower

Lusatia it was decreed that bilingual street signs were to be allowed. But primarily, bilingual education came to exist in this area. Sorbian is accepted in many institutions, in social life and partially in media, such as newspapers and publishing house etc.

This ethnic group is facing a long-term assimilation into the German-speaking environment, thus experiencing a sort of permanent "national revival". Even today, Sorbs have to confront different problems. The most invaluable thing the Sorbs have to face is the mechanical machine the

German education system is. Because of this system, two Sorbian schools had to be closed in the

past years. Even though this happened, the Sorbs do not blame this on the German side. They see a

solution in multiplying their population. Since the Sorb population has according to the head statistician office, the lowest average age out of all groups in Saxony.

When it comes down to mixed nationality marriages, then the responses from the Sorbs were split between the fact, that to have a Sorbian husband was easier, and the fact that if a German speaking man married into the family and learnt Sorbian and raised his family according to traditions then it wouldn't be a problem since they see this as an opportunity to expand their ranks.

But if a German does not learn Sorbian and does not live in the Sorbian ways, then there is a problem since the whole community must adapt and speak German instead.

This ethnic group with its low number of population couldn't even afford the strategy of endogamy. An example of the contrary might be one respondent with black appearance, which was

adopted by Sorbian parents who have fully mastered the Sorbian cultural values, was very propatriotic

active in his leisure and labor time and was fully integrated into community life.

Based on the results of research it was found that among the youngest generation there is an expanding living Sorbian culture (such as a Sorbian speaking metal band etc.) and that in the villages of Upper Lusatia there are youth clubs for the young generation to meet

(Budyšin/Bautzen,

Kamjenz/Kamenz, Wotrow/Ostro, Chróscicy/Crostwitz, Ralbicy/Ralbitz a Nowa Wjeska/Neudörfel). Even in the cities outside of the original region of Lusatia, a new community of young

people is being formed, for example in Dresden, due to the need two Sorbian kindergartens was

created.

The fact that members of the Sorbian ethnic group are exposed to constant overcoming of obstacles, their national manifestations are so strong and conscious, which creates a contrast to the

surrounding majority population. On the example of Easter rides, grandiose, costly and timeconsuming

fest we can see the inner strength and togetherness of that ethnic group. The

respondents' answers clearly show that this environment can be a great value, may entice and has a

lot to offer to the young generation.