

Abstract

This thesis deals with a Polish national group in Germany, Polonia, comprising about 2 million Poles and Germans with Polish origin. Polonia has a very well-developed organizational structure in Germany that takes care of Polish culture, language and traditions, as well as stands up for its rights listed in the Polish-German Treaty from the Polish-German Treaty of Good Neighborhood and Friendly Cooperation of 1991.

Periodical roundtables and conferences that are crucial for the Polish-German dialogue show problems that the Polish group faces. There are asymmetries in the fulfilment of the Polish-German treaty of 1991, which guarantee the same rights for the Polish group in Germany as for the German minority in Poland: whereas the latter is officially recognized as a national minority in Poland, the former has not been awarded the minority status. Furthermore, there is a lack of funding in the case of Polonia, which prevents the effective functioning of Polish organizations, and the unsatisfactory level of teaching Polish at public schools.

Author of the thesis comes to the conclusion that although the Polish national group is not a *de jure* recognized national minority, it *de facto* has the rights that are commonly attributed to a national minority. Moreover, the analysis showed that the Poles are not primarily seeking recognition of the national minority status, as originally presumed, but they rather want to solve the above-mentioned problems and thus fulfil the Polish-German treaty.