



## CLIL IN POLAND

### Teaching

Bilingual lessons have been offered in Poland since the school year 1991/1992. At the moment, there are bilingual classes at general state *lyceums* (sixth form colleges) and at *gymnasiums* (compulsory secondary education) as a result of the 1999 School Reform. Bilingual teaching takes place in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

Overview: number of schools in 2003/04 offering bilingual lessons taught in Polish and one of the following languages

school type/ second language	English	German	French	Spanish	Italian	Russian	Total
primary school (years 1-6)	2	3	—	—	—	—	5
<b>Gymnasium</b> (years 7-9)	9	9	7	—	—	—	25
<b>Lyceum</b> (years 10-12)	29	24	8	5	1	1	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>98</b>

The legal grounds for the organisation of bilingual classes ([LINK](#)) were set in decrees and laws by the Minister of Education during the 1990s, with the latest dating from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2001, which regulates, among other things, the new A-level examination due to come into effect in 2005.

A-level examinations for pupils in French and Spanish bilingual classes were regulated in 1997 by bilateral agreements between the Polish Ministry of Education and the French Embassy (1997-2001) and the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture ([LINK](#)).

The decrees of the Ministry of Education define CLIL as the teaching of at least 2 or 3 subjects in both Polish and a foreign language. The subjects in question are, most commonly, Mathematics, Physics with Astronomy, Chemistry, Biology with Hygiene and Conservation, Elements of General History and Geography and Computer Science.

Pupils can take their A-levels in these subjects in the respective target language. Subjects that cannot be taught bilingually are Polish, History and Geography of Poland and Modern Foreign Languages.

Bilingual classes at general secondary schools (*lyceums*, years 10-12) cover three years if appropriate linguistic ability in the target language has been proven, or four years if the *lyceum* offers a preliminary class. Pupils are admitted to this preliminary class on the basis of a diagnostic test assessing their linguistic talent, but not their actual command of the language. The preliminary year is dedicated solely to language acquisition.

At the moment, bilingual teaching is only offered at general *lyceums*, at *gymnasiums* (obligatory comprehensive secondary schools, years 7-9) and at some primary schools. Vocational schools have not been included in CLIL as yet.



The curriculum for the three-year bilingual course at the general *lyceum* (years 10-12) includes six hours of foreign language lessons (in the target language of the bilingually taught subjects).<sup>1</sup>

At *gymnasium*, the curriculum for bilingual classes includes 18 hours of foreign language lessons covering the whole period of years 7 to 9.<sup>2</sup>

The bilingual curriculum aims at the acquisition of high linguistic competence both in the mother tongue and in the target language. In addition, pupils are meant to extend their general knowledge of the respective historical, social and cultural aspects.

What has to be acknowledged here is the great involvement of international partners who have given immense support to their Polish colleagues. Native speakers of French, German, Spanish and Russian have been sent to teach at Polish schools by their respective home institutions.

Depending on the bilateral agreements, lessons at bilingual schools with French and Spanish as the target languages are organised differently to lessons at schools offering German and English.

A-level students with French as the target language take an examination that has been prepared by a joint, Polish-French commission. By contrast, A-level exams in Spanish are prepared by the Spanish partner. The students who successfully pass their A-level examination receive, apart from their Polish certificate, an official French or Spanish certificate. These documents are equivalent to the exam certificates from these countries, which means that students are exempted from taking language tests if they want to study in these countries.

There are opportunities for pupils from Polish-German bilingual *lyceums*. The German partner allows the pupils to take part in the language test "Deutsches Sprachdiplom Level II" (set by the German Conference of the Ministries of Culture), which opens the doors for studying in Germany. The two countries have mutually recognised their certificates since 1997.

The pupils' high level of achievement at bilingual *lyceums* with English as the target language was proven by the fact that they passed the International Baccalaureate with very good results. At the moment, this programme is offered at 10 *gymnasiums* in Poland.

The success of bilingual teaching and learning can be attributed to the teachers' professional commitment and to their initial and ongoing linguistic and specialised training.

The cooperation of the CODN with both French and Spanish language advisors and with the German Coordinators of the Central Agency for Schools Abroad at the National Office of Administration (*Zentralstelle für Auslandsschulwesen/Bundesverwaltungsamt*) has also been a great support.

The CODN and MOBIDIC cooperation has also brought new stimuli and ideas into CLIL.

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<sup>1</sup> Law gazette no. 61, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2001, position 626, enclosure no. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Law gazette no. 61, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2001, position 626, enclosure no. 8.



## Teacher Training

In Poland, teachers are trained in one subject only, which is why it is difficult to find content subject teachers with sufficient language skills. One exception is English as it the most popular language.

Specialised subject teachers at bilingual schools with the target languages French, German and Spanish can take part in regular training courses in the respective countries.

A decree by the Ministry of Education has been regulating the linguistic prerequisites of content subject teachers since autumn 2002. By 2005, anyone teaching a bilingual subject has to provide evidence that he/she has the required command of the language.

So far, there is no sufficient training in the methodology of content and language integrated teaching. Only since the CODN has started to cooperate with the MOBIDIC project, have things slightly changed. 27 Polish teachers took part in a regional course that took place in Sulejowek in July 2003 and 9 teachers participated in the international MOBIDIC course in Carlisle in January 2004. MOBIDIC is opening up better in-service training opportunities for content subject teachers at bilingual schools.

For a few years, some universities (Gdansk, Katowice, Warszawa and Wroclaw) have been working on offering integrated teacher training in the form of an additional course of studies. Also, for primary and secondary teachers of German an additional qualification in Geography and History is being considered.

Since October 2003, all pupils who want to become teachers have had to study two subjects and must have proven language abilities in one foreign language (level B2 of the “Common European Frame of Languages”). In addition, every student has to show a certain level of IT literacy. These changes will hopefully contribute to producing sufficient numbers of teachers who can be appointed to posts in bilingual teaching.

The bilingual schools with French have had a well-functioning network for a long time, which is coordinated by the CODN. The network of bilingual schools with German has only existed since 2003. Each year, a conference is organised over 2 to 3 days for all Polish bilingual schools where questions of curriculum as well as methodology are discussed and decided upon.

## Appendix: CLIL in Poland

### The legal grounds for the organisation of bilingual classes are:

- Decree of the Ministry of Education, 21st May 2001, on the framework of state kindergartens and schools, enclosure no. 3 (law gazette no. 61, position 624)
- Decree of the Minister of Education, 21st May 2001, on the programme for nursery schools, general education at individual school types, as well as education at specialised *lyceums*, enclosure no. 4 (law gazette no. 61, position 625)
- Decree of the Minister of Education, 21st May 2001, on the curriculum of state schools, enclosures no. 8 and no. 15 (law gazette no. 61, position 626)
- Decree of the Minister of Education, 21st May 2001, on the conditions of marking, classification and support of pupils and state school examinations, on the basis of article 22 of law 2, position 4 of 7th September 1991 on the system of education (law gazette



no. 67, position 329 and no. 106, position 496, of 1997 no. 28, position 153 and no. 141, position 943, of 1998 no. 117, position 759 and no. 162, position 1126, and of 2000 no. 12, position 136, no. 19, position 239, no. 48, position 550, no. 104, position 1104, no. 120, position 1268 and no. 122, position 1320)

- Law, 21st December 2000, on the amendment of the education system (law gazette no. 122, position 1320 of 31st December 2000).

Bilateral Agreements on A-levels examinations in bilingual classes, target languages French and Spanish:

- Agreement between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Poland and the French Embassy in Poland on the regulation of the organisation of A-level examinations for pupils of bilingual classes with French at Polish general *lyceums* in 1997/98 and 1998/99 and on the certification conditions of pupils' knowledge of French who have passed the examinations regulated on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1998 with the amendment of 9<sup>th</sup> December 1999 (extending the validity for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001)
- Agreement between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Poland and the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture on the creation and realisation of bilingual classes with Spanish at general *lyceums*, on the organisation of the A-level examinations for pupils of these classes as well as the definition of the necessary conditions for the awarding of "Titulo de Bachiller" by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture of 6th May 1997.