



COMMISSION ON STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
OUTSIDE THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Romanization rules for the Lemko (Ruthenian or Rusyn) language in Poland

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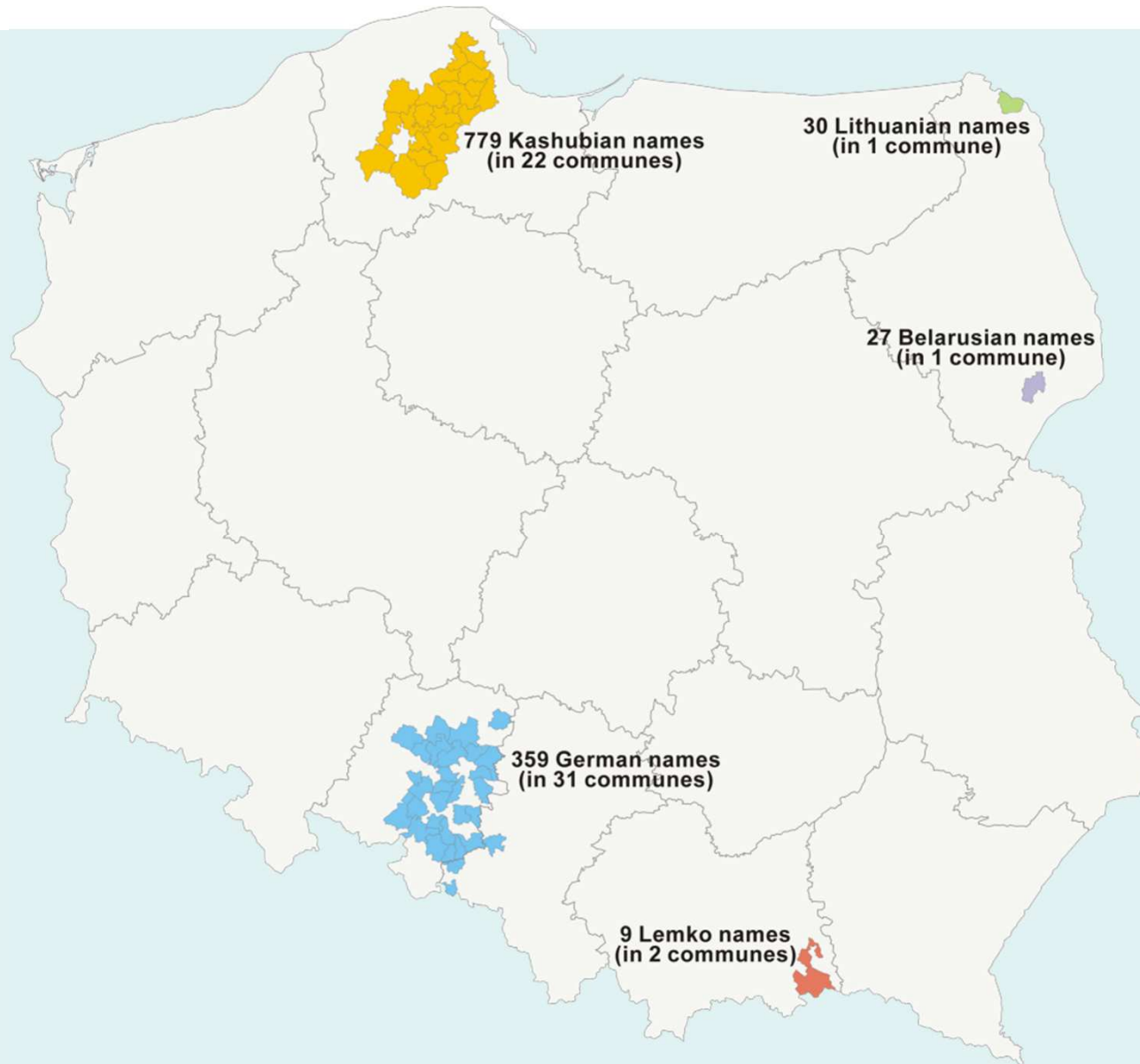
Legal basis for minorities in Poland

Act of 6th January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on the regional languages.

The act mentions:

- 9 national minorities: Belorussian, Czech, Lithuanian, German, Armenian, Russian, Slovak, Ukrainian, and Jewish
- 4 ethnic minorities: Karait, **Lemko**, Roma, and Tartar
- 1 regional language – the Kashubian language

Minority place-names in Poland



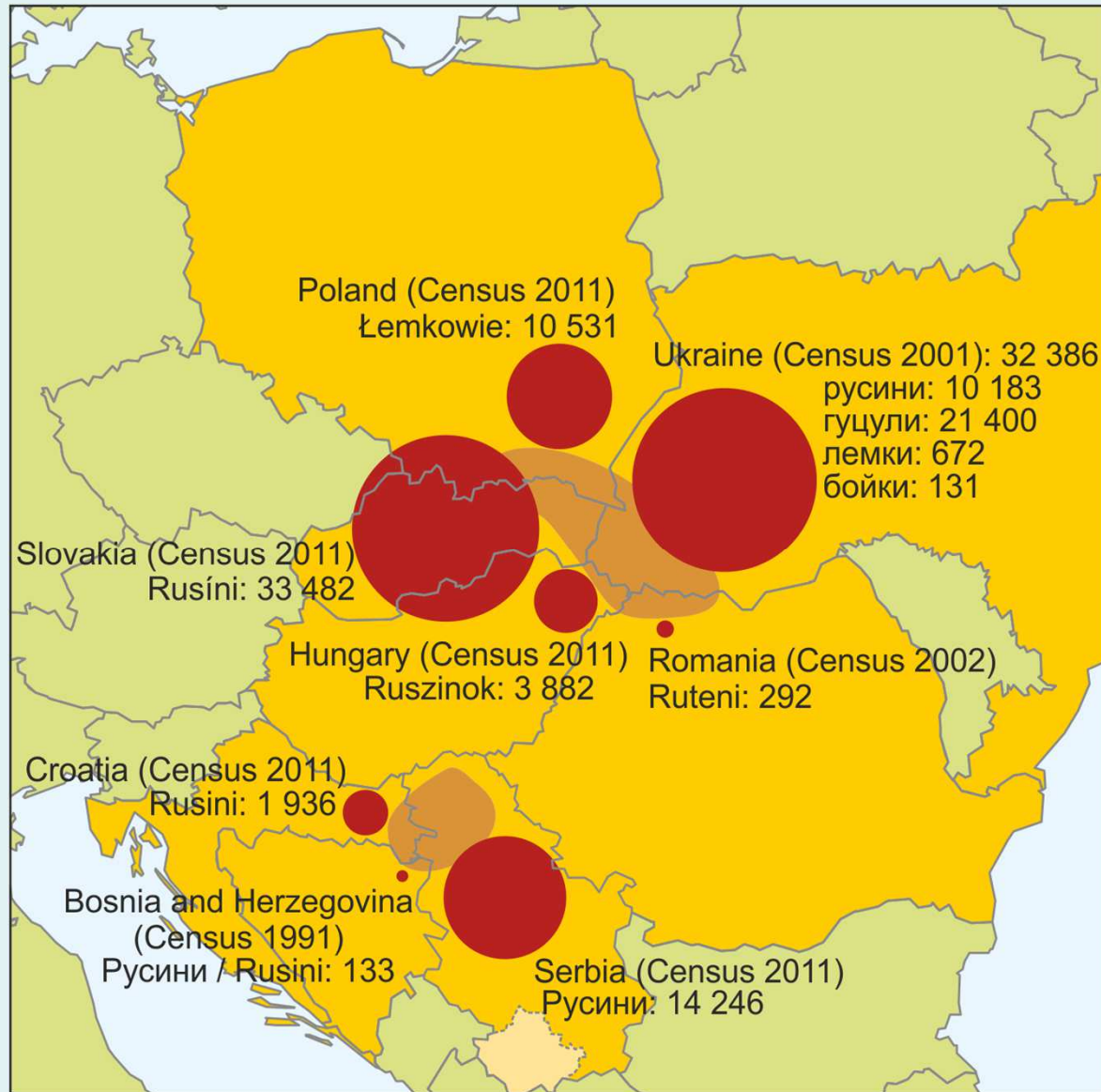
Minority place-names in the National Register of Geographical Names

Surveyor General of Poland maintain the database of the National Register of Geographical Names.

The Register contains, among others, officially adopted names in minority languages:

- For the names originally written in non-Romas scripts, both, original non-Roman form and the Romanized forms should be provide.
- These Romanized forms should be provided according to the transliteration rules adopted by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names outside the Republic of Poland
- Minority names in Belarusian and Lemko are written in non-Roman script (Cyrillic)

Ruthenians (Rusyns) in Europe



Ruthenian names of localities

Slovakia

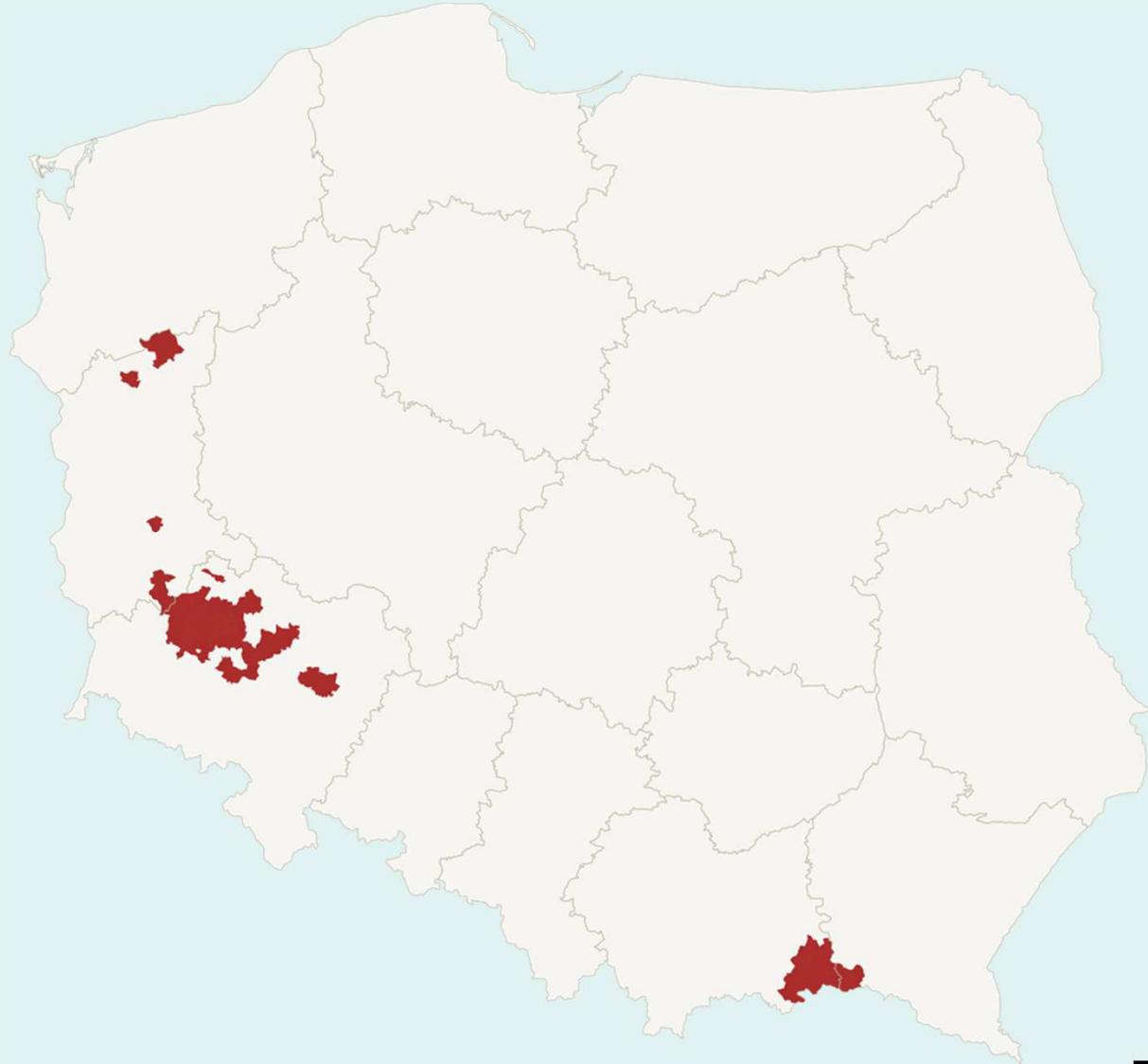
Poland



Serbia

Lemkos in Poland

Census 2011:
10 531 Lemko
declarations, in
which 9640
members of Lemko
minority (persons
with Polish
citizenship)



Lemko language

Lemko language – an ethnolect of the Lemko ethnic community

- belongs to the East Slavic languages
- used to be classified as dialect of Ukrainian
- today classify as regional variants of Rusyn (Ruthenian) language
- 1871 – the first manifesto of separateness of the Lemko language from other Ruthenian languages
- 1911 – publication of magazines and books in Lemko has started
- interwar period – Lemko was taught in schools
- after 1989 – intensification of codification processes

Lemko alphabet

The Lemko alphabet consists of 34 letters:

Аа Бб Вв Гг Гґ Дд Ее Єе Жж Зз Іі Ии Ыы Йй Кк Лл
Мм Нн Оо Пп Рр Сс Тт Уу Фф Хх Цц Чч Шш Щщ
Юю Яя Ъъ Ьь

- lack of letters **ë** and **ï**, which are present in the Rusyn alphabet of Slovakia
- the Rusyn alphabet used in Vojvodina: lack of letters **і**, **ы**, and **ъ** occurring in the Lemko alphabet, but the letter **ї** is used

Polish phonetic transcription of the Lemko alphabet

А а	a	Ы ы	y	Ф ф	f
Б б	b	Й й	j	Х х	ch
В в	w	К к	k	Ц ц	c
Г г	h	Л л	l ⁶ , l ⁷	Ч ч	cz
Ґ ґ	g	М м	m	Ш ш	sz
Д д	d	Н н	n	Щ щ	szcz
Е е	e	О о	o	Ю ю	ju ¹ , u ² , iu ³
Є є	je ¹ , e ² , ie ³	П п	p	Я я	ja ¹ , a ² , ia ³
Ж ж	ż	Р р	r	Ь ь	– ⁸ , i ⁹ , ‘ ¹⁰
З з	z	С с	s	Ъ ъ	– ¹¹
І і	i ⁴ , ji ⁵	Т т	t		
И и	y	У у	u		

¹ at the beginning of words, after vowel letters, and after ь and ъ

² after л

³ after other consonantal letters

⁴ at the beginning of words, and after all the letters except ь

⁵ after ь

⁶ before є, я, ю, and ъ and in gemination лл

⁷ in other cases

⁸ omitted after л and before: а, у, є, я, and ю

⁹ before о (omitted when it occurs after л even it is before о)

¹⁰ in other cases is rendered as sign of palatalization: in combinations is rendered as: зь = ź, нь = ń, сь = ś, ць = ć; in other cases as ‘ placed after a letter, for example ть = t’, дь = d’

¹¹ The hard sign in the transcription, until recently, was marked by an apostrophe and an iotation in the subsequent phone (for example зьїзд – z’jizd, б’є – b’je, об’єднаня – ob’jednania) or an iotation only; currently, in transcribed notation is omitted and its existence is pointed out only by an iotation of the subsequent phone (for example зьїзд – zjizd, б’є – bje, об’єднаня – objednania)

Transliteration of the Lemko alphabet

А а	a	Ы ы	ŷ	Ф ф	f
Б б	b	Й й	j	Х х	ch
В в	v	К к	k	Ц ц	c
Г г	h	Л л	l	Ч ч	č
Ґ ґ	g	М м	m	Ш ш	š
Д д	d	Н н	n	Щ щ	šč
Е е	e	О о	o	Ю ю	ju
Є є	je	П п	p	Я я	ja
Ж ж	ž	Р р	r	Ь ь	'
З з	z	С с	s	Ъ ъ	"
І і	i	Т т	t		
И и	y	У у	u		

A world map with a grid overlay, centered on the Atlantic Ocean. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in the center of the map in a bold, blue font.

Thank you