

COUNTRY PROFILES

Poland

Poland's accession to the European Union has had a huge impact on Poland's external strength and its relationship with EU structures, West European countries and its neighbouring East European countries. Poland has ambitions to be a country leading and shaping European policy. It is in this vain that Poland is also continuing relations with third countries and shows a positive attitude towards cooperation with other European countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world.

One independent author observes that "Over the past years, the significance of state bilateral cooperation has been decreasing"²¹ which is not supported neither by arguments on the Ministry's website nor in debate found in the Yearbook of Polish Foreign Policy. Both confirm that Poland has very strong bilateral ties and that these are being maintained and even strengthened in lieu of Polish accession to the EU.

M i n i s t r y o f F o r e i g n a f f a i r s

International agreements on cultural, scientific and educational cooperation are signed by the Promotion Department of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

M i n i s t r y o f C u l t u r e

The Ministry of Culture purportedly has an International Relations Department to support Polish artists wishing to work abroad.

The programmes and policies of government are carried out through national governmental institutions. In the case of international cultural cooperation and promotion of Polish culture abroad, two institutions share the tasks: the International Cultural Centre and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute.

T h e I n t e r n a t i o n a l C u l t u r a l C e n t r e

The International Cultural Centre in Krakow concentrates on scientific research and educational and cultural programmes mainly in the European cultural heritage field and principally in central Europe. It aims to promote and protect Central Europe's cultural area by organising research, information, training, conferences, publications and exhibitions.

T h e A d a m M i c k i e w i c z I n s t i t u t e

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute (AMI) is a government cultural institution created in the year 2000 by the Minister of Culture (formerly: the Minister of Culture and National Heritage) in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The institute's mission is to promote Polish culture throughout the world and to engage in programs of cultural cooperation with other countries. The institute shares responsibility for implementing Poland's foreign cultural policy, including: disseminating information about Polish culture on the web (www.culture.pl); producing and gathering various information and promotion publications and materials (multiple language publications, illustrations, recordings, films, literary programs, exhibition projects, and the like), and making them available to interested individuals, foreign institutions, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' offices - Embassies and Polish Institutes; supporting the publication of Polish literary works and books on the humanities in foreign languages; organising study visits, conferences, seminars and scholarships.

P o l i c y f o c u s

Besides the promotion of Polish culture, the Polish government is strongly interested in questions of security and inter-cultural dialogue. The government hosted the III Summit of the Council of Europe in May 2005 with the aim of provoking deeper reflection on the state of the architecture of security and cooperation in Europe, and in Euro-Atlantic relations.

Cooperation in the framework of the Visegrád Group, the Central European Initiative and the Council of Baltic Sea States is strongly supported by Poland. The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that these international bodies have: “enhanced the identity of Central Europe and ensured stability in the whole region”... and they go on to call for direction in the “evolution of cooperation in the region, so that its desirability and usefulness is convincingly manifested.” ... “ Our partners have had an opportunity to become convinced that Poland does not treat the region as a base for its political ambitions at the EU forum. Nor do we make pretensions to playing the role of a regional leader. We have other goals: we want to use our prestige and position in the European and Transatlantic family to promote the interests of the region.”

G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

Polish cultural foreign policy focuses on EU Member States and very deliberately on neighbouring countries particularly the Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Moldova. This is reflected in many visages of policy, for example:

- The Instytut Polski has eleven offices located inside the EU: Germany (Berlin, Düsseldorf and Leipzig), Latvia (Vilnius), Czech Republic (Prague), Hungary (Budapest), Austria (Vienna), Italy (Rome), France (Paris), United Kingdom (London) and Sweden (Stockholm).
- Aside from policies to support cooperation and coordinate actions with other EU states, Poland has a special relationship with Germany and France (the Weimar Triangle founded in 1991).
- The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have also delegated to the Adam Mickiewicz Institute (AMI) the responsibility of implementing large international projects undertaken on the basis of bilateral agreements with other countries: Belgium and neighbouring countries (2001 and 2002); Spain (2002); Austria (2002-2003); Sweden (2003); France (2004); Germany (2004, and 2005-2006).
- The signing of the Declaration of Prime Ministers of the Visegrád Group (Czech Republic, Republic of Hungary, Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic) is evidence alone that Poland continues to have strong East-East relations. This regional group has been working together since the first Visegrád declaration in 1991, with a view to European integration. The second declaration was signed in light of accession to the EU and commits the partners to cooperate, help and share knowledge with neighbouring countries in Eastern and South Eastern European countries within the framework of EU policies. As member of the Visegrád Group, Poland is also an advocate for joint action primarily in the framework of the European Union.

More support for actions with neighbouring non-EU countries can be seen in the fact that:

- Poland is an active member of the Council of Baltic Sea States and is also supportive of coordinated and facilitated actions with the European Union.
- The Instytut Polski has offices located in six neighbouring non-EU countries: Romania (Bucharest), Bulgaria (Sofia), Ukraine (Kiev), Belarus (Minsk), Russia (St. Petersburg and Moscow), Israel (Tel Aviv).
- Large international projects undertaken on the basis of bilateral agreements have taken place with Russia (2001 and 2004 - 2005) and the Ukraine (2005).

Poland also has observer status in the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

Poland, within the framework of mainstream European politics, supports integration with Euro-Atlantic structures. The Instytut Polski also has one office located in the USA (New York).

Further afield, Poland claims in official statements to have bilateral agreements with Japan, South Korea and China.

H i g h l y r e c o m m e n d e d r e a d i n g

□Rotfeld, Prof. Adam Daniel, (2005) Government information on the Polish foreign policy, E-Doc Link: <http://www.msz.gov.pl/start.php?page=1020200001>
Government information on the Polish foreign policy presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prof. Adam Daniel Rotfeld, at the session of the Sejm on 21st January 2005: "... we shall continue consolidating our place in the European Union as a responsible state..."
"...further enlargement of the EU eastward is to the advantage of Poland and the European Union as a whole."...

Adam Mickiewicz Institute (AMI), (2005) Official website,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.iam.pl/en/html/>

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute (AMI) is a government cultural institution created in the year 2000 by the Minister of Culture (formerly: the Minister of Culture and National Heritage) in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The institute's mission is to promote Polish culture throughout the world and to engage in programs of cultural cooperation with other countries. The institute shares responsibility for implementing Poland's foreign cultural policy.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Restitution of works of art lost in result of World War II,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.msz.gov.pl/start.php?page=1200000001>

"Though almost sixty years have passed since the end of World War II, the problem of restitution of lost cultural goods still remains open. The Cold War and the subsequent division of Europe into two political blocs prevented resolution of the problem. Conditions did not exist at that time for elimination of all the consequences of the war, or even for completion of restitution claims by the respective countries. As a rule, attempts to reclaim looted works of art, libraries and archive materials were unsuccessful." ...

G e n e r a l / b a c k g r o u n d r e a d i n g

Akademia Dyplomatyczna, (2005) Bilateral relations of Poland,

E-Doc Link:

http://www.msz.gov.pl/warecka/yearbook/2001/bilateral_relations_of_poland.html

In-depth analyses of Polish bilateral agreements.

Kaczorowska, Ma_gorzata, (2005) Polish Foreign Policy,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.polishembassy.ie/PolishForeignPolicy.htm>

The Warsaw Voice: article giving a full overview of Polish Foreign Policy.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Polish presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.msz.gov.pl/start.php?page=1310800001#3a>

The CBSS serves as an overall regional forum for intergovernmental cooperation, focusing on the need for intensified coordination of activities in virtually every field of government, (with the notable exception of military defence, which is explicitly excluded as a potential area of cooperation in the Council's Terms of Reference), among the Baltic Sea States. CBSS Ministerial meetings have been held in the following fields: agriculture; children's affairs; culture, economic affairs, education, energy, finance, health, information technology, interior, justice, labour, social affairs, spatial planning, trade and industry, transport, and youth affairs.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2003) Yearbook of Polish foreign policy 2003,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.sprawymiedzynarodowe.pl/yearbook/2003/2003.html>

"In this, our latest, 12th, issue of the Yearbook we attempt to present as complete a picture as possible of the premises and tangible achievements of Poland's foreign policy as well as problems encountered by our country in the area of international relations in 2002. An overview of policy will be found in the article opening the "Vectors" section and signed by the country's Foreign Minister W_ odzimierz Cimoszewicz. It was written from the vantage point of the second quarter of 2003, when world news was dominated by the Iraq issue and the

debate about new threats to world security (and hence Poland's as well) posed by international terrorism. The contemporary security environment is examined more broadly by a deputy foreign minister, Adam D. Rotfeld, who considers the dynamics of the challenges to international security and sets out the case for the decisions taken by the Polish government to support America over Iraq, which led to deployment of Polish troops and taking charge of one of the administrative zones set up after the fall of Saddam Hussein. 1. The central focus of Poland's activity in the international forum in 2002 was bringing the final stage of entry negotiations with the European Union to a successful conclusion and locking Poland into the process of European integration. This was reflected in the programme of official visits by leading politicians and parliamentarians, the intensity of diplomatic contacts, and the hard work of the negotiators, who, in the intervals between talks, threw themselves into a vigorous public information campaign. The closing of outstanding negotiating chapters and the whole harmonisation process called for a substantial effort by all central and local government departments responsible for Union matters. It was also a burning issue for parliamentary debates and questions in which virtually all the conceivable pros and cons of Union membership were considered. The whole point of joining, the foreign minister stressed in his annual policy presentation to parliament on 14 March 2002, is final confirmation of Poland's place in the ambit of European civilisation”...

Ilczuk, Dorota, (2005) Chapter 2.4, International Cultural Cooperation, Poland: Compendium of Cultural Policies, E-Doc Link: www.culturalpolicies.net
Introduction to the main axis of Polish international cultural cooperation.

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports - Poland,
E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1_national_reports2.pdf
Background to structures, competencies and institutes involved in cultural cooperation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, (2003) Strategy for Poland's development cooperation,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.msz.gov.pl/docs/39/DCstrv2.doc>
The objectives of our development cooperation are in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the guidelines of the European Union's development policy.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2003) Poland's Foreign Policy in Documents - 2003,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.msz.gov.pl/publications/2003/index.htm>
“Poland's Foreign Policy in documents - 2003” on CD is the second edition of a compiled, electronic source of information on the Polish foreign policy in the year 2003. As the previous edition, the present one also contains a selection of documents and promotion materials which accompanied the activities of Polish diplomacy all through the year 2003. It is first and foremost meant to be a useful work of reference for researchers, students, governmental, and non-governmental organisations, as well as for anyone who shares interest in Poland and international relations.”....