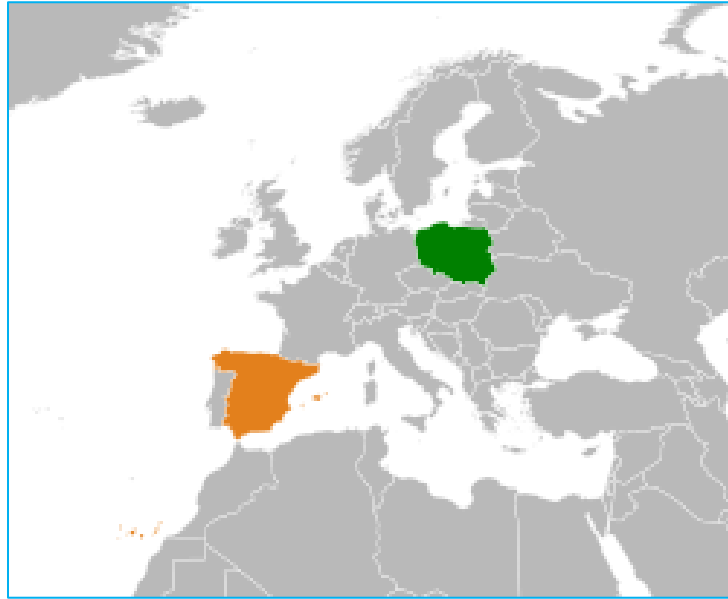




CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL
RELATIONS BETWEEN
COUNTRIES TAKING PART IN
THE COMENIUS PROJECT
„HERITAGE OF THE PAST –
FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE”

Relations between Poland and Spain



Both countries are political partners in the European Union.

Historical relations

- The first contacts date to late Middle Ages (merchants, priests and travellers)
- In the past the diplomacy of both countries was more likely to support one another. Spain was the only country to express a protest over the First Partition of Poland
- During the Peninsular War (1809–1814) in Spain, a number of Polish soldiers fought on the side of Napoleon. The Vistula Legion gained fame at the Battle of Zaragoza. The Polish Chevau-léger regiment distinguished itself at the Battle of Somosierra .
- In the early 20th century a number of Polish volunteers participated in the Spanish Civil War on the Republican side, with the most famous unit being the Dąbrowski Battalion.

Cultural relations

- In the past Poland and Spain had the highest percentage of petty nobility in Europe (hidalgos, szlachta).
- Both countries also shared a strong Catholic history.
- Spain had a significant influence on Polish culture, particularly literature. Spanish works have been translated into Polish, Spain was a setting of some famous Polish works such as *The Manuscript Found in Zaragoza*, and influenced major Polish literary figures, such as Juliusz Słowacki.
- In the 21st century both governments promoted their partners culture at home, with the Polish Year in Spain in 2002 and the Spanish Year in Poland in 2003.
- Spain is a popular tourist destination for Poles, with about half a million of Poles visiting Spain every year.
- Spanish language is a popular foreign language to learn in Poland.

Relations between Poland and Romania



Poland became the member of EU in 2004 and
Romania in 2007.

Historical relations

- When Poland regained independence in 1918, Romania became one of its most important allies – the two countries had a common border running through the territory of present Ukraine.
- The Polish People's Republic did not have too intensive cooperation with Romania. Mutual relations were not especially significant for either country.
- Over the years, the PRL and the SRR had less and less in common. Economic difficulties which began to occur in the two countries resulted in a decrease in trade and consequently in the decline of mutual contacts. In 1979 Romania unilaterally changed the rules for car fuel accounting, which resulted in the total collapse of Polish tourism in the country.
- After 1981, Polish-Romanian relations briefly improved, as Jaruzelski's internal politics resembled some of those Ceaușescu had carried out in Romania but during the last years of Ceaușescu's regime, Polish-Romanian relations practically did not exist.
- On 12 March 2015 Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski and his Romanian counterpart Klaus Iohannis signed a declaration to strengthen mutual cooperation.

Cultural relations

- According to the 2002 census, 3,671 Poles live in Romania, mainly in the villages of *Suczawa* and three exclusively Polish villages: *Nowy Sołonec*, *Plesza* and *Pojana Mikuli*. Poles in Romania form an officially recognised minority, having one seat in the Chamber of Deputies of Romania and have access to Polish elementary schools and cultural centres.
- The Treaty on friendly relations was signed on January 25th, 1993 in Bucharest, by Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski and Romanian Minister Teodor Melescanu. It describes the areas of cooperation:
- protection of human rights and prevention of international armed conflicts, support for building in Europe a common space of prosperity, exchange of students, cooperation in the area of health and environment protection, history and culture, research and development.
- In 2009 the Treaty was completed by the Joint Declaration of the Presidents regarding the establishing of the Strategic Partnership between Poland and Romania that constitutes the direction in which our relation develops.

Relations between Poland and Turkey



Polish government supports Turkey's pursuit of EU membership.

Historical relations

- The history of Polish-Turkish relations dates back to 1414, four years after the battle of Grunwald, when Sultan Mehmed I Çelebi received the first Polish diplomatic mission at his court in Bursa, the capital of the Ottoman Empire.
- Polish-Turkish relations were historically strong. In the Polish collective memory, Turkey is a country that never recognized the partitioning of Poland.
- In the 19th century many Polish veterans of the November Uprising, January Uprising and Crimean War arrived in Turkey.
- Many Polish officers, like Michał Czajkowski, served in the Ottoman Army.
- Polish general Marian Langiewicz spent the last years of his life in Turkey, fought in the Ottoman Army and died in Istanbul, where he is buried at the Haydarpaşa Cemetery.
- Polish national poet Adam Mickiewicz spent the last months of his life in Istanbul and died there. The house where he lived was later transformed into the Adam Mickiewicz Museum. The museum now houses some of his manuscripts, historical documents and paintings.

Cultural relations

- There are several notable examples of cultural connections between the two countries. In 1842, Polish veterans of the November Uprising settled a village east of Istanbul, Polonezköy (town of the Poles). Also known as Adampol, it constituted a unique cultural and historical event. In the 19th and 20th centuries further Polish settlers arrived. As of 2009 there is still Polish minority in the village.
- Presently the town has over 1,000 citizens, most descendants of its founders, and around four percent speak Polish fluently. The minority pays special attention to maintaining national culture. The town holds a Polish Cemetery, a museum memorializing its history and Our Lady Church from Częstochowa cultivating Polish religious traditions. Each summer its inhabitants organize a music festival, inviting national folk bands and various interesting guests to Adampol.
- The famous Polish poet and writer Adam Mickiewicz came to the Ottoman Empire in 1855 to help organize Polish and Jewish forces to fight Russia in the Crimean War.