

**Second Plan of Action
of the State Government of Saxony
to encourage and invigorate the use of the
Sorbian language
(Second Sorbian Language Action Plan)**

Passed by the State Government of Saxony on 18.06.2019

Preliminary Remarks

On 24 April 2012, the State Government of Saxony passed the First Plan of Action to encourage and invigorate the use of the Sorbian language. In the context of the State Government of Saxony's Fifth Report on the State of the Sorbian People of 30 June 2017, the current implementation status was set out both in the relevant chapters and in the annex.

In response to a motion filed by the parliamentary parties of the CDU and SPD, on 22 June 2017, the Landtag of the Free State of Saxony resolved to request the State Government of Saxony to update the Plan of Action to encourage and invigorate the use of the Sorbian language in agreement with the Council for Sorbian Affairs and others representing the interests of the Sorbian People according to § 5 Sächs-SorbG (Saxony legislation on the rights of the Sorbs).

The Second Sorbian Language Action Plan comprises objectives designed to promote the acquisition and use of the Sorbian language as well as appreciation and knowledge of the Sorbian language, culture and traditions. The individual actions to encourage and invigorate the use of the Sorbian language in public life within the Sorbian settlement areas should be consistently implemented with a view to the entire Free State of Saxony. The Second Sorbian Language Action Plan comprises wide-ranging contents and envisages a larger timeframe. Some of the actions listed have already reached the implementation phase. Others still require concrete development. Where necessary, this may include clarification of any expenditure incurred and the concomitant financing in the context of the resources available, or subsequently made available, for the protection and promotion of the Sorbian language, culture and traditions. To this extent, these actions are subject to the availability of the relevant budgetary resources in the respective budget.

— The individual actions are presented in the form of tables that are all structured as follows:

Goal	What should be achieved?
Action	What should be done?
Suggested by	Who has suggested this action?
Target group	Who should be reached?
Implementation	When should the action be implemented? What steps are involved in implementation?
Responsibility	Who is responsible for planning and implementing this action?
Partners	Who can the person responsible call on to support the implementation of this action?
First plan of action	If there is a connection to the first plan of action: What is the current implementation status? Reference in the Fifth Report on the State of the Sorbian People (Sorbian Report)

Goal 1	Learning Sorbian: for anyone interested
Action 1.1	Certification of Sorbian language skills for anyone interested Recognition of Upper Sorbian language certificate
Suggested by	Modified action based on Plan of Action / Domowina / WITAJ Language Centre
Target group	Anyone interested
Implementation	The WITAJ Language Centre, in cooperation with the Sorbian Institute and the Department of Sorbian Studies at the University of Leipzig, will develop the basic principles for certification according to GER (A1 to C2).
Responsibility	WITAJ Language Centre
Partners	Adult education centres and other language course providers in the Sorbian settlement area
First plan of action	Action 1.5.1, partially implemented, in the Report on the Situation of the Sorbs in the Annex and in Chapters 2.4.2 and 2.5

Goal 1	Learning Sorbian: for anyone interested
Action 1.2	Sorbian Language School in Bautzen
Suggested by	Domowina / WITAJ Language Centre / Saxon State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs
Target group	Teachers and, potentially, anyone interested
Implementation	Holding language courses in the framework of regional in-service teacher training as well as for others interested within the scope of available resources in tandem with Action 9.3
Responsibility	State Office for Schools and Education
Partners	
First plan of action	Action 1.1.2, partially implemented, ongoing, in the Report on the Situation of the Sorbs in the Annex and in Chapters 2.2.5 and 2.4.2

Goal 1	Learning Sorbian: for anyone interested
Action 1.3	Authorities of the Free State of Saxony in the Sorbian settlement area encourage their staff to learn Sorbian in the context of in-service training opportunities (including online)
Suggested by	Modified action based on the previous plan of action
Target group	Staff employed by the authorities of the Free State of Saxony in the Sorbian settlement area
Implementation	Ongoing
Responsibility	Authorities of the Free State of Saxony in the Sorbian settlement area
Partners	Adult education centres, TU Dresden, WITAJ Language Centre, online Sorbian language learning offers
First plan of action	Action 1.1.2, partially implemented, ongoing, in the Report on the Situation of the Sorbs in the Annex and in Chapter 2.2.5

Goal 2	Opportunity for all students at universities in the Free State of Saxony to acquire knowledge of Sorbian language and culture
Action 2.1	Workshop to devise actions
Suggested by	Saxon State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs
Target group	Students
Implementation	Already since the winter semester 2018/19: Sorbian language course on offer at TU Dresden
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs
Partners	Universities
First plan of action	

Goal 2	Opportunity for all students at universities in the Free State of Saxony to acquire knowledge of Sorbian language and culture
Action 2.2	To examine the possibility of awarding grants to all students who learn Sorbian, provided that they will use Sorbian in their later professional life
Suggested by	Saxon State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs
Target group	Students
Implementation	Examining the possibility of awarding grants to all students who are prepared to learn Sorbian, provided that they will use Sorbian in their later professional life and be deployed as teachers in the Sorbian settlement area
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art
Partners	Saxon State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs
First plan of action	

Goal 3	Use of Sorbian in municipalities in the Sorbian settlement area
Action3.1	To establish a permanent Sorbian language service point
Suggested by	Council for Sorbian Affairs
Target group	Municipalities in the Sorbian settlement area, offices and authorities in the Sorbian settlement area and other institutions
Implementation	Creating a service point as a quality-assurance measure / translation service for the equal use of Sorbian in public life and in accordance with Saxon legislation on the rights of the Sorbs; guaranteeing constant availability, direct access for the target group and timely execution of duties
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry of the Interior
Partners	Municipalities Sorbian Institute Council for Sorbian Affairs Domowina
First plan of action	

Ziel 4	Public outreach by the Free State of Saxony in and about the Sorbian language
Action 4.1	<p>To consolidate the information offered in Sorbian on sachsen.de as well as in selected publications produced by the Free State of Saxony</p> <p>To consolidate the information offered in German and Sorbian on protecting and promoting the Sorbian language, culture and traditions on sachsen.de as well as in selected publications produced by the Free State of Saxony</p>
Suggested by	Modified action based on the previous plan of action; Domowina
Target group	The population of the Free State of Saxony
Implementation	Ongoing
Responsibility	All state ministries
Partners	
First plan of action	Actions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2, partially implemented, ongoing, in the Report on the Situation of the Sorbs in the Annex and in Chapter 2.4.2

Goal 4	Public outreach by the Free State of Saxony in and about the Sorbian language
Action 4.2	To translate selected items of new legislation into Sorbian
Suggested by	Domowina
Target group	Inhabitants of the Sorbian settlement area
Implementation	Translating selected items of new legislation on the rights of the citizens of Sorbian ethnicity living in the Free State of Saxony to protect their identity and to foster and develop their native language, culture and traditions into Sorbian
Responsibility	Relevant line ministries
Partners	
First plan of action	

Goal 5	Use of bilingual place names in the Sorbian settlement area
Action 5.1	To consolidate implementation of signposting off the motorways in the Sorbian settlement area in the Free State of Saxony: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decree of 18 August 2000 - tourist signposting in the Sorbian settlement area in the Free State of Saxony in accordance with the decree issued by the Saxon State Ministry of Economy, Labour and Transport of 28 September 2015 - use of the appropriate character set for Sorbian characters in the letter issued by the Saxony State Ministry of Economy, Labour and Transport of 28 June 2016
Suggested by	Action based on the previous plan of action / Saxony State Ministry of Economy, Labour and Transport
Target group	Inhabitants of / visitors to the Sorbian settlement area
Implementation	Ongoing
Responsibility	Saxony State Ministry of Economy, Labour and Transport Subsidiary authorities Administrative districts State Office for Road Construction and Transport
Partners	Representatives of Sorbian interests
First plan of action	Actions 2.2.2, implementation ongoing, in the Report on the Situation of the Sorbs in the Annex and in Chapter 2.7.3

Goal 5	Use of bilingual place names in the Sorbian settlement area
Action 5.2	To introduce bilingual signposting within the Sorbian settlement area on and around motorways near places located in the Sorbian settlement area
Suggested by	Domowina
Target group	Inhabitants of / visitors to the Sorbian settlement area
Implementation	Continuing coordination with the responsible authorities at Federal and State level
Responsibility	Saxony State Ministry of Economy, Labour and Transport
Partners	Representatives of Sorbian interests
First plan of action	

Goal 5	Use of bilingual place names in the Sorbian settlement area
Action 5.3	To ensure the correct use of bilingual place names and selected road names in official cartography and geoinformation systems
Suggested by	Domowina
Target group	Inhabitants of / visitors to the Sorbian settlement area
Implementation	Continuing and expanding measures already taken, if technically feasible; adoption of bilingual road names and, potentially, other place-related names (e.g. lake names), if available and displayable
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry of the Interior
Partners	Administrative districts, municipalities, Sorbian Institute, Domowina, Council for Sorbian Affairs
First plan of action	

Goal 6	Regional local authority implementation of LEADER projects to promote the use of the Sorbian language within the Sorbian settlement area
Action 6.1	LEADER action groups to have the possibility of taking account of the concerns of the Sorbs and Sorb-German bilingualism
Suggested by	Saxony State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture
Target group	Inhabitants of the Sorbian settlement area
Implementation	Sensitising LEADER action groups to Sorbian-German bilingualism
Responsibility	Saxony State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture
Partners	
First plan of action	

Goal 7	Respecting use of Sorbian
Action 7.1	To conduct an image campaign to reinforce respect for the Sorbian language and to encourage use of Sorbian
Suggested by	Modified action adopted from the first plan of action
Target group	Inhabitants in the Sorbian settlement area and in the entire Free State
Implementation	Implementation as of 2019
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art
Partners	Council for Sorbian Affairs
First plan of action	Action 2.4.2, implementation pending

Goal 7	Respecting use of Sorbian
Action 7.2	To consolidate joint actions to protect and promote tolerance of the Sorbian-speaking population as well as the use of the Sorbian language
Suggested by	Saxon State Ministry Department of Equal Opportunities and Integration / Democracy Centre Saxony + Saxon State Ministry of the Interior / State Crime Prevention Council
Target group	Citizens and actors in civil society in the Sorbian settlement areas, police authorities and local authorities
Implementation	Ongoing
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry Department of Equal Opportunities and Integration / Democracy Centre / Saxon State Ministry of the Interior / State Crime Prevention Council
Partners	
First plan of action	Action 2.4.3, implementation ongoing, in the Report on the Situation of the Sorbs in the Annex and in Chapter 2.9

Goal 8	Training and continuing education for staff in State authorities / local authorities in the Free State of Saxony to acquire knowledge of the Sorbian language, culture and traditions as well as minority rights
Action 8.1	<p>University of Public Administration and Administration of Justice, Continuing Education Centre of the Free State of Saxony guarantee the opportunity to acquire knowledge of the Sorbian language, culture and traditions as well as minority rights</p> <p>Continuing education offer: "Intercultural competence – national minorities in Europe focussing on the Sorbian people in comparison with other minorities"</p>
Suggested by	Adopted from the first plan of action
Target group	Staff in State authorities / local authorities
Implementation	Ongoing
Responsibility	<p>Saxon State Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>University of Public Administration and Administration of Justice</p> <p>Continuing Education Centre of the Free State of Saxony</p>
Partners	Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art
First plan of action	Action 3.1.1, implementation ongoing, in the Report on the Situation of the Sorbs in the Annex and in Chapter 2.2.5

Goal 9	Communicating knowledge about the Sorbian language, culture and traditions
Action 9.1	To support the teaching of knowledge about the Sorbian language, culture and traditions at schools in Saxony
Suggested by	Modified action based on the previous plan of action
Target group	School students and teachers at schools in the Free State of Saxony
Implementation	Provision of materials, creation of opportunities and projects by Sorbian institutions
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs
Partners	Sorbian institutions Local authorities responsible for schools
First plan of action	Action 3.2.3, implementation ongoing, in the Report on the Situation of the Sorbs in the Annex and in Chapter 2.5

Goal 9	Communicating knowledge about the Sorbian language, culture and traditions
Action 9.2	To enable Sorbian institutions to make use of the public outreach opportunities offered by the Saxon State Office for Museums (Communications of the Saxon State Office for Museums or special exhibition exchange platform)
Suggested by	Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art / Saxon State Office for Museums
Target group	Museums in the Free State of Saxony; museum visitors
Implementation	Ongoing
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art / Saxon State Office for Museums
Partners	Museums in the Free State of Saxony
First plan of action	

Goal 9	Communicating knowledge about the Sorbian language, culture and traditions
Action 9.3	To examine the creation of additional opportunities for communicating knowledge about the Sorbian language, culture and traditions
Suggested by	Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art
Target group	Citizens of all ages
Implementation	Examination in cooperation with the relevant departments, local authorities and representatives of Sorbian interests, focusing on the relevant implementation goals in this plan of action
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art
Partners	Line ministries Local authorities Representatives of Sorbian interests
First plan of action	

Goal 10	Information for parents on Upper Sorbian educational opportunities in nursery day care facilities and schools
Action 10.1	To publish information; to hold events
Suggested by	Saxon State Ministry of Education and Culture
Target group	Parents
Implementation	Informing parents about Upper-Sorbian educational opportunities to help them decide on their children's language learning and demonstrate the opportunities for supporting children learning and using the language
Responsibility	State Authority for Schools and Education
Partners	Domowina Sorbian Schools Association Nursery day care facilities and schools
First plan of action	

Goal 11	Respecting the interests of the Sorbian people
Action 11.1	To establish a permanent seat on the board of the MDR Broadcasting Council for a representative of the Sorbian People
Suggested by	Council for Sorbian Affairs
Target group	Sorbian People
Implementation	By amending the MDR-State Agreement, the Free State is committing to allocating a permanent seat on the board of the MDR Broadcasting Council to Domowina
Responsibility	Saxon State Chancellery
Partners	Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art Council for Sorbian Affairs Domowina
First plan of action	

Goal 12	Use of Sorbian in social institutions (care homes, nursing care) in the Sorbian settlement area
Action 12.1	To intensify contact to the providers of hospitals and care homes in the Sorbian settlement area with the aim of sensitising them to the importance of using Sorbian in their facilities.
Suggested by	Council for Sorbian Affairs
Target group	Sorbian-speaking patients, Sorbian-speaking staff
Implementation	Ongoing
Responsibility	Saxon State Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
Partners	Facility providers
First plan of action	Action 2.5.1, implementation pending, in the Annex to the Report on the State of the Sorbian People