

## **Frisian as a model minority language in the European context**

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The turn of the 20th century in Europe was definitely the golden age for minority and regional languages. In that respect, the chances created by the policy of European institutions, democratization and liberalization processes within the European societies as well as the methods and instruments of language maintenance and development, have been exceptionally well used by some of the traditional autochthonous regional minority groups throughout Europe. Definitely, one of them has been the Frisians, alongside with, e.g., the Catalans, Basques of Welsh.

The aim of the submitted paper is to present the achievements of the Frisian minority in the field of language policy and language planning on regional, national (the Netherlands and Germany) and international (bilateral and European) levels, particularly in the last two decades, as well as the role the Frisians as a model minority community play on the European stage of regional & minority language communities.

Special attention will be given to such developments as the ratification (process) of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* by the Netherlands and Germany, coordination of activities undertaken in the two countries in the interest of other regional or minority language communities, pan-Frisian initiatives (aiming at revitalization of language communities of North Frisians and Saterfrisians in Germany) as well as European/international ventures as Mercator-Center(s), organization of one of the first International Conferences on Minority Languages, or successful projects in multilingual education, documentation and information centers, or publishing activity, just to mention the thriving series of *Regional dossiers* on European minority and regional languages in education.

The cases of Frisian-Kashubian and Frisian-Basque cooperation will be used as examples of good practice in European minority policy on inter-state level.