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**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Fourth periodical report  
presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

**ARMENIA**

**FOURTH REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE 15 OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR  
REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Yerevan 2015**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Armenia's third periodical report was due on 12 February 2011, but for objective and subjective reasons, it was submitted to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe only on 11 October 2012. The Third Report was posted on the website of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, after being sent to the Council of Europe.

[http://www.gov.am/u\\_files/file/kron/qax32-251%5B1%5D.pdf](http://www.gov.am/u_files/file/kron/qax32-251%5B1%5D.pdf)

2. According to Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Republic of Armenia submits the Fourth Report on the course of measures aimed at the implementation of the principles of the Charter and the provisions of the Charter, as well as on the results of the third round of observations of the Committee of Experts on application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Armenia, on practical steps implemented at national level within the framework of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

3. The Report has been drawn up by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia. The Report is comprised of introduction, four parts and four annexes. The following has been taken into account in the process of preparing the Fourth Report:

(1) Practical steps taken at national level, summarising the results of the third monitoring round of implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Analysis of the situation;

(2) Measures taken and programmes implemented after the Third Report submitted by the Republic of Armenia aimed at the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Steps taken in accordance with articles;

(3) Information on the third monitoring round of the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Concerning the comments of the Committee of Experts;

(4) Implementation of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter by Armenia;

(5) Annexes.

4. The Report covers issues relating to national minority languages since the issue of regional language does not exist in Armenia, and the Republic of Armenia, with the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, has undertaken to develop policies and define an action plan aimed

only at the protection and development of national minority languages /*Russian, Greek, Yezidi, Kurdish, Assyrian*/. It is conditioned by the fact that other ethnic groups present in Armenia, benefitting from the attention of the authorities, implement various programmes aimed at the preservation of their ethnic groups and development of the language.

Pursuant to the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1483-N of 23 November 2007 “On establishing the procedure for preparation and approval of national reports of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the international obligations of the Republic of Armenia”, the procedure for the preparation and approval of national reports of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the international obligations of the Republic of Armenia was established, according to the Annex.

5. The Report was drawn up based on information provided by the Staff to the President of the Republic of Armenia and the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia, ministries and marzpetarans [regional administrations] of the Republic of Armenia, and on analysis of proposals of representatives of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia.

6. The draft Report was provided to the structures responsible for the activities aimed at the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and considerations delivered thereby have been taken into account.

7. Pursuant to point 6 of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1483-N of 23 November 2007, in order to prepare the National Report in accordance with the international obligations undertaken by the Republic of Armenia, an inter-agency working group was established under the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 75-A/Q of 10 February 2015:

- Staff to the President of the Republic of Armenia;
- National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia;
- Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia;
- Civil Service Council of the Republic of Armenia;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia;
- Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia;
- Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia;
- Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia;

- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia;
- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia;
- Judicial Department of the Republic of Armenia;
- National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia;
- National Commission on Television and Radio of the Republic of Armenia;
- Council of the Public Television and Radio Company of the Republic of Armenia;
- Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia;
- Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia;
- Sub-Commission on Education, Culture and Language under the Commission on the National Minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia.

8. In elaborating the Report, the working group has co-operated with non-governmental organisations of national minorities.

## Part 1

### Practical steps taken at national level, summarising results of the third monitoring round of implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

#### Analysis of the situation

9. Pursuant to Article 14.1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, discrimination based on sex, race, skin colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion, world view, political or other views, membership to a national minority, property status, birth, disability, age, or other personal or social circumstances is prohibited.

10. In Armenia, the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the Human Rights Defender” was adopted in 2003; later the Staff to the Human Rights Defender has been established. Since 2011, a defender of the rights of the national minorities has been functioning within the Staff to the Human Rights Defender. In 2012, “Department of Vulnerable Groups Protection and Co-operation with Non-governmental Organisations” was established under the Staff to the Human Rights Defender, one of the strategic objectives of which was protection of the linguistic rights of national minorities. Since 2013, *inter alia*, the person responsible for protection of the rights of the national minorities has been the Adviser to the Human Rights Defender.

11. Under the Decision of the National Assembly “On ratification of the Charter”, by point 1 of Article 3 of the Charter, the Republic of Armenia declares that: “Within the meaning of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, minority languages in the Republic of Armenia are the Assyrian, Yezidi, Greek, Russian and Kurdish languages”.

As stated in the Third Report, when the Government of the Republic of Armenia has undertaken, in particular, the introduction of the Assyrian language as a national minority language in the education system, some leaders of the Assyrian ethnic community made a statement urging that they did not accept the concept “minority language”, preferring instead the expressions “native language” and “national language”, and that they consider Russian to be their native language. However, other representatives of the Assyrians consider Assyrian language to be the native language of the Assyrian ethnic community. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages does not specify the national minority language as ethnic, native or national language. Moreover, there is no definition as to the native language, in general, being an ethnic or national language. Pursuant to the Charter, regional

or minority languages are those traditionally used within a given territory of a State by nationals of that State who form a group numerically smaller than the rest of the State's population, and those different from the official language(s) of that State and they do not include either dialects of the official language(s) of the State or the languages of migrants. Under such conditions, it is very difficult for the same ethnic community to protect two different minority languages, especially in the education field, particularly when Assyrians claiming different languages live in the same rural community with one school only. For the Assyrians who choose Russian as the "minority language", the State fulfils its obligations in the education field in Russian, and for those choosing Assyrian — in Assyrian. Some Assyrians have expressed a wish that the school education of their children be organised in Russian, in parallel to ensuring instruction in Assyrian.

12. The new Criminal Code entered into force in the Republic of Armenia in 2003, and Articles 143, 226, 392 of which refer also to the cases of violations of the national, racial, religious, linguistic rights or cases of inciting hatred. Article 143 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia envisages punishment in cases of linguistic discrimination. In case of the mentioned *corpus delicti*, use of official position shall be an aggravating circumstance. Article 226 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia also refers to protection of linguistic rights as it is based on condemning the acts aimed at the humiliation of national dignity. Article 226 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia envisages punishment for actions aimed at the incitement of national, racial or religious hatred, at racial superiority or humiliation of national dignity. Article 392 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia defines punishment for crimes against human security, which are committed due to racial, national, ethnic affiliation, political views and belief of the civil population.

13. The Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia was established in 2004. This structural subdivision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia participates in the elaboration of the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, ensures the implementation of the Plan, contributes to the preservation of the traditions of persons from national minorities, performs the functions of the body authorised by the Government of the Republic of Armenia ensuring the protection of the right to the development of language and culture.

14. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings" adopted in 2004 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia provides for submitting applications to administrative bodies of the Republic of Armenia also in the language of the national minority.

15. The Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, established in 2004, continues to carry out analysis of planning the actions stemming from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and co-ordination of the actions. Those actions are: awareness-raising on the national minority rights at local self-government bodies, organisation of seminars on exercise of national minority rights, consultations on introduction of the programmes developed. The employees of the Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia regularly arrange visits to the settlements of the national minorities, organise consultations with the aim of clarifying the process of fulfilment of the obligations the Republic of Armenia undertaken within the framework of the European Charter for Languages and the Framework Convention, the current situation at the settlements and the existing problems.

16. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On mass media", which entered into force in 2004 in Armenia, does not stipulate any requirement for the compulsory state registration of mass media; the Law also does not stipulate any compulsory requirement for the language used by the media outlet, which creates wider opportunities for the media outlet to disseminate information in the language(s) it prefers.

17. The employees of the Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia regularly hold meetings with parties interested in the sphere, i.e. leaders of non-governmental organisations of national minorities, intelligentsia representing national minorities, religious leaders; in addition they regularly visit settlements of the national minorities where they meet heads of communities, principals of schools and residents. The purpose of these meetings is to raise the level of awareness of the parties concerned and to monitor on site the fulfilment of the obligations undertaken by the State. Particular attention is paid to making the representatives of national minorities aware of their rights and opportunities in receiving education, with an effort to identify young people who wish to pursue perspective studies in the field of pedagogy and culture.

The issues raised by the national minorities during the meetings are thoroughly studied and analysed, and the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia regularly assigns relevant tasks to the state bodies and agencies for the purpose of efficient resolution of all the problems that national minorities face.

18. During regular meetings held by the Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia with the leaders of non-governmental organisations of national minorities, intelligentsia representing national minorities, religious leaders, as well as heads of communities, principals of schools and residents in the settlements of national minorities, not only the

existing issues and programmes in the field are discussed, but also the package of documents related to national minorities is handed over to the participants via electronic media and in other formats, and the contents of the documents are presented and interpreted. During the visits it is also urged to take measures in respect of gradual familiarisation of pupils with the package of documents.

19. For the purpose of informing the bodies, organisations and persons dealing with the rights, obligations stipulated by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and with the implementation thereof, the package of documents related to the field is posted on the official website of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (<http://gov.am/am/religion/>) — the international documents ratified by the Republic of Armenia and the reports thereon, the legislation of the Republic of Armenia — in the Armenian and Russian languages, the opinions of the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe and comments related thereto. The package of documents is regularly updated.

20. Implementation of the actions stemming from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages has identified a number of issues in the Republic of Armenia, part of which have been presented in the previous reports of the Republic. The issues are of common nature for the Republic of Armenia; their solution requires certain time and financial investments; however, they also affect the course of actions ensuring the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Part of the issues is conditioned by the social and economic situation, the other part is of legal nature; however there are also issues of subjective nature, for instance, that of human resource capacity in general education schools of the Republic.

21. Public Council — a consultative body being formed by the President of the Republic of Armenia — was established in the Republic of Armenia in 2008. In 2009, the Public Council has acquired its final structure, which was stated by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia. The Public Council was established to the benefit of domestic political solidarity and creation of the civil society of the country, taking into consideration needs of various layers of population. A Commission on National Minorities was established within the Public Council for the purpose of regulating the national minority issues, comprising the following Sub-Commissions:

- On education, culture and language;
- On legal issues and international relations;
- On social and economic issues.

The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission on education, culture and language under the Commission on the National Minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the head of the

Polish non-governmental organisation “Polonia” is Alla Kuzminskaya, Pole by nationality. The Commission on National Minorities holds regular discussions and sittings, including offsite discussions; issues related to the course of implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, as well as proposals and applications addressed to the Public Council are discussed.

22. Pursuant to the obligations undertaken by the Republic of Armenia within the framework of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in order to prepare the Fourth Round National Report of the Republic of Armenia, an inter-agency working group was established under the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 75-A/Q of 10 February 2015, which comprises the representative of the national minorities of the Public Council — the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission on education, culture and language under the Commission on the National Minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia.

23. Following the declaration of independence of the Republic of Armenia, the ethnic and linguistic affiliation is determined based on the statements by individuals. It is impossible to implement coordinated educational programmes in the languages of the majority of national minorities due to both the small number of native speakers and their dispersed pattern of living in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, as well as due to low demand in various languages or lack of such demand. Pursuant to the 2011 Census data, the total number of national minorities in Armenia made up 57 053 or 1,9% of the population, (in 2001 — 67 657) people. The majority of them — 35 308 people, were Yezidis (in 2001 — 40 620 people) or approximately 62% of non-Armenian population of Armenia; the remaining national minorities together — approximately 38%.

24. See point 24 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

25. The financial support from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia directed to the educational and cultural activities of non-governmental organisations of national minorities continues to be provided. Apart from the annual allocations of 10 million AMD from the State Budget, the mentioned amount has been doubled up to 20 million AMD annually since 2012 under the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in order to support the educational and cultural programmes of national minorities.

26. In 2009 the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On general education” was adopted in Armenia, which ensures equal opportunities for general education, its accessibility, continuous and successive nature as well as compliance with the development level, peculiarities and level of proficiency of learners. Pursuant to point 10 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On general education”, general education of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia may be organised in their native or national

language, by compulsory instruction of the Armenian language; it guarantees the right of national minorities to preserve and develop their language.

27. The statistical data on the command of languages of the ethnic communities of the Republic of Armenia and the issues concerned are given in the previous reports.

28. People who consider the languages taken under protection by Armenia according to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as their native language, have a different approach to the application of the native language. For instance, in Armenia the Greek language is not practically applied even by the small Greek ethnic community. The Greeks continue publishing their periodical in Russian or Armenian, since there is no one reading in Greek. The elderly people continue to make up the vast majority in the community of the Greeks (more than 1/3). Under such conditions (paragraphs 1, 2 of Article 8 of the Charter), it is hard to ensure in Armenia the procedure for application and development of the Greek language or other such languages as minority language.

29. The Government of the Republic of Armenia, for the purpose of raising the level of awareness in areas populated with national minorities, has assigned marzpetarans of the Republic of Armenia to post on their websites information on national minorities living in the marz, relevant events and programmes implemented in the sphere; also to post the set of documents related to the sphere or make a reference to the website of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

30. There are few people in Armenia of other nationality who consider Armenian as their first language; such can be found among Yezidis, Greeks and Assyrians. It is worth mentioning that in the settlements of Armenia where citizens of other nationality live together with Armenians, a significant part of Armenians, to some extent, has command of the national minority language. Thus, part of the Armenians residing in Assyrian Dimitrov, Verin Dvin villages freely speak or understand Assyrian; the Armenians residing in Amre Taza/Sadunts, Derek, Avshen, Yeraskhahun, Zovuni and other villages with Yezidi population, to some extent, have command of Yezidi language. Thus, the issue of identifying native speakers of a minority within their ethnic community continues to remain topical.

31. See point 31 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

32. Pursuant to the obligations undertaken by the Republic of Armenia within the framework of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in order to prepare the Fourth Round National Report of the Republic of Armenia, an inter-agency working group was set up under Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 75-A/Q of 10 February 2015, which comprises the representative of national minorities of the Public Council — the Chairperson of the Sub-

Commission on education, culture and language of the Commission on the National Minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia.

## Part 2

**Measures taken and programmes implemented after the Third Report submitted by the Republic of Armenia aimed at implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.**

**Steps taken in accordance with articles**

## Part II.

**Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1**

### Article 7. Objectives and principles

**“Paragraph 1.**

**In respect of regional or minority languages within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practices on the following objectives and principles:**

**a. recognition of regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth”**

33-37. See points 33-37 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

**“b. the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to promotion of the regional or minority language in question”**

38. The representatives of the national minority communities residing in the Republic of Armenia live in the country in a dispersed manner. In separate settlements, they make up the part of the mixed population or the majority of the population. On the whole, various groups of ethnic communities are distributed in the cities; they mostly live in Yerevan, Ashtarak, Vanadzor, Abovyan cities. Apart from the

Assyrians, Yezidis and Kurds the majority of which reside in villages, the absolute majority of other national minorities of the Republic reside in villages. Thus, as of 2011 out of 35 308 Yezidis of the Republic only 5 443 live in cities (15.4%), out of 2 162 Kurds only 264 live in cities (12.2%), out of 2 769 Assyrians 481 reside in cities (37.8%), out of 900 Greeks 700 (77.8%) and out of 11 911 Russians 8 095 (68%) live in cities. Distribution of permanent population in cities and villages by nationality according to the 2011 data is presented attached to this Report (Annex 1). Compact settlements are mainly inhabited by Yezidis and Assyrians, and partly by Russians. The list of rural settlements inhabited by population with mixed national structure or predominantly by national minorities is attached to the Report (Annex 1). Among the list, Rya Taza, Sadunts (Amre-Taza), Mirak, Kaniashir (Sangyar), Shenkani, Alagyaz, Jamshlu, Mijnatun (Ortachya), Charchakis (Derek), Avshen are mostly inhabited by Yezidis; there are people with Kurdish ethnic identity. The settlements of Yezidis and Kurds are principally located in Aragatsotn, Armavir, Ararat, Kotayk marzes; those of Assyrians are dispersed in Ararat, Armavir and Kotayk marzes; two Russian (Molokans) compact settlements are in Lori Marz; small number of Greeks continue to reside in Lori and Shirak Marzes. During the administrative division of the Republic of Armenia, the utmost possible efforts have been made so that the settlements of ethnic communities of the same language are located within the same marz. In particular, the previous regions of Aragats, Talin, Ashtarak where the settlements of Yezidis and Kurds were located, are united within the boundaries of the same Aragatsotn Marz. On the whole, the administrative division of the Republic of Armenia does not create any obstacle to the development of the minority languages.

39. Pursuant to point 21 of Article 16 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On local self-government” and point 23 of part 1 of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On local self-government in Yerevan”, the Council of Elders makes decisions on the names of the streets, avenues, squares, parks, educational, cultural and other organisations. The Division for National Minorities and Religion Affairs during its regular visits being made to the settlements for monitoring purposes urges rural authorities to ensure installation of signboards in a relevant language.

**“c. the need for resolute actions to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them”**

40. With the view of supporting preservation of the national minority languages, apart from educational programmes, publishing textbooks and training of pedagogical staff, funds from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia are allocated also to non-governmental organisations of ethnic communities to

promote the printing procedure of the periodical press published by them. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia supports publication of 13 presses and 4 journals issued in the languages of 11 national minorities. The Public Radio of Armenia on daily basis broadcasts in regional or minority languages — Yezidi, Kurdish, Russian, Assyrian. Besides the main news broadcasts, there are also programmes in the national minority languages on historical and cultural, ethnographic topics. In parallel to being broadcast on tele-platforms of the public radio, the mentioned programmes are also posted on the Internet website — [www.armradio.am](http://www.armradio.am). The important part of laws of the Republic of Armenia is translated and continues to be translated into Russian. However, some representatives of native speakers do not fully avail themselves of the opportunities created as a result of the policy pursued by the State for promoting the use of national minority languages.

41. During the past ten years, national minorities have intensively engaged in publication of books. Collections of 6 stories by Kurdish publicist Amarike Sardar were published in Kurdish language and 2 of them were translated into Russian. The following books about Yezidis have been published: “Beliefs of the Yezidi Kurds” by Amine Avdal in 2006, “Hajie Jndi – 100” in 2008, “25 Participations of Yezidi people in Karabakh war” authored by Aziz Tamoyan and Hasan Tamoyan in 2010, “Collections of works of Yezidi Writers of Armenia” in Yezidi language in 2014. In 2009 and 2010 the Jewish Community published the books “The Jews in Armenia”; in 2009 the German Community published “German Pages of Russia and Transcaucasus History”, authored by V. Voukhrer and N. Algulyan, in 2010 published “Against the Day”, authored by A. Deng, and in 2013 published “About the Germans, Particularly the Russian Germans”, authored by V. Voukhrer. “Classical Assyrian” work authored by A. Hakobyan was published, which is the first Armenian-language textbook dedicated to one of the ancient languages of the Middle East. The works “Aramaic Linguistics and Introduction to Assyriology” of the same author have recently been issued.

In 2013-2014, the following books were published: “Life and Work” authored by Vazire Asho Amoye Shamo, “Articles” authored by Alikhane Mame, “Path of my ancestors” (stories in Russian) authored by Amarike Sardar, “Silver Thread” authored by Alexandr Poryadochniy.

42. Books in national minority languages are available and used in the National Library of Armenia: 1 600 000 units of textbooks, books relating to fiction, religious literature, art, history, linguistics, philosophy, natural sciences in Russian, 15 units of textbooks in Yezidi language, 11 units of textbooks in Assyrian, 811 units of textbooks in Kurdish, 400 units of textbooks in Ukrainian, 800 units of textbooks in Greek, 5 704 units of textbooks in Georgian, 2 500 units of textbooks in Persian. The books read are

mainly in Russian (textbooks, fiction, religious literature, art, history, linguistics, philosophy, natural sciences). Out of the minority nations, 2 Yezidi, 1 Kurd, 4 Assyrian readers are registered in the National Library.

There is also a large volume of literature both in the national minority languages and other ethnic community languages under the protection of the Republic of Armenia in the libraries of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and of relevant scientific research institutions and educational institutions. The above-mentioned literature is freely accessible for everybody.

43. Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Language” stipulates the right to prepare documents, forms and seals of the organisations of the national minorities in their languages, which is one of the means aimed at supporting and developing the written language of national minorities.

44. The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings” also contributes to preservation and development of national minority languages (hereinafter referred to as “the Law of the Republic of Armenia”), part 2 of Article 27 of which prescribes: “Persons speaking the languages of national minorities in the Republic of Armenia may — as prescribed by law or in accordance with the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia — submit an application for conducting the administrative proceedings and documents attached thereto in the language of the relevant national minority”. The same Article of the Law of the Republic of Armenia allows the participants of the proceedings to use foreign languages; moreover, the participant of the proceedings speaking the foreign language is obliged to provide translation only in case it is impossible to provide the relevant translation by the administrative body. Pursuant to part 4 of Article 59 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia, the participant of the proceedings may be provided with the copy of the administrative act translated into a foreign language, which should be endorsed with the official seal of the relevant administrative body. Part 2 of Article 93 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia prescribes: expenses with respect to remuneration of translators in the course of the administrative proceedings shall be covered by the body implementing the administrative proceedings and only in case a translator has been invited by the participant of the administrative proceedings, the relevant expenses shall be borne by that participant.

45. Centre for Nations Culture, allocated and furnished by the Government of the Republic of Armenia with the view of developing the culture of national minorities, creates an opportunity for instruction, use and development of national minority languages. All ethnic communities of Armenia may make use of the premises.

46. In Armenia, pursuant to the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Advertisement”, the advertising language is Armenian; however, the advertisement text may be in parallel provided also in other languages — in relatively small letters. The restriction refers only to the volume of the advertisement made in different languages: the volume of an advertisement in Armenian should not be less than the information of the foreign language version.

**“d. the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and in writing, in public and private life”**

47. For the purpose of ensuring the use of national minority languages in writing, various events in relevant languages are organised.

The following programmes of key importance were implemented in 2012-2014 at the expense of the annual grant programmes, envisaged by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, approved at the Co-ordinating Council for National and Cultural Organisations of National Minorities of the Republic of Armenia:

(1) social clip about the equality of civil rights of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia has been shot and broadcast by the Public Television;

(2) Assyrian, Yezidi, Kurdish, Greek, Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Georgian communities have obtained folk costumes for the members of the song and dance ensembles;

(3) representatives of the Jewish Community have participated in Maccabiah Pan-Jewish sport games held in Israel;

(4) song and dance ensemble of the Georgian Community has participated in the ethnographical festival held in Batumi;

(5) representatives of the Assyrian Community have participated in Pan-Assyrian Olympiad held in Iran;

(6) conference dedicated to the enhancement of legal self-consciousness was organised in the city of Vanadzor, on the initiative of the Fund for Aid and Assistance to the Russian Compatriots of the Republic of Armenia and with the participation of representatives of all the national minorities;

(7) celebration has been organised on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of non-governmental organisations — “Rossia” and “Harmony” Centres of Russian Culture of the Russian community;

(8) celebration has been organised on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the non-governmental organisation — “Belarus” Belarusian Community of Yerevan” of the Belarusian Community;

(9) celebration has been held on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of “Verbichenka” ensemble of the Ukrainian Community of the city of Vanadzor.

For the purpose of preserving and developing the cultural life of national minorities, assistance has been provided to non-governmental organisations of national minorities, *inter alia* for:

(1) arrangement of educational, cultural events (“Yezidi National Union” non-governmental organisation);

(2) printing of “Almanac-2”, a collection of works of national minorities living in Armenia (“Iveria” Georgian Charitable Community non-governmental organisation);

(3) anniversary concert of Maya Baghdasaryan, Vice-Chairperson of “Harmony” International Centre of Russian Culture (“Harmony” International Centre of Russian Culture);

(4) organisation of Yezidi songs festival (“Sinjar Yezidi National Union” non-governmental organisation).

The best works of the representatives of Kurdish, Yezidi, Assyrian, Russian and other national minorities have also been included and are included in the collections published by the club of artists “Literal Armavir” under the sponsorship of Armavir Marzpet of the Republic of Armenia.

Articles are published in “Hayrenakanch” marz newspaper and programmes are prepared by “Alt”, “Noy Hayastan”, “Luys” television companies on a regular basis, thus presenting the problems and achievements of national minorities in cultural, educational, economic and other sectors.

In 2010-2014 funds were allocated for implementation of separate cultural events under the “Support to the Culture of National Minorities” sub-programme of the “State Support to Implementation of Cultural Events” programme, under the Annual and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, with the view of supporting national minorities of the Republic of Armenia; namely, AMD **3 000.0** thousand was allocated in 2010, AMD **2 550.0** thousand in 2011, AMD **4 010.7** thousand in 2012, AMD **2 111.0** thousand in 2013, and AMD **2 996.4** thousand in 2014.

Organisation of annual republican activities, i.e. exhibitions of fine arts and decorative applied arts, music festivals, has continued in Yerevan and marzes of the Republic of Armenia with the participation of all communities of national minorities.

Since 2009, the annual festival of tale-telling and dialect “Three apples fell from the sky...” of republican format has launched, and every year national minority representatives residing in the Republic of Armenia participate in the festival, introducing patterns of national folklore heritage in their native languages, thus encouraging the use of native language and raising among the society the overall knowledge of their nation.

In 2013, Festival entitled “Songs and Dances of Different Nations” took place at “Arno Babajanyan” Concert Hall, where a number of dance groups, soloists, including representatives of national minorities participated.

In 2014, Annual Festival entitled “Armenia is Our Home” was organised aimed at preservation of the national image and language, education of the young generation, identification of new names, improvement of the performance art and creation of new groups and ensembles. Performance of pianist Willy Weiner, Jewish by nationality, has been organised within the framework of “National Gallery” festival.

48. A new programme — “Arrangement of visits to the monuments of the national minorities of the Republic of Armenia and creation of a video film” — is implemented with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, which is not only aimed at introducing the cultural heritage to the society but also is of scientific and educational nature. The last event greatly contributes to the intensification of the use of ethnic languages if not in social but at least in cultural sector, as well as to the opportunities of practicing the native language by young generation. The use of language exceeds the narrow scope of the ethnic community, since the significant part of choirs is replenished with families of mixed marriages and simply Armenians. Such cultural activities are supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia. Annual and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia envisage annual budgetary allocations for the support of cultural events of the national minorities of the Republic of Armenia. Festival “Songs and Dances of Different Nations” is organised annually at “Arno Babajanyan” Concert Hall of Armenian State Philharmonic, where a number of dance groups, soloists of national minorities participate.

**“e. the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the state employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages”**

49. The objective of point 9, i.e. “Co-operation with national minorities residing in the territory of Armenia” of “Culture” Section of the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for 2013-2014 is to preserve the cultural identity of national minorities and involve them in the cultural sector of Armenia through publication of non-state press and literature in the languages of national minorities, organisation of festivals, restoration of monuments of religious and ethnic communities and supporting the development of modern art.

50. For the purpose of ensuring the recognition of historical and modern monuments of the national minorities, since 2008 the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia has been implementing production of a series of films. Activities are implemented with the purpose of registering the elements of intangible cultural heritage of national minorities and involving them in the state lists of intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Armenia. Every year the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia organises “ARTEXPO” event, where national minorities participate. In 2014 “Festival of Bread” event was organised in Gyumri, where national minorities have also participated, exhibiting national types of bread and folk costumes. At the same time, the above-mentioned contributes to maintenance and development of links between national minorities, efficient linguistic communication and mutual understanding.

51. See points 51-54 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

**“f. the provision of appropriate forms and means for teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages”**

55. Pursuant to the Census Programme (Questionnaire) of the Republic of Armenia for 2011 approved by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 674-N of 12 May 2011, the questions concerning nationality, proficiency in native and other languages of the members of household were considered to be questions of “closed” nature, i.e. the list of possible answers was provided in the questionnaire. The following has been included among the possible answers to the question concerning nationality — “Armenian, Yezidi, Russian, Assyrian, Greek, Ukrainian, Kurd, Pole, Belarusian, Georgian, Jew, German, Persian, other nationality”, whereas among possible answers to the question concerning proficiency in the native and other languages, the following options have been included — “Armenian, Yezidi, Russian, Assyrian, Greek, Ukrainian, Kurdish, Polish, Belarusian,

Georgian, Hebrew, English, French, German, Spanish, Persian, Turkish, other language”. Pursuant to the Census of 2001 of the Republic of Armenia, the national minorities made up 2,1% of the population of the country. Moreover, 0,1% out of them was grouped into other nationalities, due to small number of individual nationalities, and those data were not subject to publication so as to keep the confidentiality of the personal data (Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Population Census”, Article 12, see <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=184>).

It is impossible to implement coordinated curricula in the languages of the majority of national minorities due to both the small number of native speakers and their dispersed pattern of living in the territory of the Republic of Armenia; also due to low demand in various languages or lack of such demand. Pursuant to the 2011 Census data, the total number of national minorities in Armenia made up 57 053 (the 2001 Census data — 67 657) persons. The majority of them — 35 308 persons — were Yezidis (the 2001 Census data — 40 620 people) or approximately 62% of the non-Armenian population of Armenia. The national structure of population of the Republic of Armenia, pursuant to the 2001 and 2011 Census data, is given in the table below:

	<b>Total, by persons</b>	<b>Armenian</b>	<b>Yezidi</b>	<b>Russian</b>	<b>Assyrian</b>	<b>Kurd</b>	<b>Greek</b>	<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>Other</b>
2001	3213011	3145354	40620	14660	3409	1519	1176	1633	4640
2011	3018854 <sup>1</sup>	2961801	35308	11911	2769	2162	900	1176	2727

However, majority of the national minority languages, to some form and extent, is taught at the educational institutions of various levels.

For instance, with the efforts of the State, to ensure the pre-school education of children of the representatives of national minorities and those of Russian soldiers, there is a Russian hobby-group in the kindergarten No 4 of the town of Gyumri of Shirak Marz; in 2006 “Yerevan State College of Food Industry” was renamed into “Yerevan Armenian-Greek State College of Tourism, Service and Food”.

56. All the conditions have been created by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia in order to organise the continuing education of children of national minorities at elementary, basic and high levels

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1. including 100 people who refused to answer this question.

of the general education schools. Thanks to the efforts and scrupulous activities of the National Institute of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, the necessary curricula, programmes were elaborated, textbooks and supplementary literature were drawn up and printed to ensure full-fledged education in general education schools of national minorities.

57. The National Institute of Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia annually draws up and introduces “Model curriculum of general education school (class) of national minorities”, pursuant to which — before 2011-2015 — 39 class hours were weekly allocated for instruction in native language and literature of national minorities for the 1-11th grades; while presently 41 class hours are allocated for introduction of programmes for the 12th grade. After being subjected to an expert examination in 2009, the standard and programme of the Assyrian and Kurdish languages for the 1-12th grades were approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia.

58. Pursuant to point 3 of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 781-N of 10 June 2011, SNCO “Yerevan State Pedagogical College after A. Bakunts” of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia was reorganised in the form of amalgamation, by joining “Armenian State Pedagogical University after Kh. Abovyan” SNCO. Therefore, instruction under secondary vocational education programme is not implemented.

59. Since 2007 — upon nomination of the organisations represented in the Coordinating Council for National and Cultural Organisations of National Minorities adjacent to the Advisor to the President of the Republic of Armenia and motion of the Staff to the President of the Republic of Armenia — studying seats on a non-competitive basis have been assigned each academic year for the representatives of the Yezidi, Kurdish and Assyrian Communities in order to study at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Yerevan State University. Since 2010, representatives of other national minorities who are nominated by the organisations representing relevant communities in the Council and who express a wish to study in the departments related to culture and language at higher education institutions with the aim of developing national culture and language, also have the opportunity to enjoy those privileges. Further, upon the motion of the Council, full or partial discount of the tuition fee is applied for those students. In academic year 2010-2015, one representative from the Yezidi community and one from the Kurdish community have made use of the opportunity, who study at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Yerevan State University, and one representative from the Jewish community, who studies at Yerevan State Conservatory.

60. Since 2011-2012 academic year up to date, under the decision of the Republican Admission Commission on admission for on-site education, tuition-free seats out of the reserve ones in the

Armenian State Pedagogical University after Kh. Abovyan, State Institute of Theatre and Cinema, Yerevan State University, have been assigned for the representatives of national minorities. Besides, the Armenian Youth Foundation provides financial support both for education of Yezidi students and implementation of cultural programmes proposed by the youth organisations representing the Yezidi community.

61. See point 61 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

**“g. provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area (where it is used) to learn it if they so desire”**

62. Russian is taught in all the educational institutions of the Republic, whereas Assyrian and Greek — in some of them. In the settlements of ethnic communities, necessary facilities are created for those who wish to learn the national minority languages of the Republic, extracurricular activities, Sunday schools, various educational and cultural events are organised.

63. In the settlements with mixed population, the representatives of the national minorities almost do not use their native language. Nevertheless, the Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, during its regular visits to the rural settlements of the national minorities, keeps the local population and the local self-government bodies informed about the opportunity to learn their language and urges them to take practical steps if they so wish, by offering its support.

**“h. the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions”**

64. Among the national minority languages, Russian and Greek are taught at various higher education institutions of the Republic of Armenia. For instance, Russian and Greek have been included among the list of more than 10 foreign languages taught at Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences. There are also Chairs of Linguistics in higher education institutions, where studies are carried out.

Students of the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Yerevan State University may study Assyrian if they wish so.

**“i. the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States”**

65. The ethnic communities of the Republic of Armenia have all the opportunities to communicate with native speakers of the languages used in identical or similar form in other states. There are provisions enshrined in the treaties of the Republic of Armenia of friendship and co-operation concluded with other states, which refer to creation of conditions necessary for preservation and development of ethnic, cultural, religious identity of national minorities residing in two countries correspondingly and implementation of relevant events. Namely, Article 8 of the Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation with the Russian Federation, Article 20 of that with Greece, Article 14 of that with Romania, Article 9 of that with Bulgaria, Article 5 of that with Kazakhstan, Article 8 of that with Lebanon, Articles 5 and 6 of that with Ukraine, Article 9 of that with Belarus. There are numerous mutual visits, discussions, joint programmes on different occasions between the representatives of ethnic communities of Armenia and those states. For instance, pupils and students leave for studying in vocational education institutions or go for vacation in the camps of the ethnic homeland. Besides, many of the representatives of the ethnic communities of Armenia are included in the activities of the world organisations and those of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Besides, the Public Radio of the Republic of Armenia daily broadcasts radio programmes in the languages of national minorities, which serves as a means of communication between the representatives of relevant nationalities residing in the region and the whole area of coverage.

**“Paragraph 2.**

**The parties undertake to eliminate, (if they have not yet done so), any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality**

**between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages”**

66. As it is given in the Second and Third Reports, Article 14.1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia separately states, *inter alia*, features such as sex, race, skin colour, ethnic or social origin and other, about prohibition of discrimination conditioned by language and belonging to national minorities. Article 41 of the Constitution states that: “Everyone shall have the right to preserve his or her national and ethnic identity. Persons belonging to national minorities shall have the right to preserve and develop their traditions, religion, language and culture”.

67. Apart from the constitutional guarantees, the free use of their languages by the national minorities is also protected by a number of other laws. Pursuant to Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On language”, the Republic of Armenia guarantees the free use of languages of national minorities on its territory.

Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia defines the following: “The organisations of national minorities residing on the territory of the Republic of Armenia shall prepare their documents, forms, seals in the Armenian language with parallel translation into their language”.

Protection of linguistic rights of national minorities is also guaranteed by a number of Articles of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of the cultural legislation”.

In accordance with Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia, “[t]he Republic of Armenia shall facilitate the preservation and development of the cultural identity of the national minorities residing on its territory, shall contribute to the creation of conditions for preservation, dissemination and development of their religion, traditions, language, cultural heritage and culture through implementation of state programmes”.

Article 9 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia guarantees participation in the cultural life and exercise of cultural activities in the Republic of Armenia for everyone irrespective of nationality, race, sex, language, religion, beliefs, social origin, property or other status; Article 6 also considers the languages, national traditions and customs, geographic names as cultural value. In accordance with point “b” of Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On advertisement”, “[t]he advertisement which contains insulting expressions, comparisons and images relating to race, nationality, profession or social origin, age group or sex, language, religious and other convictions shall be prohibited...”.

The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings” allows for submitting an application to the administrative bodies of the Republic of Armenia in the national minority language. Pursuant to Article 143 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, direct or indirect violation of human and citizen's rights and freedoms on ground of nationality, race, sex, language, belief, political or other opinion, social origin, property or other status, where such violation has harmed a person’s lawful interests, shall be considered as criminally punishable.

68. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, “International treaties are an integral part of the legal system of the Republic of Armenia. If ratified international treaties define norms other than those provided for by laws, such norms shall apply.” Consequently, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages — as an integral part of the legal system of the Republic of Armenia — applies on the territory of the Republic of Armenia as a mechanism for protection of languages.

**Paragraph 3.**

**“The Parties undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective”**

69-72. See points 69-72 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

**Paragraph 4.**

**“In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages”**

73. The draft programmes and decisions relating to ethnic communities of Armenia are discussed with the representatives of national minorities. The drafts are discussed in the Coordinating Council for

National and Cultural Organisations of National Minorities adjacent to the Advisor to the President of the Republic of Armenia, the Sub-Commission on education, culture and language under the Commission on the National Minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia, the Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, relevant ministries.

See also point 73 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

**“Paragraph 5.**

**The Parties undertake to apply, mutatis mutandis, the principles listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 above to non-territorial languages. However, as far as these languages are concerned, the nature and scope of the measures to be taken to give effect to this Charter shall be determined in a flexible manner, bearing in mind the needs and wishes, and respecting the traditions and characteristics, of the groups which use the languages concerned”.**

74. See point 74 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

75. The Coordinating Council for National and Cultural Organisations of National Minorities operating adjacent to the Advisor to the President of the Republic of Armenia has 22 members, elected on rotation basis from among the representatives of each community of 11 national minorities existing in the Republic of Armenia. Besides Assyrian, Yezidi, Russian, Greek, Kurdish ethnic communities, there are also Ukrainian, Jewish, Polish, Georgian, Belarusian, German ethnic community non-governmental organisations actively operating in Armenia.

The composition of the national minorities of the Republic of Armenia, pursuant to the 2001 and 2011 Census data, is given in the table below:

	Russian	Yezidi	Assyrian	Kurd	Greek	Ukrainian	Georgian	Belarusian	German	Jew	Pole
2001	14660	40620	3409	1519	1176	1633	696	257	133	109	97
2011	11911	35308	2769	2162	900	1176	617	214	67	127	124

As shown in the tables, in 2001 there were six and in 2011 five ethnic minorities in Armenia, whose representatives exceeded thousand persons. In addition to the small number of population of some ethnic communities, it should be noted that during the past twenty years, due to the intensification of relations with their ethnic homelands, a significant part of non-Armenian population has emigrated and the sex–age composition of the considerable segment of the current ethnic communities in Armenia is greatly disproportionate, the elderly people and women constituting the majority. At the same time, a significant part of them is distributed within the marzes of the Republic and live dispersed, which significantly complicates the task of implementing activities aimed at organising the education and culture of separate groups. However, majority of those languages, to some form and extent, are taught at the educational institutions of various levels. German is taught in a number of schools of the Republic of Armenia, both those of cities and villages. As a profession, German is included in the list of the professions of Yerevan State University, Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences, Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University, and Gyumri State Pedagogical University after M. Nalbandyan. Lots of books in the languages of ethnic minorities — Ukrainian, German, Polish, Georgian, Belarusian — are kept and used in the National Library of the Republic of Armenia.

A number of events aimed at the dissemination and promotion of the German language are implemented between the Republic of Armenia and the Federal Republic of Germany, among which are the following:

- (1) one-month trip for 3 pupils of general education schools, with excellent command of the German language, to the Federal Republic of Germany for exchange of experience and improvement of their language skills in a German general education school;
- (2) provision of internationally recognised certificate for knowledge of the German language issued by the German Language Learning Center, Armenian partner of Goethe Institute, based on the results of the relevant examinations;
- (3) provision of an opportunity to receive undergraduate and master's degree studies in the Federal Republic of Germany for three persons possessing internationally recognised certificate for knowledge of the German language;
- (4) mutual visits, organised for the pupils, teachers and directors of 8 partner schools within the framework of the Memorandum between Saxony-Anhalt region of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Armenia;

(5) advanced instruction in German under a special programme, by the German teachers, sent by the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Armenia on a mission, in order to get a diploma in German language in some basic and high schools of the Republic of Armenia;

(6) training courses for teachers and lecturers of the German language by German specialists both in the Republic of Armenia and various states of the Federal Republic of Germany;

(7) seconding German lecturers from the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Armenia on a mission to teach in the higher education institutions of the Republic of Armenia;

(8) arrangement of one-month summer courses for students of higher education institutions in various states of the Federal Republic of Germany.

From 6 to 8 April 2015, on the initiative of Armenian Association of German Teachers (chaired by M. Astvatsatryan), within the framework of the co-operation between the International Union of German Teachers and the Armenian State Pedagogical University, an international scientific conference titled “Multilingualism within institutional context: German as a second foreign language” took place. Scientists, experts from Germany, Georgia, from the countries of Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan), Nagorno-Karabakh and Marzes of the Republic of Armenia participated in the scientific conference.

The Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, Deputy Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Armenia Nadia Lichtenberger, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor Wilhelm Grishaber, Lecturer of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Angela Nerents, representative of the Service of Teaching German Abroad Thomas Blumenrath, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor Melania Astvatsatryan were present at the conference.

The international scientific conference will contribute to elaboration of a new instruction methodology and programme for German as a second foreign language, which should be extremely different from the teaching methodology of the first foreign language.

76. See point 76 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

77. Since 1971, the school No 42 of Yerevan has been named after Taras Shevchenko, Ukrainian poet, writer, artist. Since then the school has been in close relationship with the Ukrainian Embassy in Armenia and the Ukrainian Community.

The year 2014 was outstanding for the school since it was announced by UNESCO “The Year of Shevchenko” on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the poet's birth. On the initiative of the school

directorate, a museum after Shevchenko has been established with support of the Ukrainian Embassy in Armenia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. The opening of the museum took place on 4 April 2015. The Minister of Education and Science, the staff members of the Ukrainian Embassy and the community were present. Ukrainian translations of the works of Armenian great writers and poets (H. Tumanyan, V. Teryan, D. Varuzhan) can be found at the museum. The pride of the museum is the Ukrainian translation of the poem “Book of Lamentations” of Grigor Narekatsi. The portrait of young Shevchenko is the last gift of V. Hovhannisyan, the member of the Artists' Union of Armenia, to the museum, which has been officially represented by the Consul of Ukraine. Conferences, historical and cultural seminars, master classes are held in the technically equipped hall, days of Shevchenko are celebrated each year. The head of the museum is K. E. Tatoyan, pedagogue of Russian language and literature, who is the author of article “G. T. Shevchenko: Link of Literature with Armenia”, published in journal “Russian language in Armenia”. In the Union of Writers, he delivered a speech on “Shevchenko's life and work”. The traditionally celebrated “Day of Knowledge” is held in Armenia with participation of the Ambassador of Ukraine in Armenia. The school intensively includes the “Ukraine Days in Armenia” in the cultural programme; all the events are arranged by the communities — the independence days of Ukraine, Shevchenko's birthday. There are close relationships with Yerevan branch of Ternopil National Economic University. School graduates are the students of the given educational institution.

It is envisaged to:

- continue the adopted tradition in the school;
- arrange meetings with the heads of the museums after Shevchenko of Kiev and Yerevan;
- establish a cultural dialogue between the students of the schools after Shevchenko of Kiev and Yerevan.

The pedagogical staff and the students of the school are willing to set such networking.

See also point 77 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

78. In 2012-2013, several programmes were implemented at the expense of the annual grant programmes envisaged under the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, approved at the Coordinating Council for National and Cultural Organisations of National Minorities of the Republic of Armenia (for this, see the data of point 47).

79-80. See points 79-80 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 8. Education**

**“1. With regard to education, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used, according to the situation of each of these languages, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State:**

**a.**

**i. to make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or**

**ii. to make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or**

**iii. to apply one of the measures provided for under i and ii and above at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient; or**

**iv. if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of pre-school education, to favour and/or encourage the application of the measures referred to under i and iii above[.]”**

81. Pursuant to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On pre-school education”, implementation of the state policy for the field of pre-school education is ensured by the local self-government bodies. Organisation of the activities of the pre-school institutions directly depends on the financial capacities of the local self-government bodies.

By underlining the role of pre-school education and with the view of creating equal initial conditions for comprehensive development of children and school education, in 2008 the Strategic Programme for Reforms in Pre-School Education for 2008-2015 of the Republic of Armenia was approved by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The programme focuses on expanding the kindergarten network in the areas inhabited by representatives of national minorities. It is intended to raise the involvement of the senior pre-school age group (5-6 years old) up to 90% by 2015, by introducing efficient educational services. The communities where the national minorities make up a great number, or where no pre-school educational institutions function, were identified as priorities.

82. See point 82 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

83. In 2014, importance was attached to the procedures for improvement of the training facilities in schools and professional development of the personnel for the representatives of national minorities.

The textbooks of “Yezidi language” for the 1st, 6th, 7th, 11th grades and those of “Kurdish language” for the 5th, 6th and 7th grades were republished and provided to schools. For the purpose of developing the capacities of national minorities training courses were organised (for Yezidi language -in 2013, for Kurdish language - in 2014, for Assyrian language - in 2015) in the general education schools. Pursuant to subpoint 3 of point 50 of the Annex, approved by the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia N 190-A/Q of 24 March 2015, one of the priorities of 2015 is:

“Enhancing the opportunity for the children of national minorities to receive qualitative education by

- re-publishing 2 units of textbooks in Yezidi language,
- training of approximately 20 teachers of Greek and Assyrian languages”.

84. For the purpose of meeting the requirements of the Strategic Programme for Reforms in Pre-School Education for 2008-2015 of the Republic of Armenia, within the scope of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and the international organisation “Save the Children Federation, Inc.”, in 2010-2011 under the “Programme for Improvement of Living Conditions and Social Support” funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the U.S. Department of State, in the schools operating in Yezidi-resided Geghamasar, Arpunq, Poqr Masrik communities of Gegharkunik Marz, one pre-school classroom in each community was repaired and furnished in order to organise the pre-school education of 50 children aged 4-5 years.

85-89. See points 85-89 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

<p><b>“b. i. to make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or</b></p> <p><b>ii. to make available a substantial part of primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or</b></p> <p><b>iii. to provide, within primary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or</b></p> <p><b>iv. to apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils who or whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient”</b></p>
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90. See point 90 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

91. Pursuant to Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On language”, the Republic of Armenia guarantees the free use of languages of national minorities on its territory. Article 2 of the same law stipulates that “in the communities of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia, the general education and upbringing may be organised in their native language by compulsory instruction in the Armenian language in compliance with the state programme and under the state patronage”. Pursuant to point 10 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On general education”, general education of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia may be organised in their native or national language, by compulsory instruction in the Armenian language.

The elementary education in ethnic languages is available for the communities of national minorities who are the native speakers of the languages under the protection of the Republic of Armenia. “The curriculum of the general education school (class) of national minorities” has been developed by the National Institute of Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, pursuant to which 4 hours a week are allocated for each class of the elementary school for teaching the subject “Native Language and Literature” of the national minorities, included in the list on the curriculum subjects of the state component. Furthermore, in the settlements with mixed population where there is a small number of national minorities, an opportunity for the facultative teaching of the language is envisaged.

92. Instruction in national minority languages as an inseparable part of the educational programme is provided within the framework of elementary education, and the instruction is organised even in case of insufficient number of pupils. Instruction in the Yezidi and Kurdish languages in the rural areas resided by Yezidis and Kurds in the elementary classes is implemented where a relevant specialist is available, irrespective of the number of pupils (Annex 4). Instruction in the Assyrian language in the elementary classes is implemented in the elementary classes of the secondary schools of Verin Dvin, Dimitrov, Arzni, Nor Artagers villages, No 8 basic school after Pushkin and No 29 high school after A. Margaryan of Yerevan, in case where even 2-3 children participate (Annex 4).

93. In 2002 Kurdish alphabet “Zmanede” was published by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, based on relevant syllabuses. By financing of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, the “Alphabet” of Kurdish (2009), the textbooks of Kurdish native language — the 2nd, 3rd, 4th (2012) and 5th grades (2014), were published. Also, in 2014 the textbooks of Kurdish native language and literature for the 6th and 7th grades were also published (Annex 4).

94. Publication of the textbooks of the Yezidi language and literature for the classes of elementary, secondary and high schools has been carried out by financing of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia. The alphabet of the Yezidi language was republished in 2014. Also, the textbooks “Yezidi language-2” (2011), “Yezidi Literature-3” (2012), “Yezidi Language and Literature” — for the 4th and 5th (2013), 6th and 7th (2014), 8th (2011), 9th (2012), 11th (2014) grades were published (Annex 4).

95. In 2009, the standard and the programme for the Assyrian language for the 1-12th years were approved by the National Institute of Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia. By financing of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, in 2011 books “Speak Assyrian” (the 1st grade, 2011), “Write and speak Assyrian” of the 1st, 2nd grades (2010) were published. To improve the elementary education in Assyrian, the authors of the textbooks have been suggested to elaborate relevant instruction materials (Annex 4).

96. See points 96-98 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

**“c. i. to make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or**

**ii. to make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or**

**iii. to provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or**

**iv. to apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient”**

99. See point 99 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

100. In the Republic, the Yezidi and Kurdish languages are taught at secondary schools of Armavir, Ararat and Aragatsotn Marzes (Annex 4).

101. In Armenia, the instruction in the Assyrian language within the secondary education is implemented at secondary schools of Ararat, Kotayk and Armavir Marzes (Annex 4).

102. See point 33 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia and point 96 of the Fourth Report of the Republic of Armenia.

103. All\* the mentioned schools are included in the Armenian Education Network (AEN) and are equipped with interrupted round-the-clock Internet connection. Maintenance of the AEN is implemented by the funds of the State Budget.<sup>2</sup>

See point 103 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

104. See points 104-105 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

106. Subject “Native Language and Literature” of the national minorities is included in the curriculum of the general education school (class) of national minorities developed by the National Institute of Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia — in the list on the curriculum subjects of the state component, for instruction of which 4 class hours a week are allocated for the 1-5th grades each, and 3 class hours a week — for the 6-12th grades each (there were 5 hours in previous years, and the national minority representatives have complained of it; the General Education Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia has discussed the class hours with the school principals /Assyrian and Yezidi by nationality/, the textbook authors, and the heads of the non-governmental organisations).

The electronic versions of the mentioned published textbooks and syllabuses of the Kurdish and Yezidi languages<sup>3</sup> have been posted on “Resources Data Base” webpage of<sup>4</sup> the “Armenian Educational Portal” operating in the AEN focal point<sup>5</sup>.

107. In 2002, based on relevant syllabuses, Kurdish alphabet “Zmanede” was published by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia. With the financing of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, the “Alphabet” of Kurdish (2009), the textbooks of Kurdish native language — the 2nd, 3rd, 4th (2012) and 5th grades (2014), were published. Also, in 2014 the textbooks of Kurdish native language and literature for the 6th and 7th grades were published.

Publication of the textbooks of the Yezidi language and literature for the classes of elementary, secondary and high schools has been carried out with the financing of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia. The alphabet of the Yezidi language was re-published in 2014. Also, the textbooks “Yezidi language-2” (2011), “Yezidi Literature-3” (2012), “Yezidi Language and

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<sup>2</sup> All the schools in the lists of Annex 4 of the Third Report are included in the AEN, except for Otevan Community school (number of children — 0)

<sup>3</sup> The posted electronic resource: 10 textbooks of **Yezidi** language (the 1-9th, 11th grades) and programme (the 1-9th grades)([http://lib.amedu.am/category/221/date\\_created/desc](http://lib.amedu.am/category/221/date_created/desc)), 6 textbooks of **Kurdish** language (the 2-7th grades) ([http://lib.amedu.am/category/220/date\\_created/desc/offset/](http://lib.amedu.am/category/220/date_created/desc/offset/)) ([http://lib.amedu.am/category/40/date\\_created/desc](http://lib.amedu.am/category/40/date_created/desc))

<sup>4</sup> (<http://www.amedu.am>)

<sup>5</sup> (<http://lib.amedu.am>)

Literature” — for the 4th and 5th (2013), 6th and 7th (2014), 8th (2011), 9th (2012), 11th (2014) grades were published.

In 2009, the standard and the programme for Assyrian language for the 1-12th grades were approved by the National Institute of Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia. With the financing of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, in 2011 books “Speak Assyrian” (1st grade, 2011), “Write and speak Assyrian” of the 1st, 2nd (2010) grades were published. To improve the elementary education in Assyrian, the authors of the textbooks have been suggested to elaborate relevant instruction materials.

108. With the view to providing the secondary schools with pedagogical staff, measures are taken aimed at training and re-training teachers of the Yezidi, Kurdish and Assyrian languages. For full-fledged organisation of the education of children in the communities populated with Yezidis and Kurds, activities are carried out by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia aimed at replenishing the staff of specialists teaching Yezidi and Kurdish. However, the state efforts in this direction will be efficient only if the representatives of Yezidi and Kurdish Communities, wishing to get relevant profession, apply to the higher educational institutions of Armenia by taking advantage of the envisaged seats for tuition-free instruction.

The National Institute of Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia organised training courses in 2009 and 2013 for teachers of Yezidi nationality, in 2014 - for teachers of Kurdish nationality, and in 2015 - for teachers of Assyrian nationality. Both national language and modern instruction methods are focused on in the course of trainings.

With the support of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and the National Institute of Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, the Russian Centre of Culture and Science of the Russian Federation in Yerevan on the Humanitarian Co-operation of CIS countries in Armenia and the Russian organisations in the Republic of Armenia, joint training courses of the Russian language teachers, seminar-consultations, contests “The Best Teacher” of Russian language of the year and other events are organised. Upon the request of representatives of national minorities in the Republic of Armenia, the National Institute of Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia has organised Armenian language teaching courses for the representatives of national minorities.

109. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia is ready to support the Kurdish community, as well as the communities of other national minorities in solving the problems related to the staff, if the representatives of the community express readiness to obtain a relevant profession. To be

admitted to higher education institutions in the Republic of Armenia, applicants take admission examinations at the centres of examination. The admission examinations are organised by the Assessment and Testing Centre established by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in 2004.

110. In addition to the previous report, we inform the following regarding the admission examinations of applicants who have received education in the Russian language: in accordance with the curriculum of the secondary general education school (class) with the Russian language teaching, subjects “Armenian Language” and “Armenian Literature” are set for 2-6 hours a week for each year of the secondary school, pursuant to the list of subjects of the state component. Consequently, the learner graduating from school must have rather good command of the Armenian language. Moreover, in accordance with the procedure established by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, if the graduating student has studied “Armenian Language” only in the last two grades, then the words “has not studied” are put in the relevant line of the given subject in the certificate of secondary education, and the learner can be exempt from the state final examination for “Armenian Language and Armenian Literature” upon his/her desire. The words “Is exempt” is marked at the relevant line of the certificate. Such applicants are provided with examination tasks in the Russian language by the Assessment and Testing Centre.

111-112. See points 111-112 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

113. In 1995, the “Arbela” Armenian-Russian-Assyrian scientific and cultural centre was established at the secondary school in Verin Dvin and operates till present time. Events titled “My native language”, “Our language is the token of our existence” (the day of the Assyrian language - 21 April), have been held and are being held in the school. The Assyrian New year — Hab-Nisan is also celebrated, which was approved from 1 April 2008 and organised by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

For the purpose of enriching the knowledge of pupils and evoking love to the national values, Olympiads and events are being organised and held. The children familiarise themselves with the life and activities of the prominent representatives of their nation — Mara bar Sarapion, Mar Abbas Katina, Yeprem Asori, Bar Day Sana, Constantine Alaverdov.

In January 2015, a meeting was organised between the representatives of the Assyrian, Greek Associations and Eduard Sharmazanov, Speaker of the Republican Party of Armenia.

During the meeting, Sharmazanov presented an application-project on the genocide of Assyrian and Greek nations in Ottoman Turkey. The application-project was discussed, submitted to the National Assembly and approved in April.

See also point 113 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

114. Ararat Marzpetaran of the Republic of Armenia has included the secondary school in Verin Dvin in the first stage of the renovation programme; the foundation of the school was strengthened, the roof and sanitary facilities were repaired in the academic year of 2010-2011. Microprogrammes on pre-school education have been implemented at the expense of grants in pre-school institutions of the Verin Dvin and Dimitrov communities, including the kindergarten in Verin Dvin with involvement of 39 children and the kindergarten in Dimitrov — 37 children; repairing, finishing, furnishing works were carried out in those institutions.

115-117. See points 115-117 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

- d. i. to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or**
- ii. to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or**
- iii. to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as integral part of the curriculum; or**
- iv. to apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient”**

118. In accordance with the requirements of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, the technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages, or instruction in the regional or minority languages as an inseparable part of the curriculum should be available at least for the pupils who (or whose families) wish so and whose number is considered sufficient.

119. See point 118 of the Fourth Report of the Republic of Armenia.

120. See point 120 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

121. In accordance with the formats of the State Educational Standards of Secondary Vocational Education, a graduate with the basic educational programme for professions of secondary vocational education should communicate in at least two foreign languages. Instruction in Russian as a foreign language in all primary (handicraft) and secondary vocational education institutions of the Republic is implemented as an integral part of the education programme. The Yerevan State College of Humanities has a Russian department.

122. The employees of the Division for National Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia regularly pay visits to all Yezidi and Kurdish communities to raise awareness among the representatives of national minorities about the rights and the opportunities with respect to receiving education.

123. Nobody has expressed wish to receive primary (handicraft) and secondary vocational education in the Yezidi and Kurdish ethnic communities.

**e. i. to make available university or other higher education in regional or minority languages; or  
ii. to provide facilities for the study of these languages as university and other higher education subjects, or  
iii. if, by reason of the role of the State in relation to higher education institutions, subparagraphs i and ii cannot be applied, to encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in regional or minority languages or of facilities for the study of these languages as university or higher education subjects”**

124. See point 123 of the Fourth Report of the Republic of Armenia.

125. See point 125 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

126. Classic Assyrian has been taught at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Yerevan State University in the 2nd semester of the 1st year and in the 1st semester of the 2nd year of the Master's programme starting from the academic year of 2005-2006. Training of specialists in different areas of Assyrian studies and teaching of modern Assyrian are on the planning stage at the university.

127. See point 127 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

128. The students of Yerevan State University, Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences, the Armenian State Pedagogical University after Kh. Abovyan, Gyumri State Pedagogical University after M. Nalbandyan, Vanadzor State Pedagogical University after H. Tumanyan, Gavar State University and the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University take a course on Russian language as a compulsory subject during each academic year.

Yerevan branch of Ternopil National Economic University — state higher education institution of Ukraine, and branches of the following state and non-state higher educational institutions of the Russian Federation also operate in the Republic of Armenia:

- Yerevan branch of the Federal State Budget-funded Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education “Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics” (state);
- Yerevan branch of the Federal State-Funded Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education “Russian State University of Tourism and Service” (state);
- International State Ecological University named after A.D. Sakharov /Yerevan branch/, educational institution (state);
- Yerevan Branch of Moscow International Academy of Entrepreneurship (non-state);
- Armenian Institute of Tourism - Yerevan branch of Russian International Academy of Tourism (non-state);
- Yerevan branch of St. Petersburg Higher Education Institute of External Economic Relations, Economics and Law (non-state).

129. Based on the results of admission examinations, the republican admission commission annually allocates seats for free of charge instruction from the reserve seats to the applicants representing the Assyrian, Yezidi and Kurdish communities, upon the proposal of the community concerned.

**“f. i. to arrange for the provision of adult and continuing education courses which are taught mainly or wholly in the regional or minority languages; or**

**ii. to offer such languages as subjects of adult and continuing education, or**

**iii. if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of adult education, to favour and/or encourage the offering of such languages as subjects of continuing education.**

130. Greek language courses are held in Yerevan, Alaverdi, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Stepanavan, Noyemberyan cities and Koghes village on Sundays. The courses are organised by the Union of Greek Non-Governmental Organisations. The courses are open to everyone, without restrictions as to the age and nationality. If necessary, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia provides support by allocating premises in schools to open centres, Sunday schools for national minorities. For instance, a lecture room has been assigned within the territory of the basic high school of Gyumri Pedagogical University for the centre of Polish non-governmental organisations “Polonia” and the Sunday school (Head of the centre and the Polish teacher is Liana Harutyunyan).

131. See point 131 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

132. There has been no demand for trainings for adults or continuous education in the Assyrian language since adults have good command of their language. In the course of co-operating with Assyrian non-governmental organisations, the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, the Commission on National Minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia have expressed their willingness for several occasions to organise and implement continuous education programmes if there are people who wish so.

133. There is no need to organise continuous education courses for adults in the Yezidi and Kurdish languages since adult Kurds and Yezidis have sufficient command of their language. *Kurds and Yezidis even consider the question nonsensical.* During co-operation under various educational programmes, no message or wish from the Yezidi or Kurdish Communities on organising the continuing education of adults has been received by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia. If necessary, the Commission on National Minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia or the Coordinating Council for National and Cultural Organisations of National Minorities of the Republic of Armenia may apply to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, which is willing to organise and implement the continuous education of adults.

## **Article 9. Judicial authorities**

### **Paragraph 1**

**“The Parties undertake, in respect of those judicial districts in which the number of residents**

using the regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below, according to the situation of each of these languages and on condition that the use of the facilities afforded by the present paragraph is not considered by the judge to hamper the proper administration of justice:

a. in criminal proceedings:

...

ii. to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language; and/or

iii. to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language; and/or

iv. to produce, on request, documents connected with legal proceedings in the relevant regional or minority language,

if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned;”

134-136. See points 134-136 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

“b. in civil proceedings:

...

ii. to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or”

137-138. See points 137-138 of the Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

“c. in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters:

...

**ii. to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or**

**iii. to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages,**

**if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;”**

139. In the Republic of Armenia court proceedings of administrative cases are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia. Therefore, the aforementioned refers to administrative cases as well, and the right of a person belonging to a national minority to use his or her native language whenever he or she has to appear in person before a court refers to administrative cases as well.

140. The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings” was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 18 February 2004. Parts 1 and 2 of Article 27 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings” stipulate: “[a]dministrative proceedings shall be conducted and administrative act shall be adopted in the Armenian language. Persons speaking the languages of national minorities in the Republic of Armenia may, as prescribed by law or in accordance with the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, submit an application for conducting the administrative proceedings and documents attached thereto in the language of the relevant national minority. In that case the administrative body may request the Armenian translation of the documents be submitted.”

141. Part 4 of Article 27 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings”, stipulates: “[i]n the course of administrative proceedings, participants may use foreign languages. However, these persons shall ensure Armenian translation through their own translator, if the administrative body is unable to provide for such translation.” As to the use of languages of a national minority by representatives of national minorities when communicating orally with officials of administrative bodies, every official, who has command of any language of a national minority, may freely communicate with them in that language.

142. In accordance with part 4 of Article 59 of the Law “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings”, the administrative body, having adopted the act, may, upon the written request of the addressee of the administrative act, provide him or her the copy of the administrative act translated into a foreign language, which should be endorsed with the official seal of the relevant

administrative body. Part 2 of Article 93 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia stipulates that payments to translators shall be made from the budget of the Republic of Armenia or from the budget of the respective community, depending on which administrative body (state or local self-government body) has invited those persons. Only where the translator has been invited by a participant of the administrative proceedings, the relevant expenses shall be incurred by that participant.

**“d. to take steps to ensure that the application of sub-paragraphs i and iii of paragraphs b and c above and any necessary use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned.”**

143. In view of the aforementioned, the legislation of the Republic of Armenia creates no obstacles for persons participating in the judicial procedure to act in their national language (and in Armenian, if they so desire) during the judicial procedure. Studies on certain issues conducted by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia show that the courts have demonstrated no discrimination towards representatives of national minorities by virtue of nationality of the latter or by virtue of any other reason, and no problems have arisen with regard to languages of national minorities in Armenia; moreover, the representatives of national minorities of the Republic have command of the Armenian language, and certain officials have command of minority languages.

### **Paragraph 3**

**“The Parties undertake to make available in the regional or minority languages the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to speakers of these languages, unless they are otherwise provided.”**

144. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia publishes and regularly re-publishes official bulletins on codes and laws of the Republic of Armenia, in order to inform citizens of the Republic of Armenia, including national minorities, of their rights. In the Republic of Armenia legal acts are adopted in the Armenian language. The website of the National Assembly contains Russian translations of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, and of the Civil, Labour, Family, Criminal Procedure, Penitentiary, Customs, and Land Codes, as well as of other important laws and legal acts.

145. Taking into consideration the fact that a certain part of the population of Armenia does not have ready access to electronic means of communication, the Division for National Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Armenia regularly organises visits and discussions for minorities to raise their awareness in the field of their rights.

146. The translation of all legal acts of the Republic of Armenia into the languages of national minorities requires substantial financial resources, and presently, taking into account the financial means of the Republic, such an undertaking is not possible.

However it should be mentioned that 500 copies of a booklet in the Russian language titled “Certain provisions of interstate European instruments on the rights of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia” have been published by the means of the state grant approved at the Co-ordinating Council for National and Cultural Organisations of National Minorities under the Staff to the President of the Republic of Armenia. The booklets were distributed among representatives of the Russian community, especially in densely populated areas, as well as among organisations and departments, related to the sector.

In addition, the experience gained during the translation of the text of the Armenian Constitution into Yezidi revealed a number of difficulties regarding the precise formulation of legal terms and definitions, as well as the lack of appropriate specialists. Discussions held with the heads of non-governmental organisations, and members of communities of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia indicate that there is no demand for translation of the laws of the Republic of Armenia into the languages of minorities, since the laws interpreted in Armenian or Russian are readily available to and applicable for them.

147. It should be noted that, the fact of mastering the language of legal acts has never been a reason for a person belonging to a national minority to be deprived of the possibility of effectively using the constitutional right to protection of his or her rights and lawful interests. The ethnic communities of the Republic of Armenia have much better command of Armenian or Russian than of the ethnic languages, and in practice, no complications arise, from the linguistic point of view, with regard to the knowledge of law.

**Article 10. Administrative authorities and public services**

**Paragraph 1**

**“Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible:**

**a. ...**

**iv. to ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications in these languages; or**

**v. to ensure that users of regional or minority languages may validly submit a document in these languages;”**

148. As has been already mentioned, the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings” enables submitting applications to administrative bodies of the Republic of Armenia in the languages of national minorities. Thus, the legislation of the Republic of Armenia does not prohibit the possibility of applying to public authorities in the language of national minorities. The reply to the written application is given in the state language, but in the territories, where the aforementioned measures are justified by the number of the population speaking in a minority language, the official reply can be provided also in the language of the national minority.

149. The rare use in practice of Assyrian or Greek languages in oral or written communication with administrative authorities is conditioned also by the fact that the Assyrian and Greek communities use their ethnic languages insufficiently and do not know the written language. At the same time, the authorities of the Republic of Armenia cannot compel the national minorities to use their ethnic languages in their communication with administrative bodies.

**1. ...**

**“b. to make available widely used administrative texts and forms for the population in the regional or minority languages or in bilingual versions;”**

150. The majority of the administrative texts and forms widely used in the Republic are available in Russian. The national minorities of Armenia have good knowledge of Armenian or Russian, and in

practice the representatives of ethnic communities face no difficulties with regard to the implementation of the administrative acts.

**Paragraph 2**

**“In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:**

...

**b. the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages;”**

151. With regard to the aforementioned obligation we also state that in practice this right is under-exercised because of the Assyrians’ and Greeks’ insufficient command of their ethnic language, in particular the written language. As to the oral language, the authorities of Armenia cannot compel the national minorities to use their native languages when communicating with local bodies and those of marzes.

152. Pursuant to the requirements of the Charter with regard to the local bodies and those of marzes, this provision can be implemented when “the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below”. The Greeks do not constitute a sufficient number in any marz and even in any village of the Republic as to make the use of their language demanded. A substantial number of Greeks residing in villages are seniors who have no wish to study the Greek language. For that same reason the implementation of some of the provisions of the Charter with regard to the ethnic Greek community in Armenia is just impossible. The heads of communities in the Assyrian villages of Verin Dvin and Arzni are Assyrians and where needed they can use and do often use their native language.

**“f. the use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;”**

153. In the previous points of the Report it was stated that the Greeks do not fully use some of the rights, since they have no sufficient knowledge of their native language. In practice, Greek is mainly used in educational institutions teaching the Greek language. Even the members of non-governmental organisations of the Greek ethnic community communicate with each other in Armenian or Russian.

**“g. the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.”**

154. In compact settlements of national minorities (20 villages in Aragatsotn marz populated by Yezidis, V. Dvin and Arzni populated by Assyrians, and Fioletovo populated by Russians) local self-government is exercised by their representatives and, pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, the regulation of this issue is under their jurisdiction. As to the settlements of mixed population (in case of Yezidis) where this requirement was not fulfilled, the Division for National Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia reminds and urges to fulfil this requirement of the Charter.

### **Paragraph 3**

**“With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible:**

...

**c. to allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request in these languages.”**

155. Pursuant to the requirements of the Charter with regard to the local bodies and those of marzes, this provision can be implemented when “the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below”. The Greeks do not constitute a sufficient number in any marz and even in any village of the Republic as to make the use of their language demanded. A substantial number of Greeks residing in villages are seniors who have no wish to study

the Greek language. For that same reason the implementation of some of the provisions of the Charter with regard to the ethnic Greek community in Armenia is just impossible. The heads of communities in the Assyrian villages of Verin Dvin and Arzni are Assyrians and where needed they can use and do often use their native language. The situation is similar in 20 compact settlements populated by Yezidis.

**Paragraph 4**

**“With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:**

...

**c. compliance as far as possible with the requests from public service employees having a knowledge of a regional or minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.”**

156. With regard to public servants of the Republic of Armenia there is no prohibition in communicating in national minority languages. Moreover, authorities take into account the knowledge of languages by officials who serve in corresponding territories; for example, one of the employees of the Staff of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia is an ethnic Yezidi. One of the employees of the Division for National Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia is also an ethnic Yezidi and speaks Yezidi/Kurdish.

157. In Armenia public officials and state servants have sufficient knowledge of Russian. In the Republic's rural settlements with ethnically mixed populations, representatives of national minorities are engaged in marzpetarans' staffs and in establishments under marzpetarans, as well as in local self-government bodies of urban and rural communities; they are appointed to the positions of both the heads of communities and members of councils of elders.

158. Upon the decision of the Commission on National Minority Issues of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia rendered at the sitting of 18 June 2010, it was proposed to appoint public servants in the territories, where languages of national minorities were used, encouraging the use of Kurdish and Yezidi languages in administrative activities, and to add a separate examination subject for testing the knowledge of national minorities in the examinations of civil servants providing their services in marzes which have settlements inhabited by national minorities. The proposal was discussed at the Republic of

Armenian Civil Service Council. As a result of the discussion it was decided that during the organisation of competitions for vacancies in civil service positions in relevant bodies, the assessment of the knowledge of Assyrian, Yezidi and Kurdish languages was practically impossible due to the lack of necessary experts, tests and questionnaires. However, for the solution of the issue the Civil Service Council of the Republic of Armenia proposed, as an intermediate measure, to grant the public official, who is authorised to appoint the candidates to the relevant positions, the right to give priority from the winners of the competition to the participant with mastery of Assyrian, Yezidi and Kurdish, provided that he or she holds a corresponding certificate confirming the mastery of the language.

**Paragraph 5**

**“The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.”**

159. The Committee of Experts of the Charter considers this obligation fulfilled. Although the obligation is considered fulfilled, the issue remains under the focus of the agency.

**Article 11. Media**

**Paragraph 1**

**“The Parties undertake, for the users of the regional or minority languages within the territories in which those languages are spoken, according to the situation of each language, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:**

**a. to the extent that radio and television carry out a public service mission:**

...

**iii. to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages;**

**b. ...**

**ii. to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;**

**C. ...**

**ii. to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;”**

160. Pursuant to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On television and radio” the Public Television and Radio Company shall develop and implement a programme policy.

Sub-point “d” of point 3 of part 5 of Article 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia defines the following: “[The Public Television and Radio Company shall] provide broadcasting time for broadcasting special programmes in the languages of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia. The overall time for these programmes shall not exceed 2 hours weekly for the television, and 1 hour daily for the radio. Special programmes and television programmes in national minority languages of the Republic of Armenia must be accompanied by Armenian captions.”

161. In accordance with the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On television and radio”, the National Commission on Television and Radio has held 25 competitions during 2010 for carrying out on-air broadcasting of television programmes through the digital broadcasting network, from which 4 were for re-broadcasters, and 21 were for broadcasters. In each competition for re-broadcasting participated one company; as a result, 3 companies carry out re-broadcasting of television programmes in Russian. Television companies are not restricted in their broadcasting of programmes in minority languages; moreover, almost all companies have clearly stated in their competition files that they were ready to find cultural, historical, educational and other programmes about national minority communities to broadcast; they also expressed their willingness to provide broadcasting time.

162. Analytical, informative and rights awareness programmes about national minorities are broadcast periodically — mainly in Armenian or Russian languages — by the Public Television and other television companies with the participation or on the initiative of national minority representatives. Upon the request of television journalists, the representatives of national minorities speak in their languages while commenting on the events or festivals of national minorities. Television companies operating in marzes of the Republic often broadcast different programme series, and periodically cover the issues raised by national minorities.

163. Every day the Armenian Public Radio broadcasts in national minority languages, in particular in Assyrian for 15 minutes, in Kurdish for 30 minutes, in Yezidi for 30 minutes, in Russian for 15 minutes, and in Greek for 15 minutes.

**“e. i. to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages; or”**

164. Each year, when drawing its budget, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia allocates financial means for supporting the publication of printed press for national minorities. The “Non-state press publication” programme supported the publication of 12-14 newspapers and magazines in the languages of national minorities, in particular: 2010 - AMD 11 968.0, 2011 - AMD 12 468.0, 2012 - AMD 9 977.0, 2013 – AMD 9 977.0, 2014 - AMD 9 977.0.

165. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia provides financial support to the publication of periodicals of literarily, cultural, scientific and other press in the languages of national minorities, among which are the following: “Ezdikhana” and “Lalysh” newspapers in the Armenian language for the Yezidi community, “Golos Armenii”, “Novoe Vremya” newspapers, and “Literaturnaya Armenia” newspaper and magazine in the Russian language for the Russian community, “Rya Taza” and “Zagros” newspapers in the Kurdish language, “Ilios” newspaper for the Greek community, as well as “Assyriskie Novosti” newspaper in the Russian and Assyrian languages for the Assyrian community.

#### **Newspapers in the languages of national minorities**

1	Yezidi National Union NGO	“Ezdikhana” ( <i>Armenian, Yezidi</i> )
2	Yezidi National Committee NGO	“Lalysh” ( <i>Armenian, Yezidi</i> )
3	“Rya Taza” Newspaper Editorial LLC	“Rya Taza” ( <i>Kurdish</i> )
4	Golos LLC	“Golos Armenii” ( <i>Russian</i> )
5	“Ukraine” Federation of Ukrainians of Armenia NGO	“Dnipro-Slavutich” ( <i>Armenian, Ukrainian</i> )
6	Kurdish National Council of Armenia NGO	“Zagros” ( <i>Armenian, Kurdish</i> )

7	Newspaper of Jewish Community of Armenia NGO	"Magen David" ( <i>Russian, Hebrew</i> )
8	"Iveria" Georgian Charitable Community NGO	"Iveria" ( <i>Georgian</i> )
9	"Novoye Vremya" Daily Editorial LLC	"Novoye Vremya" ( <i>Russian</i> )
10	"Belarus" Belarusian Community of Yerevan NGO	"Belarus" ( <i>Russian, Belarusian</i> )
11	"Khayadta" Federation of Assyrian Organisations of Armenia" union of legal persons	"Assyriskie Novosti" ( <i>Russian, Assyrian</i> )
12	"Ilios" Greek Community of Yerevan NGO	"Ilios" ( <i>Russian, Armenian, Greek</i> )

166. See point 165 of the Fourth Report of the Republic of Armenia.

167. During 2008-2014 with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and under the "Publication of literature of national minorities and other literature" project 15 books were published, including "Our Village" by Amarike Sardar, "Stories" by Samand Sima, "Poems" by Alikhane Mame, "A Selection" by Shamoyan Smo, "Collected Poems" by Yuri Alexandrov, "Literary Anthology of National Minorities" collection, "Smoe Shamo: Life and Work" by Vazire Ashoi, "Articles" by Alikhane Mame, "The Path of My Ancestors" by Amarike Sardar, "The Silver Thread" by Alexander Poryadochni, etc.

## Paragraph 2

**"The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language.**

**They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language.**

**The exercise of the above-mentioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and**

**responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.”**

168. The Committee of Experts of the Charter considers this undertaking fulfilled. Although the undertaking is considered fulfilled, the issue remains under the focus of the agency.

### **Paragraph 3**

**“The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of the users of regional or minority languages are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of media.”**

169. The National Commission on Television and Radio is a body, envisaged by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, which ensures the freedom, independence and diversity of broadcast media. The principle of formation of the Commission is prescribed by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia. Four of the NCTR members are appointed on a competitive basis by the President of the Republic of Armenia, and the other four are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, there is a legal requirement for Commission member candidacy nominations to provide recommendations given by two or more non-governmental organisations. The principles of operation of the NCTR are legality, democracy, equality, impartiality, independence, collegiality, and publicity. The right to free selection, production and dissemination of television and radio programmes is guaranteed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On television and radio”. The censorship of television and radio programmes is prohibited. Anyone has the right to receive television and radio programmes and additional information, including through satellite and cable networks, whether free or paid, both by decoding means and by open television and radio broadcasting networks.

170. Sub-point d of point 3 of part 5 of Article 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On television and radio” defines the following: “[The Public Television and Radio Company shall] provide the

television and radio audience with such programme series and types in which the interests of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia are also represented”.

The Division for National Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia discussed with the Head of the Staff of the National Commission on Television and Radio the issue of organising television and radio broadcasting in Yezidi in Aragatsotn, Ararat, Armavir, and Kotayk marzes inhabited by Yezidis. During the discussion key issues were revealed:

- The Commission is not entitled to intervene in the activities of private television and radio companies; it can only urge as they have already been doing.
- Preparation and release of such programmes are costly, and in the current economic hardship the television companies will avoid bearing those additional costs.
- The Yezidi community shall assume an initiating and primary role in addressing this issue and in case of concrete steps and efforts on their part, television companies and the Commission will provide assistance within their capabilities.

Pursuant to Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On mass media”, the media outlets shall be issued and disseminated without prior or current state registration, licensing, declaration in state or any other body or notification to any authority. By part 3 of the same Article of the Law of the Republic of Armenia, censorship, as well as the limitation of the right of a person to make use of any media outlet, including those issued and disseminated in other countries, are prohibited.

The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On mass media” does not provide for any mandatory requirement as to the language of the media outlets, which gives more possibilities to the media outlet to disseminate information in the language(s) it chooses.

## **Article 12. Cultural activities and facilities**

### **Paragraph 1**

**“With regard to cultural activities and facilities – especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including *inter alia* the use of new technologies – the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have**

**power or play a role in this field:**

**a. to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;”**

171. The Committee of Experts of the Charter considers this obligation fulfilled, nevertheless it is expected to receive information on increase and review of financial allocations provided for cultural events of national minorities by the authorities.

172. Upon the proposal of the Co-ordinating Council for National and Cultural Organisations of National Minorities of the Republic of Armenia under the Staff to the President of the Republic of Armenia of 5 October 2000, AMD 10 million was allocated, from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, to support the educational and cultural activities of the national minorities of the Republic of Armenia through the Council member organisations representing 11 national communities.

The procedure of allocation of the sum is annually discussed and approved at the sitting of the Council as result of the majority vote of the members.

Since 2012 the annual amount of AMD 10 million allocated to minorities by the Government of the Republic of Armenia has doubled (amounting to AMD 20 million). Upon the decision rendered at the sitting of the Co-ordinating Council, the allocation of the additional AMD 10 million is implemented in the form of a grant, which is provided for implementation of the best educational and cultural programmes.

Pursuant to the procedure established by the Co-ordinating Council, at the beginning of each year AMD 9 million from the total amount of AMD 20 million is allocated to the Co-ordinating Council member organisations, in compliance with continuous programmes submitted by them and based on the principle of equal treatment of all national minorities residing in the Republic of Armenia; AMD 1 million is allocated for the joint activities of the Co-ordinating Council, while the remaining AMD 10 million is allocated for the financing of the development of national culture, the maintenance of language and identity of the communities of national minorities, as well as for the initiations and programmes aimed at raising the awareness of the representatives of national minorities in the legal field, which are submitted for additional financing by both Co-ordinating Council member organisations and non-member organisations. They are discussed and approved at the Co-ordinating Council, giving the priority to the satisfaction of needs of organisations not having national and state structures and/or representing a large number of communities.

Pursuant to the decision rendered at the sitting on 11 December 2014, for providing state support to non-governmental organisations of national minorities, AMD 9 million from the total amount of AMD 20 million, envisaged by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for 2015, shall be allocated equally, in accordance with organisations of ethnic communities represented at the Council.

At the same time, upon the same decision rendered at the sitting, the Council guaranteed the transfer of AMD 11 million from the amount envisaged for 2015 to the account of the Council member “Harmony” International Centre of Russian Culture NGO: AMD 1 million was allocated for joint educational and cultural events, and AMD 10 million was allocated, upon the decision of the Council, for implementation of most important initiatives and programmes aimed at educational and cultural development of ethnic communities by different national and cultural organisations (including non-members of the Council).

173-174. See point 172 of the Fourth Report of the Republic of Armenia.

**“d. to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;”**

175. The Committee of Experts of the Charter considers this obligation fulfilled. Although the obligation is considered fulfilled, the issue remains under the focus of the agency.

**“f. to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;”**

176. Within the framework of implementation of state cultural policy, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, jointly with the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Territorial Administration, periodically organises discussions of applications for medium-term expenditure frameworks and budgetary financing on major expenses of renovation and construction of culture houses and clubs, submitted from marzes and communities of the Republic of Armenia. As a result of the discussions culture houses are periodically being renovated or built in different communities, including in the settlements of national minorities.

177. See point 176 of the Fourth Report of the Republic of Armenia.

**Paragraph 2**

**“In respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.”**

178. The Committee of Experts of the Charter considers this obligation fulfilled. Although the obligation is considered fulfilled, the issue remains under the focus of the agency.

**Paragraph 3**

**“The Parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad, for regional or minority languages and the cultures they reflect.”**

179. The culture of national minorities of the Republic is also presented, within possibilities, in foreign countries. In 2009 K. Stanislavski State Russian Drama Theatre participated in the “Solo” International Theatre Festival of Solo Performances in Moscow. The Republic of Armenia is ready to create conditions for fulfilling the obligation undertaken as to the Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi languages, but the scarcity of financial means makes it difficult to fulfil this obligation.

**Article 13. Economic and social life**

**Paragraph 1**

**“With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, within the whole country:**

...

**b. to prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of regional or minority languages, at least between**

**users of the same language;”**

180. The Committee of Experts of the Charter considers this obligation fulfilled. Although the obligation is considered fulfilled, the issue remains under the focus of the agency.

**“c. to oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities;”**

181. The Committee of Experts of the Charter considers this obligation fulfilled. Although the obligation is considered fulfilled, the issue remains under the focus of the agency.

**“d. to facilitate and/or encourage the use of regional or minority languages by means other than those specified in the above sub-paragraphs.”**

182. Each year, for the support of cultural events of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia, budgetary allocations are envisaged under the “Support to the Culture of National Minorities” sub-programme of the “State Support to Implementation of Cultural Events” programme within the scope of the annual and medium-term expenditure frameworks of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia.

Through the financing of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, exhibitions of fine arts, decorative applied arts, and music festivals are held in Yerevan and marzes with the participation of all communities of national minorities. Visual arts and decorative applied arts exhibitions for national minorities have been held regularly: during 2012-2014 four exhibitions were held. Four music festivals of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia were organised in 2012-2014.

As for other events, see also points 41-43.

185. See point 185 of the previous Third Report of the Republic of Armenia.

## Paragraph 2

**“With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, in so far as the public authorities are competent, within the territory in which the regional or minority languages are used, and as far as this is reasonably possible:**

...

**b. in the economic and social sectors directly under their control (public sector), to organise activities to promote the use of regional or minority languages;”**

186. The languages of national minorities are actually used in places where public services are provided. The Russian language is often used in transport, postal services, airport, and different public places. As it was already mentioned, the Russian language is used by many people of ethnic identity; moreover, the majority of them consider Russian as their native language. Placement of topographic signboards in corresponding languages is provided for representatives of national minorities where needed. During different cultural events, consultations, and discussions organised in marzes with the participation of national minorities, ethnic languages are used as well. The use of languages of national minorities in different settlements of the Republic is fostered by the presence of mixed-marriage families.

**“c. to ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the possibility of receiving and treating in their own language persons using a regional or minority language who are in need of care on grounds of ill health, old age or for other reasons”**

187. Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi physicians work in the field of healthcare of the Republic of Armenia, who can help solve issues emerged. However, up to this day no information has been received that any representative of national minority of Armenia was deprived of care or faced difficulties in institutions of public care because of language issues. It may be that no language of national minorities, except Russian, is used in hospitals, but the issue is that those who go to hospital or turn to a physician themselves use Armenian or Russian languages. In rare cases of having no command of the languages of national minorities, the communication with representatives of national minorities is carried out through relatives or persons who have a command of the language, including through interpreters. The patients in those cases do not incur financial expenses.

In the boarding houses, that operate under the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, in general reside 1 090 elderly people, of which 1 072 are Armenians, 11 are Russians, 2 are Yezidis, 2 are Azerbaijanis, 1 is an Assyrian, 1 is a Latvian, and 1 is a German.

The mentioned persons speak Armenian and communicate easily. Up to this day, there have been no problems with regard to communication difficulties that a representative of national minority had in the boarding house or being deprived of care because of language issues.

The rights and privileges of the representatives of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia to receive medical assistance and services are equal to the rights and privileges of citizens of the Republic of Armenia — Armenians by nationality — and the policy, adopted by the Ministry of Healthcare, aims at ensuring that representatives of national minorities, holding the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, fully benefit from the whole range of medical assistance and services provided for the population.

However, in the above-mentioned context it should be noted that the Ministry of Healthcare within the framework of targeted clinical residency programme tries to train medical specialists at the expense of the state funds from among the representatives of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia, who in future will work in regions, densely populated with minorities. In particular, in October 2014 a Yezidi cardiologist graduated from Yerevan State Medical University after M. Heratsi, who was referred by the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia to Aragatz region, Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia to work at “Tsaghkahovit Medical Center” CJSC. The physician will work particularly for a big Yezidi community of the region.

Moreover, representatives of Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian, Yezidi and other nations (Georgians, Estonians), holding a position of physician, medium and junior-level healthcare workers, work in the Republic of Armenia in the field of healthcare, who, when necessary, can help to solve language related problems. Up to this day no information has been received that any representative of national minority of the Republic of Armenia was deprived of care, treatment or faced difficulties because of language issues in institutions of public care, i.e. hospitals, retirement homes.

**Article 14. Transfrontier exchanges**

**“The Parties undertake:**

**a. to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude**

**such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education**

**b. for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/ or promote cooperation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form”**

188. The Committee of Experts of the Charter considers this obligation fulfilled. Although the obligation is considered fulfilled, the issue remains under the focus of the agency.

### Part 3

#### **Information on the third monitoring round of implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

#### **Concerning comments of the Committee of Experts**

Information about Poles, Georgians and Jews of the Republic of Armenia

**Georgians** (the material is taken from the 2011 Census data and from the book “National minorities of the Republic of Armenia today”, “Science” edition NAS RA, Yerevan 2000)

1987	1926	1959	1970	1979	1989	2001	2011
514	274	816	1439	1314	1364	696	617

The number of Georgians in the Republic of Armenia in 2000 made up 696 people. It is noteworthy that 604 of them were urban residents, and only 92 were rural residents. There were 461 women and 235 men. The overwhelming majority of Georgians of the Republic of Armenia live in Yerevan, as well as in the cities of Lori Marz (especially in Vanadzor) and in numerous rural settlements. There were no Georgian settlements in the current territory of the Republic of Armenia. This is the reason why the share of ethnic Georgian families of the Republic of Armenia is small; Armenian-Georgian (when a husband is Armenian) and Georgian-Armenian (when a husband is Georgian) families of mixed ethnic structure predominate; persons born and brought up in these families have double ethnic consciousness.

T. Asatiani<sup>6</sup> writes “Georgians, living in Armenia, with a few exceptions, are women, married to Armenian men”, and the vast majority of Georgian men at different times “were seconded to Yerevan (and other cities — Ya. M.), or after getting education in Yerevan stayed there to work and started family in Armenia”, mainly marrying Armenian women. Nearly 40% are pensioners.

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<sup>6</sup> Tinatin Asatiani (1918-2011) - Academician of the NAS of the Republic of Armenia, doctor of physical and mathematical sciences, honoured scientist of the Republic of Armenia. From 1944 to 1987 - head of mu-meson laboratory of Yerevan Physics Institute (worked with A. Alikhanyan and a group of other scientists). From 1968 - professor of the Yerevan State University. Author of numerous scientific papers, famous public figure, founder and honoured chairperson of Georgian charitable community “Iveria” in the Republic of Armenia, an honorary citizen of Tbilisi.

Georgian Sunday School, where the Georgian language, Georgian songs and dances, memorable episodes of the history of Armenian and Georgian friendship and co-operation are taught, functions on a regular basis in the Republic of Armenia. "Iveria" newspaper is being published from October 2004 in the Russian and Georgian languages.

Since 1986 Catholicos of All Armenians Vazgen I and Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II came to an agreement that one of the renovated Armenian churches in Noragavit district of Yerevan shall be allocated to the Georgian community of Armenia.

It's obvious that the number of Georgians in the Republic of Armenia is rather small, their main part (43%) live in Yerevan and not in compact settlements (see distribution by marzes in Annex 1).

The number of Georgians in the Republic of Armenia in 2011 made up 617 people. It is noteworthy that 436 of them were urban residents, and only 181 were rural residents. 386 were women and 231 were men (Annex 5.2-1).

The table shows that 400 out of 617 Georgians of the Republic of Armenia consider Georgian their native language, 94 of them consider Armenian their native language and 75 — Russian (Annex 5.2-2). It follows from this table that 617 Georgians mentioned that besides their native language they are fluent in the following languages: Armenian — 129, Russian — 147, Georgian — 57 and 262 — lacking knowledge of other language.

The comparison of data of the above mentioned tables shows that 440 (nearly 71,3%) of 617 Georgians of the Republic of Armenia considered Georgian their native language, and 57 (9,2%) of those, who mentioned other language as a native one, are fluent in Georgian; they can constitute the main number of Georgians of the Republic of Armenia, using Georgian in everyday life. Taking into account that Georgian community of the Republic of Armenia has a Sunday School, where Georgian is taught, we can say that this number tends to increase.

**Jews** (the material is taken from the 2011 Census data and from the book "National minorities of the Republic of Armenia today", "Science" edition NAS RA, Yerevan 2000)

Pursuant to the 1897 first All-Russian Census data, the number of Jews reached 834. In 2001 109 Jews resided in Armenia, 105 of them were urban residents. The number of mixed marriages (Armenian-Jewish) in community is high.

1897	1926	1959	1970	1979	1989	2001	2011
834	335	1024	1048	953	676	109	127

In comparison with the data of Census conducted in XX century, the Census in 1970 officially registered the highest number of Jews in Armenia (1 048). Nearly 63% of urban residents were centralised in Yerevan. By the percentage, 40% of them mentioned the marriage as a main reason for moving to Armenia, 30% mentioned the work, 21% — service, and 3% — evacuation. Vast majority of Jewish families, residing in Armenia, is of mixed marriage. Armenian-Jewish (less Jewish-Armenian) marriages are common, there are also families of mixed marriages of Jews and representatives of eastern Slavic nations (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians).

In Armenia Jews reside in disperse manner and they don't have compact settlements.

From the social-professional point of view, among Jews of the Republic of Armenia there is a high percentage of highly qualified physicians, musicians, pedagogues, engineers and other specialists.

“Jewish community of Armenia” formed as a national and cultural non-governmental organisations as early as in 1991. A club of interesting meetings, children's dance ensemble, legal, medical and humanitarian aid services, cultural information centre and a school function in the system of national and cultural non-governmental organisation “Jewish community of Armenia”. Language, culture, history classes are organised in the school both for schoolchildren and adults.

The other organisation is a religious one and is called “Mordechai Navi-Chabad Lubavitch” Jewish Community Center; it was founded in 1996. A preaching house (synagogue), a Sunday School for children, a Charitable Centre, a library operate here; there are training courses for adults as well.

“Menorah” Jewish cultural centre” non-governmental organisation, founded by famous composer Willy Weiner, operates in Armenia as well.

The community publishes two periodicals: “Magen Davit” and “Koheleth”. The religious community has its preaching houses (synagogues) in Yerevan and Sevan. A special library is opened and operates in Yerevan, where there exists literature, informative materials about Jews in different languages, as well as Jewish periodicals, published in Armenia and abroad.

The most famous Jewish historical monument in Armenia is the Jewish cemetery, found in medieval settlement of Yeghegis village of Vayots Dzor Marz, which is a unique phenomenon not only among Armenian historical monuments, but also for Jewish people.

It should be also noted, that most of Jews in Armenia are Russian-speakers and communication within the community is mainly in Russian. However, this fact does not affect the interest in the native language, and even many adults nowadays learn their native language and have a desire and capabilities to master the language.

During the conducted surveys, authors became convinced that the level of knowledge of written and especially spoken Armenian is rather high among Jews of the Republic of Armenia, although Russian continues to remain the most used language, and the national language — still being studied.

**Poles** (the material is taken from the 2011 Census data and from the book “National minorities of the Republic of Armenia today”, “Science” edition NAS RA, Yerevan 2000)

During the 2001 RA Census, there were 97 Poles in Armenia, most of them were women (79 people), i.e. about 81%, by the way, about 95% of Polish population were urban residents.

1897	1926	1959	1970	1979	1989	2001	2011
1188	705	-	389	691	270	97	124

First Polish families have settled on the territory of the Republic of Armenia from the second half of the XIX century. Statistical information about their number is hold in the “Family lists” of 1886. Pursuant to that record, there were about 90 Poles, representing 23 families that resided in Yerevan, Alexandropol (today’s Gyumri), Gharakilisa (today’s Vanadzor), as well as in the rural settlements of Ararat valley, Shirak and Lori region.

During the 1926 Census the number of Poles was 705 (621 men, 84 women), the urban population was prevailing — 684 people (610 men, 74 women). Only 21 people lived in villages. 61,4% resided in Yerevan.

The last Census of the soviet period registered 270 Poles (103 men and 167 women) and 206 urban residents.

Poles basically reside in disperse manner and there are no Polish compact settlements in the Republic. They live in Yerevan, as well as in Gyumri, Vanadzor, Etchmiadzin, Ashtarak, Stepanavan, Armavir and in other cities.

There are few Polish ethnic families among Poles, residing in Armenia. Among them interethnic marriages, especially Armenian-Polish ones, are common. Most of Poles of the Republic of Armenia are Russian-speakers.

Since 2001 the Government of the Republic of Armenia allocates nearly AMD 1 million to the Polish community, amongst other national communities, for different needs.

In recent years the Polish community of the Republic of Armenia established close relations with state bodies and non-governmental organisations of the historical homeland, receives humanitarian assistance (including textbooks, historical literature and fiction, etc.).

Pursuant to the data of A. Kuzminskaya, head of Polish community, Poles residing in Armenia, pursuant to the period of residence, differ by the level of knowledge of the native language. They can be divided into two groups:

- those who reside in Armenia for three or more generations;
- those who reside for no more than two generations.

The representatives of the first group do not have an outstanding level of knowledge of their native language; few of them know their native language. The representatives of the second group, who moved to Armenia from Poland, are mostly women that got married to Armenian men after the independence of Armenia, and they have an excellent command of the native language. Their vast majority, in comparison with the representatives of the first group, actively communicate with the homeland due to family ties.

Poles, residing in Armenia, are mainly catholic Christians and they maintain religious rites and ceremonies. By the efforts of “Polonia” organisation relations were established with the community of Armenian Catholics. Their relations with the catholic community in Panik village of Shirak Marz should be particularly mentioned. Poles use this fact also for employing the services of the local Catholic Church, which is also an important factor for making the co-operation between Armenians and Poles closer.

“Polonia” organisation is in fact a unique environment for Poles to meet, get acquainted, communicate with each other. It had made some efforts in teaching Polish, establishment and maintenance of children’s choir “Gvyazdichka”.

German and Ukrainian were not traditionally used in the territory of Armenia; Germans and Ukrainians are dispersed in different settlements of the Republic of Armenia, and therefore cannot be identified with any area in Armenia.

In Armenia they always constituted a small number: there are 67 Germans residing permanently, 1 176 Ukrainians, only 20 of which are Germans and 606 Ukrainians consider German and Ukrainian their native language. This number cannot justify undertaking different protective and promotional measures, envisaged in the Charter (Article 1 of the Charter). Besides, they are dispersed in several marzes of the Republic of Armenia and cannot be identified with any area. Ukrainian and German and other languages of the Republic of Armenia, that were not considered regional languages by the Republic of Armenia, correspond to the definition of “non-territorial languages” in the aforesaid Charter (Article 1, paragraph c).

Official statistical data from the corresponding service on the number of Poles, Georgians and Jews, as well as on the number of the users of native language (see Annex 1)

Poles — 124, Georgians — 617, Jews — 127.

The representatives of these three communities are also dispersed over the different settlements of the Republic of Armenia.

In Armenia Georgian, Polish and Yiddish are used among few members of these communities, in monthly newspapers and magazines, published by them.

This number and their dispersion cannot justify undertaking different protective and promotional measures, envisaged in the Charter (Article 1, paragraph b of the Charter). Polish, Georgian and Hebrew (Yiddish) correspond to the definition of “non-territorial languages” in the Charter (Article 1, paragraph c).

19. Except for 5 languages mentioned in the documents on the ratification of the Charter by the Republic of Armenia, other regional or minority languages are not used in Armenia. Other non-migrant languages, used in the Republic of Armenia, are, particularly, Georgian, Polish, Hebrew (Yiddish), Ukrainian, Belarusian and German. These languages cannot be identified with any area of the Republic of Armenia and the number of their users cannot justify undertaking different protective and promotional measures, envisaged in the Charter. That is to say, pursuant to the Charter these languages are non-territorial languages (Articles 1-b, 1-c of the Charter).

The following tables, containing the 2011 Census data, are represented (Annex 1) below.

It is mentioned in the third periodic report on development of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On national and ethnic minorities” that the authorities of the Republic of Armenia have developed the draft of that Law, but later on the works on the draft Law were suspended, since national minorities were against the given draft Law.

It is worth mentioning on this issue that when the time is due for adoption of such a law the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia is ready to co-operate with the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding the issue on the development of the draft law.

It has not been mentioned in the third periodic report that the authorities of the Republic of Armenia, consulting with the associations of national minorities, have developed a draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On national and ethnic minorities”, but it has been clarified that they did not have such a draft on their agenda and that issue was not raised by national minorities of the Republic of Armenia, since the majority of representatives of the national minorities has rejected the necessity of such a law at the discussion of the draft developed in 2004.

The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia has provided the composition of the population of the Republic of Armenia based on the results of the 2011 Census, by nationality, by urban/rural areas distribution, which is presented in Annex 1 to this Report. Annex 2 presents also the snapshot of migration dynamics for the period of 2002 to 2011. Annex 2 presents the distribution of births and deaths by national origin from 2002 to 2012.

Pursuant to the International Recommendations for Censuses, the issues included in the census programme shall be brought to a minimum, taking into account the census volume, availability of required financial means, issues concerning the regulation of the functions of data collection and statistical processing thereof, as well as the burden of respondents. Moreover, pursuant to the requirements of the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (developed in co-operation with Eurostat, UN Economic Commission for Europe, UNO, New York, Geneva, 2006, Chapter IX, paragraph 415) issues concerning the ethno-cultural characteristics of population (nationality, languages, religion) are not included in the list of core topics of censuses but in the list of non-core topics, taking into account the existence of subjective components therein and the sensitivity of the issue.

Taking into account the above-mentioned, pursuant to the results of the 2011 RA Census of the indicators concerning nationality, command of native language and other languages have been summed up in compliance with the census programme (in case of small nationalities — by means of keeping the confidentiality of individual data).

Within the priorities set by the Government of the Republic of Armenia for 2013 (point 39) making pre-school education more available is enshrined as a priority issue, which is aimed at organising pre-school educational services in marzes of the Republic of Armenia without pre-school establishments or with kindergartens having incomplete staffing and poor capacities.

Renovation and furnishing works in areas allocated for pre-school establishments are being carried out in 72 institutions of 10 marzes of the Republic of Armenia during 2013.

The institutions will be replenished with educational visual materials and stationery, as well as with educational programme and methodical literature. The new pre-school establishments will start its operation where over 1 800 children are envisaged to be engaged, including children of socially vulnerable families or families of national minorities. Education costs for groups put in operation in accordance with a new short-term model, based on the need of implementation of pre-school educational criterion, are funded from State budget means of the Republic of Armenia

As for pre-school educational programme carried out in Kurdish and Assyrian languages and publication of educational and methodical manuals thereto related, it is worth mentioning that the development of educational and methodical manuals for different age groups is currently in process and it is enshrined in the Protocol Decision No 10 of March 13 2008 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On 2008-2009 Strategic Programme of Reforms in Pre-school Education". After the process has ended, comprehensive programmes of pre-school education including those of teaching Assyrian, Kurdish and Yezidi will be envisaged and carried out.

In the same context, the training of the respective teaching staff shall also be carried out in the National Institute of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia.

54. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia in co-operation with native speakers of Assyrian, principals of schools and teachers have provided academic hours for teaching Assyrian in the elementary grades programme.

66. In the second term of the first academic year and in the first term of the Master's programme second academic year classical Assyrian is taught in the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Yerevan State University.

114-115. In regard to that paragraphs of the Report it is informed that pursuant to points 11 and 12 of the Procedure for filling in the blanks for civil status acts of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 492-N of 14 April 2005, record on the nationality of citizens having other nationality shall

be carried out in the blanks for civil status acts in case the identification documents contain relevant indication. In birth records the nationality of a child shall be filled in upon the written consent of parents.

The civil status acts records are filled in with the direct forms of patronymics.

It is also worth informing that the Head of Civil Status Acts Registration Agency under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia met with Ivan Semyonov, the leader of the Russian Community in the Republic of Armenia.

Issues raised by the Russian Community concerning the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, in particular those relating to the procedures for recording patronymics while registering civil status acts were discussed during the meeting.

As a result of the discussion, the Head of Civil Status Acts Registration (CSAR) Agency and the Head of the Russian Community agreed on a raised issue: to suggest notary offices to keep necessarily the foreign language rules on the declension of patronymics while conducting translation.

127. Every year, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia allocates AMD 800 thousand from the State Budget under the “Non-state press publication” programme for ““Khayadta” federation of Assyrian organisations of Armenia” Union of Legal Entities for printing Russian, Assyrian newspaper “Assyriskie Novosti”. The newspaper is printed annually in 12 issues, in 500 copies, with a volume of 2 sheets. Two pages of the newspaper are in Assyrian.

134. The financial volumes of support to the cultural programmes of national minorities in the Budget of the Republic of Armenia are drawn up pursuant to the applications of communities. For submission of cultural applications the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia posts an announcement on presentation of grants on its official website ([www.mincult.am](http://www.mincult.am)), which is open and provides all national minorities with a possibility to submit their programmes.

138. Within the framework of “Through Culture to Tolerance” project, concerts were organised in Moscow and Saint Petersburg with the participation of the composer Willy Weiner, pianist Anahit Nersisyan and art director Armen Arnautov-Sargsyan.

The representatives of the Jewish Community have participated in pan-Jewish sport games “Maccabiah” held in Israel, Georgian song and dance ensemble have participated in ethnographic festival held in Batumi, the representatives of the Assyrian community have participated in pan-Assyrian Olympics held in Iran, a representative of Assyrian Community was included in the framework of Days of Armenia in China, to represent his or her culture. Assyrian musical instrument maker Mikhail Sadoev was included in the Armenian delegation for Surajkund 29th folk festival held in India, and he got an

opportunity to introduce Assyrian culture. At L'Artigiano in Fiera arts exhibition held in Milan in 2013, art products of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia were also presented in the pavilion of the Republic of Armenia.

The whole population of the Republic of Armenia has a right to engage in physical culture and sport, without discrimination based on religion, race, nation, sex or any other ground.

The citizen of the Republic of Armenia, the best sportsman, representing national minority, is a Yezidi by nationality, Greco-Roman wrestler Roman Amoyan — bronze medalist of Olympic Games, a two-time European Champion, second prize-winner of the world championship, a junior world champion.

Roman Amoyan's brother Azat Amoyan took the second place at the World Deaf and Dumb Championship among adults (Greco-Roman wrestling).

For many years a prize-winner of Junior European Championships, multiple champion of Armenia, a Yezidi by nationality Rubik Mamoyan has been a member of the Weightlifting team of the Republic of Armenia.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, in the procedure, approved by Order of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia No 25-A/1 of 6 February 2013, provides travel grants for young people aged between 16 to 30, irrespective of nationality, for participation in international youth programmes, forums, meetings, conferences, scientific and technical competitions, cultural programmes.

236. Support is provided to the Greek Community for publication of the newspaper "Ilios" in Russian, Armenian, Greek languages.

253. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia is actively co-operating with non-governmental organisations of the national minorities, providing financial support for organisation of social programmes, national holidays, rites and memorial days. Information about the events of national minorities, being organised in different communities, is spread by mass media, thus contributing to the attracting the attention of tourists and popularization of the cultural heritage of national minorities.

386-387. Pursuant to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On television and radio" the National Commission on Television and Radio has held 25 competitions during 2010 for carrying out on-air broadcasting of television programmes through the digital broadcasting network, from which 4 were for re-broadcasters, and 21 were for the broadcasters. In each competition for re-broadcasting participated one company; as a result 3 companies carry out re-broadcasting of television programmes in Russian.

Analytical, rights awareness or informative programmes about national minorities are broadcast periodically — mainly in the Armenian or Russian languages — by public radio and other radio companies with the participation of national minority representatives or upon their initiative. Upon the request of television journalists, the representatives of national minorities speak in their languages while commenting on the events or festivals of national minorities.

For example, Yezidi and Kurdish nurses and physicians work in the medical centres operating in Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia, holding the positions of the head of paediatric ward and polyclinic deputy head of the medical centre.

Residents of the communities of national minorities of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia benefit from the medical services, free sanatorium treatment, free medications.

The marzpetaran of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia has not yet received any letter or application in Kurdish or Yezidi languages. In case of receiving one, we can seek assistance from the principals of the schools of national minority communities.

#### **Additional data**

1. During the on-site visit, the representatives of the Georgian national minority informed the Committee of Experts that a radio programme, including a news programme, is being broadcast in Georgian. Bearing in mind that this radio programme in Georgian was discontinued during the previous monitoring round, the Committee of Experts welcomes its re-launch. There are no broadcast media for the German, Polish and Ukrainian languages. However, the “German-speaking Armenian Association”, which unites Armenians speaking German as a foreign language, regularly presents movies in German.
2. The Armenian authorities have financially supported the publication of several books in Georgian (including books for children).
3. There are minority choirs performing in Georgian, Polish, Ukrainian and Yiddish, and regularly participating in festivals in different regions of Armenia. Activities of choirs are also used by the minority associations to provide the younger generation with an opportunity to practice the minority language.
4. Measures are taken by the Republic of Armenia and the Federal Republic of Germany with the purpose of spreading and promoting German.

5. Conditions were created for non-speakers of minority languages to learn Assyrian, Georgian, German, Greek, Kurdish, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian and Yezidi.

6. The third periodical report states that Georgian speakers have participated in exchange programmes with Georgia, receiving financial support from the Armenian authorities. In addition, the Committee of Experts has been informed of recent contacts between Yezidi speakers in Armenia and abroad. The Committee welcomes this progress.

7. The Armenian authorities are ready to facilitate contact across borders between the Greek speakers in Armenia and Greek speakers in Georgia.

8. The Public Television and Radio regularly broadcasts programmes about national minorities of the Republic of Armenia, dedicated not only to their language, culture and history, but also to the problems of national minorities.

The Public Television and Radio Company did not commit a violation of requirements of Article 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On television and radio".

9. Pursuant to the obligations undertaken by the Republic of Armenia within the framework of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in order to prepare the Fourth Round National Report of the Republic of Armenia, an inter-agency working group was established under Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 75-A/Q of 10 February 2015, which comprises the representative of national minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia — the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission on education, culture and language under the Commission on National Minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia.

## **Part 4**

### **Implementation of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Armenia**

Summarising the measures taken for the application of the principles of the Charter and implementation of the provisions of the Charter, as well as the programmes implemented, taking into account also the Proposals of the Committee of Experts, concerning the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, we report the following:

#### **The Armenian authorities took into account all the comments and proposals of the Committee of Experts and as a priority set the following**

1. Pursuant to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On pre-school education” the implementation of state policy in the field of pre-school education is ensured by the local self-government bodies. The organisation of activities of pre-school establishments is directly dependent upon the financial capacities of the local self-government bodies.

Stressing the importance of pre-school education and in order to create equal starting conditions for comprehensive development and school education of children the Strategic Programme of Pre-school Education Reforms for 2008-2015 was approved by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on 2008. Special attention is paid to the expansion of kindergarten network in the areas, inhabited by the representatives of national minorities. By the introduction of effective educational services, it is intended to bring the involvement of the older pre-school age group (5-6 years old) to 90% by 2015. Priority is given to those communities, where there is a large number of national minorities or where no pre-school educational establishments operate.

The Republic of Armenia keeps on providing support to the communities of national minorities, the native languages of which are protected by the Republic of Armenia, for organising the pre-school education in relevant languages.

For example, while the necessary number of children in kindergarten groups of pre-school educational establishments are set at 25-30, the groups with children of the national minorities may be launched in case 8-10 children are available.

2. Pursuant to the obligations undertaken by the Republic of Armenia within the framework of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in order to prepare the Fourth Round National Report of the Republic of Armenia, an inter-agency working group was established under Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 75-A/Q of 10 February 2015, which comprises the representative of national minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia — the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission on education, culture and language under the Commission on National Minorities of the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia

3. As for point 4 of the Recommendation (develop a structured policy and provide a clear legal basis for the use of minority languages before courts and state bodies, in order to facilitate the practical implementation of the undertakings under Articles 9 and 10) we would like to inform, that the legislation of the Republic of Armenia creates no obstacles for persons participating in the judicial procedure to act before the court in their national language (and in Armenian, if they wish so), we inform also that no amendments, concerning languages of national minorities, were made in the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, particularly in the Criminal Code and the Civil Procedure Code, in the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings”.

Studies on certain issues conducted by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia show that the courts have demonstrated no discrimination against representatives of national minorities based on the nationality of the latter or any other reason, and there have been no problems with regard to languages of national minorities in Armenia.

4. The Armenian authorities encourage the communities' efforts to provide secondary education in the Assyrian, Kurdish and Yezidi languages for the representatives of national minorities. The commissions for the subjects “Iranian studies” and “Jewish Studies” of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia act with the purpose to assist with educational needs of Yezidis, Kurds and Assyrians and implement the expert examinations of educational programmes, textbooks and manuals in the relevant languages at the National Institute of Education. The issue relating to the training of pedagogical staff is being solved in the Republic; since 2011, Armenia has started the process of mandatory training of teachers of general education schools, which is ongoing, and all teachers will be trained in the period of the next five years. But the training of sufficient number of qualified pedagogues, as well as the creation of modern teaching materials, depend more on the pro-activeness of the

communities of national minorities and authors of the books.

5. Upon the proposal of 5 October 2000 of the Co-ordinating Council for National and Cultural Organisations of National Minorities under the Staff to the President of the Republic of Armenia, AMD 10 million was allocated from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for support of educational and cultural activities of the national minorities of the Republic of Armenia, to the Council member organisations, representing 11 national communities.

The procedure for allocation of the sum is annually discussed and approved at the sitting of the Council as a result of the majority vote of the members.

Since 2012 the annual amount of AMD 10 million allocated to minorities by the Government of the Republic of Armenia has doubled (amounting to AMD 20 million). Upon the Decision rendered at the sitting of the Co-ordinating Council, the allocation of the additional AMD 10 million is implemented in a form of a grant, which is provided for implementation of the best educational and cultural programmes.

Pursuant to the procedure established by the Co-ordinating Council, at the beginning of each year AMD 9 million from the total amount of AMD 20 million is allocated to the Co-ordinating Council member organisations, in compliance with continuous programmes submitted by them and based on the principle of equal treatment of all national minorities residing in the Republic of Armenia, AMD 1 million is allocated for the joint activities of the Co-ordinating Council, while the remaining AMD 10 million is allocated for the financing of the development of national culture, the maintenance of language and identity of the communities of the national minorities, as well as for the initiatives and programmes aimed at raising the awareness of the representatives of national minorities in the legal field, which are submitted for additional financing by both Co-ordinating Council member organisations and non-member organisations. They are discussed and approved at the Co-ordinating Council giving the priority to the satisfaction of needs of organisations not having national and state structures and/or representing a large number of communities.

Pursuant to the decision rendered at the session on 11 December 2014, for providing state support to non-governmental organisations of national minorities, AMD 9 million from the total amount of AMD 20 million, envisaged by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for 2015 shall be allocated equally, in accordance with organisations of ethnic communities, represented at the Council.

At the same time, upon the Decision rendered at the same sitting, the Council guaranteed the transfer of AMD 11 million from the amount, envisaged for 2015, to the account of the Council member "Harmony" International Centre of Russian Culture" non-governmental organisation: AMD 1 million was allocated

for joint educational and cultural events, and AMD 10 million was allocated, upon the Decision of the Council, for implementation of most important initiatives and programmes, aimed at educational and cultural development of ethnic communities by different national and cultural organisations (including non-members of the Council).

Census conducted in Armenia in 2011

**Permanent population by age and ethnic origin***(people)*

Ethnic origin	Total	Age						
		0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
<b>Republic of Armenia</b>	<b>3,018,854</b>	<b>387,501</b>	<b>411,712</b>	<b>564,163</b>	<b>410,426</b>	<b>388,024</b>	<b>412,290</b>	<b>444,738</b>
<b>Armenians</b>	2,961,801	379,155	403,277	553,964	402,434	380,840	405,656	436,475
<b>Yezidis</b>	35,308	5,984	6,236	6,795	5,193	4,645	3,624	2,831
<b>Russians</b>	11,911	1,160	1,088	1,669	1,481	1,299	1,745	3,469
<b>Assyrians</b>	2,769	371	374	514	331	320	394	465
<b>Greeks</b>	900	79	71	112	121	100	121	296
<b>Ukrainians</b>	1,176	65	55	101	131	167	199	458
<b>Kurds</b>	2,162	437	373	398	300	255	198	201
<b>Georgians</b>	617	36	43	94	110	77	98	159
<b>Persians</b>	476	44	51	175	93	71	26	16
<b>Poles</b>	124	9	10	21	19	11	13	41
<b>Belarusians</b>	214	10	7	18	25	23	34	97
<b>Jews</b>	127	18	11	18	9	10	15	46
<b>Germans</b>	67	5	7	3	8	12	16	16
<b>Other</b>	1,102	116	100	257	158	177	137	157
<b>Refused to answer</b>	100	12	9	24	13	17	14	11

### Permanent population by age and ethnic origin

(people)

Ethnic origin	Total	Native language																
		Armenian	Yezidi	Russian	Assyrian	Greek	Ukrainian	Kurdish	Polish	Belarusian	Georgian	Hebrew	English	French	German	Persian	Other	Refused to answer
<b>Republic of Armenia</b>	<b>3,018,854</b>	<b>2,956,615</b>	<b>30,973</b>	<b>23,484</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>29</b>
Armenians	2,961,801	2,948,766	249	11,862	124	78	106	22	21	21	14	5	357	44	33	4	88	7
Yezidis	35,308	4,271	30,628	79	1	0	0	323	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
Russians	11,911	1,372	47	10,466	5	2	6	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	1
Assyrians	2,769	418	2	81	2,265	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Greeks	900	557	3	88	1	249	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ukrainians	1,176	208	0	357	1	2	606	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Kurds	2,162	406	39	24	2	0	0	1,684	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	0
Poles	124	52	0	32	0	0	2	0	35	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Belarusians	214	41	0	85	0	0	3	0	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgians	617	94	0	75	0	1	0	0	0	0	440	0	6	0	1	0	0	0
Jews	127	87	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germans	67	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	20	0	0	0
Persians	476	41	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	26	0	393	4	0
Other	1,102	225	2	267	2	0	7	0	5	0	1	0	106	24	27	0	429	7
<i>Refused to answer</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>14</i>

### Permanent population by ethnic origin and knowledge of foreign languages

(people)

Ethnic origin	Total	Other languages that they were fluent in																			
		Armenian	Yezidi	Russian	Assyrian	Greek	Ukrainian	Kurdish	Polish	Belarusian	Georgian	Hebrew	English	French	German	Spanish	Persian	Turkish	Other	Refused to answer	Lack of knowledge of foreign languages
<b>Republic of Armenia</b>	<b>3,018,854</b>	<b>43,420</b>	<b>5,370</b>	<b>1,591,246</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>2,136</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>6,151</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>107,922</b>	<b>10,106</b>	<b>6,342</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>4,396</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>3,315</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,227,498</b>
Armenians	2,961,801	7,486	3,026	1,585,567	1,365	1,996	1,006	956	1,112	202	5,974	414	107,013	10,056	6,216	1,731	4,352	3,420	3,234	0	1,216,675
Yezidis	35,308	26,524	2,317	2,022	10	5	6	16	0	2	85	5	47	9	22	4	3	1	1	0	4,229
Russians	11,911	5,317	17	1,026	8	7	56	0	6	7	25	1	349	15	70	1	0	6	26	0	4,974
Assyrians	2,769	1,126	0	1,193	82	0	1	2	0	0	4	0	13	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	344
Greeks	900	223	1	343	3	125	1	0	1	0	0	0	29	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	167
Ukrainians	1,176	487	0	408	0	1	72	2	3	0	3	0	23	1	4	0	1	0	1	0	170
Kurds	2,162	1,520	6	59	0	0	0	333	1	0	2	4	4	0	1	0	9	16	0	0	207
Poles	124	35	0	46	0	0	2	0	10	0	0	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	23
Belarusians	214	99	1	54	0	0	1	0	0	13	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Georgians	617	129	0	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	7	12	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	262
Jews	127	20	0	52	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	6	1	2	0	0	3	2	0	37
Germans	67	28	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	10	2	0	0	1	0	6
Persians	476	127	1	34	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	184	1	0	1	28	14	2	0	82
Other	1,102	292	1	237	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	216	18	12	26	1	3	45	0	246
<i>Refused to answer</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>39</i>

Thus, taking into account the small number of Germans (67) and Ukrainians (1176) permanently residing in Armenia, out of which only 20 Germans and 606 Ukrainians consider German and Ukrainian as their native language; taking into account the fact that German and Ukrainian were not traditionally used in the territory of Armenia as required by Article 1 of the Charter, the mentioned languages cannot be considered as regional or minority languages.

Permanent population by ethnic origin and native language

(people)

Ethnic origin (city/town/village)	Total	Native language											Refused to answer
		Armenian	Yezidi	Russian	Assyrian	Kurdish	Ukrainian	English	Georgian	Persian	Greek	Other	
<b>Republic of Armenia</b>	<b>3,018,854</b>	<b>2,956,615</b>	<b>30,973</b>	<b>23,484</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>29</b>
Armenian	2,961,801	2,948,766	249	11,862	124	22	106	357	14	4	78	212	7
Yezidi	35,308	4,271	30,628	79	1	323	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
Russian	11,911	1,372	47	10,466	5	1	6	2	0	0	2	9	1
Assyrian	2,769	418	2	81	2,265	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Kurd	2,162	406	39	24	2	1,684	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Ukrainian	1,176	208	0	357	1	0	606	0	0	0	2	2	0
Greek	900	557	3	88	1	0	1	0	0	0	249	1	0
Georgian	617	94	0	75	0	0	0	6	440	0	1	1	0
Persian	476	41	3	1	0	0	0	8	0	393	0	30	0
Other	1,634	424	2	434	2	0	12	116	1	0	0	636	7
Refused to answer	100	58	0	17	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	14
<b>City/town</b>	<b>1,911,287</b>	<b>1,886,160</b>	<b>4,199</b>	<b>17,791</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>18</b>
Armenian	1,892,991	1,882,432	35	9,811	72	14	80	300	5	4	55	179	4
Yezidi	5,443	1,286	4,114	38	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Russian	8,095	1,016	36	7,026	3	0	5	2	0	0	0	6	1
Assyrian	481	258	1	47	175	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kurd	264	67	7	13	0	171	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Ukrainian	957	175	0	321	0	0	457	0	0	0	2	2	0
Greek	700	446	1	76	1	0	1	0	0	0	174	1	0
Georgian	436	71	0	70	0	0	0	2	291	0	1	1	0
Persian	473	40	3	0	0	0	0	8	0	392	0	30	0

Other	1,371	323	2	375	2	0	8	102	1	0	0	553	5
Refused to answer	76	46	0	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	8
<b>Village</b>	<b>1,107,567</b>	<b>1,070,455</b>	<b>26,774</b>	<b>5,693</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>11</b>
Armenian	1,068,810	1,066,334	214	2,051	52	8	26	57	9	0	23	33	3
Yezidi	29,865	2,985	26,514	41	1	319	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
Russian	3,816	356	11	3,440	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	3	0
Assyrian	2,288	160	1	34	2,090	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Kurd	1,898	339	32	11	2	1,513	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ukrainian	219	33	0	36	1	0	149	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greek	200	111	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	0	0
Georgian	181	23	0	5	0	0	0	4	149	0	0	0	0
Persian	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other	263	101	0	59	0	0	4	14	0	0	0	83	2
Refused to answer	24	12	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6

## ANNEX 2

### Distribution of permanent population of marzes of the Republic of Armenia and the city of Yerevan by ethnic origin

(According to the results of the 2011 Census of the Republic of Armenia)

	Republic of Armenia	Yerevan	Aragatsotn	Ararat	Armavir	Gegharkunik	Lori	Kotayk	Shirak/ (people)	Syunik	Vayots Dzor	Tavush
<b>Total, Republic of Armenia</b>	<b>3018854</b>	<b>1060138</b>	<b>132925</b>	<b>260367</b>	<b>265770</b>	<b>235075</b>	<b>235537</b>	<b>254397</b>	<b>251941</b>	<b>141771</b>	<b>52324</b>	<b>128609</b>
Armenian	2961801	1048940	125552	253125	247853	234474	231066	249508	249742	141353	52187	128001
Yezidi	35308	3268	5474	4975	16906	57	652	3211	727	21	8	9
Russian	11911	4940	180	436	426	328	3152	590	1100	259	77	423
Assyrian	2769	226	11	1625	178	15	10	676	6	8	5	9
Greek	900	300	13	16	22	15	360	70	50	10	3	41
Ukrainian	1176	603	20	63	82	43	91	93	113	26	20	22
Kurd	2162	93	1616	26	157	87	11	94	36	5	2	35
Pole*	124											
Belarusian	214	122	3	14	13	9	9	10	10	11	6	7
Georgian	617	264	26	42	59	16	100	32	39	13	3	23
Jew*	127											
German*	67											
Persian*	476											
Other	1102	692	25	30	31	22	40	82	94	46	6	34
Refused to answer	100	54	0	9	9	1	12	2	6	4	3	0
<b>Urban</b>												
<b>Total</b>	<b>2028203</b>	<b>1060138</b>	<b>30595</b>	<b>74103</b>	<b>85050</b>	<b>71423</b>	<b>137784</b>	<b>254397</b>	<b>146908</b>	<b>95170</b>	<b>18449</b>	<b>54186</b>



German*	25											
Persian*	3											
Other	143		8	23	25	16	14	11	17	9	3	17
Refused to answer	25		0	9	9	1	3	1	0	0	2	0

\*) The distribution of the numbers of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia and the city of Yerevan is not presented in the view of ensuring confidentiality of personal data.

**The list of rural settlements with mixed national structure or populated predominantly by national minorities**

	Settlement	national minority	marz
1.	Arzni	Assyrians along with Armenians	Kotayk
2.	Verin Dvin	Assyrians along with Armenians	Ararat
3.	Dimitrov	Assyrians along with Armenians	Ararat
4.	Nor Artagers	Assyrians along with Armenians and Yezidis	Armavir
5.	Alagyaz	Kurds along with Yezidis	Aragatsotn
6.	Sadunts/Amre Taza <sup>7</sup>	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
7.	Avshen	Kurds, some Yezidis	Aragatsotn
8.	Mijnatun/Ortachya	Kurds, some Yezidis	Aragatsotn
9.	Rya Taza	Yezidis, some Kurds	Aragatsotn
10.	Shenkani	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
11.	Charchakis/Derek	Yezidis, some Kurds	Aragatsotn
12.	Sipan	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
13.	Mirak	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
14.	Kanishir/Sangyar	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
15.	Jamshlu	Kurds, some Yezidis	Aragatsotn
16.	Arevut/Barozh	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
17.	Sorik	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
18.	Shamiram	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
19.	Yeraskhahun	Yezidis along with Armenians	Aragatsotn
20.	Ddmasar/Ghabaghtapa	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
21.	Ghazaravan	A number of Yezidis along with Armenians	Aragatsotn
22.	Hako/Hakko	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
23.	Kanch/Gyalto	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
24.	Tellek	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
25.	Otevan/Baysez	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
26.	Metsadzor/Avtona	Yezidis	Aragatsotn
27.	Getap	mixed	Aragatsotn
28.	Ayntap	A number of Yezidis along with Armenians	Ararat
29.	Hoktember	A number of Yezidis along with Armenians	Armavir

<sup>7</sup> The new names (suggested and changed by the population during the recent years) of the settlements presented in the list under two names are presented along with the old names.

30.	Ferik	Yezidis	Armavir
31.	Ardashar	Yezidis	Armavir
32.	Nor Kesaria	A number of Yezidis along with Armenians	Armavir
33.	Aygavan	A number of Yezidis along with Armenians	Ararat
34.	Zovuni	A number of Yezidis along with Armenians	Kotayk Marz
35.	Nor Geghi	A number of Yezidis along with Armenians	Kotayk Marz
36.	Jraber	A number of Yezidis along with Armenians	Kotayk Marz
37.	Lermontovo	Russian /Molokans/ along with a number of Armenians	Lori Marz
38.	Fioletovo	Russian /Molokans/	Lori Marz

<b>MIGRATION DYNAMICS BY THE NATIONAL AFFILIATION FOR 2002-2011</b>																		
<i>(Pursuant to the data provided by the territorial passport divisions of the Police of the Republic of Armenia adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia)<sup>1</sup></i>																		
																	(person)	
		<b>Incomers<sup>2</sup></b>								<b>Outgoers</b>								
		<b>Assyrian</b>	<b>Yezidi</b>	<b>Armenian</b>	<b>Greek</b>	<b>Russian</b>	<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>Assyrian</b>	<b>Yezidi</b>	<b>Armenian</b>	<b>Greek</b>	<b>Russian</b>	<b>Ukrainian</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total in the Republic of Armenia</b>																		
<b>2002</b>		11	95	9155	10	87	6	18	<b>9382</b>		22	247	10286	2	293	33	44	<b>10927</b>
<b>2003</b>		8	84	9605	2	100	10	18	<b>9827</b>		16	276	9003	1	194	27	31	<b>9548</b>
<b>2004</b>		8	68	9503	0	57	12	14	<b>9662</b>		12	263	8719	2	176	26	29	<b>9227</b>
<b>2005</b>		8	76	10291	0	55	6	5	<b>10441</b>		10	223	8903	3	127	8	29	<b>9303</b>
<b>2006</b>		7	71	8986	0	48	8	6	<b>9126</b>		5	126	7787	1	102	15	17	<b>8053</b>
<b>2007</b>		7	71	8986	0	48	8	6	<b>9126</b>		5	126	7787	1	102	15	17	<b>8053</b>
<b>2008</b>		6	141	10217	0	28	3	4	<b>10399</b>		3	75	6603	0	53	5	8	<b>6747</b>
<b>2009</b>		4	110	7802	0	45	0	0	<b>7961</b>		1	56	4704	2	24	3	7	<b>4797</b>
<b>2010</b>		8	78	7811	0	23	0	0	<b>7920</b>		5	31	3199	0	37	1	0	<b>3273</b>
<b>2011</b>		2	204	26400	0	29	0	0	<b>26635</b>		1	15	2609	0	10	1	1	<b>2637</b>
<b>Urban settlements</b>																		
<b>2002</b>		3	14	5372	4	60	2	8	<b>5463</b>		6	80	7519	2	228	29	39	<b>7903</b>
<b>2003</b>		0	17	5606	2	64	3	18	<b>5710</b>		5	100	6557	1	158	24	24	<b>6869</b>
<b>2004</b>		4	9	5552	0	36	8	11	<b>5620</b>		3	92	6160	2	145	21	21	<b>6444</b>
<b>2005</b>		1	7	5729	0	24	6	2	<b>5769</b>		2	87	6266	3	101	8	25	<b>6492</b>
<b>2006</b>		3	10	5081	0	28	4	2	<b>5128</b>		2	44	5585	1	86	14	14	<b>5746</b>
<b>2007</b>		0	20	5334	1	25	2	4	<b>5386</b>		4	32	5070	0	78	7	15	<b>5206</b>
<b>2008</b>		2	17	5052	0	14	3	2	<b>5090</b>		1	17	4517	0	41	4	5	<b>4585</b>
<b>2009</b>		1	19	4463	0	31	0	0	<b>4514</b>		0	14	3159	2	18	3	6	<b>3202</b>
<b>2010</b>		3	6	4375	0	19	0	0	<b>4403</b>		0	13	2067	0	26	1	0	<b>2107</b>
<b>2011</b>		0	33	14026	0	18	0	0	<b>14077</b>		0	3	1637	0	8	1	1	<b>1650</b>
<b>Rural settlements</b>																		
<b>2002</b>		8	81	3783	6	27	4	10	<b>3919</b>		16	167	2767	0	65	4	5	<b>3024</b>

<b>2003</b>	8	67	3999	0	36	7	0	<b>4117</b>	11	176	2446	0	36	3	7	<b>2679</b>
<b>2004</b>	4	59	3951	0	21	4	3	<b>4042</b>	9	171	2559	0	31	5	8	<b>2783</b>
<b>2005</b>	7	69	4562	0	31	0	3	<b>4672</b>	8	136	2637	0	26	0	4	<b>2811</b>
<b>2006</b>	4	61	3905	0	20	4	4	<b>3998</b>	3	82	2202	0	16	1	3	<b>2307</b>
<b>2007</b>	2	84	4311	1	9	1	1	<b>4409</b>	4	94	2136	0	14	0	7	<b>2255</b>
<b>2008</b>	4	124	5165	0	14	0	2	<b>5309</b>	2	58	2086	0	12	1	3	<b>2162</b>
<b>2009</b>	3	91	3339	0	14	0	0	<b>3447</b>	1	42	1545	0	6	0	1	<b>1595</b>
<b>2010</b>	5	72	3436	0	4	0	0	<b>3517</b>	5	18	1132	0	11	0	0	<b>1166</b>
<b>2011</b>	2	171	12374	0	11	0	0	<b>12558</b>	1	12	972	0	2	0	0	<b>987</b>

1) As a result of a statistical analysis of statistical registration tickets (they have been developed based on the place of residence, during registration of population or removal thereof from registration) of incomers and outgoers.

2) Including the data of the administrative registration of the intrastate migration dynamics.

**Live births according to national affiliation of their mothers, 2002-2013\***

	Total	including:											
		Assyrian	Belarusian	Yezidi	Armenian	Jew	Greek	Russian	Georgian	Ukrainian	Kurd	other nationalities	nation N/A
2002	32229	36	2	375	31670	6	5	101	3	12	5	14	0
2003	35793	32	0	324	35288	1	11	97	6	14	3	17	0
2004	37520	31	0	362	36967	2	10	100	2	19	7	20	0
2005	37499	31	1	435	36882	3	6	101	5	9	4	22	0
2006	37639	30	0	497	36993	0	10	75	3	6	4	7	14
2007	40105	23	3	605	39336	1	6	86	4	5	3	8	25
2008	41185	30	1	635	40366	3	9	97	1	4	8	9	22
2009	44413	15	2	660	43549	2	10	100	4	9	6	16	40
2010	44825	41	2	771	43816	0	6	100	2	8	5	24	50
2011	43340	24	0	660	42482	5	5	61	6	4	2	32	59
2012	42480	21	0	582	41710	5	4	59	8	9	4	13	65
2013	41790	33	2	517	41046	1	6	80	6	7	3	12	77

\*) According to data provided by the territorial divisions of the Agency for Registration of Civil Status Acts of the Staff of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia.

**List of settlements where Assyrian language is instructed at  
state general education schools**

No	school	number of children 2012	number of children 2015
<b>Yerevan</b>			
1	Basic school № 8 after Pushkin	Secondary school 228 (1-12 grades)	Basic school 263 (1-9 grades)
2	High School № 29 after A. Margaryan	11	7
<b>Ararat marz of the Republic of Armenia</b>			
3	V. Dvin secondary school	188	174
4	Dimitrov secondary school	20	35
<b>Kotayk marz of the Republic of Armenia</b>			
5	Arzni secondary school	82	62
<b>Armavir marz of the Republic of Armenia</b>			
6	Nor Artagers secondary school	17	16

YEAR	NAME	QUANTITY (piece)	UNIT PRICE (dram)	AMOUNT
2009	Kurdish ABC book	300	4500	1350000
	Yezidi 6	700	4300	3010000
2010	Yezidi 1	1000	4300	4300000
	Yezidi 7	700	4300	3010000
2011	Yezidi 2	1000	4300	4300000
	Yezidi 8	700	4300	3010000
2012	Yezidi 2	800	4300	3440000

	Yezidi 8	700	4300	3010000
	Kurdish 2	700	3785	2649500
	Kurdish 3	700	3785	2649500
	Kurdish 4	700	3785	2649500
2013	Yezidi 4	1000	4250	4250000
	Yezidi 5	1000	4250	4250000
	Yezidi 10	1000	4250	4250000
2014	Yezidi 1	1000	4250	4250000
	Yezidi 6	1000	4250	4250000
	Yezidi 7	1000	4250	4250000
	Yezidi 11	1000	4250	4250000
2015	Yezidi ABC book	1000	4250	4250000
	Yezidi 2	1000	4250	4250000
	Yezidi 8	1000	4250	4250000
	Yezidi 12	1000	4250	4250000
	Yezidi (programme for 1-12)	1000	1300	1300000
	Kurdish 8	700	3785,7	2649990
	Kurdish 9	700	3785,7	2649990
	Kurdish (Grammar for 5-9)	700	3785,7	2649990

**The list of state general education schools  
which have classes with education in Russian language**

**YEREVAN**

**Kentron community**

1. Basic school №7 after V. Mayakovsky
2. Basic school №8 after A. Pushkin (with studies in Assyrian language)
3. High school № 29 after Andranik Margaryan (with studies in Assyrian language)
4. Basic school № 55 after A. Chekhov

**Erebuni community**

5. Basic school № 35 after N. Gogol
6. High school № 119 after B. Zhamkochyan

**Nor Nork community**

7. High school № 62
8. Basic school № 164 after S. Safaryan

**Shengavit community**

9. Basic school № 69 after A. Sakharov

10. High school № 97

**Ajapnyak community**

11. High school № 109

12. Basic school № 122 after Al. Blok

**Avan community**

13. Basic school № 124 after Nerses the Great

**Kanaker-Zeytun community**

14. Basic school № 147

**Arabkir community**

15. Basic school № 77 after R. Miroyan

16. Basic school № 132 after H. Isakov

17. High school № 149 after V. Davtyan

**Malatia-Sebastia community**

18. Basic school № 176 after G. Mahari

19. High school № 184 after S. Khanzadyan

**ARARAT MARZ OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

20. Artashat high school
21. Secondary school of Verin Dvin village
22. Secondary school of Dimitrov village

#### **ARMAVIR MARZ OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

23. Armavir high school № 4
24. Armavir basic school № 5 after Zoravar Andranik Ozanyan
25. Vagharshapat high school № 5 after M. Gorky
26. Vagharshapat basic school № 9 after R. Patkanyan

#### **GEGHARKUNIK MARZ OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

27. Sevan basic school № 3 after V. Karapetyan
28. Sevan high school after Kh. Abovyan

#### **LORI MARZ OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

29. Vanadzor basic school № 4 after A. Pushkin
30. Vanadzor high school № 11 after A. Griboyedov
31. Secondary school of Fioletovo village
32. Secondary school of Lermontovo village

33. Tashir high school

**TAVUSH MARZ OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

34. Dilijan high school

35. Dilijan basic school № 2

**KOTAYK MARZ OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

36. Hrazdan high school № 10

37. Hrazdan basic school № 12 after H. Kharonyan

38. Abovyan high school № 4

39. Abovyan basic school № 5 after N. Vanyan

40. Secondary school of Arzni village (with studies in Assyrian language)

**SHIRAK MARZ OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

41. Gyumri high school № 2

42. Gyumri basic school № 7

43. Gyumri basic school № 23

**The list of settlements where Yezidi/Kurdish is taught  
in state general education schools**

<b>No</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>number of children</b>	<b>is taught</b>
	<b>Armavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia</b>		
2	Armavir secondary school № 10	45	Yezidi
3	Argavand secondary school	60	Yezidi
4	Yeraskhahun secondary school	109	Yezidi
5	Lukashin secondary school	36	Yezidi
6	Tandzut secondary school	85	Yezidi
7	Aratashen secondary school	40	Yezidi
8	Arshaluys secondary school	60	Yezidi
9	Ferik basic school	41	Yezidi
	<b>Ararat marz of the Republic of Armenia</b>		
10	Qaghtsrashen	31	Yezidi
11	Aygezard	14	Yezidi
12	Aygepat	12	Yezidi
	<b>Aragatsotn marz of the Republic of Armenia</b>		
13	Shamiram basic school	94	Yezidi
14	Alagyaz secondary school	75	Kurdish
15	Sadunts basic school	30	Yezidi
16	Avshen basic school	33	Kurdish
17	Charchakis secondary school	83	Kurdish
18	Mirak basic school	11	Yezidi
19	Shenkan basic school	33	Yezidi

20	Jamshlu basic school	22	Kurdish
21	Rya Taza secondary school	113	Kurdish
22	Kaniashir basic school	33	Yezidi
23	Sipan secondary school	34	Kurdish
24	Mijnatun basic school	34	Kurdish
25	Otevan basic school	0	Yezidi
26	Arevut basic school	17	Yezidi
27	Kanch basic school	21	Yezidi
28	Tlik basic school	12	Yezidi
29	Hako basic school	17	Yezidi
30	Ddmasar basic school	18	Yezidi
31	Sorik basic school	17	Yezidi
32	Metsadzor basic school	11	Yezidi

## **INFORMATION**

### **On the activities carried out with the national minorities from 1 June 2012 to 15 April 2015**

#### **On the part of the Organisational Department:**

The “Kurdistan” committee was granted a permission to hold an assembly on St. Shahumyan Square from 13:00 to 15:00 on 8 March 2012, to organise an event (collection of signatures) in the vicinities of Yeritasardakan metro station and the market of Malatia-Sebastia administrative district from 10:00 to 18:00 on 22-27 October 2012, to organise an event (collection of signatures) in the vicinities of Komitas and Nor Nork markets from 10:00 to 18:00 on 18-28 March 2013, to organise an event (tree planting) in “Haghtanak” [Victory] Park from 12:00 to 16:00 on 4 April 2013, to organise an assembly on St. Shahumyan square from 12:00 to 14:00 on 7 March 2014.

The National Kurdish Council of Armenia was granted a permission to hold an assembly on St. Shahumyan square from 12:30 to 14:00 on 9 November 2012.

The National Union of Yezidis was granted a permission to hold an assembly in “Angliakan aygi” [English park] from 16:00 to 18:00 on 1 June 2014.

#### **On the part of the Social Security Department:**

A close co-operation has been established with the communities of national minorities (Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, German, Polish, Greek, Jewish, Kurdish, Yezidi, Assyrian, Georgian).

The leaders of the above-mentioned communities were invited to the municipality within the framework of the co-operation; issues of bilateral interest were discussed.

The representatives of national minority communities were engaged in almost all social events organised by the municipality from 2012 to 2015:

Children representing national minorities have also participated in the New Year performances organised each year on the occasion of Christmas and New Year holidays.

Women from national minority communities were also invited to the festive events of 8 March, 2012-2015, organised on the occasion of the International Women's Day, to watch theatrical performances; they were given presents.

**On the part of the Department of Health:**

Yerevan Municipality health organisations have been providing medical services to Yezidis, Assyrians, Russians, Ukrainians, Persians, Kurds, Greeks and other national minorities since 1 June 2012, up until now in accordance with the criteria of providing medical aid and service in out-patient and in-patient conditions to the population within the framework of state-guaranteed free of charge medical aid and service.

National minorities work in health organisations as doctors and junior medical practitioners.

**On the part of General Education Department:**

There are 890 pupils of Russian, Yezidi, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Assyrian, Arab, Jewish, Greek, Chinese nationality, representing national minorities, who study in general education schools under the subordination of Yerevan Municipality:

The Department of General Education of Staff:

1. Keeps a regular account of pupils representing a national minority who study in education institutions in order to provide them with relevant literature.
2. Controls the process of the above-mentioned pupils' getting admitted to the schools of Yerevan Municipality, getting transferred from one school to the other in order to ensure the compulsory education.
3. Supplementary classes are conducted in schools with the above-mentioned pupils in order to overcome language difficulties and other problems.

4. Meetings with parents are organised on a regular basis in order to discuss the raised issues and to resolve them, to the extent possible.
5. Individual advisory activities are carried out; difficulties with social adaptation and communication with the surrounding people of each child are considered.
6. The above-mentioned pupils are involved in extracurricular clubs; they participate in literary and artistic, native study and generally all events carried out in schools.
7. An exhibition of hand-made works of the representatives of national minorities has been organised in a number of schools in the capital.
8. On the occasion of Christmas and New Year holidays festive events have been organised in schools for pupils in their mother languages on the occasion of Christmas and New Year holidays.
9. On the occasion of Mother Language Day events have been carried out in praise of their mother languages.
10. On the occasion of International Human Solidarity Day in May events titled “Discovering Greece”, “I am Georgian, and you — Armenian”, “Russia, brother of mine” and others were organised in schools.
11. On the occasion of Victory Day a visit to “Yerablur” and “Haghtanak” [Victory] Park has been organised.
12. “Song is a Bridge of Friendship” 3rd festival of Russian song was organised.
13. On the occasion of International Day of Tolerance lectures, open classes, discussions, as well as an exhibition of paintings were organised jointly with the International Red Cross Organisation.
14. In co-operation with the Yezidi community the celebration of “Yezididi” holiday of spring awakening has been organised with performances of national songs and dances in schools where Yezidi children study.
15. Within the framework of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide discussions on the genocides of Assyrian, Greek and Yezidi people have been organised in the schools № 8, 74, 108, 132.

On 24<sup>th</sup> of each month pupils participate in a flashmob carried out in “Tsitsernakaberd”.

16. The film “In the Camp” was screened in “Nayiri” cinema for school pupils.

17. The activities carried out with pupils representing national minorities are of continuous nature.

**On the part of Nork-Marash administrative district:**

The representatives of national minorities residing in Nork-Marash administrative district, at the invitation of the head of the administrative district, always participate in all events organised in Nork-Marash administrative district.

**On the part of Nor Nork administrative district:**

On 28<sup>th</sup> of May of each year the staff of the head of Nor Nork administrative district together with the Yezidi National Union NGO organises an event dedicated to the victory at the Battle of Sardarapat, in which Yezidis from abroad also participate.

**On the part of Kanaker-Zeytun administrative district:**

A tree planting activity has been carried out in the area near the memorial situated in the “Jewish Alley” in “Haghtanak” [Victory] Park. The care for and maintenance of the mentioned area are carried out by the administrative district.

With the help of the representatives of the Kurdish community 150 trees have been planted in the designated part of the park, the care for which and maintenance whereof are also carried out by the administrative district.

A number of socially vulnerable families and individuals of the above-mentioned communities are included in different humanitarian programmes and attend charitable canteens operating in the administrative district.

The representatives of non-governmental organisations of national minorities are regularly invited to participate in various events organised in the administrative district.

**On the part of Malatia-Sebastia administrative district:**

The families residing in Malatia-Sebastia administrative district who represent national minorities (Russian, Ukrainian, Yezidi) have been provided with in kind, stationery, health care, financial, advisory assistance within the framework of social assistance programmes.

**On the part of Erebuni administrative district:**

The representatives of the Yezidi community who reside in the area of the administrative district take part in all cultural, sport events dedicated to holidays and memorial days as well as social programmes carried out by the staff of the head of Erebuni administrative district. In particular, 8-10 children enjoy their summer holidays in the “Heqiatneri kirch” (Fairytale canyon) recreation camp each year.

**On the part of Kentron administrative district:**

The ceremonial opening of the world's first monument immortalizing the memory of the innocent Yezidi victims will be held on April 21 of this year in the 3rd section of the “Oghakadzev” Park (on the intersection of Nalbandyan and Isahakyan streets)

**On the part of Avan administrative district:**

The representatives of national minorities who reside in Avan administrative district are regularly included in all social programmes: supplying them with New Year food packages, stationary, firewood, organising their summer holidays.

**On the part of Shengavit administrative district:**

An exhibition of hand-made works and paintings of the representatives of national minorities in Shengavit administrative district has taken place. A discussion of “Aryan kanchy” (Call of the Blood), a book by Grigor Narekatsi medal holder of Kurdish nationality, Yaşar Kemal, has been held, during which Armenian reader

learned about the author's biography and was also informed that thanks to him the plan of Turkish authorities to destroy the Surb Khach Church of Akhtamar was prevented in 1951.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ASSYRIANS

An event devoted to the Assyrian language and titled “ABC Book Day” was held in Verin Dvin school at the initiative of “Atour” association on 21 February 2014.

Recognising the necessity for training of school teachers, the community of Assyrian-populated Verin Dvin in Ararat marz of the Republic of Armenia organised courses conducted by a specialist invited from Sweden in 2013, as a result of which teachers acquired new skills.

### KURDS

Kurdish textbooks for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades of public education schools were published in 2012, and the textbooks intended for the 5th, 6th and 7th grades were published in 2014. The textbooks were compiled by Alikhane Mame of Kurdish nationality, the editor of Kurdish newspaper “Zagros”. In 2012 and 2014 the presentations of the textbooks were held in Alagyaz village of Aragatsotn marz of the Republic of Armenia.

In 2012 training courses for the teachers of Kurdish language were conducted in Aragatsotn marz of the Republic of Armenia. In 2014 the Division of Sport of the National Institute of Education of the Republic of Armenia organised 18-hour courses for 20 teachers of Kurdish language.

A branch for Kurdish writers headed by Alikhane Mame operates within the Union of Writers of Armenia.

Works of Kurdish writers are being published through the state funding. In 2012 and 2014 the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia published a collection “Almanakh” where works by representatives of national minorities were included.

The Kurdish writer Alikhane Mame was awarded with Movses Khorentatsi state medal.

80 year-old newspaper “Rya Taza” as well as bilingual (Armenian and Kurdish) monthly newspaper “Zagros” are being published in Kurdish.

## **GREEKS**

In 2013, 15 minutes long radio broadcast was provided for within the broadcasting scheme of the Public Radio. Greek community also co-operates with the Greek Language and Culture Center of Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences. The Greek community deals with educational, cultural issues as well as those of social and rights protection of Greeks, organises various events devoted to national and religious holidays and conducts instructions in native language and literature. There are Sunday schools, cultural, youth, teen and sport unions operating. Trilingual newspaper of socio-political and cultural nature is being published. Courses of Greek language are organised twice a week for adults and children by Yerevan "Ponti" Greek non-governmental organisation.

## **RUSSIANS**

In 2013 the Fund for Aid and Assistance to Russian Compatriots of the Republic of Armenia organised a number of awareness raising conferences on the protection of the rights of national minorities together with the non-governmental organisations of Russian, Ukrainian, Jewish, Polish, Greek, Assyrian and German communities of the Republic of Armenia, the Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, YSU Postgraduate Additional Education Administration and the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia. A Conference on the Protection of Linguistic Needs of National Minorities of the Republic of Armenia Aimed at the Application of International Law was held on 9 June 2013 in Yerevan.

This process has continued through seminars and conferences held in marzes. Particularly, forums have been held in Gyumri (June 2013), Vanadzor (October 2013) and Tavush marz (October 2013).

Representatives from the Ministry of Justice, a number of embassies, CoE and OSCE representatives in Armenia as well as representatives from the Staff of the President of the Republic of Armenia, the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia, deputies of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia have participated in the conference. Representatives from non-governmental and political organisations have also participated in the event. The conference was widely covered by Armenian mass media.

Brochures titled “Some Provisions of Interstate European Documents Regarding the Rights of the National Minorities of the Republic of Armenia” and published in 500 copies by OSCE Yerevan Office were distributed to all participants.

As a result of the events a relevant document was drafted and transferred to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia in 2013. The document was also transferred to the Professional Commission for Reforms adjunct to the President of the Republic of Armenia, where it was discussed on 20 December 2013 and was taken into consideration with a view of being taken into account during further constitutional reforms.

As a result of prolonged discussions between the Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Civil Service Council of the Republic of Armenia the Yerevan State University (the Postgraduate Additional Education Administration) drew up a relevant training programme and implemented it. In 2013 the Postgraduate Additional Education Administration of the Yerevan State University in co-operation with the Civil Service Council of the Republic of Armenia and the Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia elaborated and implemented a 72-hour training programme for civil servants of the Republic of Armenia on the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities in the Republic of Armenia.

The components of the Programme are:

1. The legislation of the Republic of Armenia (as regards the rights of national minorities),
2. Fundamental conventions concerning the sphere ratified by the Republic of Armenia (the Council of Europe, the OSCE),
3. Issues of state administration of the Republic of Armenia,
4. Managerial skills.

The course was conducted by and the programme was elaborated with participation of the employers of YSU, as well as those of state administration bodies who, in the course of their work, deal with national minorities (the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education and Science, Culture and Diaspora, the Office of Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia, non-governmental organisations). A representative of the national minority of the Republic of Armenia was also included in the programme.

For the purpose of obtaining documents concerning the rights of national minorities YSU co-operated with OSCE Yerevan Office and received samples of fundamental documents during the elaboration of the programme.

After completion of the course YSU continued its relationships already established with its external beneficiaries. The YSU lecturers and the head of the YSU Postgraduate Additional Education Administration participated in the symposium, organised with the assistance of OSCE Yerevan Office, as well as left for the marzes of the Republic of Armenia (Vanadzor and Ijevan) and met with the representatives of the communities of local national minorities as well as got acquainted with the issues of their concern.

The Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia consistently undertakes measures towards awareness-raising on national minorities among various layers of society. Regular meetings with heads of various agencies of the Republic of Armenia, ministers, as well as press conferences in different clubs are held. Most of the media, such as "Aravot", "Azg", "Yerkir", "Hetq", "Lragir", "Hayots Ashkharh" and other printed and Internet newspapers, are willing to cover problems and cultural life of national minorities. A number of television companies of the Republic of Armenia make special television programmes on national minorities.

In 2015 "Folk Arts Hub" educational and cultural foundation in co-operation with the Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia undertook the implementation of a project which is expected to provide the representatives of national minorities with an opportunity to represent their community, national identity, culture and history. Apart from that, a production of documentary films is being planned, which will represent those communities, their culture and everyday life. The main purpose of the programme is to inform the public of the Republic of Armenia about these ethnic communities and to assist in the process of their integration.

In October 2012 the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia received a large delegation led by the spiritual leader of world Yezidis' Mire-Mira Takhsin Beg and affirmed that he will continue to ensure all possible conditions to make Yezidi community feel good in the Republic of Armenia. Willingness was expressed to discuss issues which government can help to resolve. The delegation led by the spiritual leader was received by His Holiness Garegin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians at the Mother See Holy Etchmiadzin. Catholicos of All Armenians welcomed the visit of the spiritual leader

of world Yezidis' to Armenia and the Mother See Holy Etchmiadzin by congratulating Yezidis of Armenia, represented by the spiritual leader of the Yezidis, on occasion of the consecration of the newly built religious temple on September 29 in Aknalich village of Armavir marz. He participated in the ceremony of the consecration of the second biggest temple complex of Yezidi religion after Lalish, Ziyarat, which was built in 2011 in Aknalich settlement of Armavir marz.

Several years ago "Atour" Assyrian Association of the Republic of Armenia with the support of the authorities of the Republic of Armenia and with the financial assistance by the RPA initiated the construction of a monument in the centre of Yerevan — in the Circle park in the vicinity of Nalbandyan street — dedicated to the commemoration of innocent victims of Genocide of Assyrian people which started in 1915. The monument was ceremonially opened on 25 April 2012. Representatives of Assyrian organisations paid a three-day visit to the Republic of Armenia from different countries around the world for the purpose of participating in the ceremonial opening.

On 27 October 2013 the Festival called "Songs and Dances of Different Nations" took place in "Arno Babajanyan" Concert Hall of Armenian State Philharmonic, where a number of dance groups, leading singers participated. Representatives of national minorities also participated in the Festival. Not only Armenian, but also Russian, Spanish, Jewish songs and dances were represented.

Despite the national affiliation and religious faith, national and religious minorities are integrated in the social, cultural and educational processes in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia and all the conditions have been created for them, based on the principle of equality, to demonstrate their skills as well as to satisfy their requirements as full citizens of the Republic of Armenia within the existing laws of the Republic of Armenia.

The best works of representatives of Kurdish, Yezidi, Assyrian, Russian and other minorities have also been included and are being included in the collections printed by "Literal Armavir" national club of writers and under the sponsorship of the marzpet of the town of Armavir of the Republic of Armenia.

Regularly articles are printed in "Hayrenakanch" marz newspaper and programmes are prepared by "Alt", "Noy Hayastan", "Luys" television companies, thus representing the problems and successes of national minorities existing in cultural, educational, economic and other fields.

Gifted and talented representatives of national minorities are always engaged in the events organised in marzes on different occasions.

Instructions in languages of the national minorities have been provided in marzes.

Assistance is provided in solving any of the problems that the members of Yezidi families face, concerning protection of rights of national minorities.

There are community workers, members of the council of elders, teachers of Yezidi nationality serving in rural communities.

In accordance with point 2 of Decision No 399-N of 4 April 2013 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the seats for the years 2013/2014 according to professions under MA education programme for on-site education with full refund of tuition fee (free of charge) by the State in the form of student benefit, one of the reserve seats under MA education programme for on-site education with full refund of tuition fee (free of charge) by the State in the form of student benefit was provided to a representative of the Yezidi community of national minorities Christine Kiarami Hasoyan by the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia to continue her education in the profession of Oriental Studies (Iranian studies) of the MA programme of Yerevan State University. Each year the issue of getting accepted to Master's programme of the representatives of national minority who have failed in the competition will be discussed by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and each case will be solved individually. In 2013 Yezidi Armen Ovchii Amoyan became a member of the Council of Elders of Yerevan.

By the decision of the Council of Public Television and Radio Company of the Republic of Armenia the production and broadcasting of the 15-minutes radio programmes in Greek will be guaranteed at the expense of the general allocations envisaged by the state budget of the Public Television and Radio Company for 2014.

In February 2013 the auditorium "Tactics" of the Military Institute after V. Sargsyan of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia was named after Jahangir Agha –the national hero of Yezidis.

In 2012 the historical and documentary work dedicated to Usub bek Temuryants, member of the first Republic of Armenia, leader of the Yezidis of Transcaucasia, was published under the authorship of M. Muradyan.

Different communities of national minorities have published different factual books concerning their community:

- Russian community — a book in Russian called “Russians in the history of Armenia” in 2009;
- Yezidi community — “Participation of the Yezidi in the Karabakh War”, authored by Aziz Tamoyan and Hasan Tamoyan in 2010;
- Jewish community — published a book in Russian called “Jews in Armenia” in 2009 and 2010;
- German community — “The German Pages of the History of Russia and Transcaucassus”, authored by V. Vukhrer and N. Algulyan, “Against the Day” authored by A. Dengi in 2009; “Your Germans, Russia” Russian books in 2013;
- Georgian community — in 2012 published a collection “Almanakh”, which sums up the works of representatives of national minorities.

