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Addendum 1

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

*Replies to the comments/questions  
submitted to the Czech authorities  
regarding their third periodical report*

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## Presentation of the regional or minority language situation

1. Please provide information about the application of Article 7 of the Charter to Moravian Croatian.

The government's Council for National Minorities, at its meeting held on 20 May 2014, approved the expansion of the role of the grant programme Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, specifically for Croatian, mainly Moravian Croatian (Resolution No. 146).

At its meeting held on 20 November 2014, the Council began discussing the prerequisites for inclusion of Croatian under specific protection by the Charter. First, examples of the ratification of Croatian in Austria and Slovakia were presented, along with definition of the language (general Croatian or Croatian in a narrower form, as has been and is still used by Moravian Croatians). It will be necessary to specify the impact of potential ratification of Croatian on public administration, which is a task for the Ministry of Interior. It needs to be examined what this would mean from a legislative point of view. The Council will concentrate intensively on the options for ratification (declaration). The specified steps relate to the provisions of paragraph 1 letter a) and paragraph 5.

## General issues arising from the evaluation of the report

2. Articles 8 and 12 of the Charter contain provisions that apply within the areas where a minority language is traditionally used (8.1 and 12.1) and within areas other than those in which a minority language is traditionally used, if the number of speakers justifies it (8.2 and 12.2). Both types of provisions have been ratified for Slovak. By definition, the territories where Articles 8.1 and 12.1 apply and those where Articles 8.2 and 12.2 apply cannot be identical. In order for the Committee of Experts to evaluate the undertakings chosen under Article 8 and Article 12, please specify:

- the territories where the Slovak language speakers are traditionally present in the Czech Republic;
- the territories where the Slovak language speakers are not traditionally present in the Czech Republic.

According to the census conducted in 2011 (Czech Statistical Office 2012)<sup>1</sup>:

region	population	of them persons of Slovak national identity
South Bohemia	628,336	6,602
%	100.00	1.05
South Moravia	1,163,508	14,106
%	100.00	1.21
Karlovy Vary	295,595	7,217
%	100.00	2.44
Hradec Králové	547,916	5,638
%	100.00	1.03
Liberec	432,439	6,053
%	100.00	1.40
Moravia-Silesia	1,205,834	26,068
%	100.00	2.16
Olomouc	628,427	7,306
%	100.00	1.16
Pardubice	511,627	4,789
%	100.00	0.94
Plzeň	570,401	7,982
%	100.00	1.40
Capital City of Prague	1,268,796	23,089
%	100.00	1.82
Central Bohemia	1,289,211	17,474
%	100.00	1.36

<sup>1</sup> Only the "national identity" data are provided.

Ústí nad Labem	808,961	12,033
%	100.00	1.49
Vysočina	505,565	2,989
%	100.00	0.59
Zlín	579,944	5,806
%	100.00	1.00

The census indicates the long-term presence of the Slovak minority throughout the Czech Republic, and their increased share of the population can be attributed mainly to the close distance to the state border with Slovakia and past job opportunities particularly in heavy industry in border regions (the Moravia-Silesia and South Moravian regions). From a historic point of view, this involved mainly an influx in the 1960s as part of the movement of inhabitants within then Czechoslovakia. The region with the second highest Slovak minority population is the Capital City of Prague, which in this respect is similar to all large cities. A certain role was played in the past (continually before November 1989) by the dislocation of military troops along the western border Ústí nad Labem, which historically has been a source of job opportunities in heavy industry, and Karlovy Vary, where, however, the absolute share of the Slovak minority in the population is not significantly high. However, there are large Slovak communities in the regions of Vysočina, Pardubice, Hradec Králové and South Bohemia.

3. *Have steps been taken by the Czech authorities in order to collect additional data concerning regional or minority languages speakers, to complement the results of the 2011 census (for example, sociological surveys regarding the linguistic groups, use of local indicators such as the existence of minority-related associations, events, education or the number of subscriptions to print media in that language)?*

*The Programme of Applied Research and Development of National and Cultural Identity (NAKI) is A research programme of the Ministry of Culture, which supports applied research and development projects related to national and cultural identity. Research and development of national and cultural identity for the needs of the programme are understood as "research and development in all areas with which it is possible to identify the historic, cultural and social development of the historic territory of the Czech state, including all areas of cultural heritage". The programme was commenced in 2011 and will last in its current form until 2017. It is part of the Inter-ministerial Concept of Applied Research and Development of National and Cultural Identity until 2015, to which the Inter-ministerial Concept of Applied Research and Development of National and Cultural Identity for 2016 to 2022 corresponds. Topics on which this programme focuses include the Culture and cultural traditions of ethnic groups and minorities living on our territory. From 2012 to 2015, a project of the Law Faculty of Charles University in Prague has been running, which is focused on Problems related to the Legal Position of Minorities in Practice and their Long-term Development, within which quality research has also been conducted in the Jesenice and Ostrava areas.*

4. *Have steps been taken by the Czech authorities to raise awareness of the Charter at local and regional levels (for example, distribution of information brochures or organisation of information and training seminars for the representatives of the authorities)?*

In 2006, the Government Office issued a brochure entitled "The Charter (What we should know)", which is available on the website of the Government's Council for National Minorities.<sup>2</sup> Besides that, each year communities with a share of national minorities greater than 10% refer to the importance of the Charter and its fulfilment (in the document entitled "Report on the Situation of National Minorities", which is always discussed by the Government).

5. *Please provide a list of all municipalities where committees for national minorities relevant for the languages covered by the Charter (German, Moravian Croatian, Polish, Romani and Slovak) exist at present.*

After last year's municipal elections (10 -11 October 2014), committees for national minorities were set up in these municipalities:

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/dokumenty/publikace/charta-co-bychom-meli-vedet-18224/>

<i>municipality (district)</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>% of minority members</i>	<i>language</i>
Hrádek (Frýdek-Místek)	1,768	31.33	Polish, Slovak
Milíkov (Frýdek-Místek)	1,275	30.35	Polish, Slovak
Bocanovice (Frýdek-Místek)	426	27.93	Polish
Košařiska (Frýdek-Místek)	354	27.12	Polish
Vendryně (Frýdek-Místek)	4,137	26.06	Polish, Slovak
Bukovec (Frýdek-Místek)	1,339	25.39	Polish, Slovak
Ropice (Frýdek-Místek)	1,486	24.16	Polish, Slovak
Bystřice (Frýdek-Místek)	5,197	24.13	Polish, Slovak
Dolní Lomná (Frýdek-Místek)	843	22.42	Polish, Slovak
Smilovice (Frýdek-Místek)	714	21.71	Polish, Slovak
Stonava (Karviná)	1,728	19.39	Polish, Slovak
Horní Lomná (Frýdek-Místek)	352	19.32	Polish
Návsí (Frýdek-Místek)	3,743	19.08	Polish, Slovak
Nýdek (Frýdek-Místek)	1,990	18.99	Polish, Slovak
Písečná (Frýdek-Místek)	899	18.58	Polish, Slovak
Albrechtice (Karviná)	3,795	17.63	Polish, Slovak
Horní Suchá (Karviná)	4,333	17.10	Polish, Slovak
Třanovice (Frýdek-Místek)	1,057	16.75	Polish, Slovak
Písečná (Frýdek-Místek)	1,757	16.45	Polish
Chotěbuz (Karviná)	1,122	15.86	Polish, Slovak
Jablunkov (Frýdek-Místek)	5,732	15.74	Polish, Slovak
Komorní Lhotka (Frýdek-Místek)	1,250	14.88	Polish, Slovak
Mosty u Jablunkova (Frýdek-Místek)	3,830	14.60	Polish, Slovak
Řeka (Frýdek-Místek)	495	13.94	Polish, Slovak
Český Těšín (Karviná)	24,394	13.66	Polish, Slovak
Třinec (Frýdek-Místek)	36,263	13.42	Polish, Slovak
Vělopolí (Frýdek-Místek)	281	13.17	Polish
Střítež (Frýdek-Místek)	981	13.05	Polish, Slovak
Petrovice u Karviné (Karviná)	5,446	12.76	Polish, Slovak
Hnojník (Frýdek-Místek)	1,479	10.89	Polish, Slovak
Těrlicko (Karviná)	4,126	11.50	Polish, Slovak
Josefov (Sokolov)	342	10.53	German, Slovak
Vejprty (Chomutov)	2,950	9.83	German, Slovak, Polish, Romani
Oloví (Sokolov)	1,741	9.76	Slovak, German
Krásno (Sokolov)	724	9.25	German, Slovak
Malá Štáhle (Bruntál)	148	8.78	Slovak
Orlová (Karviná)	29,896	6.84	Slovak, Polish
Měrovice nad Hanou (Přerov)	694	7.89	Slovak, Romani
Nejdek (Karlovy Vary)	8,145	7.50	Slovak, German
Merklín (Karlovy Vary)	1,061	5.47	Slovak, German
Krajková (Sokolov)	830	5.42	German, Slovak
Stanovice (Karlovy Vary)	564	4.08	Slovak, German
Bílá Voda (Jeseník)	460	3.70	Slovak
Kravaře (Opava)	6,570	1.74	German, Slovak

Municipalities, which have set up commissions or other advisory bodies for issues related to national and ethnic minorities

<i>municipality (district) name of advisory body</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>% of minority members</i>	<i>language</i>
Česká Třebová (Ústí nad Orlicí), Commission for Integration of National Minorities	15,653	1.37	Slovak, Polish, German, Romani
Nová Ves (Sokolov), Committee for Sport, Cultural Activities and National Minorities	222	6.76	Slovak
Prague 8 (Commission for National Minorities)			

Cheb (Commission for National Minorities at the City Council)	32,401	3.85 (8.62)	Slovak, German
Vysoké Mýto (Ústí nad Orlicí), Commission for Ethnic Minorities	12,428	1.87	Slovak, Polish
Kobylá nad Vidnavkou (Jeseník)	435	8.51	German, Slovak

A committee has not yet been established since the municipal elections, but its establishment is planned.

Zlaté Hory (Jeseník)	3,762	7.02	Slovak, German, Polish
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#### Committees in statutory cities

<i>statutory city name of advisory body</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>% of minority members</i>	<i>language</i>
Brno, Committee for National Minorities	385,913	3.02	Slovak, Polish, German, Romani
Chomutov, Committee for National Minorities	48,328	3.66	Slovak, German, Romani
Karviná, Committee for National Minorities	56,897	11.85	Polish, Slovak
Liberec, Committee for National Minorities	102,754	3.81	Slovak, Polish, German
Mladá Boleslav, Commission for Integration of Ethnic Groups and National Minorities	44,303	6.43	Slovak, Polish
Most, Commission for National Minorities	65,193	3.75	Slovak, Romani, German
Plzeň, Commission for Integration of Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners (not yet approved)	170,322	3.11	Slovak, Polish, German

## Part II

6. *What steps have been taken to recognise German as an expression of cultural wealth of the Czech Republic (for example a statement, a solemn act or other symbolic gesture)?*

XVI. Days of Czech and German Culture in Dresden, Ústí nad Labem and the Elbe/Labe Euroregion (organised by Collegium Bohemicum o.p.s.;<sup>3</sup> in 2014 held from 23 October to 9 November 2014). This is one of the most recognised and largest festivals of its type. It takes place each year at the turn of October and November. It offers a rich and unique programme to a wide range of the public. This well established festival provides an opportunity in the entire Elbe/Labe Euroregion for Czech-German meetings, accompanied by a corresponding cultural programme. The festivals have been held since 1999 in Dresden, Ústí nad Labem and the Elbe/Labe Euroregion (until 2006 under the name "Czech Culture Days"). This cross-border festival was initiated by the Brücke/Most Foundation together with the Czech Centre in Dresden and the City of Dresden. In 2010, the Czech Centre in Dresden ended its activities, and the role of co-organiser was taken over from it by the General Consulate of the Czech Republic in Dresden. In 2007, the ranks of the co-organisers were expanded to include Collegium Bohemicum, an organisation based in Ústí nad Labem. Each year, increasing interest is registered from members of the public on both sides of the border. Thanks to their activities and diverse programme, the Days have gained a firm position in the cultural life of Dresden and its surroundings. They are also attractive for the Czech side of the Elbe/Labe Euroregion, and each year they establish a place in the cultural calendars of the region. This fact is clearly apparent from the large number of visitors on both sides of the border, which amounts to approximately 10,000 visitors per year. This number is continuing to grow, and interest on each side in the culture of the other country is also growing, which is the main aim of the festival. In 2013 it was one of the most recognised and extensive festivals of Czech culture abroad, and since its establishment in 1999 it has contributed to a great extent to deepening of relations between North Bohemia and Saxony and between the Czech Republic and Germany (see answer 10 for more details).

7. *Please clarify whether the Strategy for Roma Integration 2010-2013 is still valid or whether it has been subsequently replaced by a follow-up document. Please provide information on the content and implementation of the provisions concerning the promotion of Romani in the Strategy for Roma Integration 2010-2013 and in the follow-up document.*

The Concept for Roma Integration 2009-2013 will be replaced by the corresponding Strategy for Roma Integration until 2020. It will be submitted to the government for approval during February 2015. The

<sup>3</sup> O.p.s.: Public benefit organisation

Strategy for Roma Integration until 2020 proposes specific tasks related to the Romani language, particularly the following tasks: 4.2 a) to create conditions for more effective use of the grant title for Support of Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in relation to Romani; 4.2 b) to support the teaching of Romani as a minority language in primary schools, to support the development of methodological and educational materials and aids for its teaching; 4.2 c) to support research of the Czech language expression of children from environments where Romani and/or a Roma ethnic dialect of Czech are used for regular communication; to support the development of tools usable in practice for correction of "mistakes" in the use of general/formal Czech by children from such environments; to expand compulsorily the education of teachers and teaching assistants to include the topic of the language skills of Roma pupils specifically and the effects of linguistic and communicative barriers in general; 4.4 a) to support via grants and additional measures the spread of timely and objective information about the culture, language, history and current situation of the Roma minority, including current political developments; 4.4 b) to provide grants for the support of the development of Roma culture as part of support for integration of members of the Roma minority in accordance with Government Regulation No. 98/2002 Coll., which defines the conditions and method of providing grants from the state budget for the activities of members of national minorities and for support of the integration of members of the Roma community; 4.4 d) inclusion of Roma topics in the broadcasting of public media (Czech Television and Czech Radio), both in the form of ethnic shows and through involvement of Roma people and Roma topics in mainstream shows; inclusion of Romani as a language of regular communication in the broadcasting of public media (Czech Television and Czech Radio), for example by providing Czech subtitles for Romani-language segments and/or using a Czech translation of Romani speech with the Romani spoken original in the background.

The document "Strategy for Roma Integration until 2020" is among other things a preliminary condition for drawing from ESI funds for the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education and the Integrated Regional Operational Programme.

*8. What steps have been taken in order to develop, in co-operation with the speakers, a planned and structured approach to the protection and promotion of German?*

Representatives of the minority have expressed interest in a debate about the installation of bilingual signs (in the section of the Report on the Situation of National Minorities for 2013, specifying the reflection of individual minorities); other steps are being discussed.

*9. What steps have been taken in order to develop, in co-operation with the speakers, a planned and structured approach to the protection and promotion of Romani?*

The Strategy for Roma Integration until 2020 is based on a participation principle, meaning that Roma have contributed to the proposal of measures with aims that include the protection and support of the Romani language. The measures originated from a dialogue with representatives of the Museum of Roma Culture, Roma Studies Seminars and representatives of the Roma professional community. See the answer to question 7.

*10. What steps have been taken in order to create favourable conditions and facilitate the use of German in public life? Please provide information on the use of German in areas of public life such as place names, administration, economic and social life.*

Prague has traditionally hosted the *Prague Theatrical Festival of the German Language*, the performances at which are interpreted into Czech. The 19th annual Prague Theatrical Festival of the German Language was held from 21 November to 1 December 2014. The festival itself was preceded by Prologue I at the New State of the National Theatre, where viewers watched the documentary play of the Dresden Bürgerbühne (Citizen Stage), part of the State Drama production entitled *My File and I*, presented within the project *Parallel Lives, the 20th Century through the Eyes of the Secret Services*. For Prologue II, the festival organisers arranged a theatrical trip to the famous Burgtheater in Vienna on Saturday, 1 November 2014, where viewers saw a performance of *The Accident*, directed by Andrey Breth. The Prague festival programme itself began on 21 November 2014 at the Stavov Theatre with a performance by members of Hamburg's Thalia Theatre, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, as a German-language theatrical performance to coincide with the anniversary of the First World War. At the Theatre on Dlouhá Street, there was a production by the Berlin-based Maxim Gorki Theatre, entitled *I don't care what's outside*, a presentation of a new theatrical play by Sibylle Berge, directed by Sebastian Nübling. The Prague Theatrical Festival of the German Language also prepared for 2014 a co-production with the

She She Pop group from Berlin. A performance entitled *The Rite of Spring*, the German name for which literally translates as "Spring Sacrifices", was inspired by Stravinsky's first composition, also known as *The Rite of Spring*.

Another important institution that has traditionally helped build bridges between Czechs and Germans is the Czech-German Fund for the Future. It was established as a result of the Czech-German Declaration from 21 January 1997, and in that same year, on 29 December 1997, the Fund was officially established under Czech law as a foundation fund seated in Prague. It began carrying out its activities with the foundation's assets of approximately EUR 85 million. It supports projects that bring together people from both countries, who enable and deepen views into their worlds, shared culture and history. Since 1998, the Fund for the Future has provided approximately EUR 45 million in total for 7,500 projects.<sup>4</sup>

In Prague, there is also the Prague Literary House of German-language Authors, which was founded in 2004. This is a cultural centre in Prague documenting the unique phenomenon of Czech-German-Jewish cultural co-existence, knowledge of which had not been provided to the public previously. Its initiators were the last German-writing Prague author Lenka Reinerová, Ambassador František Černý and Franz Kafka Society Chairman Kurt Krolop. It is a way to revive the multi-cultural environment in Prague and the Czech Republic and remind of the heritage of German-language literature in the Czech Republic. These include not only writings by Franz Kafka, but also by other famous and internationally recognised authors, such as Max Brod, Franz Werfel, Egon Erwin Kisch and Rainer Maria Rilke. Cultural life in the Czech lands is also recognised by other less well known writers from Kafka's era, including Johannes Urzidil, Josef Mühlberger, Rudolf Fuchs, Paul Leppin and others. The post-war period is connected to these authors: Libuše Moníková, Jiří Gruša, Jan Faktor, Alena Wagnerová, Michael Stavaric and others. Literary and discussion evenings are held, which attract attention from members of the public of all ages. Visitors can become familiar not only with contemporary authors writing in German, whose roots originate from the Czech lands, but with other well known foreign authors as well. The "Kaffee - Kuchen - Literatur" Sunday afternoon meeting has become a regularly held event, where individual Prague authors writing in German are presented. Once per year, residence scholarships are awarded both to domestic and foreign writers. Regular exchanges by writers are intended to support cross-border dialogue and reviving of the multi-cultural traditions of Prague and to support writers in their creative activities. There are plans to expand exchange stays to other countries as well.

Community life is also enhanced by extensive activities with a Czech-German focus during youth extra-curricular activities. These include the activities of the Czech-German Youth Exchange Coordination Centre *Tandem* in Plzeň, which is active nationwide. Tandem offers financial support for Czech-German meetings of children and youth, especially during extracurricular and pre-school activities, and its activities are made possible by the Programme for Support of Professional Experience and mediated by the European Volunteer Service in Germany. Important tasks of the Tandem project include arranging contacts between Czech and German organisations and supporting their partnerships.

*11. Have the authorities initiated a dialogue with the representatives of the Romani speakers in order to identify the public areas where Romani should be promoted?*

In 2013, the Government's Council for National Minorities focused on besides grants for the programme for Support for Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in which one of the four supported languages is Romani. In 2014, a project of the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University was supported, which was focused on educating translators to enable them to produce translations between the Czech and Romani languages.

*12. What measures have been taken to raise awareness of the Romani language within the Roma community?*

The grant programme for supporting the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages enables support for projects aimed at increasing awareness of the Romani language within the Roma community. One such project is Romano Suno, which is focused on supporting literary and creative works by Roma children in the Romani language. In co-operation with regional coordinators for Roma affairs, each year the Government's Council for Roma Affairs monitors the Roma community's interest in the Romani language and ongoing teaching of Romani. The development of the Romani language and preservation of Roma culture is also focused on by the Philosophical Faculty of Charles

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<sup>4</sup> More information about the Fund can be found at <http://www.fondbudoucnosti.cz/>

University, which hosts the Czech Republic's only Roma Studies Seminars. Romani is taught within the instruction curriculum of the Education Faculty of Ostrava University. In the Vysočina Region, the Romani language is taught by the Secondary Professional School of Management and Law in Jihlava. The Romani language is currently taught at the University of Pardubice in the Social Anthropology Department. It is also an available subject at Masaryk University in Brno. The regions are implementing grant programmes, which are focused on supporting Roma culture and the Romani language.

*13. What measures have been taken in order to make parents aware of the various possibilities for their children to receive education in/teaching of German, Moravian Croatian, Polish, Romani and Slovak?*

Education in foreign languages is part of the Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education, the Language and Language Communication education areas and the Foreign Language and Additional Foreign Language areas. Whether to provide education in German, Moravian Croatian, Polish, Romani or Slovak and options for teaching these languages are entirely up to school directors to decide, and schools may provide education in German, Romani and other languages as additional foreign languages or offer the specified languages as elective subjects. An important condition is that instruction must be ensured by a qualified teacher of the particular foreign language and there must be interest in it expressed by pupils and their parents.

*14. What measures have been taken in order to encourage school boards and principals to offer education in/teaching of German, Moravian Croatian, Polish, Romani and Slovak?*

Each year, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport announces a grant programme to support education in the languages of national and ethnic minorities and multi-cultural education. One of the modules of the programme is focused on *support for education in the languages of national and ethnic minorities* with activities focused on the development of native language, creation of teaching materials in the languages of national and ethnic minorities, educational activities for members of national and ethnic minorities, etc. The programme can be participated in by legal entities operating schools and school facilities.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport is announcing 4 topical objectives to benefit the integration of the Roma community as part of the grant programme for supporting the Roma community's integration.

- A) Pre-school preparation and timely care
- B) Activities to support families and schools within the pre-school and primary education systems, including activities related to the language communication of the Roma minority.
- C) Support for school success of pupils and students of both genders at primary and secondary schools.
- D) Free-time and interesting activities for Roma children and youth intended to mitigate their social exclusion and culturally differences.

In 2015, programme B was expanded to include activities related to language communication of the Roma minority. The aim is to support activities in Romani-language communication of the Roma minority and to support activities aimed at increasing the effectiveness of co-operation between families and schools during education of Roma pupils.

*15. Has the legal framework providing for the existence of a committee for national minorities as a precondition to the right to receive minority language education been reviewed?*

The Ministry of Education has not revised the legal framework. Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on pre-school, primary, secondary, tertiary professional and other forms of education, as amended (the Education Act), remains in effect, and its Section 14 enshrines education of members of national minorities (see answer 16 also).

*16. In addition to teaching German as a foreign language, what steps have been taken, in co-operation with the speakers, to improve the situation of German as a minority language in education (for example, offering pre-school and primary education in the Hlučín-Opava area, in the Chomutov area or in Český Krumlov)?*

In the specified areas, there are pre-school and primary school facilities, where German can be studied as an additional foreign language; for instruction of German as a minority language, the conditions of

Section 14 of the Education Act must be fulfilled. Representatives of the minority declare the use of instruction of German as a foreign language (see the Report on the Situation of National Minorities for 2013).

*17. Is Romani currently taught at pre-school, primary or secondary level in Czech schools? Is Romani in any other way used at these levels in Czech schools?*

Instruction in the Romani language may be offered in schools just like other less often taught languages, as an additional elective/non-mandatory subject. Decisions regarding whether to teach it depend only on demand from pupils/students and their parent and last, but not least, on the school's conditions and capabilities. Such decisions are fully up to each school's director. The Romani language is not in the same position as other foreign languages that are already taught in schools, such as German, French, Russian and certain less frequently taught foreign languages (such as Latvian, Japanese, etc.). Romani is used in many dialects, and its formal standard version has not been codified. The Ministry of Education has published the following educational materials to support the teaching of the Romani language:<sup>5</sup>

\* [Rámcová osnova v češtině pro výuku romského jazyka.doc](#)

\* [Rom LowerSec-ELP08 EN-en-cs-p.doc](#)

\* [Rom08 Primary-ELP-EN-en-cs-p.doc](#)

Educators in the Czech Republic can select from multiple professional university workplaces, where they can study the Romani language and expand their knowledge of Roma culture (see also answer number 12).

*18. Is research carried out on German as a regional or minority language in the Czech Republic?*

A project, which included a Survey of the Demand for Teaching of German Language at Universities, Colleges, Secondary Schools and Primary Schools in the Moravia-Silesia, Olomouc, Pardubice and Hradec Králové Regions as part of the grant programme for Support for Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, was last addressed in 2012. The organisation responsible for the project was Vzdělávací a sociální dílo o.p.s. Opava, which focuses on educational activities for the German minority.

*19. Please provide detailed information with respect to the provisions of the Strategy for Roma Integration for 2010-2013 and of any subsequent document concerning measures to eliminate discrimination.*

The key measures for eliminating discrimination in connection with the Concept for Roma Integration and subsequent documents include measures for ensuring equal treatment of Roma people and their protection from discrimination. The government has adopted a proposal submitted by the minister for human rights to expand the ombudsman's powers and expand options for turning to the Constitutional Court regarding cancellation of laws and parts thereof and options for filing public lawsuits against discrimination. This involves extraordinary powers, which the ombudsman would use in significant situations, in which changes of situations or legislation have not been achieved in a different manner.

*20. What steps have been taken to ensure that speaking Romani at school is not prohibited or discouraged?*

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport does not prohibit the use of the Romani language in any case.

The Framework Education Programme for Primary Education gives schools relatively extensive room to establish conditions for satisfying the educational needs of Roma pupils, particularly in relation to used methods and forms of education, organisation of the education process, co-operation with institutions involved in education and other experts from different ministries and areas of activity.

*21. Have steps been taken to encourage media to promote tolerance and understanding towards minority languages, for example by including topics related to national minorities in the training programmes for journalists?*

The Social Sciences Faculty of Charles University in Prague offers the study subject *The Journalist and Minority Topics* as part of the *Journalism* study programme.

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<sup>5</sup> Published at <http://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/zakladni-vzdelavani/materialy-k-podpore-vyuky-romskeho-jazyka>.

## Part III

### Polish

#### Article 8 - Education

*22. Please specify whether the reform of the school financing system has been finalised and what provisions it includes with respect to the schools teaching in Polish.*

The reform of the system of financing regional education has not yet been completed, and it is currently in the process of being discussed.

*23. Please specify how the history and culture reflected by the Polish language are taught in practice and whether they are also taught in schools other than those of the Polish minority, in the area where Polish is traditionally used.*

- a) At the level of the Framework Education Programme for Primary Education in the education field History, this topic is not expressly touched upon, because it is too specific; however, the formulation of expected outputs enable its inclusion in the curriculum (e.g. expected output D-9-6-03: "The pupil compares individual phases of the creation of a new-era Czech nation in connection with the national movements of selected European countries").
- b) In the usual textbook interpretation of history, Polish history and culture, compared to that of other neighbours in Central Europe, is represented relatively less. (More attention is devoted to German and former Austro-Hungarian (Hungarian and Slovak) topics. However, this situation can be partially attributed to the de facto non-existence of the Polish state during an important period of the formation of modern nations, between 1830 and 1916 and 1918 respectively.)

Within the Framework Education Programmes, which are binding for the creation of School Education Programmes, the history and culture of relevant minorities in the Czech Republic will be included more, as part of cycle-based revisions of the Framework Education Programmes. An integral part of the Framework Education Programme is the issue of multi-cultural education, along with education regarding the importance of respecting human rights and education against extremism, racism and intolerance.

In Český Těšín, there is an Education Centre for Polish National Education, which was established by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, with the aim of fulfilling the needs of schools teaching in the Polish language in the Czech Republic and with the aim of further development of the skills of the Education staff in these facilities. The Centre is an institution focused on education, life-long learning and active European co-operation, open to innovations and based on the identity and specifics of the Euroregion Těšínské Slezsko - Śląsk Cieszyński.

The activities of the Education Centre for Polish National Education are focused on further education of teaching staff, support for minority education, issuance of methodological aids (Jutrzenka a Ogniwo), organising competitions for pupils and students, life-long education, cross-border and European co-operation and maintaining of an education library.

*24. Please specify whether the reports published by the Czech School Inspectorate contain information on developments in language proficiency, teacher supply and the provision of teaching materials.*

The Czech School Inspectorate's reports contain indicators of qualified instruction in monitored subjects, and they evaluate the teaching materials used during instruction. The evaluations are carried out for all education areas of the Framework Education Programme for Primary Education.

#### Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services

*25. What steps have been taken to encourage the Polish speakers to submit oral and written applications in Polish to the local and regional authorities?*

In terms of the authority of the Ministry of Interior, no special measures have been taken in this respect (see also answer 26).

*26. Please indicate steps taken to inform the Polish speakers of the possibility to use Polish in debates in the regional assembly and to create favourable conditions for such use.*

No special measures have been adopted. Some websites are in Polish (for example, in Bystřic, Horní Suchá, Jablunkov, Návsí, Stonava and Vendryně, and some local periodic publications are published in fully or partially bilingual versions (such as in Český Těšín, Horní Suchá, Chotěbuz, Komorní Lhotka, Těrlicko and Vendryně), publications issued to mark the anniversaries of the founding of the municipality of Bukovec are bilingual, and during assembly meetings it is also possible to use the Polish language variant "po naszymu" (such as in Český Těšín and Střítež).

*27. Please indicate steps taken to create favourable conditions to ensure Polish can be used in local assemblies.*

No special measures have been adopted in relation to this.

*28. Please indicate whether, since August 2013, there have been any developments concerning the amendments to the legislation governing the signage in minority languages and to that governing the establishment of committees for national minorities.*

A draft amendment to Act No. 128/2000 Coll., on municipal establishment, was approved by the government, but during the first reading it was returned to the start of the legislative process following the dissolving of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament. The inter-ministerial feedback process has been completed, and the material has now been submitted to the government. The purpose of the amendment is to rationalise the function of committees in relation to the results of the census, which could cause unfair difficulties to municipalities. Wording of the draft amendment in the provisions of Sections 29 and 117 (with the newly proposed formulation in bold):

...  
Section 29

...  
(2) In a municipality inhabited by representatives of national minorities, the name of the municipality, its parts, its streets and other public spaces and labelling of the buildings of state bodies and local governments shall also be stated in the language of the national minority, if according to the ~~most recent~~ **two most recent** censuses at least 10% of the citizens of the municipality declared themselves to be members of that national community, if requested by representatives of the particular national minority through a committee for national minorities (Section 117 paragraph 3) and if the Committee recommends such step via a resolution, **or if requested in writing by a civic association, which according to statutes represents the interests of the particular national minority<sup>44)</sup> and which by the date of submission of the request has been active within the municipality for at least 5 years.**

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<sup>44)</sup> Section 5 of Act No. 273/2001 Coll., on the rights of members of national minorities and on amendment of certain other Acts. Act No. 83/1990 Coll., on associations of citizens, as amended.

...  
Section 117

**(3) A municipality on whose territory, according to the most recent census, at least 10% of the municipality's citizens have declared a national identity other than Czech, a committee for national minorities will be established, if its establishment is requested in writing by an association representing the interests of the national minority<sup>44)</sup>. At least half of the committee's members must be representatives of national minorities, unless this condition cannot be fulfilled due to a lack of candidates from among national minorities.**

## Article 11 - Media

*29. What measures have the Czech authorities taken to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of programmes in Polish on private radio?*

The valid legislation on operation of radio and television broadcasting includes the following among evaluation criteria for applications for the issuance of licenses for radio broadcasting: "a benefit of the applicant for ensuring the development of the culture of national, ethnic and other minorities in the Czech Republic". The law imposes an obligation for the regulatory body (the Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting) to take this into consideration when making its decision regarding the license application.

As part of the grant tender in the programme for supporting the expansion and acceptance of information in the languages of national minorities, each year the Ministry of Culture announces an initiative focused on supporting radio and television broadcasting in the languages of national minorities, and it is spread throughout the Czech

Republic. Each year, the successful projects have included two to three projects related to radio broadcasting in Polish as well as in Romani and Slovak.

The programme for support of distribution and receipt of information in the languages of national minorities, with the option of support for radio broadcasts in minority languages including Polish, is available, and it is up to applicants to make use of these options on their own. Therefore, the state has fulfilled the conditions for submission of applications for such support.

With regard to radio broadcasting in Polish, the public Czech Radio broadcasts in Polish in the Ostrava area five times per week (Monday to Friday) with a new, public affairs, cultural and community show called *Wydarzenia* (formerly *Kwadrans*), lasting 26 minutes.

*30. Please give examples of audio and audio-visual works in Polish produced and distributed with state support.*

With regard to the issue of support and distribution of audio-visual works, support for production and distribution of cinematographic works is provided by the State Fund for Cinematography, which also assigns co-production status. Producers seeking support can apply for support in the Czech Republic as well as in the country of co-production. Co-production with Polish partners is relatively frequent. In recent years, the following Czech-Polish co-productions were supported: *Konfident*, *Ve stínu koně*, *Yuma*, *Polski film*. The State Fund for Cinematography also provides support for the distribution of cinematographic works.

The Ministry of Culture, as part of the grant process related to media and audio-visual works, also supports film festivals, at which film works from Polish production appear, which are usually presented in their original language versions at such events (Days of European Film, Febiofest). In the past as part of this programme, the Ministry of Culture also supported specific projects focused on Polish cinematography (*Bardzo fajny festiwal*) or on a region with a Polish-speaking minority (*Kino na hranici* [Cinema at the border]).

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

*31. In the second monitoring cycle the Committee of Experts was informed that projects with a multicultural component submitted by municipalities were also funded from the grants of the central authorities intended for the cultural activities of the national minorities. In addition, the grants for national minorities' organisations were allegedly limited to two projects and the priorities of the minorities had not always been taken into consideration. Please comment on these aspects.*

No municipality submitted any project into the grant tender of the Ministry of Culture in the programme for support of the cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic in the monitored period. Applications for state grants may be submitted in the specified grant tender by individuals and legal entities registered or established by 31 December of the year prior to the previous year for which the grant tender has been announced, who are provably involved in activities benefiting members of national minorities for at least one year.

It is not apparent whether or not the Committee of Experts in the second monitoring cycle was informed incorrectly and whether confusion occurred, since the submitter of a project with a multi-cultural focus was not a municipality, but could have been a non-profit organisation of a municipality. This is not at variance with the terms of the grant tender. It depends on who is better able to implement the project. The possibility cannot be ruled out that the municipality has no non-state non-profit organisation, which would satisfy the conditions of the grant tender and could prepare and implement the project in a quality manner. The quality of the project is decisive for assigning a grant.

Support for the cultural activities of the Roma minority is carried out at the Ministry of Culture as part of the grant programme for support of cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic and within the grant programme focused on supporting integration of members of the Roma minority.

Even in the programme for support of the integration of members of the Roma minority, during the period referred to in your question no project was supported that had been submitted by a municipality, and no municipality even applied for a grant.

The reason why the Ministry limited the submission of applications for grants from the state budget to two from one entity was entirely rational. The applicants' requirements greatly exceeded the capacity of the state budget and the budget for the Ministry of Culture. Projects of a local character were often submitted, which should be financed by municipalities and/or regions.

There is a limit to two projects from one submitter also in other grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture, and this is necessary due to budget possibilities. In some programmes, only one project may be submitted. Therefore, the projects of national minorities are not discriminated against in any way. Their members can also register for other grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture, if they fulfil the criteria for those programmes. Those programmes are not based on the principle of national and ethnic groups, but they are open to all applicants.

The claim that "the priorities of the minorities had not always been taken into consideration" is erroneous. If there was a reduction from three to two projects, it was up to the submitter of the application to determine what the submitter considered a priority and what would be applied for from the Ministry of Culture. The mistake is that it is not stated to which grant programme this issue refers.

*32. Please provide examples of cultural activities organised outside the Frýdek-Místek and Karviná districts, in areas where the number of Polish-speakers justifies such measures.*

In 2014 during the grant programme Support for Foreign Contacts within Non-professional Artistic Activities, grants from the state budget of the Czech Republic supported 7 projects, including trips by amateur groups from the Czech Republic to international festivals in Poland (including one group with members of the Polish minority from Karviná District). In 2013, three projects were supported (including 1 group with members of the Polish minority from Karviná District), and in 2012 three projects were also supported, from districts other than Frýdek-Místek and Karviná.

Projects were submitted by non-state non-profit organisations representing the Polish minority only from the districts of Frýdek-Místek and Karviná for the grant tender of the Ministry of Culture in the programme for support of the cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic in the monitored period.

In 2014, the Department of Art, Literature and Libraries provided a grant to the theatre in Český Těšín, which also has a Polish scene.

It can generally be stated that the Department of Art, Literature and Libraries provides grants from the state budget for various cultural projects; however, the artistic and/or professional quality of each project is decisive for whether it receives a grant, not merely whether minority languages are represented.

The Department of Art, Literature and Libraries announces grant tenders to support purchasing of literature in the languages of national minorities for libraries. However, in view of the narrowing of the issues related to purchasing of literature in Polish outside of the districts of Frýdek-Místek and Karviná, we cannot report anything, because all grants for purchasing literature in Polish were exclusively for libraries in those districts.

*33. Please provide examples on how the Polish language and culture are reflected in the Czech cultural policy abroad, in countries other than Poland.*

The main framework contractual document for co-operation with Poland in the area of culture is the Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Poland regarding Co-operation in the Areas of Culture, Education and Science from 2003 and the Programme of Co-operation between the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland for 2014-2017.

In the future, the Ministry of Culture will continue to support direct co-operation between cultural institutions in both countries and to support trips by Czech groups to Poland via grants from the department responsible for international relations, and during regularly held meetings of the Czech-Polish Forum and the Czech-Polish Intergovernmental Commission, it will support joint projects. The co-operation will also be focused on acquiring experience from care for traditional culture, particularly traditional handicrafts, in accordance with the respective department concept.

### **Article 13 - Economic and social life**

*34. In the second monitoring cycle, the Committee of Experts was informed that Polish speakers may speak Polish in the workplace, but are asked to use Czech if the rest of the persons do not understand Polish. Please provide information on the measures taken to oppose the practice to discourage the use of Polish at the workplace.*

There has not been any specific reason to adopt such measures, and no complaints have been registered with the Polish minority regarding this issue.

## **Article 14 - Transfrontier exchanges**

35. *Please provide examples of the way in which the agreements concluded with Poland or other states foster contacts between Polish-speakers.*

Years 2004-2013 (2 phases): The Operational Programme for Cross-border Co-operation between the Czech Republic and Poland.

Years 2007-2013: corresponding to the Programme of the Communities Initiative of Interreg IIIA Czech Republic - Republic of Poland, which took place from 2004-2006. The main aim of the programme was to promote cross-border co-operation and development of the Czech-Polish border regions. This mainly involves strengthening of bilateral economic, community and cultural relations, joint care for natural environments, development of tourism, building of a flexible labour market and other forms of development.<sup>6</sup>

Years 2014-2020: The Operational Programme for Cross-border Co-operation between the Czech Republic and Poland.<sup>7</sup>

The Czech-Polish Forum was established by the Czech and Polish foreign affairs ministries to support the development of existing joint initiatives and the creation of new joint initiatives of non-governmental organisations in both countries. It corresponds to the co-operation among independent groups during the period of totalitarianism before 1989, which culminated with the activities of Polish-Czech-Slovak Solidarity. The forum supports the projects of non-governmental organisations, municipalities, regions, schools, research institutions and other entities. Both countries' foreign ministries are attempting to stimulate further development and deepen Czech-Polish relations. The projects are approved once per year by the programme boards of the Czech-Polish and Polish-Czech forums during meetings in Prague and Warsaw.

*An Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Poland regarding Co-operation in the Areas of Culture, Education and Science* has been entered into with Poland, which includes *the Programme of Co-operation between the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland for 2014-2016*. The activities being carried out based on these agreements are being carried out at the level of non-profit organisations of the Czech Ministry of Culture.<sup>8</sup>

36. *Please provide examples on how the Polish-speakers in the Czech Republic benefit from the cultural activities agreed through annual protocols by the Czech-Polish Intergovernmental Commission for Transfrontier Co-operation and what role the Polish language plays in these activities.*

The working group for cultural development within the Czech-Polish Intergovernmental Commission for Transfrontier Co-operation is currently deactivated, and no co-operation is currently being carried out at its level.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.cz-pl.eu/prehled-doporucenych-projektu.html;\\_\\_výroční zpráva 2013](http://www.cz-pl.eu/prehled-doporucenych-projektu.html;__výroční_zpráva_2013) <http://www.cz-pl.eu/vyrocnizpravy.html?action=download&downloadID=1626>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cz-pl.eu/nove-obdobi-2014-2020.html>

<sup>8</sup> Prague 30 September 2003, No. 26/2009 Coll.