**Council of Europe calls on Poland to promote awareness and tolerance toward minority languages and their cultures**

Strasbourg, 02.12.2015 – The Committee of Ministers today made public an evaluation [report](../../Web/Report/E_Reports/PolandECRML2_en.pdf) and [recommendations](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/Report/Recommendations/PolandCMRec2_en.pdf) on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages in Poland.

In Poland, 14 languages are protected by the Charter. The report acknowledges that there is a well-functioning institutionalised dialogue between the national authorities and the regional or minority language speakers. Another positive element is the financial support provided by the authorities to the use of these languages in education, media and culture.

At the same time, the report calls on Poland to strengthen teaching in Belarusian, German, Kashub, Lemko and Ukrainian and to increase the presence of regional or minority languages on radio and television. It is also recommended that Poland improves the legislation governing the use of regional or minority languages in relations with the administrative authorities.

In 2014 the Polish authorities carried out a campaign promoting the use of regional or minority languages in public life. Nevertheless more efforts are still needed to promote awareness and tolerance in the Polish society as a whole in relation to regional or minority languages and their cultures.

**Council of Europe calls on the Czech Republic to strengthen the promotion of minority languages**

Strasbourg, 02.12.2015 – The Council of Europe today called on the Czech Republic to step up its efforts to protect and promote minority languages, in particular German and Romani.

The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers issued a number of [recommendations](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/Report/Recommendations/CzechCMRec3_en.pdf) to the Czech Republic based on an expert committee’s report which evaluates its compliance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

In the [report](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/Report/E_Reports/CzechECRML3_en.pdf), the committee highlights the existence of a well-developed general framework for the protection of national minorities in the country and acknowledges the existence of a special funding programme for the implementation of the Charter.

However, it also calls on the Czech Republic to intensify its efforts to promote awareness and tolerance in relation to minority languages and cultures as an integral part of the cultural heritage of the country. Measures are particularly needed to promote German and Romani in education, and their use in the media and public life.

At the moment, there is little knowledge in the Czech society about the country’s traditional minority languages and their contribution to the national cultural heritage. German is largely perceived and also taught as a foreign language and the presence of Romani in mainstream education is limited, and its teaching is hampered by a negative public perception of Roma. On the other hand, Polish largely remains in a good situation in education in its traditional areas.

The report recommends amending the legislation concerning the committees for national minorities so that it does not prevent the implementation of the Charter in the field of education.

The committee also urges the Czech Republic to remove from legislation the condition that a person must declare that he or she does not have a command of Czech before they can use a minority language in criminal proceedings.

**Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) calls for more action to protect and promote the Romani language**

**Statement adopted by the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) on 5 November 2015 on the occasion of the International Romani Language Day**

Out of the 25 countries that have ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), 15 have officially recognised Romani as a minority language traditionally present on their territory. This is the highest number of ratifications for a single language under the Charter and it reflects, among others, the status of Romani as a European language.

From the two options of ratification, general protection under Part II of the Charter or the definition of special provisions in support of a language under Part III, the majority, two-thirds of the countries, opted for general protection that automatically applies to all languages traditionally spoken on the territory of a state.

The high level of ratifications for Romani – mostly based on an equality principle between all minority languages of the country in question – often lack implementation. This imbalance in the level of ratification as well as the deficits in implementation indicate, at least to some extent, the reality of marginalisation of both Romani and its speakers. On the other hand, shortcomings also result from the fact that the historical situation of Romani is not sufficiently taken into consideration. Romani is a language in transition. It is still developing from an exclusively oral language of private and everyday life to an oral and written language with both informal and formal public functions.

Not only because of the number of ratifications, but also because of its special situation, Romani is given high priority in the context of the Charter. To contribute to the sociocultural development of Romani is one of the main concerns of the ECRML Committee of Experts – a contribution that also intends to support the socio-economic and political emancipation of the Roma in general. Therefore, the Committee of Experts invites states on whose territory Romani is traditionally spoken to include this language in their ratification instruments.

Romani is in most countries in a vulnerable position and consequently, special measures are needed from the authorities to support the language. The Committee of Experts calls upon all member states to strengthen the protection and promotion of Romani as a part of the European cultural heritage in all spheres, and particularly in education and cultural life.

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**France and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)**

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) was signed by France on 7 May 1999 but has not yet been ratified. In January 2014, the National Assembly adopted, with a large majority, a constitutional amendment permitting also the ratification of the treaty. The Senate will debate that proposed constitutional amendment on 27 October and on 3 November 2015. The approval by the Congress, the actual amendment of the Constitution and the actual ratification of the Charter are still pending.

During the public debate about the ratification, it has been suggested that a very high number of regional languages would have to be covered under the Charter – some claim that there would be more than 70 languages – and that this fact could complicate the implementation of the treaty. However, the debate did not sufficiently consider how the Charter itself defines the concept of “regional or minority languages”.[[1]](#footnote-1) When determining the languages to be covered by the Charter in France, the following criteria must be taken into account in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Charter:

1. The Charter concerns languages. Dialects of regional languages are not covered by the Charter in their own right. Rather, dialects of regional languages are covered by the Charter in combination with their standard form traditionally used on the relevant territory. Consequently, the Charter applies holistically to a regional language “as a whole” (dialects and standard form) rather than only to one form of it.

2. The Charter concerns languages that are different from the official language of the State. It does not include dialects/varieties of the official language of the State.

3. The Charter concerns languages that are traditionally used within a given territory of the State by nationals of that State. It does not include the languages of migrants.

4. The Charter aims at the protection of the historical regional or minority languages of Europe, as stated in its Preamble.

5. The Charter concerns also languages that are often official and majority languages of other states. Most regional or minority languages in the present States Parties of the Charter are actually official and majority languages of other states (for example, Italian is the official and majority language of Italy as well as a regional or minority language *inter alia* in Slovenia).

6. The Charter concerns languages that are still spoken. It does not concern languages that are extinct.

In light of the aforementioned criteria, the Charter would apply to the following seven regional languages of France:[[2]](#footnote-2) **Basque, Breton, Catalan, Corsican, Dutch** (Western Flemish and standard Dutch), **German** (dialects of German and standard German, regional language of Alsace-Moselle)[[3]](#footnote-3) and **Occitan**.

Therefore, concerns currently expressed in the public debate that the Charter’s application would become difficult to manage as a result of a very high number of regional languages are completely unfounded.

News

**Committee of Experts Chair addresses Council of Europe Congress**Strasbourg. On 21 October 2015, Prof. Vesna CRNIĆ-GROTIĆ, Chair of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), addressed the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe during a thematic debate on regional and minority languages in Europe: recent developments, challenges and good practices. Speakers included: Mr Paata ZAKAREISHVILI, State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Georgia; Mr Damien THIÉRY, Member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and Mr Justin VOGEL, Vice-President of the Alsace Region, France. The speech of Prof. CRNIĆ-GROTIĆ can be found [here](file:///Y%3A%5CWeb%5C%3C%25%3DstrSitePath%25%3E%5CSource%5CSpeeches%20%26%20Presentations%5CSpeechCongressCrnicGrotic211015.pdf).

**Information meeting for the speakers of Abkhazian, Greek, Ukrainian and Russian languages**

On 29 September 2015, the Council of Europe, in co-operation with national and local authorities, organised an information meeting in Batumi on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, for the speakers of the Abkhazian, Greek, Ukrainian and Russian languages residing in Batumi municipality. When acceding to the Council of Europe in 1999, Georgia committed itself to signing and ratifying the Charter. As one of the key conventions of the Council of Europe, the Charter aims to protect traditionally used minority languages as part of the country’s cultural heritage. The event informed representatives of the local authorities and speakers of the Abkhazian, Greek, Ukrainian and Russian languages about how the Charter will help them protect their language. The representatives of speakers of the Abkhazian, Greek, Ukrainian and Russian languages presented the current situation and medium-term perspectives of their languages. The meeting was attended by the representatives of local authorities as well as representatives of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civil Equality, who stressed the importance of fulfilment of the international commitment assumed by Georgia when acceding to the Council of Europe, as well as civic/linguistic integration of ethnic minorities living in the country. The meeting took place in the framework of the EU/Council of Europe Joint Programme “Civic Integration of National Minorities in Georgia and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages”.

**Minority languages in Norway: Council of Europe praises government efforts, says more must be done for Lule and South Sami, Kven and Finnish languages**
Strasbourg, 17 September 2015 – Council of Europe experts, in their [new report](file:///Y%3A%5CWeb%5CReport%5CEvaluationReports%5CNorwayECRML6_en.pdf) published today, evaluated the application by Norway of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The independent expert committee acknowledged the commitment and the efforts of the authorities to support and protect the languages, but recommended more measures to promote the use of Lule Sami and South Sami, as well as Kven and Finnish languages in teaching and other spheres. The evaluation report commends the Norwegian authorities on the measures taken to promote the use of North Sami, in particular in social and health care services, and to revitalise the Eastern Sami/Skolt Sami language in cooperation with Finland and the Russian Federation. On the other hand, the experts said, more efforts are needed to improve the teaching of and in Lule Sami and South Sami at all levels, in particular by providing teaching materials and training educators. The evaluation report also asks the Norwegian authorities to implement a structured policy and an action plan for Kven in which priority should be given to offering education and to strengthening the presence of Kven in the broadcast media. Given a traditional presence of the Finnish language in some municipalities in North Eastern Norway, the experts asked the Norwegian authorities to clarify how both Kven and Finnish can be promoted under the Charter. The experts also identified the need to raise public awareness of Roma languages as part of the country’s cultural heritage, and to encourage their use. The [European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/textcharter/default_en.asp) is a convention for the protection and promotion of traditionally used minority languages. Norway was the first state to ratify the Charter, which entered into force in Norway in March 1998. A committee of independent experts monitors the application of the Charter by the [countries](http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=148&CM=8&DF=&CL=ENG) that have ratified it. The new evaluation report was issued following the [recommendation](file:///Y%3A%5CWeb%5CReport%5CRecommendations%5CNorwayCMRec6_en.pdf) by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

**Council of Europe supports use of minority languages in official signage**

Strasbourg, 21/8/2015 – The Council of Europe notes with regret that on 17 August 2015, the City Council of Vukovar / Вуковар (Croatia), where Serbs constitute a significant proportion of the population, decided to amend the Vukovar / Вуковар City Statute in such a way as not to provide bilingual signs in Latin and Cyrillic scripts at official town buildings, institutions, squares and streets of Vukovar / Вуковар.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe already had recommended on 15 April 2015 “that the Croatian authorities continue their efforts to promote awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis the minority languages, in all aspects, including usage of signs and traditional local names with inscriptions in Cyrillic script, based on the conclusions of the Committee of Experts […], and the cultures they represent as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Croatia, both in the general curriculum at all stages of education and in the media.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

In this context, the Council of Europe reiterates that the use of minority languages in official signage is a promotional measure with a considerable positive effect for the prestige and public awareness of a minority language. This position is supported by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which in recent years adopted several recommendations calling on states to use minority languages on public signs.[[5]](#footnote-5) The Council of Europe therefore strongly regrets the removal of signs in minority languages through vandalism[[6]](#footnote-6) or pursuant to formal decisions aiming at limiting the presence of minority languages in the public andurges all relevant public authorities in all States Parties to fully implement the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML).

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**Georgia and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages: information meeting for the speakers of the Armenian and Urum Turkish languages**
On 30 June and 1 July 2015, the Council of Europe, in co-operation with national and local authorities, organised information meetings on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages for the speakers of the Armenian and Urum Turkish languages residing in Tsalka, Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda. When acceding to the Council of Europe in 1999, Georgia committed itself to signing and ratifying the Charter. As one of the key conventions of the Council of Europe, the Charter aims to protect traditionally used minority languages as part of the country’s cultural heritage. The events informed representatives of the local authorities and the Armenian and Urum Turkish speakers about how the Charter will also protect their languages. They also provided the Armenian and Urum Turkish speakers with an opportunity to present the current situation and medium-term perspectives of their languages. During the discussions, the representatives of the Armenian and Urum Turkish speakers as well as the local authorities voiced support for the ratification of the Charter by Georgia. The meeting took place in the framework of the EU/Council of Europe Joint Programme “Civic Integration of National Minorities in Georgia and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages”. Similar events will be organised in Akhmeta and Kvareli (Kakheti region) for the speakers of the Kist/Chechen, Ossetian, Avar and Udi languages as well as for the local authorities in July 2015.

**Minority languages in Montenegro: new evaluation report released**

Strasbourg, 12 May 2015 – The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe today adopted [recommendations](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/Web/Report/Recommendations/MontenegroCMRec3_en.pdf) and issued a new [evaluation report](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/Web/Report/EvaluationReports/MontenegroECRML3_en.pdf) on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Montenegro. The report was drawn up by a committee of independent experts, which monitors the application of the Charter by the [countries](http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=148&CM=8&DF=&CL=ENG) that have signed and ratified it.

In the report, the Committee of Experts acknowledges the commitment and the efforts of the Montenegrin authorities to support and protect regional and minority languages.

The report welcomes the effective granting of co-official status to the Albanian language in three municipalities, including in the fields of education, public administration and public broadcasting.

The evaluation report commends the Montenegrin authorities on the measures taken to promote the use of the Romani language and their co-operation with Romani speakers on the codification of this language, already used in some texts published by the authorities.

On the other hand, the evaluation report asks the Montenegrin authorities to clarify the territorial scope of the application of the Charter to Bosnian, Croatian and Romani languages. In addition, a more structured policy is required towards the use of the Albanian language: it appears that there are municipalities, where it is not in official use despite the fact that the number of Albanian speakers is sufficient to justify the application of the Charter.

More efforts are also needed to improve the teaching of and in the Romani language at all levels of education, in particular by providing teaching materials and training teachers.

The Committee also identified the need to raise public awareness of Bosnian and Croatian cultures and traditions present in Montenegro as an integral part of the country’s cultural heritage.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is a convention for the protection and promotion of traditionally used minority languages. It entered into force in Montenegro in June 2006, in terms of a declaration of succession to treaties, following the independence of Montenegro from the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro on 3 June 2006.

The 2015 evaluation report is the 3rd report on Montenegro drawn up and adopted by the Committee of Experts of the Charter. Previous reports were issued in 2009 and 2011.

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**Georgia and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages: information meeting for Assyrian speakers**

On 11 May 2015, the Council of Europe, in co-operation with national and local authorities, organised an information meeting on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages for the speakers of the Assyrian language residing in Dzveli Kanda (Mtskheta municipality). When acceding to the Council of Europe in 1999, Georgia committed itself to signing and ratifying the Charter. Being one of the key conventions of the Council of Europe, the Charter aims to protect traditionally used minority languages as part of the country’s cultural heritage. The event informed representatives of the local authorities and the Assyrian speakers about how the Charter will protect the Assyrian language. It also provided the Assyrian speakers with an opportunity to present the current situation and medium-term perspectives of their language. Furthermore, participants explored how cultural sites of the Assyrians could contribute to the development of local tourism. During the discussions, the representatives of the Assyrian speakers as well as the national and local authorities voiced strong support for the ratification of the Charter by Georgia. The meeting took place in the framework of the EU/Council of Europe Joint Programme “Civic Integration of National Minorities in Georgia and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages”. Similar events will be organised in the Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti, Adjara and Kvemo Kartli regions as well as in Tbilisi in 2015.

**Minority languages in Croatia: new evaluation report published**

Strasbourg, 16.04.2015. - The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe issued on 15 April a new [evaluation report](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/Web/Report/EvaluationReports/CroatiaECRML5_en.pdf) on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Croatia.

The Council of Europe appreciates the positive climate of dialogue with the Croatian authorities on minority language protection. The evaluation report commends the Croatian authorities on the extension of the application of the Charter to German, Slovenian and Roma languages.

It also welcomes the adoption by the Croatian authorities of a new Action Plan for the Implementation of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities as a useful framework for the achievement of concrete and measurable objectives in the field of minority language promotion. However, the Action Plan does not cover all undertakings chosen by Croatia under the Charter, the report notes.

The evaluation report calls on Croatia to take measures to ensure that speakers of minority languages can use them in their interaction with state, county and local authorities, and that these authorities use the respective minority languages in their work, including in signs and traditional local names, also in Cyrillic script, where appropriate.

Minority language speakers also need to be able to make more use of minority language education.

With regard to the media, the report welcomes the launch of a minority television programme and encourages Croatia to increase the broadcast time and the regularity of television programmes in each minority language.

At the same time, the report invites Croatia to continue efforts to promote awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis minority languages and the cultures they represent as an integral part of the Croatian cultural heritage, both in the general curriculum at all stages of education and in the media.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is a convention for the protection and promotion of traditionally used minority languages. It entered into force in Croatia in March 1998. Croatia was the 5th state to ratify the Charter. The 2015 evaluation report is the 5th report on Croatia drawn up and adopted by the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, a committee of independent experts which monitors the application of the Charter. Previous reports were issued in 2000, 2004, 2007 and 2010.

Link to the evaluation report

More information on: www.coe.int/minlang

Council of Europe

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**An International Conference on ”Minority Protection at a Crossroads” will take place on 31 March 2015 at Alandica Conference Venue, Mariehamn, Åland Islands (Finland)**. The conference is being co-organised by the Åland Islands Peace Institute and the Council of Europe’s Antidiscrimination Department. Ms Astrid Thors, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Presidents of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ACFC) and of the Committee of Expert of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) will deliver conceptual key note speeches on challenges in the protection of minorities and their languages in Europe. The role of monitoring bodies will be addressed in a round table discussion. Participants from a number of countries and Finnish policy-makers will share their experiences of minority and minority language protection in Europe. This event is yet another example of increased efforts to enhance synergies not just between the Council of Europe "kin monitoring mechanisms" but also between key external partners working in the area of minority protection. The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) will be represented at this event by its President and Vice-President. Webpage of Åland Peace Institute: [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax)

** “50th meeting” European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)**
The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) will hold its 50th meeting at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg from 17-20 March 2015. To mark the occasion of this anniversary meeting, a commemorative event will take place on 17 March 2015 and will provide an opportunity to take stock of achievements and point the way forward in order to continue and improve the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages in Europe. It will allow those present to share their knowledge and experience and to identify trends and challenges. The impact of the Charter will be presented and illustrated by examples of good practice. One of the “founding fathers” of the Charter will give an “eyewitness account” of its conception. [Read more](file:///Y%3A%5CWeb%5C%3C%25%3DstrSitePath%25%3E%5CSource%5CPressReleases%5CPRCOMEX50th_en.pdf)

**21 February – International Mother Language Day**
Strasbourg, 21/2/15 - On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, the Council of Europe reiterates its commitment to protecting and promoting regional or minority languages as an integral part of European cultural heritage and diversity. The Council of Europe promotes a Europe based on tolerance, mutual understanding and dialogue, where all people can live together peacefully. Linguistic and cultural diversity are assets to European societies. The right to use one’s mother tongue is a basic human right. The use of the mother tongue is protected and promoted by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), the only legally-binding international treaty worldwide for traditionally used minority languages. [Read more...](file:///Y%3A%5CWeb%5C%3C%25%3DstrSitePath%25%3E%5CSource%5CPressReleases%5CPRIntlMotherLanguageDay21Feb2015.pdf)

**Committee of Ministers publishes report on minority languages in Sweden**
Strasbourg, 14.1.2015 **-** The Charter is the European convention for the protection and promotion of traditionally used minority languages and applies in Sweden to Sami, Finnish and Meänkieli. The [report](file:///Y%3A%5CWeb%5CReport%5CEvaluationReports%5CSwedenECRML5_en.pdf), drawn up by a committee of independent experts, which monitors the application of the Charter, acknowledges the high level of commitment and continued efforts of the Swedish authorities to protect and promote their regional and minority languages.  However, the level of protection varies according to municipalities. The regulations concerning both the Minority Act and the Education Act on mother tongue instruction should further be clarified with respect to what kind of support the municipalities are obligated to provide. Read more…

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe today issued a new evaluation report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Sweden. The report was drawn up by a committee of independent experts, which monitors the application of the Charter.

In its report, the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages acknowledges the high level of commitment and continued efforts of the Swedish authorities to protect and promote their regional and minority languages. Significant improvements have been made with regard to legislation, policy and monitoring. The basic right to use minority languages is now formally guaranteed by the Minority Act. Funding for the activities of minority language groups has been increased.

However, the level of protection varies according to municipalities. The regulations concerning both the Minority Act and the Education Act on mother tongue instruction should further be clarified with respect to what kind of support the municipalities are obligated to provide.

On the basis of this report, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted [recommendations](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/Web/Report/Recommendations/SwedenCMRec5_en.pdf)  encouraging the Swedish government to ensure that ”mother tongue” education meets the requirements of the Charter and offers adequate language tuition, enabling pupils to achieve mature literacy in the languages concerned.

The Swedish authorities are also called upon to take measures to increase the amount of bilingual education available in Finnish and Sami, and to establish bilingual education in Meänkieli. Furthermore, the Swedish authorities are encouraged to develop a dedicated and properly resourced system of teacher training and to produce teaching and learning materials for all national minority languages.

The 2015 evaluation report is the 5th report on Sweden adopted by the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Previous reports were issued in 2011, 2008, 2006 and 2002.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is the Council of Europe convention for the protection and promotion of traditionally used minority languages. It entered into force in Sweden in June 2000.

1. According to the definition in Article 1 (a) of the Charter, the concept “‘regional or minority languages’ means languages that are i. 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 ii. different from the official language(s) of that State. It does not include either dialects of the official language(s) of the State or the languages of migrants”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See also European Commission: The Euromosaic study, http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/euromosaic/doc4681\_en.htm. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. In 2014 and 2015, the Alsace region, the Lower Alsace and Upper Alsace departements and several Alsatian cities and municipalities adopted local versions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages that all contain the following definition of the regional language: « Par l’expression « langue régionale », on entend la langue allemande dans ses formes dialectales (dialectes alémaniques et franciques parlés en Alsace et en Moselle) et dans sa forme standard (Hochdeutsch). » / „Im Sinne dieser Charta bezeichnet der Ausdruck „Regionalsprache“ die deutsche Sprache in ihren Mundartformen (die in Elsass-Lothringen gesprochenen alemannischen und fränkischen Mundarten) und in ihrer Standardform (Hochdeutsch).“ (Charte de la Région Alsace, du Département du Bas-Rhin et du Département du Haut-Rhin pour la promotion de la langue régionale sur la base de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires du 19 juin 2014, article 1 / Charta der Region Elsass, des Departements Unterelsass und des Departements Oberelsass zur Förderung der Regionalsprache auf der Grundlage der Europäischen Charta der Regional- oder Minderheitensprachen vom 19. Juni 2014, Artikel 1. See also Bulletin officiel[B.O.]hors-série n° 2, 19 June 2003. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Recommendation CM/RecChL(2015)2 on the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Croatia (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 April 2015 at the 1225th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. CM/RecChl2013(1) concerning the Czech Republic, CM/RecChl2013(3) concerning Serbia, CM/RecChl2013(6) concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina, CM/RecChl2014(1) concerning Ukraine. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. As a recent example, the Danish/German place name sign of the city of Haderslev/Hadersleben (Denmark) was destroyed through vandalism on 26 April 2015. The local authorities, which had placed the sign in conformity with a recommendation of the Committee of Experts (ECRML(2014)9), after the incident decided not to put the sign in place again. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)