

BUNDESKANZLERAMT  ÖSTERREICH

**Second Report
by the Republic of Austria**

**pursuant to Art. 15, paragraph 1
of the European Charter for
Regional or Minority Languages**

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INTRODUCTION

On 5 November 1992, Austria signed the “European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages“, drawn up by the Council of Europe. However, the “Charter” only became effective under international law on 1 March 1998, after the fifth State had ratified it. As far as Austria is concerned, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages went into force on 1 October 2001. The first monitoring cycle was completed when the Recommendations of the Ministerial Committee were adopted on 19 January 2005.

The purpose of the Charter is to protect and to promote the European regional and minority languages as part of Europe’s cultural heritage. The Charter only covers languages that are traditionally used within a given territory of a State by members of a national minority. The Charter does not include dialects of the official language(s) of a State or the languages of migrants.

In its ratification pursuant to Part II, Austria listed all six minority languages, which are thus regarded as being protected in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Charter. For the purposes of Part III of the Charter (i.e. that Part which requires compliance with a minimum of 35 criteria), Burgenland-Croatian (as spoken in the Burgenland-Croatian language territory in Burgenland, Slovene (as spoken in the Slovene language territory in Carinthia) and Hungarian (as spoken in the Hungarian language territory in Burgenland) were indicated. In addition, Austria has been able to comply with many criteria from Part II of the Charter (although not the minimum of 35 criteria) for the Czech language (as spoken in the federal province of Vienna), the Slovak language (as spoken in the federal province of Vienna), the Romany language (as spoken in the federal province of Burgenland), the Slovene language (as spoken in the federal province of Styria) and the Hungarian language (as spoken in the federal province of Vienna).

The Burgenland-Croatian language is regarded as falling under terms of Part II of the Charter for the region of Vienna, but does not meet any additional criteria, as Vienna

never constituted an autochthonous settlement area for the Burgenland-Croatian language.

Austria now – in November 2007 – submits its Second Report to the Council of Europe and sincerely regrets the delay in presenting the Report.

Whenever the Report uses person-related designations only in the male form, they apply to women and men in the same manner.

1. General Situation and Framework Conditions

Austria regards the diversity of its population, of which the national minorities are a part, as enriching for society as a whole.

§ 1 (2) of the National Minorities Act defines national minorities as “the groups of Austrian citizens with another language than German as a mother tongue and their own folklore tradition who live on and are natives of parts of the federal territory.”

The law therefore describes which groups meet these criteria and therefore constitute national minorities. The Ordinance on National Minority Advisory Councils specifies for which national minorities an advisory council is to be set up, namely:

- the Burgenland-Croatian national minority
- the Slovene national minority
- the Hungarian national minority
- the Czech national minority
- the Slovak national minority
- the Roma national minority

In the meantime, the expression “*Volksgruppe*” (= “population segment” → national minority) has become largely accepted and can also be frequently found in international contexts. It was chosen in 1976 mainly because of the reason that an often discriminating shade of meaning was to be avoided that attaches to the expression “*Minderheit*” (= minority), which was commonly used up to that time. Although the State Treaty of St. Germain, State Law Gazette No. 303/1920 (Article

62 and following) and the State Treaty reconstituting an independent and democratic Austria, Federal Law Gazette No. 152/1955 (Article 7, State Treaty of Vienna) introduced and/or used repeatedly that concept, the present report uses the term “Volksgruppe” (in the German version, standing for “national minority”), which is in line with Austrian legal terminology. Of course, replacing an expression that appears to be outdated, by a modern, more common expression does not change any of the aforementioned obligations of Austria under international law.

The National Minorities Act only applies to the autochthonous minorities. As was mentioned before, the Slovene national minority in Carinthia and Styria, the Croatian national minority in Burgenland and in Vienna, the Hungarian national minority in Burgenland and in Vienna, the Czech national minority and the Slovak national minority in Vienna, as well as the national minority of the Roma in Burgenland have been accepted as national minorities, as defined by the National Minorities Act.

According to the provisions of the National Minorities Act, in connection with the ordinances on their implementation, indications and signs of a topographical nature, which are put up by public authorities, must be produced in two languages in certain areas. In addition, people are entitled to use the language of their national minority as an official language before certain authorities and service units. Moreover, the National Minorities Act stipulates that national minority advisory councils shall be set up and that the national minorities shall be promoted. With regard to the Slovene national minority in Carinthia and Styria and the Croatian national minority in Burgenland, the right to bilingual instruction, official language and bilingual topographical indications has also been laid down in Article 7 of the State Treaty of Vienna.

Most autochthonous national minorities and/or their members have become very well integrated into the majority population. However, the national minorities that are traditionally native to Austria are faced with the problems of a shrinking number of members, as well as over-ageing. The trend towards assimilation is reinforced by the following circumstances: the small size of the national minorities in terms of absolute numbers; the fact that they partly live in scattered settlement areas; the decrease in agrarian lifestyle and thus the increase in mobility and a mostly German-speaking

working environment; mixed marriages. Austria therefore supports the national minorities in their efforts to maintain their cultures and languages by means of promotional measures in the fields of the minority languages, the minority cultures and the national minority media, as well as by improving the bilingual educational system. In addition, the achievements of the churches (led by the Catholic Church, and in case of the Hungarian national minority also the Protestant Churches, i.e. AB = Augsburg denomination and HB = Helvetian denomination) are of great historical and current importance in connection with maintaining and strengthening the national minorities.

The structures of the national minorities are mainly supported by the organizations of the national minorities, which are established on the basis of the statutory regulations for associations, partly by the churches. The organizations of the national minorities are associations which serve to maintain and secure the respective national minority, its special customs and folklore, as well as its special characteristics and rights. Foundations and funds under private law, which serve this purpose, are also organizations of the national minorities. In practice, though, they hardly play any role. Organizations of the national minorities are eligible to receive money from the budget earmarked to promote the national minorities. To the extent that projects are promoted that are specific of a national minority, the organizations of the national minorities are on the same level as the churches and the religious denominations (see § 9 of the National Minorities Act).

2. The Minority Languages Spoken in Austria:

The following minority languages are spoken in the autochthonous settlement areas:

- Burgenland-Croatian in Burgenland
- Slovene in Carinthia and Styria
- Hungarian in Vienna and Burgenland
- Czech in Vienna
- Slovak in Vienna
- Romany in Burgenland

A brief presentation is given below of the history and social situation of the national minorities speaking the aforementioned languages:

2.1. The Croatian National Minority:

More than 450 years ago, Croats settled in what was then Western Hungary (and today comprises Burgenland, the border region of Western Hungary, parts of Lower Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic). After 1848 the development of a Croat sense of identity became apparent. The fact that many people in Burgenland commute to Vienna every day or every week, a development which started as early as between the two World Wars, and the exodus from these areas have encouraged assimilation tendencies among many Croats. In order to counteract the danger of losing their Croat identity in a city as big as Vienna, the "Croatian-Burgenland Cultural Association in Vienna" (Kroatisch-Burgenländischer Kulturverein in Wien) was established in 1934, and – later on – the "Croatian Club of University Graduates" (Kroatischer Akademikerklub), which has its registered office in Vienna. It was at a very early stage that the Burgenland-Croats embarked on the road to integration and did so in every respect, be it in the social, economic, professional or political field. This enabled them to implement many measures required for maintaining and cultivating their language and culture. Since the seventies, a growing number of Burgenland-Croats, in particular young students, have become aware of their own identity, and since the eighties, this has gradually and considerably improved their linguistic and cultural situation and has led to a strengthening of their identity.

Today, Burgenland-Croats live in about 50 municipalities in Burgenland. According to the group's own estimates, the minority population numbers about 30,000. The settlements are scattered as language islands all over the entire federal province. There is no closed settlement area. In addition, some 12,000 Burgenland-Croats (own estimates) live in Vienna.

During the last decade, numerous scientific studies were made on the situation of the Burgenland-Croat population. Below, the most important results of these studies are summarized briefly:

- In their age structure, the Burgenland Croats are clearly older than the rest of the population (on average by 8 years) – the reason is mainly that the younger generation no longer learns the Croatian language.
- For the Burgenland Croats the most important characteristic of their identity is the language.
- The younger the interviewees, the stronger the appreciation for bilingualism and thus of the Croatian language.
- In the course of the last three generations, a dramatic loss of language competence within the family has appeared – only 27% of the parents who themselves were raised bilingually use the Croatian language when speaking to their own children.
- Burgenland Croats have an extremely strong “need for harmony” and – with an overwhelming majority (82%) – consider their relations to the rest of the population as “without any problems and harmonious”.

Opinions about the effect of bilingual municipal signs are divided within the national minority: 47% think that it is “important” to put up bilingual topographical signs, “as otherwise the identity of the Croats would not be acknowledged”; 46% think that this is not the case. The experience in life with being bilingual is positive – 48% of the commuters indicate that their bilingualism has helped them in their occupational career; only 2% think that it was an obstacle. 50% state that their bilingualism had “no influence”. Almost two thirds think that “it is once again modern to use the Croatian language when speaking to their children”. About one fifth of the Burgenland Croats think that “the Croatian language is a language for old people”. This opinion is particularly widespread in the south of Burgenland. The view is widespread that bilingual children have fewer difficulties in learning at school – 68% of the Burgenland Croats shares this view. 50% of the interviewees wish that their own children be taught in Croatian.

2.2. The Slovene National Minority:

Around 1,400 years ago, Slovenes (at first referred to as Alpine Slovenes) settled, inter alia, in the regions of Carinthia and Styria; however, as a result of the immigration and settlement of farmers from Bavaria and Franconia, which was supported from the 9th century onwards by East-Franconian rulers, more and more

Slovenes had to retreat to south and south-east Carinthia and to the lower part of Styria in the Middle Ages, in the course of mutual assimilation processes.

In the 15th century, a language boundary was thus established in Carinthia running along the line of Hermagor – Villach – Maria Saal – Diex – Lavamünd; it largely remained in place until the mid-19th century. The nationalist tendencies, which in the mid-19th century also became apparent in Carinthia, created the basis for conflicts with ethnic motivation. The development of tourism, industry and trade in the second half of the 19th century fostered the use of the German language and enhanced the assimilation process. Increasingly closer contacts between the Slovenes in Carinthia and Slovenes in Carniola and other crown lands also contributed to an increased ethno-political segregation. With the breakdown of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the question of assigning nationality and of re-defining the boundaries of Carinthia became topical issues. The Treaty of Saint-Germain stipulated that two Carinthian regions settled exclusively (Seeland) or largely (Mieß Valley) by Slovenes, be ceded to Yugoslavia, on the one hand; it also called for a plebiscite to be held for determining the main issue, namely whether South Carinthia should be part of Austria or Yugoslavia, on the other hand. The result of the plebiscite, held on 10 October 1920, showed a 59% vote for Austria, meaning that the territorial unity of Carinthia was essentially preserved. Prior to the plebiscite, the Provisional Regional Assembly of Carinthia, in a resolution adopted on 28 September 1920, had appealed to the Carinthian Slovenes, *inter alia*, committing itself to "maintaining the linguistic and national identity of the fellow Slovene nationals now and at all times, as well as showing the same care in promoting their intellectual and economic prosperity as applied to the country's German inhabitants". According to estimates, approximately 12,000 Slovenes voted for Austria in the plebiscite.

In consequence, Austria's minority policy focused on Slovene issues in Carinthia. Complaints were also submitted to the League of Nations. Several years of negotiations in the second half of the 1920s, which aimed at creating cultural autonomy for the Carinthian Slovenes, which implied, *inter alia*, a declaration of one's affiliation to the "Slovene community" (as a "community of a public-law nature") through an entry into the "Book of the Slovene People" (*slowenisches Volksbuch*),

did not bring any positive results. During the Nazi period, the Slovenes were persecuted, and from 1942 onwards many were forced to re-locate.

During the post-war period, a broad ideological and political gap within the national minority soon became apparent, which was due, *inter alia*, to the conflict between Catholicism and Communism and to the territorial claims that were repeatedly raised by Yugoslavia in respect of southern Carinthia until 1949, whereby the existence of the Slovene minority was used as a justification. The latter issue was not finally resolved until the State Treaty of 1955. Efforts aimed at implementing and extending the rights of minorities and their protection, as enshrined in Article 7 of the State Treaty of 1955, as well as at interpreting this provision have repeatedly been a topic on the political agenda. Although it clearly emanates from the wording of the Treaty that these rights do not only relate to the Slovenes in Carinthia, but to "the Slovene and Croat minorities in Carinthia, Burgenland and Styria", disputes of a more spectacular nature (due to the differing opinions about Article 7) have so far been confined to the Carinthian region. Here, one should mention, in particular, the school strike of 1958 against the hitherto - since 1945 - compulsory bilingual instruction, the so-called municipal-signs conflict (*Ortstafelstreit*) of 1972 and the protests against the secret mother-tongue survey of 1976. The deeper historical roots of the greater conflict potential lie - no doubt – mainly in the historical territorial disputes outlined above.

There are very different estimates concerning the number of person belonging to the Slovene national minority in Austria. At the last census in 2001, a total of 17,953 persons of Austrian nationality indicated that Slovene was the language which they used in everyday life. The reasons why these census results lack accuracy will be discussed at a later point. It should be mentioned here, though, that scientific investigations concerning the "Slovene-language skills", which were conducted in the political districts of Carinthia several years ago, arrived at the conclusion that approximately 59,000 persons, aged 15 and more, have Slovene-language skills. However, this does not mean that all these persons actually belong to the Slovene minority. According to estimates made by the Slovene organizations, approximately 50,000 Slovene-speaking persons live in Austria.

Members of the Slovene national minority also live in Styria (see Austrian comments in connection with Part II of the Charter).

As early as the beginning of the Middle Ages, there was a Slovene population on the territory of today's federal province of Styria. It lived in peace with its German-speaking neighbors. Both on this side of the border and on the other side of today's southern border of Styria, the Slovene population belonged mainly to the rural population, whereas the middle classes in the towns and marketplaces were primarily German-speaking.

On 1 December 1918, the "Kingdom of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia" was solemnly proclaimed in Belgrade. Already on 1 November Major Rudolf Maister had taken over the powers of command in the town of Marburg/Maribor. Then, his troops advanced northwards and occupied the bilingual region within a few weeks, including also several German-speaking municipalities to its north (such as, for example, Mureck). The army engaged in heavy fighting around the border municipalities of Soboth, Leutschach, Spielfeld, Radkersburg and the surrounding municipalities. These events left deep marks in the persons concerned and made life together difficult for many decades. After the South Slavic troops had withdrawn, there was not only persecution of those persons who had supported the occupiers, but the distrust against all persons of Slovene mother tongue also grew.

On 10 September 1919, the new boundaries of the national territory were laid down in the State Treaty of St. Germain between Austria and the former wartime opponents of the collapsed monarchy. The southern boundary of Styria with the newly founded South Slavic state (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia) was drawn in such a way that parts of the bilingual region (such as, for example, Windisch Bühel – south of Mureck – and Abstaller Feld) became part of Yugoslavia, whereas others (the areas around Soboth, Leutschach and Radkersburg) became part of Austria. When the border line was drawn, personal and economic relations were ruptured. As a result of the border line many – both Austrian and Slovene – places lost their back country, which accelerated the exodus movement.

After 1945, too, the old fears and suppression patterns were – regrettably – resumed. When the German-speaking population was expelled from lower Styria and Yugoslavia claimed territory from Austria, these anxieties were further kindled. The bilingual population was thus in a dual predicament: Persons admitting that Slovene was their mother tongue were readily suspected of being close, in ideological terms, to Communist Yugoslavia. In addition, the bilingual population lost its cross-border contacts more than ever before. Moreover, the economic situation of the bilingual population also deteriorated in the cut-off border location. There was therefore a massive exodus which, in turn, further decreased the bilingual population.

In 1988, the “Article VII Cultural Association for Styria” (Artikel VII Kulturverein für Steiermark / Društvo člen 7 za avstrijsko) was founded. The association makes every effort to implement the rights laid down in the State Treaty for the benefit of the Slovene national minority in Styria. It regards its cultural center at Laafeld near Radkersburg as a place of encounter between Slovenes and Austrians, on the one hand, as well as a cultural center for the local monolingual and multi-lingual population.

Since January 2004, a representative of the Slovene population in Styria belongs to the National Minority Advisory Council for the Slovene national minority.

2.3. The Hungarian National Minority:

The predecessors of today's Hungarian national minority were early settlers whose task was to protect the western border for the Hungarian kings. So-called settlements of border guards still exist along the Hungarian border; place names such as “Oberwart” and “Siget in der Wart” are reminders of their existence. In 1921, when Burgenland became part of Austria, the Burgenland-Hungarians became a national minority in Austria.

While the national minority was free to maintain contacts with Hungary during the period between the two wars, the situation changed after World War II. As with the Croats in Burgenland, the economic changes after 1945 led to an increased rural exodus, as well as to weekly commuting; there was also a general tendency to part-time farming or seeking industrial work. This social change - in the same way as the

Iron Curtain - called into question the established value of Hungarian as a mother tongue and led to a strong assimilation in language, which could only be counteracted through intensive private educational efforts. As today many of the 30- to 60-year-olds no longer have a command of Hungarian, the emphasis is rather on bilingual work with children and juveniles. The fall of the Iron Curtain has had a very positive effect for the Hungarian population in Burgenland. The fact that it is now easier to be in contact with friends and relatives in Hungary has strengthened the awareness of Burgenland-Hungarians for their language.

The current settlement area comprises the regions of Oberwart (Oberwart, Unterwart, Siget in der Wart) and Oberpullendorf (Oberpullendorf, Mittelpullendorf). Burgenland-Hungarians also live in larger municipalities and towns such as Eisenstadt or Frauenkirchen, etc. Moreover, Hungarian families have lived in Graz and Vienna already for many centuries.

The fact that today much larger numbers of Hungarians live in Vienna than in Burgenland is partly due to the three big waves of emigrants and refugees from Hungary in 1945, 1948 and 1956. After the fall of the "Iron Curtain" the inflow of Hungarians increased and still continues. This must also be seen in the context of Hungary's accession to the European Union. At the 1991 census, 19,638 Austrian nationals indicated that Hungarian is their everyday language. At the 2001 census the figure was 25,884, of which 16,319 persons had been born outside of Austria.

In 1992, Vienna was also recognized as an autochthonous settlement area of the Hungarian minority. Hungarian-language organizations indicate that, according to their own estimates, approximately 20,000 to 30,000 Hungarians live in Austria.

2.4. The Czech National Minority

Since the days when King Přemysl Otakar ruled the country, Czechs have settled in Vienna. Towards the end of the 18th century, the waves of immigration ultimately became so dramatic that proclamations were also published in Czech in the suburbs of Vienna. The immigration wave reached its climax between 1880 and 1890, when more than 200,000 Czechs, in particular workers and craftsmen, came to Vienna. The majority of the Czech associations still in existence today were founded between 1860 and 1890. The Czech heyday in Vienna was certainly the period after the turn of the century. At that time, Vienna was also the second-largest Czech city in the

world, its Czech population being outnumbered only by that of Prague. Despite strong political resistance, the first independent Czech schools were established during that period. Thanks to the great variety of Czech industries, crafts, associations, banks, newspapers and the political parties, as well as to the extensive social activities pursued by numerous associations, it was possible in those days to use the Czech language almost exclusively for most aspects of everyday life.

Two big waves of repatriation after the two world wars reduced the number of Czechs in Vienna by 50% each. Their numbers declined further until 1968, when the figure reached its lowest point. As a result of the situation in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and 1969, many Czechs came to settle in Vienna. The Czech language community increased again after the quelling of the "Prague Spring" of 1968/69 when 10,000 Czechoslovak citizens applied for political asylum in Austria.

Since 1945, the situation of the Czech population in Vienna has been characterized by a strong dependence on the political situation in former Czechoslovakia, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, by the fact that they have developed a certain independence, which was also encouraged by the existence of the "Iron Curtain". The problem in the 1950s was that the minority was divided, one group maintaining official contacts with the former Czechoslovakia and another, larger group refusing to maintain Communist contacts. It was not until the 1990s that the two groups were reunited and agreed on the establishment of a common advisory council for the entire Czech national minority at the Federal Chancellery. This step paved the way for a certain internal correction of the image within the group, which especially encouraged the involvement of younger members of the Czech minority and led to a number of innovations.

As a result of the political changes in the ČSSR in November 1989, closer contacts were established again between the Czech population in Vienna and in the Czech Republic.

In the wake of the political changes in the CSSR in November 1989, the Czech population living in Vienna and that of the Czech Republic once again developed closer relations. The Czech national minority in Vienna, which has approximately

20,000 members, has gained further importance, on account of the opening to the east. At the last census in 2001, 11,035 inhabitants of Vienna indicated that they use Czech in everyday life. Estimates today fluctuate between 15,000 and 20,000 persons.

2.5. The Slovak National Minority:

The Slovak population in Austria is a small national minority that has lived in this country for quite a long time. From the 5th to the 9th centuries, the eastern regions of Lower Austria were part of the first state entities of early Slovaks. Linguistic and ethnographic analyses indicate that there has been a continuous Slovak settlement in these regions to this day. Approximately 25% of the Slovak minority lives in Lower Austria. The largest part of the Slovak national minority (about two thirds) lives in Vienna. Slovaks live in all districts of the town. There are, however, no agglomerations and no compact Slovak-language islands. The remaining members of the Slovak-speaking national minority are dispersed throughout Austria, most of them living in Upper Austria and Styria.

Around 1900, the number of Slovaks in Austria reached its highest point (approximately 70,000), with most of them living in Vienna and the Marchfeld region. It rapidly declined thereafter to 20,000 around 1914 on what is today Austrian territory. After 1918, a number of Slovaks re-settled in newly founded Czechoslovakia. The 1923 census still indicated a population of 4,802 Slovaks in all of Austria. Ever since, their number has decreased. At the census conducted in Austria in the year 2001, 3,343 persons in all of Austria indicated that Slovak was their everyday language, of which 1,015 were Austrian nationals. Of the registered persons, 1,645 persons lived in Vienna and Lower Austria, of which 835 were Austrian nationals. Slovak organizations estimate the number of persons belonging to the Slovak national minority to amount to 5,000 to 10,000 persons.

A national minority advisory council along the law on national minorities was set up for the Slovak national minority on 21 July 1992, when the Ordinance on National Minority Advisory Councils (Federal Law Gazette No. 38/1977) was amended (Federal Law Gazette No. 148/1992). The council convened for the first time in 1993.

2.6. The National Minority of the Roma:

Five larger groups of Roma can be distinguished in Austria today. These are in the order of the length of their stay in the Central European, German-speaking area: Sinti, Burgenland Roma, Lovara, Kalderaš and Arlije. The table below outlines the history of their migration and the geographical parameters of these five groups.

	Sinti	Burgenland Roma	Lovara	Kalderash	Arlije
Country of emigration	South Germany Czech Republic	Hungary	Hungary Slovakia	Serbia	Macedonia Kosovo
Period of immigration	around 1900	from 15 th century onwards	second half of 19 th century. 1956	from the 1960s onwards	from the 1960s onwards
Settlement area	primarily towns	Burgenland (towns in eastern part of Austria)	primarily Vienna area	Vienna area	Vienna area

"Country of emigration" means the last host country or country in which they stayed before entering Austria. The table does not give precise figures. According to own estimates by members of the national minority, some 25,000 Roma live in Austria today. However, the numbers given by the various groups listed here differ to such an extent that any specific indications would be unreliable. It should be mentioned, though, that the number of Roma that have come Austria in search of work since the 60s – and who are mainly Austrian nationals today – is much higher by far than the number of autochthonous Burgenland, Sinti, Roma and Lovara.

The different length of their stay on what is now Austrian territory has also led to different socio-historical developments of the individual groups. While Roma migrant workers were only slightly or hardly at all affected by the Nazi genocide, the Burgenland Roma, Sinti and the Lovara are still suffering from this experience. The generation of their grandparents, who played a decisive role in shaping the cultural heritage and in passing it on to children and grandchildren, has been almost extinguished in the concentration camps. This has had, inter alia, the effect of destroying their social structure which is reflected, for example, in their large families,

and has dealt a heavy blow to these groups from which they have not yet fully recovered to this very day. In fact, they have been unable to recover, as the liberation of the few survivors did not put an end to their marginalization and discrimination. (One must mention in this context that a politically motivated individual killed four Roma at Oberwart on 4 February 1995. He was eventually sentenced with legal effect.) The fact that the Austrian public takes a positive attitude towards Roma is, inter alia, due to the fact that they have organized themselves following the "Commemoration Year of Austria's *Anschluss* to the Third Reich" in 1988. In fact, the first association of the Roma ethnic group took place in 1989. This was the Roma association of Oberwart, which was directly triggered by the dissatisfaction of young Roma who were denied access to public places and public events.

In 1988 the detainees of Lackenbach (the so-called "gypsy detention camp of Lackenbach") were given equal status with the other victims of the National-Socialist regime, as defined by the law providing assistance to Nazi victims (*Opferfürsorgegesetz*). During the last decades, public authorities – especially the school authorities – have engaged in major supporting measures in order to strengthen the feeling for their own value as the national minority of the Roma, on the one hand, and to support their integration into society, on the other hand.

In 1993, the legal requirements for setting up an advisory council for the national minority of the Roma were met; in fact, the council convened for the first time in 1995.

3. The Numerical Strength of the National Minorities:

The figures obtained at the most recent census, conducted in the year 2001, are indicated below in order to give a general overview of the numerical strength of the national minorities living in Austria. One must, however, clearly bear in mind that these statistics can only provide approximate values, as the Austrian census does not inquire about affiliation with a national minority, but about the language actually used in everyday life. Multiple indications are admissible. The number of persons using a specific language must, however, not be equated to the number of persons

belonging to a national minority. The national minorities themselves refuse to participate in statistical investigations that ask for a commitment to a national minority. The earlier possibility, contained in the National Minorities Act, i.e. to give a confidential indication of one's mother tongue, has now been abolished.

Austria's population according to everyday language and nationality – 2001 Census:

Everyday language	Total numbers for nationality		Place of birth			
	absolute	in % *	in Austria	in % *	abroad	in % *
Burgenland-Croatian	19,374	5.9	18,943	11.3	431	0.3
Romany	4,348	1.3	1,732	1.0	2,616	1.6
Slovak	3,343	1.0	1,172	0.7	2,171	1.3
Slovene	17,953	5.4	13,225	7.9	4,728	2.9
Czech	11,035	3.3	4,137	2.5	6,698	4.2
Hungarian	25,884	7.8	9,565	5.7	16,319	10.0
Windisch **	567	0.2	547	0.9	20	0.0

* Percentages refer to the total number of indications of a non-German everyday language

** A variety of the Slovene language, interspersed with German vocabulary

Source: Statistik Austria

According to § 1 (3) of the National Minorities Act "the declaration that one belongs to a national minority is free" and no-one is obliged to "prove his/her affiliation to a national minority." If one also takes into account the fact that according to the legal definition of the term "national minority" (§ 1 (2) of the National Minorities Act), the relevant linguistic element is the mother tongue, and that in the national census conducted every ten years under the National Census Act, the relevant question is that of the language spoken in everyday life, it is obvious that there is currently no legal possibility of obtaining precise figures regarding the members of the national minorities. And since the term "everyday language" may give rise to different interpretations, census results can be no more than an indication of the numerical strength of a particular national minority. The entry into force of the law on register censuses does not result in any change either. However, it is decisive that on

account of the register census law a secret census regarding the mother tongue is no longer admissible, which the national minorities have always rejected.

Apart from regular census results, other indicators of the numerical strength of a national minority are the existence and/or the reach of local minority associations, the election results of groups (parties) and/or candidates addressing minority issues (especially at the local level), the dissemination of mass media in the minority language and certainly also the use of a minority language in church life. It is quite obvious that almost all of these indicators depend on a variety of factors that are not necessarily confined to national minorities and are thus, taken by themselves, not a reliable source either.

Registrations for bilingual instruction need to be analyzed before using these figures as an indication for the size of a national minority. It happens time and again that monolingual children attend bilingual classes, whereas children of national minority families for various reasons are not enrolled to attend such courses or do not register for them at all. In Burgenland, though, where teaching classes bilingually has been generally introduced in bilingual communities, the language spoken by pupils in everyday life is indicated in school statistics. It is, however, inadmissible, at any rate, to assign persons to an ethnic group.

The numerical strength of the Roma living in Austria is most difficult to indicate. However, it can be assumed that the results of the census on the question of everyday language is too low, compared to the number of Roma actually living in this country. One may assume that several ten thousands of persons would have to be assigned to the Roma in ethnical terms. The greater part of the population is the result of recent migrations from eastern countries, who have settled outside the autochthonous settlement area in Burgenland and can mainly be found in Vienna and other big towns.

I. PART ONE:

I.1. The Legal Basis:

Merely for the sake of completeness, it is mentioned at the beginning that the members of the national minorities in Austria – being Austrian nationals – enjoy the same rights, especially political rights and fundamental rights, as all other nationals. In addition, the Austrian legal system comprises specific legal provisions that relate only to the national minorities.

I.1.1. Constitutional Provisions:

The following provisions relating to national minorities are of constitutional standing:

Article 8 (1) and (2) of the Federal Constitution Act:

- “1. The German language shall be the official language of the Republic, irrespective of any rights granted to the linguistic minorities by way of federal law.
2. The Republic (federal, regional and municipal authorities) is committed to its grown linguistic and cultural diversity which finds expression in the autochthonous national minorities. The language and culture, existence and maintenance of these national minorities shall be respected, secured and promoted.”

Articles 66 to 68 of the State Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye

of 10 September 1919, State Law Gazette No. 303/1920.

These provisions have constitutional standing in accordance with Article 149 (1) of the Federal Constitution Act.

In addition to a ban on discrimination, Article 66 of the cited law contains a provision on the free use of language: “No restrictions shall be imposed on Austrian nationals regarding the free use of any language in private or business transactions, in matters of religion, the press or of any kind of publications or public gatherings.”

Article 67 of the cited law guarantees the right of the national minorities “to establish charitable, religious or social institutions, schools and other educational facilities, as well as to operate and monitor them, with the right to use their own language and their religion freely and at their discretion in these institutions and facilities.”

Article 68 of the cited law provides, inter alia, that the national minorities shall also share in the financial means of the state, “for example for educational, religious or charitable purposes.”

Article 7 of the State Treaty for the Restoration of an Independent and Democratic Austria (State Treaty of Vienna)

Federal Law Gazette No. 152/1955; Article 7, items 2 to 4, has constitutional standing in accordance with Article II, item 3, of the amendment of the Federal Constitution Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 59/1964. It reads as follows:

“Article 7. Rights of the Slovene and Croatian minorities

1. Austrian nationals of the Slovene and Croatian minorities in Carinthia, Burgenland and Styria shall enjoy the same rights on the basis of the same conditions as they apply to all other Austrian nationals, including the right to have their own organizations, gatherings and a press in their own languages.

2. They shall have the right to receive elementary instruction in Slovene and Croatian and to have a proportionate number of their own secondary-level schools. In this connection, the curricula of schools shall be reviewed, and a department shall be set up with the school inspection authority for the Slovene and Croatian schools.

3. In the administrative and court districts of Carinthia, Burgenland and Styria with a Slovene, Croatian or mixed population, the Slovene or the Croatian languages are admitted as official languages, in addition to the German language. In those districts, the signs and indications of a topographical nature shall be produced both in the Slovene or Croatian languages, as well as in German.

4. Austrian nationals of the Slovene and Croatian minorities in Carinthia, Burgenland and Styria shall participate in the cultural, administrative and court institutions of these regions on the basis of the same conditions as they apply to other Austrian nationals.

5. The activities of organizations aiming at depriving the Croatian or Slovene population of their characteristics and rights as minorities shall be prohibited.”

Article I of the Minorities' School Act for Carinthia

Federal Law Gazette No. 101/1959 in the version of Federal Law Gazette I No. 76/2001

§ 1 of the Minorities' School Act for Burgenland

Federal Law Gazette No. 641/1994 in the version of Federal Law Gazette I No. 136/1998

Article 14 of the ECHR

It should be noted, in particular, that the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) has constitutional standing in Austria. Any alleged violation of one of the rights, granted by the Convention, can therefore be challenged directly before the Constitutional Court. Article 14 of the ECHR is of particular importance in this connection, as it ensures that the enjoyment of rights guaranteed by the ECHR shall be secured without any discrimination, especially with regard to language.

In its case law (file number VfSlg. 2459/1952 and others) the Constitutional Court holds the view that Article 19 of the Basic State Law on the General Rights of Citizens for the Kingdoms and Countries Represented in the Imperial Council (Imperial Law Gazette 1867/142) has been replaced by Articles 66 to 68 of the State Treaty of St. Germain, in conjunction with Article 8 of the Federal Constitution Act.

Article 19 of the Basic State Law reads: “(1) All ethnic entities of the State shall have equal rights, and every ethnic entity has the inviolable right to maintain and preserve its nationality and language. (2) The equal right of all languages customarily used in a country in schools, before authorities and in public life shall be recognized by the State.”

The concept of “ethnic entities” related to the peoples of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Since 1920, in the Republic, there are no longer ethnic entities, but minorities. There is therefore no scope for applying Article 19 of the Basic State Law.

I.1.2. Simple-Law Provisions and Ordinances

The following legal instruments were adopted as laws by simple majority or as ordinances:

National Minorities Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 396/1976 in the version of
Federal Law Gazette I No. 35/2002:

According to § 1 (2) of the National Minorities Act, national minorities are defined as “as the groups of Austrian citizens with another language than German as a mother tongue and their own folklore tradition who live on and are natives of parts of the federal territory”. Today, the Slovene national minority in Carinthia and Styria, the Croatian national minority in Burgenland, the Hungarian national minority in Burgenland and in Vienna, the Czech national minority in Vienna, the Slovak national minority in Vienna, as well as the Roma national minority in Burgenland are regarded as national minorities as defined by the National Minorities Act.

The federal law of 7 July 1976 on the legal status of national minorities in Austria (National Minorities Act) has, first of all, the function of a law that implements Article 7 of the State Treaty of Vienna (except for the legislative provisions on schools, which are incorporated in the minorities’ school laws for Burgenland and Carinthia), and, secondly, it created the legal basis for setting up the national minority advisory councils and the financial promotion of the national minorities; thirdly, the law is not restricted in its scope of application to the Croatian and the Slovene minorities, but on account of its definition of the term “national minority” it subsequently made it possible to apply the law to the Hungarian national minority, the Czech national minority, the Slovak national minority and the Roma national minority.

Minorities’ School Act for Carinthia, Federal Law Gazette No. 101/1959 in the version of Federal Law Gazette I No. 76/2001.

Minorities’ School Act for Burgenland, Federal Law Gazette No. 641/1994 in the version of Federal Law Gazette I No. 136/1998.

Ordinances issued on the basis of the National Minorities Act:

- Ordinance of the Federal Government on national minority advisory councils, Federal Law Gazette No. 38/1977 in the version of Federal Law Gazette No. 895/1993

- Ordinance of the Federal Government determining the regional territories in which topographical signs and indications shall be affixed both in the German and the Slovene languages, Federal Law Gazette II No. 245/2006
- Ordinance of the Federal Government determining the courts, administrative authorities and other service units at which the Slovene language is admitted as an official language in addition to the German language, Federal Law Gazette No. 307/1977 in the version of Federal Law Gazette II No. 428/2000
- Ordinance of the Federal Government determining the courts, administrative authorities and other service units at which the Croatian language is admitted as an official language in addition to the German language, Federal Law Gazette No. 231/1990 in the version of Federal Law Gazette No. 6/1991
- Ordinance of the Federal Government determining the regional territories in which topographical signs and indications shall be affixed not only in the German but also in the Croatian or Hungarian languages, Federal Law Gazette II No. 170/2000
- Ordinance of the Federal Government determining the courts, administrative authorities and other service units at which the Hungarian language is admitted as an official language in addition to the German language, Federal law Gazette II No. 229/2000 in the version of Federal Law Gazette II No. 335/2000
- Ordinance of the Federal Government determining the regional territories in which topographical signs and indications shall be affixed both in the German and Slovene languages, Federal Law Gazette II No. 263/2006 (has not entered into force to date).

A national minority advisory council has been set up at the Federal Chancellery for each of the six autochthonous national minorities. The task of the advisory councils is to advise the Federal Government and the Federal Ministers in matters relating to the national minorities. They must maintain and represent all cultural, social and economic interests of their national minority and, in particular, they shall be heard prior to the adoption of legal provisions and on general plans in the field of promotion. They can submit proposals for the improvement of the situation of the national minorities and their members. In particular, the national minority advisory councils

shall also make recommendations on the distribution of the funds from the budget for the promotion of the national minorities (see Chapter II of the National Minorities Act).

In keeping with the provisions of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with the implementing ordinances, indications and signs of a topographical nature, which are affixed by public authorities in certain areas, shall be produced in two languages, and there is the right to use the language of the national minority as an official language before certain authorities.

I.1.3. Case Law

The following decisions by the highest courts in the country give an overview of the present case law:

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 9 March, file number G 2-4/00-7:

In this decision, the Constitutional Court stated that “elementary instruction”, as mentioned in Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna, which has constitutional standing, is meant to refer to the first four grades of schools. Classes must therefore be taught in two languages in the schools of relevance in this connection. The Constitutional Court explained in its decision that elementary instruction in the Slovene language is no longer ensured if Slovene is taught only as a compulsory subject – like any other foreign language – whereas the other subjects are taught only in German.

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 4 October 2000, file number V 91/99-11:

In this decision, the Constitutional Court stated in connection with the use of the Slovene language as an official language that an administrative district, as defined by Article 7, item 3, of the State Treaty of Vienna, which has constitutional standing, is also meant to refer to a municipality. In the reasons explaining the decisions it is stated that an administrative district with a “mixed population”, as defined in Article 7, item 3, of the State Treaty of Vienna, certainly relates to a municipality coming under the purview of this provision if the share of the Slovene-speaking population in the

total population amounts to 10.4% - as is the case with the municipality of Eberndorf, which gave rise to the present court case.

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 13 December 2001, file numbers G 213/01-18, V 62, 63/01-08:

(With regard to topographical indications and signs), municipalities are also considered as “administrative districts with a mixed population”, as defined in Article 7, item 3, of the State Treaty of Vienna. In the reasons which the Constitutional Court gave for its decision, the court stated that a municipality (as is the case with the municipality of St. Kanzian am Klopeiner See which gave rise to the present court case) is an “administrative district with a mixed population” whenever – seen over a longer period of time – the percentage of the minority population has been more than 10%.

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 27 June 2002, file number B 1230/01:

In this decision, the Constitutional Court dealt with the question whether an autonomous bilingual primary school can be transformed into an autonomous school branch of a merely German-speaking primary school. The Constitutional Court stated that there is compliance with Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna if a/any bilingual primary school exists in a bilingual municipality for the pupils belonging to that school district. The organizational structure according to school law does not matter in this connection.

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 9 October 2004, file number B 9/03:

In the reasons given for this decision the Constitutional Court explained that the State Treaty of Vienna shall only be applied directly – also as a yardstick in review proceedings for laws and ordinances – if there are no implementing provisions stipulated as simple laws.

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 14 December 2004, file number V 131/03:

With its decision the Constitutional Court dismissed an individual application by members of the Slovene minority in Carinthia, as the members of the minority group did not have the subjective right to submit the application for topographical signs in two languages.

The second sentence of Article 7, item 3, of the State Treaty of Vienna, which has constitutional standing, only contains an obligation under international law of the Republic of Austria and/or an “order” to its bodies “to produce” topographical signs and indications in the manner thus required. However, one cannot derive a right of individual persons from the second sentence of Article 7, item 3, of the State Treaty of Vienna – for lack of a sufficiently individualized interest of the party in compliance with this objective constitutional stipulation (similar decisions were taken by the Constitutional Court on 10 October 1984, file number B 629/78, and on 9 October 1004, file number B 9/03).

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 12 December 2005, file number V 64/05 and Decision of the Constitutional Court of 26 June 2006, file number V 20/06:

In these decisions the Constitutional confirmed its earlier rulings, as they are expressed in the decision of 13 December 2001. In the latter decision the court specified that a municipality may also lose its character as a “mixed-language administrative district” if – as in the case in question – the Slovene-speaking part of the residential population was below 10% at the most recent two censuses and if there is a downward trend.

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 13 December 2006, file number V 81/06-14:

When giving the reasons for this decision, which repealed various text passages in an ordinance of the road police, the Constitutional Court stated that it is unlawful to affix the Slovene-language topographical name on a (smaller) separate sign. In places where the topographical signs and indications must be produced and/or affixed both in the Slovene and the German language, the provisions of the road traffic code require that both the German and the Slovene name of the place must be given on the road sign “topographical indication” and/or “end of topographical indication” and not on a separate sign.

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 13 December 2006, file number V 54/06 and others:

The Constitutional Court established that the ordinance of the Federal Government dated 31 May 1977 concerning provisions on sections of regions in which

topographical signs must be affixed in both the German and Slovene language, Federal Law Gazette No. 306/1977 in the version of Federal Law Gazette II No. 37/2002, is unlawful, as it more or less excludes the affixing of bilingual topographical indications in municipalities located in other political districts than the ones mentioned in the ordinance and/or for other municipalities than the ones mentioned for the political district of the larger Klagenfurt area (Klagenfurt-Land).

I.2. Statutory Organizations of the National Minorities:

In accordance with § 3 of the National Minorities Act, advisory councils shall be established for the different national minorities within the Federal Chancellery which shall advise the Federal Government and the Federal Ministers in matters concerning the national minorities. Their task is to maintain and to represent all cultural, social and economic interests.

An advisory council has been set up for each national minority. Any correspondence with an advisory council may be addressed to the administrative office of the advisory councils: Advisory Council for the Respective National Minority, Administrative Office, Federal Chancellery, Department V/6, Ballhausplatz 2, A-1014 Vienna.

I.3. Measures in accordance with Article 6 of the Charter:

First, the Charter in question – being a state treaty according to Article 50 of the Federal Constitution Act – was published in the Federal Law Gazette. It can also be accessed on the web site of the Austrian Federal Chancellery, together with comments, at <http://www.bka.gv.at/site/3517/default.aspx>. Moreover, during the ratification process, the Charter was presented to the advisory councils of the national minorities. In addition, the Charter was also the subject of a consultation procedure. For this purpose, the Charter was brought to the attention of all bodies that might be affected by it.

The First Report and the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, dated 19 January 2005, were also published on the web site of the Federal Chancellery.

I.4. Measures pursuant to the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of 19 January 2005:

In connection with Austria's First Report, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recommended on 19 January 2005 that the following points, which are summarized below, be addressed with priority:

- adopt a structural policy for the protection and promotion of the languages indicated by Austria in the course of ratification, and to create conditions for their use in public life;
- ensure that the ruling of the Constitutional Court concerning Slovene as an official language is implemented without delay;
- ensure that bilingual teaching takes place in practice in all relevant schools in Burgenland;
- ensure that changes in the status of schools or in the rules regarding the appointment of school staff in the Slovene-language area do not negatively affect Slovene-language school education in Carinthia;
- ensure that the Burgenland-Croatian, Slovene and Hungarian languages can actually be used before the relevant judicial and administrative authorities;
- increase radio broadcasting in the Burgenland-Croatian and Hungarian languages and television broadcasting in Burgenland-Croatian, Slovene and Hungarian languages.

The relevant passages in the Program of the Federal Government for the 23rd Legislative Period (2007 – 2010) are cited at first, which read as follows:

- In the chapter on "Constitutional and Administrative Reform" the following was laid down: "The increased linguistic and cultural diversity of Austria is reflected in the autochthonous ethnic groups. Laws relating to the ethnic groups shall therefore be an important element in the Constitution, and at the same time their scope shall be

extended to promote inter-cultural dialogue in accordance with the Convention of the Council of Europe. The regulation of the implementation of decisions relating to municipal signs made by the Constitutional Court shall be constitutionally safeguarded with the maximum possible consensus from the ethnic groups, on the basis of existing proposals. ... This regulation will be implemented by the summer of 2007.”

- The chapter on “Constitutional and Administrative Reform” continues: “Efforts shall be made to incorporate a catalogue of the fundamental principles and the fundamental aims of state policy at the beginning of the Constitution.” In this connection, as well as in the context of national minorities, special reference is made to Article 8 (2) of the Federal Constitution Act, which already contains a stipulation on the fundamental aims of state policy.
- The chapter on “Education, Science” also addresses topics of relevance to the national minorities. Whenever expert groups eventually discuss these topics in connection with pre-school educational programs, attention will have to be paid, so as to include the representatives of the national minorities in these deliberations.
- The chapter on “Media, Art, Culture, and Sport” emphasizes the promotion of a cultural diversity. This means that when allocating promotional funding to the national minorities, inter alia, special attention must be paid to the cited “inter-cultural dialogue” and that the specific concerns of the national minorities must be taken into account in the cited political areas.
- The last-mentioned chapter of the Government Program also states that the science group will be assigned the task of dealing with the past in a more responsible manner. In this context, specific aspects of the national minorities will also have to be taken into account.

The efforts of Austria concerning the protection and promotion of the languages indicated when ratifying the European Charter for the Regional or Minority Languages have resulted in a large number of measures which are described in detail in the report under the different articles of the Charter.

With regard to the implementation of the so-called “official-language” decision of the Constitutional Court, it is pointed out that, according to the present legal situation there are linkages between the area of application of bilingual topographical signs and indications and the scope of application of an official language. On 4 July 2007 a government bill was submitted to the National Council (file number XXIII.GP-NR 263/A) concerning a federal law amending the National Minorities Act. The bill formulates the new regulations for bilingual topographical signs and indications. One will have to wait for the requisite decisions in the National Council, which will be of relevance for the aforementioned linkages to regulations on official language.

With regard to ensuring bilingual teaching in practice in all relevant schools in Burgenland, the following comments, in particular, are made: The curriculum of primary schools (primary-school classes), where the Croatian language or the Croatian and German languages are the languages of instruction, is governed by the educational and teaching obligations, as well as the teaching material and didactic principles for the compulsory subjects taught in primary schools. The provisions of the respective syllabus of a primary school (part seven) applies to the teaching of German, reading, mathematics, music education, art education, writing, manual-skills education and physical exercises, with the proviso that the teaching (except for German, reading and writing) must be offered in almost equal parts in the Croatian and German languages, in compliance with the previous knowledge obtained by the children.

The case law of the Constitutional Court, which is described in detail in the course of the report, ensures that changes in the status of schools or a change in the appointment regulations of school staff in the bilingual Slovene-language area do not negatively affect school education in the Slovene language in Carinthia.

By the same token, the internal organizational measures and steps taken by the authorities ensure that the Burgenland-Croatian, Slovene and Hungarian languages can actually be used before the relevant court and administrative authorities. Moreover, Article 7, item 3, of the State Treaty of Vienna apply directly in certain cases.

In connection with expanding radio broadcasts in the Burgenland-Croatian and Hungarian languages and television programs in the Burgenland-Croatian, Slovene and Hungarian languages, reference is made to proceedings in a complaint case, which are currently pending, concerning a violation of the obligation contained in § 5 of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation Act, which stipulates that commensurate parts of the broadcast programs must be produced in the languages of the national minorities. The decision in this matter will provide major clarification as to the factual and legal situation.

II. PART TWO: OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES PURSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 1

II.1. Recognition of Regional or Minority Languages (Article 7, paragraph 1(a)):

Compliance with this provision, as stipulated in the Austrian legal system, is documented through the notification of two Declarations by the Republic of Austria which relate to the scope of application of the Charter, as well as to the ratification of the Charter in the light of the Declarations.

II.2. Respect of the Geographical Area (Article 7, paragraph 1 (b)):

The Austrian administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the protection of the minority languages and can be considered as being at least “neutral” in this respect. Special promotional measures are also provided for specific languages such as, for example, defining specific school districts entitling pupils to bilingual teaching in the minorities’ school system. In this context, attention should also be drawn to the case law of the Constitutional Court (file number VfSlg. 9224/1981), according to which a re-definition of constituencies to the detriment of a minority is not compatible with the principle of equality.

II.3. Resolute Action to Promote Regional and Minority Languages (Article 7, paragraph 1 (c)):

Already before the entry into force of the Charter, the existing legislation on the protection of national minorities contained rights for the national minorities with regard to their promotion (see comments with regard to Part III of the Charter). Concrete (financial) support measures benefiting all the minority languages listed in Austria’s Declarations are enshrined, above all, in Article 8 and following of the National

Minorities Act. At present, the Federal Government pays out approximately EUR 3.8 million under the budget item “promotion of national minorities”.

With their financial funding, the Federal Government and the regional governments, as well as the municipalities make major contributions so that the members of the national minorities are in a position to preserve and further develop their cultural heritage.

II.3.1. Development of Funding by the Federal Chancellery for the Promotion of the National Minorities:

State funding, in particular, helps to maintain the cultural heritage and to further develop the culture. Since the entry into force of the National Minorities Act, the **financial assistance** provided by the Federal Chancellery **for the promotion of the national minorities** has developed as follows:

1977:	ATS 5 million
1978:	ATS 5 Million
1979:	ATS 5 Million
1980:	ATS 5 million
1981:	ATS 5 million
1982:	ATS 5 million
1983:	ATS 5 million
1984:	ATS 4.25 million
1985:	ATS 3.825 million
1986:	ATS 5 million
1987:	ATS 4.850 million
1988:	ATS 4.462 million
1989:	ATS 14.35 million

The considerable increase in the year 1989 is due to the fact that the Slovene National Minority Advisory Council was set up in that year.

1990:	ATS 20.35 million
1991:	ATS 24 million
1992:	ATS 34 million

The increase in promotional funding in the early nineties is due to the expansion of the National Minority Advisory Council for the Hungarian national minority by including the Hungarian population of Vienna, the setting up of the National Minority Advisory Council for the Slovak minority (constituting session in May 1993), the setting up of the

National Minority Advisory Council for the Croatian national minority (constituting session in August 1993) and the setting up of a National Minority Advisory Council for the Czech national minority (constituting session in May 1994).

1993: ATS 37.8 million
1994: ATS 39.8 million
1995: ATS 52.72 million

The originally budgeted amount of ATS 42.72, as contained in the 1994 government bill, was increased by ATS 10 million to ATS 52.72, on account of the fact that the Roma national minority, in particular, needed financial assistance in order to catch up. The Roma National Minority Advisory Council had its constituting session on 5 September 1995.

1996: ATS 52.72 million
1997: ATS 52.72 million
1998: ATS 52.72 million, plus an additional ATS 15 million which were used to promote radio programs for the national minorities.

1999: ATS 51.848 million, plus an additional ATS 15 million which were used to promote radio programs for the national minorities.

2000: ATS 51.848 million, plus an additional ATS 10 million were used to promote radio programs for the national minorities.

2001: EUR 3.768 million
2002: EUR 3.768 million
2003: EUR 3.768 million
2004: EUR 3.768 million
2005: EUR 3.768 million
2006: EUR 3.768 million
2007: EUR 3.768 million

Every year, the full amount of the annual promotional budget is spent. It should be mentioned that, in contrast to most other items for promotional funding in the budget, it has been possible to maintain the promotional funding for the national minorities essentially on the same level since 1995, without any budget cuts. It was only in the years 1998 to 2000 that the sum was increased, as the radio programs for the national minorities were promoted. This financial assistance was subsequently replaced by the options offered by the amended Austrian Public Broadcasting Act (Federal Law

Gazette I No. 83/2001), on account of the newly established program mandate in favor of the national minorities.

The organizations of the national minorities receive considerable financial support from the budget available for promotional funding in order to maintain the language and culture of the respective national minority. The general trend with national minorities is that of a difficult restructuring phase, in account of the fact that the population is decreasingly ready to join associations as active or passive members and that the national minorities are becoming increasingly over-aged. Without the availability of promotional funding for the national minorities, efforts would be much more difficult to achieve, namely to attach also the younger segment among the members of the national minorities on a lasting basis to the national minorities and thus to implement the objectives of the National Minorities Act, which are to maintain and preserve the national minorities. The organizations of the national minorities must set priorities and must offer an attractive cultural and language program. In most cases, they are able to accomplish this goal only by utilizing to the promotional funding for the national minorities.

Beyond the cultural aspect, the promotional funding for the national minorities is also deployed in a constructive manner, as it contributes towards raising the level of command of the languages of the national minorities. As almost all the languages of the national minorities are official languages of the European Union, members of the national minorities with a good level of education in their mother tongue are also a major potential for Austria as an economic and cultural location.

II.3.2. Criteria for the Distribution of Promotional Funding

Many factors need to be taken into account in order to fairly distribute the total amount of money among the six national minorities.

Increases in the budget for promotional funding, due to the fact that new national minority advisory councils were set up led, as a rule, to an increase in the funding for

those national minorities, for which national minority advisory councils had been set up for some time already.

The National Minorities Act defines the objective of promotion as “to maintain and secure the existence of the national minorities, their folklore, as well as their characteristics and rights.” The National Minorities Act does not provide for promotional funding to individual persons but to organizations of the national minorities which organize specific activities for their respective national minority. In consequence, this means that the amounts of funding in their relation to the different national minorities is not determined by a head count (to be determined in whatever form), but that the actual need for promotional funding for the specific activities of the respective national minorities, offered by the organizations of the national minorities, and the demand for these activities, are the decisive criteria. One reason why a distribution of the promotional funding according to quotas is difficult to achieve is the fact that it is difficult to establish the number of members of the national minorities, as the national census only inquired about the language used in everyday life, and as future national censuses according to the Register Calculation Act will no longer automatically inquire about the everyday language. It should also be mentioned that not all members of national minorities have the same interest in participating in the activities available to their respective national minority, as well as that the need of the national minorities for specific activities is determined by different political and social framework conditions. Furthermore, the national minorities have different additional possibilities to obtain funding from other sources.

It should be mentioned, last but not least, that in line with self-determination, every member of a national minority is free to become integrated into an organization of his/her national minority and to inquire about its activities, or to refrain from any active attachment to or participation in the organizations of the national minorities.

Just like all other promotional funding schemes, the promotion of the national minorities serves the general goal of facilitating the implementation of projects for which the financial means of the interested population segment would not be sufficient and which it would thus be impossible to implement without public funding. In the field of promoting the national minorities, this applies, by way of example, to research activities regarding the national minorities such as, for example, research into historical

sources, applied scientific studies on the learning of a second language, the codification of and teaching methods for the varieties of the Romany language spoken in Austria.

It is worth mentioning that the profiles of the needs of the six national minorities are surprisingly different. The Roma national minority, for example, has set other priorities, on account of the more difficult social and educational situation than national minorities that must mainly fight over-ageing and assimilation and search for attractive ways in which to create a sustainable interest among the younger segment of the national minority for the language and culture of the national minority.

On the occasion of several discussions on the political level with the chairpersons and the deputy chairpersons of the national minority advisory councils, it was pointed out expressly that – for reasons of budget consolidation – it would not be possible to increase the promotional funding for the national minorities. The chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of the national minority advisory councils were therefore asked to increasingly establish priorities and, accordingly, to submit recommendations for promotional funding to the Federal Chancellery in a weighted structure according to facts. The Federal Chancellery would consider a different approach to distributing the budget for promotional funding among the national minorities if a fact-based justification were submitted which, in particular, could be a joint proposal by the national minority advisory councils to this effect.

II.3.3. Statutory Basis for Providing the National Minorities with Promotional Funding

Chapter III of the Federal Law of 7 July 1976 on the Legal Status of the National Minorities in Austria, Federal Law Gazette 1976/396 (National Minorities Act), is the statutory basis for providing the national minorities with promotional funding. § 1 (2) of the National Minorities Act defines “national minorities in the meaning of the present federal law as the groups of Austrian citizens with another language than German as a mother tongue and their own folklore tradition who live on and are natives of parts of the federal territory”.

§ 8 of the National Minorities Act stipulates: “The Federal authorities shall promote – irrespective of general promotional measures – the measures and projects that serve to maintain and secure the existence of the national minorities, their folklore and traditions, as well as their characteristics and rights.”

According to § 9 (2) of the National Minorities Act “associations, foundations and funds that serve to maintain and secure a national minority, its specific folklore and tradition, as well as its characteristics and rights (organizations of the national minorities)”, as well as “churches and religious denominations, together with their institutions” – paragraph (3) - are eligible for receiving money from the budget available to promote the national minorities.

According to § 9 (5) of the National Minorities Act, territorial corporations may only receive financial funding under the National Minorities Act for such measures as are necessary to implement provisions on topographical signs and official languages and that exceed the economic capacities of the respective territorial corporation.

II.3.4. Process of Awarding Promotional Funding

At the beginning of every year, the Federal Chancellery sends out application forms to the organizations of the national minorities and/or, in analogy, the churches – to the extent that they are known to the Federal Chancellery as potential applicants for promotional funding. In addition, the Federal Chancellery publishes the application forms on its web site, indicating the deadline for applications. The purpose of the deadlines for applications is to allow the Federal Chancellery and the members of the respective national minority advisory councils to deal with the substance of the applications before the meetings of the national minority advisory councils in which they are called upon to issue their recommendations. Whenever organizations of the national minorities are not yet known to the Federal Chancellery, or were newly founded, evidence of the bylaws of the association is required when an application is submitted.

According to § 10 (2) of the National Minorities Act the “responsible national minority advisory council shall issue a recommendation by 15 March of every year on the use of the promotional funding” (the so-called “recommendation for promotional funding”) in connection with the individual applications for promotional funding. Irrespective of the foregoing, the Federal Chancellery is responsible for checking the applications with regard to the legal admissibility of applicants to receive grants and for preparing the agreements on the grants.

The grants for the promotion of the national minorities are dispersed with the federal authorities acting as the private-economic administrator of the money. According to § 11 of the National Minorities Act, the recipients of promotional funding must be required by contract to report on the use of the money (a reporting form, which is part of the agreement, is used for this purpose) and to provide proof of the payments (the so-called “payment settlement”). The reports of the recipients of grants must be brought to the attention of the respective national minority advisory council.

“Other grants” of a minor volume are also available in addition to the “grants on the basis of the National Minorities Act”, for which the recommendations of the national minority advisory councils must be obtained. “Other grants” are used to promote special measures such as, for example, preparing teaching methods and codifying the varieties of the Romany language spoken in Austria, or grants to support the printing costs of publications by a specific national minority, or support for scientific research projects relating to a specific national minority, as well as projects covering several national minorities, or support for projects regarding a specific national minority, for which, however, no application was filed by the organizations of the national minorities. In addition, in past years budget funds assigned to specific expenses were covered from the amount budgeted for “other grants” in order to avoid that these measures affected the organizations of the national minorities. In many cases, though, the promotional funding for the national minorities was excluded from assigning budget funds to specific expenses – as a token of the special appreciation for the work done by the organizations of the national minorities – and the amounts saved were debited to other budget items in the Federal Chancellery.

II.3.5. Guidelines for Special Promotional Grants

Both the National Minority Advisory Council for the Hungarian Minority and the Court of Audit suggested the publication of guidelines for special promotional grants. In the beginning, the Federal Chancellery tried to take account of this request by drawing up agreements – according to a uniform standard – for the promotional grants, which were as detailed as possible and increased the legal certainty for the recipients of the grants. In addition, the Federal Chancellery has made major efforts to test, together with the advisory councils for the national minorities, pre-versions of texts for guidelines in connection with special promotional grants for their practical use, which are in the form of an information sheet enclosed with the application form for promotional grants for national minorities, as well as to optimize them.

However, already when presenting the government bill for a law on the national minorities, file number RV 217 BlgNR 14. GP, page 12, the difficulties encountered in this connection were highlighted (“When describing the projects to be promoted, it was practically impossible to give a list. The measures range from supporting the publication of books and journals in the language of a national minority, to a variety of cultural events and contacts. The common feature, though, of all of these projects, which are to be supported in the framework of promoting the national minorities, is that they are suited to contribute towards maintaining and securing the national minority and its special characteristics and rights.”)

In December 2006 the advisory councils for the national minorities were formally seized with a first draft for guidelines concerning special promotional funding. The discussion process is being continued, taking account of the statements made by some of the national minority advisory councils. The advisory councils of the national minorities agreed to submit a joint position to the Federal Chancellery, which has not been submitted to date.

II.4. Facilitating the Use of the Minority Languages (Article 7, paragraph 1 (d)):

In conformity with Article 66 (3) of the State Treaty of St. Germain, incorporated in the Austrian Constitution, “the free use by any Austrian national of any language in private or business transactions, in matters of religion, the press, or of any kind of publications or at public gatherings” is guaranteed in Austria. As described before in the chapter on the legal basis for the minority languages in Austria, specific provisions govern the use of national minority languages as official languages (in addition to German) before administrative authorities and the courts (see also the comments in connection with Articles 9 and 10). In Austria mechanisms to facilitate the use and promotion of minority languages are already in place in the field of education and science, culture, as well as in economic and social life. There a varying degrees of support for promoting the use of these languages in education and science, on account of the different situations of these languages. Details on the use of the minority languages in the fields mentioned are provided in the comments regarding Part III of the Charter.

II.5. Maintenance and Development of Links (Article 7, paragraph 1 (e)):

The persons speaking minority languages in Austria are often organized in associations of the respective national minorities, which are granted financial support under the regime promoting national minorities pursuant to Article 8 and following of the National Minorities Act. Assistance (particularly to the cultural sector) also serves to foster the relations among groups speaking national minority languages (but also contacts with the German-speaking population). This provides a basis for promoting cultural exchange, strengthening relations in general, as well as contributing together to the preservation and further development of their languages.

II.6. Teaching and Learning of Minority Languages (Article 7, paragraphs 1 (f), 1 (g), 1 (h)):

In Austria, the relevant measures for schools – in order to promote the Croatian and the Hungarian languages – are laid in the Minorities’ Schools Act for Burgenland, in particular, which also introduced provisions that take account of

the Romany language. Regulations concerning the Slovene language are above all included in the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia. The Czech and Slovak languages are mainly subject to Article 68 (1) of the State Treaty of St. Germain (see comments in connection with Article 8).

Austria has a system of providing text books on an almost gratuitous basis. The official text book lists also comprise the text books in the languages of the national minorities. The maximum amount of the average costs per pupil is determined by way of an ordinance, issued by the Federal Minister of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (in coordination with the Federal Minister of Education, Arts and Culture). A special provision in this "ordinance on cost ceilings" stipulates that "at schools with bilingual instruction (minorities' school system) text books in the second language in the scope (number of titles) per pupil, as may be obtained for the comparable instruction in the German language, may be purchased in addition to the maximum amounts for the German-language text books." Examples for the supply with teaching materials are the text books, teaching aids and working materials for Slovene instruction in Carinthia that are listed in the annex to this report. The pupils will get most of these materials under the text book supply system, others are meant to be used as hand-outs for teachers, and several others can be found on the Internet. For some subjects taught at the three secondary schools, which are part of the minority school system, (exclusively or partly) in the Slovene language, a full range of text books in the Slovene language is not available. In recent years, though, the number of books available has grown. However, on account of the very small number of copies, it is not easy for publishing houses to produce text books in the Slovene language and to offer them on the market at a low price.

In Austria everybody has the opportunity to learn the languages of the Austrian national minorities, as the measures mentioned above are not limited to the members of the national minorities but are available to the general public; the only difference is that basically only the members of the national minorities have specific legal rights to these measures.

Austrian universities also teach and conduct research on the languages of the national minorities, i.e. Croatian, Slovene, Hungarian, Czech and Slovak. As far as the language of the Roma is concerned, an extremely successful scientific

project for the codification of and preparation of teaching materials for the Romany language is receiving promotional funding.

II.7. Transnational Exchanges (Article 7, paragraph 1(i)):

See comments regarding Article 14 describing trans-frontier exchanges for all national minority languages.

II.8. Elimination of Discrimination (Article 7, paragraph 2):

Article 7 (1) of the Federal Constitution Act

Article 7 (1) of the Federal Constitution, which is the most important provision stipulating general equality, must be observed in the first place. It is binding on the legislator and the executive branch of government and one of the pillars of Austria's constitutional system. It stipulates that all citizens are equal before the law. A distinction between the majority and minority population is therefore not admissible unless there is a factual justification.

Article 14 European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) is an analogous provision which stipulates that enjoyment of the rights set forth in the Convention has to be secured without discrimination on any ground – amongst others belonging to a national minority.

Article 1 (1) of the Constitutional Law Implementing the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination

The Federal Constitutional Law Implementing the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, Federal Law Gazette No. 152/1955, prohibits any distinction for the sole reason of race, color, origin or national or ethnic origin.

Articles 66 and 67 of the State Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye

In addition, there are other provisions under constitutional law protecting the members of the national minorities and stipulating that they be treated equally as other citizens. They can be seen as a specific codification of the principle of equality. One should mention here the provisions contained in the State Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye, Federal Law Gazette No. 303/1920. Article 66 (1) of the Treaty, which has constitutional ranking, stipulates that all Austrian nationals are equal before the law without distinction as to race, language or religion and enjoy the same political and civic rights. According to Article 67 of that Treaty Austrian nationals who belong to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities enjoy the same treatment and guarantees – in law and in fact – as all other Austrian nationals.

Article 7, item 1 (State Treaty of Vienna)

Article 7, item 1, of the State Treaty Reconstituting an Independent and Democratic Austria (State Treaty of Vienna) stipulates that Austrian nationals belonging to the Slovene and Croatian minorities shall have the same rights as all other Austrian nationals on the basis of the same conditions.

Anti-Discrimination Directives and EU Equal Treatment Directive

The transposition of the anti-discrimination directives and the amended EU equal-treatment directive were transposed in Austria mainly by the Equal Treatment Act, Federal Law Gazette I No. 66/2004, and the Federal Law on the Equal Treatment Commission and the Equal-Treatment Ombudsperson, Federal Law Gazette No. 108/1979, as last amended by Federal Law Gazette I No. 66/2004. As part of the package of accompanying measures, the competencies of the equal-treatment ombudsperson were enlarged to create an independent “ombudsperson service”.

With 1 July 2004 as the effective date, new provisions were enacted in Austria regarding legislation on equal treatment. The new legislation on equal treatment serves mainly to transpose the two anti-discrimination directives, adopted by the EU, namely

- Council Directive 2000/43/EC on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons, irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (Anti-Racism Directive),
- Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (equal-treatment framework directive),

which prohibits any discrimination on the basis of religion or ideology, a handicap, age or sexual orientation,

- Directive 2002/73 of the European Parliament and Council (amended Equal-Treatment Directive).

In addition to the fields of occupation and employment, the Anti-Racism Directive also covers the areas of social protection, social benefits, education, as well as access to and provision with goods and services; the Equal-Treatment Framework Directive and the amended Equal-Treatment Directive only cover the areas of employment and occupation. All directives apply both to the private and public sector.

In the course of transposing these directives, the earlier equal-treatment law was re-named and called Federal Law on the Equal-Treatment Commission and the Equal-Treatment Ombudsperson Service. It was also amended to the extent that it now governs institutions (Equal-Treatment Commission and Equal-Treatment Ombudsperson Service), as well as procedure. The new equal-treatment law has taken over the substantive provisions of the earlier equal-treatment law and was expanded by those provisions that resulted from the need to transpose the directives. Aspects regarding handicaps, as well as matters falling under the legislative competencies of the federal provinces are not included in the law. The service regulations of federal civil servants are treated separately, as will be explained later.

The law contains the following main provisions: Nobody must be exposed to any direct or indirect discrimination on grounds of gender, affiliation with an ethnic group, religion or ideology, age or sexual orientation, in connection with an employment relationship, especially when commencing an employment relationship, when determining the remuneration, when granting voluntary social benefits that do not constitute a remuneration, in connection with initial and continuing training and re-training measures, in connection with an occupational advancement, especially promotions to senior positions, or other working conditions, upon termination of an employment relationship, as well in all other aspects of the working environment, such as access to vocational guidance, occupational training, occupational continuing training and re-training outside of an employment relationship, when participating in an organization representing employees or employers, or in connection with conditions applying to access to self-employed gainful activities. In addition, nobody – for reasons of

belonging to an ethnic group – shall be exposed to direct or indirect discrimination in any other area, namely social protection, including social security and health services, social benefits, in education, concerning access to and supply with goods and services that are generally available to the public, including housing facilities.

Furthermore, new stipulations were adopted in connection with the payment of damages in case of violations of the title to equal treatment: The title to equal treatment imposes the following sanctions on all facts constituting an act of discrimination, which also includes discrimination for reasons of belonging to an ethnic group:

- compensation of the pecuniary damage, i.e. positive damage and lost earnings, or
- creation of non-discriminatory conditions and – in both cases – in addition
- compensation for the intangible damage caused by the personal impairment suffered.

In addition to the ban on sexual harassment, already included in the earlier equal-treatment law, a gender-related molestation, as well as a harassment based on one of the facts constituting an act of discrimination is now also regarded as discrimination. Moreover, the title to non-discriminatory criteria in job offers, including sanctions, has now also been introduced into the new facts constituting an act of discrimination. A ban on any disadvantageous treatment has been introduced as a measure to strengthen the protection against discrimination. It does not only cover the complaining staff member but also other employees such as witnesses or colleagues who support the complaint.

The scope of tasks of the existing Equal-Treatment Commission that was previously responsible for the equal treatment of the sexes was expanded to include the aforementioned facts which constitute an act of discrimination. It now consists of three senates. The scope of activities of the Equal-Treatment Ombudsperson Service, which is responsible for providing advice and support to persons feeling exposed to acts of discrimination, was expanded in analogy.

The federal law on equal treatment must also be observed in connection with employees of the federal authorities. With regard to employees of the federal

provinces, the municipalities and the associations of municipalities, separate laws have been adopted by the individual federal provinces which transpose the anti-discrimination directive.

Case Law of the Constitutional Court:

The general principle of equality, which was mentioned in the introduction, does not prevent the legislator from giving preference to members of a national minority over members of the majority population. According to the case law of the Constitutional Court, the principle of equality requires the legislator to apply the same legal consequences to the same facts, and different legal consequences to different facts (objectivity rule). Especially in connection with the protection of minorities, the Constitutional Court has held (decision of the Constitutional Court of 5 October 1981; file number VfSlg. 9224/1981) that the various provisions of constitutional standing relating to national minorities in their entirety imply an evaluation by the constitutional legislator in favor of protecting the minorities. The (simple) legislator must take this evaluation into account when adopting rules and regulations. Putting members of national minorities on an equal footing with members of other social groups, by relying more or less on a specific pattern, will not always satisfy the requirements of such a constitutional evaluation. Depending on the issue to be determined, the protection of members of a minority vis-à-vis members of other social groups may – from an objective point of view – justify or even require a more favorable treatment of that minority in certain cases.

Article 8 (2) of the Federal Constitution Act:

This is also the aim of the above-mentioned basic policy clause in Article 8 (2) of the Federal Constitution Act. It contains a mandate for the state organs, when developing legislation, requiring them to act in accordance with this provision. The Constitutional Court also considers such basic policy clauses in the Constitution to be a useful tool for any legal interpretation, as they provide regulations, which serve that aim, with an objective justification.

Article 8 (2) of the Federal Constitution Act reads as follows:

"The Republic (federal, regional and local authorities) is committed to its linguistic and cultural diversity, which has evolved in the course of time and finds its expression in the autochthonous ethnic groups. The language and culture, the continued existence and protection of these

ethnic groups are to be respected, safeguarded and promoted."

Code of Ethics for Austria's Press

According to Item 5.5 of the Code of Ethics of the Austrian Press Media, any discrimination for racial, religious, national, sexual and other reasons is inadmissible. This Code of Ethics is a set of principles when working in the publishing business that the Austrian media workers have imposed upon themselves.

Article IX (1), item 3, of the Introductory Law to the Laws on Administrative Procedure

One should also mention Article IX (1), item 3, of the 1991 Introductory Law to the Laws on Administrative Procedure, Federal Law Gazette No. 50/1991, which stipulates that it is a punishable act under administrative law to discriminate against persons without justification, solely on the ground of their national or ethnic origin, or to prevent them from entering places or from resorting to services intended for general public use.

II.9. Promotion of the Understanding between all Linguistic Groups of the Country (Article 7, paragraph 3):

Measures to promote the respect, understanding and tolerance of the entire population for all groups living in Austria, their languages and cultures are key objectives, particularly of political education and school education. Political education, school education and preventive measures of information aim at emphasizing democratic values and creating a mental climate for a co-existence founded on respect, tolerance and non-violence within our social order. In this context, one should mention, by way of example, the 1996-1999 research program of the Federal Ministry for Science and Transport "Xenophobia (Research – Reasons – Counter-Strategies)", which had a sustained effect and provided special support for research work on these issues.

II.10. Taking into Consideration the Needs Expressed and the Establishment of Specific Bodies (Article 7, paragraph 4):

Austria interprets the obligation arising from the first sentence as meaning above all that the needs and wishes expressed by the advisory councils for the national

minorities must be taken into consideration. The “Memorandum submitted by Austria’s national minorities to the Austrian Federal Government and the National Council”, presented on 24 June 1997 to the Federal Government and the National Council, which the advisory councils of the national minorities had prepared and agreed upon jointly, serves the purpose of orientation. Bearing in mind the difficulties mentioned – particularly if there are opposing interests – this does not preclude the possibility of taking into account the demands of other organizations of the national minorities (especially associations), to the extent possible.

Austria considers the above-mentioned advisory councils for the national minorities to be the bodies in accordance with the second sentence of this paragraph. As described above, their task – defined in Article 3 of the National Minorities Act – is to advise the Federal Government and the Federal Ministers; whenever so requested, they will also advise the governments of the federal provinces.

II.11. Non-Territorial Languages (Article 7, paragraph 5):

As described above, this provision is of little practical relevance to the Republic of Austria.

III. PART THREE:

III.1. Burgenland-Croatian in the Burgenland-Croatian Language Region of the Federal Province of Burgenland:

Article 8 (Education):

Paragraph 1

Letter a ii:

In its § 2a, the 1995 Burgenland Nursery Schools Act stipulates in detail which nursery schools in Burgenland must also offer Croatian in addition to the German language. At present, 29 bilingual nursery schools (Croatian, German) have been established. The government of the federal province provides assistant nursery-school teachers for those nursery schools that do not employ nursery-school teachers trained in the two languages.

In nursery schools that need not be run in two languages, the parents (as a minimum 25%) may apply for the assignment of an assistant nursery-school teacher for the language of the Croatian national minority.

With the amendment of the Burgenland Nursery Schools Act of 8 July 2005, the use of the national-minority language was expanded from a minimum of nine to twelve hours per week in the bilingual nursery schools. Parents, who do not want their children to be looked after in two languages, can sign off their children accordingly.

The Federal Training Institute for Nursery-School Pedagogy at Oberwart offers training in the Croatian language and in bilingual didactics.

Letter b ii:

The Burgenland Minorities' School Act translates into concrete terms the entitlement of the Burgenland-Croatian group, under international and constitutional law, to obtain a school education in the mother tongue. It can be said, in general, that parents in Burgenland increasingly avail themselves of the possibility of a bilingual education for

their children. This applies to children from the national minorities and to children of the majority population.

The law provides the possibility that in the primary schools of the autochthonous settlement area, Croatian may be used as the only language of instruction; a minimum of six hours per week of German classes is required, though. In practice, however, the national minority does not make use of this option available to minority schools. Primary schools in the autochthonous settlement area are, as a rule, run as bilingual schools on a mandatory basis. As the children entering school have a highly inconsistent level of language proficiency, the level of bilingualism is rather variable, but becomes roughly balanced in the fourth school year. Parents who do not wish to have their children taught in two languages have the right to sign off their children from enrollment in a particular course, although they continue to be part of the same class.

In case of a sustained demand outside the autochthonous settlement area it is also possible to establish bilingual schools or to offer classes in Croatian to classes or groups of pupils, provided that a minimum of seven pupils registers for such a class. To facilitate bilingual teaching, the maximum number of pupils per class has now been fixed to be 18, while the minimum number is seven pupils per class. Upon request, parents and/or guardians of pupils may ask for the school certificates to be issued in the minority language at bilingual primary schools and/or bilingual primary-school classes. This means that the certificate forms are bilingual and that the school certificate is also issued additionally in the language of the national minority.

The Croatian language at compulsory schools in Burgenland during the 2007/2008 school year:

The following table shows the number of pupils at bilingual (German, Croatian) primary schools:

School	Pupils
Neudorf	25
Pama	45
Parndorf	156

District Neusiedl (3)	
Hornstein	86
Klingenbach	32
Oslip	48
Siegendorf	146
Steinbrunn	112
Trausdorf	56
Wulkaprodersdorf	65
Donnerskirchen (1 class)	15
District Eisenstadt and environs (8)	560
Eisenstadt (2 classes)	23
District Eisenstadt City (1)	23
Antau	25
Draßburg	60
Hirm (1 class)	12
District Mattersburg (3)	97
Frankenau	23
Großwarasdorf	15
Kaisersdorf	25
Kleinwarasdorf	8
Kroatisch Geresdorf	18
Kroatisch Minihof	10
Nebersdorf	15
Nikitsch	14
Unterpullendorf	13
Weingraben	15
District Oberpullendorf (10)	156
Dürnbach	29
Spitzzicken	6
Weiden b. R.	28
Großpetersdorf (1 class)	9
Oberwart (1 class)	11
District Oberwart (5)	83
Güttenbach	22
Neuberg	35
Stinatz	55
District Güssing (3)	112
Total	1257

33 locations
28 bilingual schools

The following table shows the number of pupils who are taught the Croatian language in the form of an optional exercise (Unverbindliche Übung = UÜ) at German-language primary schools:

School	Pupils	
R.k. Neusiedl/See	12	UÜ
Eisenstadt	16	UÜ
Großhöflein	10	UÜ
Hrim	17	UÜ
Neudörfel	19	UÜ
Pöttsching	9	UÜ
Großpetersdorf	5	UÜ
Markt Neuhodis	7	UÜ
Oberwart	12	UÜ
Dt. Tschantschendorf	14	UÜ
Hackerberg	12	UÜ
St. Michael	9	UÜ
Total	142	

Total for primary schools: 1257 + 142 = 1399

Letter c iii:

The Minorities' School Act for Burgenland stipulates that the Burgenland-Croatian language is taught at lower-level secondary schools, at a separate general upper-level secondary school and, in addition, in the form of so-called "special language-skills courses" also at other schools in Burgenland, in other words at state-run schools in Burgenland in general. The comments under letter b ii apply as requirements for setting up bilingual lower-level secondary schools. In contrast to primary schools, pupils at lower-level secondary schools must sign up, i.e. pupils wishing to be taught Croatian must sign up for this instruction. According to § 12 of the Minorities' School Act for Burgenland, there shall be one bilingual general upper-level secondary school. This school is located at Oberwart.

The following table shows the number of pupils who are taught Croatian at lower-level secondary schools (Hauptschule = HS; UÜ = optional exercise):

School	Pupils	Subject
HS Oberpullendorf	26	Optional compulsory subject
HS Stegersbach	18	Optional compulsory subject
HS Rechnitz	11	Optional compulsory subject
	6	UÜ

HS Theresianum	17	Optional subject
R.K. HS Neusiedl/See	9	UÜ
HS Neufeld	6	UÜ
HS Eisenstadt	9	UÜ
HS Purbach	7	UÜ
HS Stoob	5	UÜ
HS Großpetersdorf	6	UÜ
HS Kohfidisch	8	UÜ
HS Rudersdorf	15	UÜ
Total	143	

The lower-level secondary schools at Großwarasdorf and St. Michael hold a special position:

Bilingual lower-level secondary school Großwarasdorf: consistent bilingual instruction

HS Großwarasdorf	47	4 classes
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Lower-level secondary school St. Michael: optional compulsory subject und bilingual instruction in some subjects.

HS St. Michael	52	4 classes	bilingual instruction
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Total for lower-level secondary schools: 143 + 47 + 52 = 242

Total for primary schools	1399
Total for lower-level secondary schools	242
TOTAL FOR ALL COMPULSORY SCHOOLS	1641

Croatian at upper-level secondary schools during 2007/2008 school year

Optional subject	
Federal grammar school Mattersburg	24 pupils
Grammar school of Diocese Eisenstadt	12 pupils
5 th – 8 th grade of upper-level secondary school Theresianum	9 pupils
Total	45 pupils

Compulsory subject	
Federal grammar school Oberpullendorf	31 pupils
Grammar school of Diocese Eisenstadt	10 pupils
Federal grammar school Eisenstadt	13 pupils
Total	54 pupils
Optional compulsory subject	
Grammar school of Diocese Eisenstadt	5 pupils
Federal grammar school Eisenstadt	16 pupils
Total	21 pupils

Pilot school project	Croatian
Federal grammar school Eisenstadt	67 pupils
Federal grammar school Oberpullendorf	45 pupils
Total	112 pupils
	Croatian
Bilingual federal grammar school Oberwart	87

CROATIAN: 319 pupils

Letter d iv:

The same legal situation that applies to lower-level secondary schools in Burgenland also applies to instruction at polytechnic schools, which have the task of preparing young people for choosing an occupation by offering vocational orientation, as well as of providing basic vocational training. In addition, the Minorities' Schools Act for Burgenland facilitates bilingual teaching at all schools in Burgenland in general, including vocational schools.

Croatian taught at middle-level and upper-level vocational schools and commercial colleges during the 2007/2008 school year:

CROATIAN	
Optional subjects	
HLW Theresianum	13 pupils

BHAK Eisenstadt	23 pupils
BHAK Mattersburg	24 pupils
BHAK Oberpullendorf	5 pupils
Total	65 pupils
Foreign-language seminar	
BHAK Stegersbach	31 pupils
Total	31 pupils
Optional compulsory subject	
BHAK Stegersbach	72 pupils
Total	72 pupils
CROATIAN	168 pupils

Letter e iii:

The study course on international business relations at the University for Applied Science in Eisenstadt requires that students study one Eastern-European language on a mandatory basis. Next to Hungarian, Czech, Russian and Slovak, Croatian is one of the languages.

On account of the universities' autonomy, which is defined by law, any state intervention with the study courses taught at universities is only possible to a limited extent. In fact, Croatian is also offered as a study course at Austrian universities.

Letter f iii:

The Croatian language is taught at various adult-education colleges; it is also offered by organizations of the national minority. The courses are also supported with funding from the federal budget for promotional the national minorities.

As a matter of principle, there is no difference in the level of education of the Croatian population to the rest of the population. However, on account of the age structure, there are statistical differences. The Croatian national minority has an above-average percentage of persons beyond the age of 60.

Letter g:

In Austria, this requirement is met, in particular, by the curricula which take account of history and culture. Moreover, the subject “mother-tongue education” includes, inter alia, facts and figures about the country of origin of the respective pupils. The goal of mother-tongue education is to foster and to develop bi-cultural knowledge and to develop and reinforce bilingualism. A key objective is to support the pupils involved in developing their personality and identity.

The concept of integration is not only a fundamental principle of Austria’s general education policy but also the basis for bilingual education and training in the bilingual schools of our country. Primary schools in Austria – not only those within the scope of application of the minorities’ school laws – offer inter-cultural learning as a general educational goal. The primary school curriculum reads as follows:

"A special social and educational task accrues to primary schools whenever they can facilitate inter-cultural learning because children with German and non-German mother tongues are taught together. The aspects of inter-cultural learning, with special **emphasis on the cultural heritage of the respective national minority, are most likely to be developed in those federal provinces of Austria where children belonging to a national minority** and/or Austrian and foreign children **are taught together**. In the course of dealing with the respectively other cultural heritage such aspects as lifestyle habits, language, customs, texts (for example stories, tales and legends), traditions, songs, etc., must be dealt with, in particular. Inter-cultural learning is not restricted to learning about other cultures. Rather, the issue is to learn and to understand together, to experience and help shape cultural values. What is also required is to arouse interest in and curiosity for the cultural differences, so that not only cultural unity but also cultural diversity can be experienced as something valuable. In this connection, inter-cultural learning is meant to contribute towards a better mutual understanding and/or to better mutual appreciation, to help pupils realize what they have in common, so that they can overcome prejudices. One must ensure the linkages to the didactic principle of social learning and the educational principle of political education, including education for peace."

Letter h:

§ 13 of the Minorities’ Schools Act for Burgenland, Federal Law Gazette No. 641/1994 in the version of Federal Law Gazette I No. 136/1998, stipulates that the requisite bilingual courses are offered at the appropriate training institutes in order to train the nursery-school and school teachers, who are to make sure that the requirements for bilingual instruction at schools and

nursery schools can be met. The training of teachers for language instruction and at the bilingual instruction in Croatian and Hungarian is offered at the Pedagogical University in Eisenstadt. The Pedagogical University is the successor facility to the Pedagogical Academy Burgenland. It began operating on 1 October 2007. At the Pedagogical University in Eisenstadt both teachers for bilingual primary schools and lower-level secondary schools (German and Croatian, as well as German and Hungarian) are trained. The “Project-Oriented Center of Competence for Applied Research Development” set itself three priorities. One priority, i.e. Multi-Lingualism and Inter-Cultural Education, will especially highlight this area, both with regard to training and research.

Croatian-speaking students of the Pedagogical University are offered the possibility of spending a semester abroad in Croatia. Moreover, the teachers of general upper-level secondary schools and vocational middle-level and higher-level secondary schools also have the possibility during the summer vacation to continue their training in Croatia. Every year, two to three persons enroll in these courses.

Every year, one to two persons from Croatia are available for one school year each as native speakers at the general upper-level secondary schools. During the 2003/2004 school year (11 participants), the 2004/2005 school year (23 participants), the 2005/2006 school year (19 participants) and the 2006/2007 school year (32 participants) summer language courses for teachers of and other persons interested in the Burgenland-Croatian language took place in Croatia. Guest lectures are given by bilingual teachers in Croatia. The regional school inspectorate for Burgenland organized the events. The Federal Pedagogical Institute in Burgenland and the Adult-Education College of the Burgenland-Croats paid the costs of the speakers. One should also mention the EU Comenius project “Promoting minority languages in multi-language regions during teacher training”.

Letter i:

According to § 15 of the Minorities’ Schools Act for Burgenland, the regional school inspectorate for Burgenland has been given a separate department

for the minority schools. Special inspectors have been appointed for inspecting bilingual schools, who are qualified to teach in German and Croatian and/or Hungarian, unless the district or regional school inspectors have the respective language skill (see § 16 of the Minorities' Schools Act for Burgenland). In this specific case, the regional school inspector for the minorities' school system also supervises the Croatian schools.

A special service offered by the regional school inspectorate for Burgenland is the electronic platform "Education Server Burgenland". At the address www.bildungsserver.com the latest news on pedagogical subjects and about the national minorities can be found, inter alia. Moreover, a list of all bilingual schools and specific teaching materials for teaching Croatian can be downloaded. "ARGE Bildungsserver Kroatisch" (Working Group Education Server Croatian) also uses the possibility of the web organizer for communication purposes.

Paragraph 2:

The minorities' school system is integrated into state-run educational system for all of Austria. There are separate curricula for instruction in the respective minority language, which differ from the curricula of other schools essentially only with regard to language.

§ 6 (3) and § 10 (3) Minorities' Schools Act for Burgenland provide that, if necessary, bilingual education must also be offered in Burgenland outside of the autochthonous settlement area of the national minority.

Article 9 (Judicial Authorities):

Paragraph 1:

Letter an ii:

According to § 13 and following of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with the Ordinance on the Use of Croatian as an Official Language, Federal Law Gazette No. 231/1990 in the version of Federal Law Gazette 6/1991, the Croatian language has been admitted as an official language, in addition to the German language, before the local courts of Eisenstadt, Güssing, Mattersburg, Neusiedl am See, Oberpullendorf

and Oberwart, as well as before the Regional Court Eisenstadt. Austrian nationals, as well as citizens from other EU States can therefore apply that they may use Croatian as an official language in penal proceedings conducted against them before these courts. If the provisions on official languages are violated, the title to be heard in court is regarded as having been violated. The sanction pursuant to § 17 (2) of the National Minorities Act for violations of the provisions on official languages at trials in criminal proceedings is nullity of the court decision:

“Whenever the trial in criminal court proceedings has not also been conducted in the language of the national minority, contrary to § 15, this constitutes nullity, as defined in § 281 (1) item 3 of the 1975 Code of Criminal Procedure. This reason for nullity cannot be claimed to the detriment of the person who filed the application pursuant to § 15 (2) (to use the language of the national minority), but to his advantage, irrespective as to whether the violation of form could have an influence on the decision ...”

Letter a iii:

Austrian law does not contain a provision, according to which documents or other pieces of evidence in criminal proceedings may only be submitted in a specific language. The court shall translate or have translated, without delay, oral and written submissions in the Croatian language.

Letter a ii and letter a iii:

The costs and fees for translations which a court produces or has produced, shall be borne *ex officio*. When assessing the amount of lump-sum costs of criminal proceedings, the costs of an interpreter, called in pursuant to the provisions of the National Minorities Act shall not be taken into account (§ 22 (1) of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with § 381 (1) item 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). If a party (person concerned) in criminal court proceedings is represented or defended by an attorney-at-law or a penal-law counsel, the Federal State pays the fee of that attorney-at-law or penal-law counsel for the last third of such proceedings which are also conducted in the Croatian language.

Letter b ii:

On the basis of the same provisions as mentioned in letter a, a party may use Croatian in civil proceedings as an official language before the same courts. A person who intends to use Croatian, as the official language, in an oral hearing shall inform the court to this effect without delay upon being served the summons. If a person is found

guilty of failing to provide this information in time, that person may be required to pay for the additional costs incurred in this case. This obligation to provide information does not apply to proceedings that are conducted on the basis of a submission prepared in Croatian. The information by the party on the use of the Croatian language applies for the full length of the subsequent proceedings, unless it is revoked. If the German or Croatian language is not used, or if the use of the Croatian language is not admitted – contrary to the provisions on official language (§ 13 and following of the National Minorities Act), the title of the party to be heard by court, to whose detriment the violation has occurred, is deemed to have been violated in the respective step in the proceedings.

Letter b iii:

Austrian law does not contain a provision which stipulates that documents or other pieces of evidence in civil proceedings may only be submitted in a specific language. The court must cover the costs of translation *ex officio*, which the court has to produce or to obtain pursuant to the provisions on official language (§ 13 and following of the National Minorities Act).

In 2004, the Local Court Oberwart employed one senior court clerk, and the Regional Court Eisenstadt employed four persons, including two judges, who were fluent in the Croatian language.

Letter c ii:

Pursuant to § 13 and following of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with § 4 of the Ordinance on the Use of Croatian as Official Language, Croatian is admitted as an additional official language before the Independent Administrative Senate for Burgenland (an administrative authority according to Austrian law, but a tribunal as defined in Article 6 of the Human Rights Convention). The details of its provisions correlate in essence with the comments made above. § 17 (3) of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with § 68 (4), item 4, of the General Administrative Proceedings Act sanctions violations of § 15 of the National Minorities Act, which governs the use of the Croatian language in proceedings, by rendering the Senate's decision null and void.

Letter c iii:

Austrian legislation on administrative proceedings, too, which applies to proceedings before Independent Administrative Senates, does not contain any obligation to submit pieces of evidence only in a specific language.

Letter d:

§ 22 of the National Minorities Act makes sure that a party does not incur any additional costs when resorting to the use of the Croatian language as an official language. § 22 of the cited law reads as follows:

§ 22. (1) Costs and fees for translations which an authority or service unit must produce or obtain pursuant to the present federal law shall be covered ex officio. When assessing the lump-sum contribution to costs pursuant to § 381 (1) item 1 of the 1975 Code of Criminal Procedure, the costs of an interpreter/translator, recruited in accordance with the present federal law, shall not be taken into account.

(2) (Constitutional provision) If the proceedings were also conducted in the language of a national minority, only two thirds of the actually required time input (for the length of a hearing) shall be used as a basis when assessing the fees that a territorial corporation shall receive and that are calculated according to the time input.

(3) If – on account of the present federal law – a paper must be produced directly in two official languages, the stamp fee shall be due for only one of the copies.

(4) If a party in court proceedings (a party involved) is represented or defended by a legal counsel, a criminal-law counsel or a notary public, the Federal State shall pay for the last third of the fee of such legal counsel- criminal-law counsel or notary public, incurred in such proceedings (hearings) that are also conducted in the language of a national minority. Payment of that amount of the fee shall be claimed always before the end of such a hearing or such proceedings by submitting a statement of costs, with the loss of this claim being forfeited otherwise; the judge shall decide on the amount of the fee immediately and instruct the accounting officer to pay this amount to the legal counsel- criminal-law counsel or notary public. This additional fee expense shall be assessed in such a way as though the opponent of the person entitled to this claim were obliged by law to refund these costs to that party.

Paragraph 2:

Letter a:

As was mentioned before, the validity of a legal document does not depend on the language in which it is drawn up.

Article 10 (Administrative authorities and public services):

Paragraph 1

Letter a iii and letter c:

§ 3 of the Ordinance on the Use of Croatian as an Official Language also mentions six district administrative authorities, i.e. Eisenstadt-Environs, Güssing, Mattersburg, Neusiedl am See, Oberpullendorf and Oberwart, in addition to six local courts, before which Croatian is admitted as an official language. § 4 (1) of the cited law also stipulates as general facts of a case that Croatian shall also be admitted as an official language before the other authorities and service units of the Federal State and the provincial government with offices in Burgenland, the geographical competences of which coincide in full or in part with the geographical competences of the aforementioned district administrative authorities and/or local courts, if Croatian were admitted as an official language in a case in which one of the district administrative authorities or local courts had subject-matter competences in the case in question, or if the authority has competences as a legal-remedy instance in proceedings that were conducted before an authority on a first-instance basis, where Croatian is admitted as an official language in addition to the German language. Croatian as an official language shall also be used at police stations that have geographical competences that coincide in full or in part with the municipalities listed in § 2 of the cited law (altogether 24). By way of exemption, Croatian is also admitted as an official language before authorities with offices outside of Burgenland, i.e. before federal authorities with offices in Vienna, provided that their geographical competences coincide in full or in part with those of one of the aforementioned local courts or district administrative authorities, but that do not cover the national territory as a whole; also before the Calibration Office Graz whenever the Calibration Office performs official acts in the domain of the district administrative authority of Güssing (§ 6 of the Ordinance on the Use of Croatian as an Official language). Croatian is admitted as an official language, in addition to the German language, before the Military Command Burgenland and before the Vienna Recruitment Unit or the Styrian Recruitment Unit, if the former uses the latter for its operations, whenever the matters relate to supplementary military issues.

According to § 13 and following of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with the Ordinance on the Use of Croatian as an Official Language, an Austrian national (as

well as nationals of another EU State) may inform the aforementioned authorities that he/she wishes to use to the language of the national minority. No separate information to this effect is required whenever the proceedings are conducted on the basis of a submission drawn up in the language of the national minority. The information applies for the full length of the subsequent proceedings, unless it is revoked. In particular, the right to use the language of the national minority comprises the right to submit written or oral submissions, as well as the right to be served decisions by or orders of the authority concerned in the German and Croatian languages.

Time and again, the Working Group of Croatian Municipal Politicians in Burgenland and the Presidium of MP's of Austria's Socialist Party both organize continuing training events for the specific national minority for municipal officers and municipal politicians in order to prepare them, inter alia, for the use of Croatian as an official language.

Paragraph 2

Letter b:

Please refer to the information in connection with the preceding paragraph. The municipal authorities of the 24 municipalities listed in § 2 of the Ordinance on the Use of Croatian as an Official Language, as well as those six district administrative authorities, in which these municipalities are located, especially qualify as local or regional authorities, as defined in the provisions of the Charter. These are Eisenstadt-Environs, Güssing, Mattersburg, Neusiedl am See, Oberpullendorf and Oberwart. Croatian is also admitted as an official language before the Office of the Burgenland Provincial Government. The right to use Croatian as a language of a national minority especially comprises the right to submit written and oral applications in this language.

Letter d:

Moreover, § 13 (4) of the National Minorities Act empowers the municipalities listed in the ordinance on the Use of Croatian as an Official Language to use the language of the national minority also for general public announcements.

Paragraph 4

Letter a:

Written and oral applications in Croatian, submitted in proceedings before the aforementioned administrative authorities conducted in Croatian as the official

language shall be translated into German *ex officio* (§ 14 of the National Minorities Act). Pursuant to § 15 of the cited law, an interpreter shall be called in, if necessary, for oral hearings. If minutes of these proceedings are prepared in German, they shall be translated into Croatian without any delay. The costs incurred by such translation or interpreting assignments shall be covered *ex officio*, pursuant to § 22 of the cited law.

Paragraph 5:

According to § 21 of the Civil Status Act, in conjunction with § 154 of the Austrian Civil Law Code, a child is generally given his or her first name by the parents. There is no requirement under Austrian law that the name must be in German, nor does the surname have to be in German. This also derives from § 5 (3) of the Civil Status Ordinance, according to which a person's names, which are to be registered on the basis of a document presented in Latin letters, must be recorded in the original letters and characters. This means that diacritic characters not used in the German language must also be used. However, the civil-status registers must be kept in the German language (§ 18 of the national Minorities Act). Whenever documents are submitted for registration in the civil-status registers that are in a language of a national minority, the authority shall have them translated. Inversely, excerpts from the civil-status registers shall be issued as translations into the language of the respective national minority, if so requested (§ 20 of the National Minorities Act). In keeping with the case law of the Constitutional Court (Constitutional Court decision of 5 March 1996, file number VfSlg. No. 14.452/1996), the foregoing shall also apply if it was not possible to conduct the procedure resulting in the register entry (e.g. marriage ceremony) in the language of the national minority, in the absence of an application to this effect by the member of the national minority.

An amendment of the Names Modification Act (Federal Law Gazette No. 25/1995) resulted in a large measure of liberalization concerning the possibility to modify one's name. The members of a national minority, who already have a name, converted into German, have the possibility to assume once again their original name in the language of the national minority. Under the amended legislation, one may modify one's name for any random reason. However, an important reason is required if this change of name is to be carried out free of charge. A member of a national minority may use the important reason pursuant to § 2 (1) item 10 of the Names Modification Act, which states that the intended change of name is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable

disadvantages in his/her social relations and that these drawbacks cannot be avoided in any other way. According to § 2 (2) of the Names Modification Act, this reason also applies to a change of the first name.

Article 11 (Media):

Paragraph 1

Letter b ii and letter c ii:

Amendments of the federal law on Austria's broadcasting corporation (ORF Act) entered into force on 1 January 2002. Pursuant to § 5 (1) of the ORF Act, the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) is now required to broadcast a commensurate portion of its programs in the languages of the national minorities for which advisory boards have been set up. The broadcasting times shall be laid down on an annual basis, after hearing the Audience's Council. Moreover, pursuant to § 28 (4) of the ORF Act a seat in the Audience's Council of the ORF is reserved to a member of the national minorities. According to § 30 (1) of the ORF Act, the Audience's Council proposes measures, inter alia, to comply with this statutory obligation and comments on the program portions for national minorities which are to be counted as broadcasting times. The amendment of the ORF Act also facilitated the cooperation between the ORF and private radio stations. It also improved the programs offered in favor of the languages of the national minorities.

The national minorities in Burgenland hold a special position in the program design of the regional station (Radio Burgenland). The cultural and linguistic diversity in Burgenland is therefore also taken into account when designing the program.

Every day and/or week, the regional broadcasting station (Landesstudio Burgenland) broadcasts the following radio programs in the Burgenland-Croatian language:

ORF REGIONAL STUDIO BURGENLAND

RADIO

Program	Frequency	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
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Croatian evening journal	Daily	10'	18.15 h	Burgenland-Croatian
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Croatian magazine	Daily	30'	18.25 h	Burgenland-Croatian
News	Mon - Sat	2'	12.38 h	Burgenland-Croatian
3-language magazine	Mon (1x per week)	56'	20.04 h	Burgenland-Croatian (26') / Hungarian (15') / Romany (15')

The following specific programs are broadcast in the Burgenland-Croatian language:

Program	Broadcasting dates	Start of program	End of program	Length of program
Croatian news	Mon - Sat	12.38 h	12.40 h	00.02
Croatian journal	Mon –Sun	18.15 h	18.25 h	00.10
Croatian programs:	Mon - Sun	18.25 h	18.55 h	00.30
Kulturni tajedan (Croatian cultural program)	Mon	18.25 h	18.55 h	00.30
Plava rasa (Croatian children's program)	Tues	18.25 h	18.55 h	00.30
Širom-barom (Croatian magazine)	Wed	18.25 h	18.55 h	00.30
Poslušajte priliku (Croatian Talk)	Thurs	18.25 h	18.55 h	00.30
Živo srebro (Croatian youth program)	Fri	18.25 h	18.55 h	00.30
Časak radosti (Croatian musical request program)	Sat, Sun	18.25 h	18.55 h	00.30
Multi-lingual magazine for the national minorities	Mon	20.04 h	21.00 h	00.56
Rub i sredina (Croatian magazine)	Mon	20.04 h	20.30 h	00.26

Moreover, Burgenland regional television broadcasts the following programs in the Burgenland-Croatian language:

ORF REGIONAL STUDIO BURGENLAND

TELEVISION

Program	Broadcasting time	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
Dobar dan, Hrvati	Sun (1 x per week)	30'	13.30 h	Burgenland-Croatian

(local broadcast on ORF 2)

4-language magazine ("Servus / Szia / Zdravo / Del tuha")	Sun (4 x per year)	45'	14.20 h	German / Hungarian / Burgenland-Croatian / Romany
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In addition to daily reporting on topical issues in the Croatian and Hungarian languages, the ORF desk for the national minorities at the Burgenland regional broadcasting studio produces a total of nine radio magazine per week (six in Croatian, two in Hungarian and one in Romany). The subjects covered range from reports on political events, cultural and sports events, to programs for children and juveniles. However, topics relating to the national minorities are also presented in detail on the German-language radio and television programs of the Burgenland regional broadcasting studio. Special attention is also paid to the national minorities in Burgenland in the special television programs from Burgenland.

Programs that can be received throughout Austria:

Repeat broadcasts of radio & TV programs for the national minorities in Burgenland-Croatian by the Regional Studio Burgenland

RADIO

Program	Broadcasting date	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
Croatian magazine	Tues, Thurs – Sun	30'	21.00 h	Burgenland-Croatian
Croatian magazine	Fri	30'	19.30 h	Burgenland-Croatian

The radio programs broadcast by Radio Burgenland are also disseminated throughout Austria via Radio 1476. This means that the programs can also be heard by members of the national minorities that do not live in the autochthonous settlement area.

TELEVISION

Program	Broadcasting date	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
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"Heimat fremde Heimat"	Sun (1 x per week)	30'	13.30 h	German and sometimes in other languages with German sub-titles
	Mon (1 x per week)			
	Sat (every 14 days) on 3sat			
Dobar dan, Hrvati (repeat of Sunday broadcast on ORF2)	Mo (1 x per week)	30'	Night program	Burgenland-Croatian

Moreover, all programs for the national minorities broadcast by Radio Burgenland can also be received throughout Austria in digital format, as well as via Live-Stream on the Internet. Radio 1476 is also offered as Live-Stream on the Internet. In addition, the television programs for the national minorities of the Burgenland regional broadcasting studio are also available for downloading from the Internet as Real-Audio and/or Real-Video.

Letter d:

CDs and inter-active CD-ROMs, for example, for language courses in the languages of the national minorities, as well video works and theater productions are promoted under the federal promotional activities.

Letter e:

With regard to press-promotion activities, one should mention § 2 (2) of the 2004 Press Promotion Act, Federal Law Gazette I No. 136/2003, which provides easier access to press-promotion funds for the media of the national minorities. While weekly newspapers must have a minimum circulation of 5,000 copies and must have a minimum staff of two full-time employed journalists, in order to receive promotional funding, these requirements do not apply to weekly newspapers in a language of a national minority.

As a matter of principle, the possibilities to publish different print media are open to all national minorities. Funding under the promotional activities of the Federal Chancellery for the national minorities is also available for periodicals and newsletters. The full range covers newspapers and newsletters, scientific works on literature, monographs, different non-fiction literature, as well as publications for children and juveniles.

The print media of the Burgenland-Croatian population comprises the following weekly newspapers and periodicals:

- Hrvatske Novine / Croatian weekly newspaper: published by the Croatian Press Association. The newspaper is published largely in the Burgenland-Croatian language (however, articles in the standard Croatian language are also published on a regular basis). The reports focus on the situation and problems of the Burgenland-Croatian population, but also deal with other national minorities in Austria and in other countries on a regular basis.
- Crikveni Glasnik / Croatian church newspaper: "Glasnik" (Messenger) is published weekly by the Diocese of Eisenstadt. "Glasnik" is the communication and information medium of the Eisenstadt Diocese in the Croatian language.
- Glasilo: The print medium of the association "Hrvatsko Kulturno Društvo"/ Croatian Cultural Association in Burgenland. It is published every two months. The paper reports about events in the Croatian-language and mixed-language villages, about concerns and problems of the national minorities in Austria and Europe, as well as on the various activities of the cultural association.
- Novi Glas (The New Voice): The print medium of the association "HAK"/Croatian Club of University Graduates. It is published on a quarterly basis. The subjects covered are the minority policy in general and that for the Burgenland-Croatian minority in particular, Croatian literature, topics for students and juveniles, socio-political and cultural subjects. The languages used are Burgenland-Croatian, Croatian, German and English (occasionally). Novi Glas regards itself as a discussion forum of the Burgenland-Croatian population. Efforts focus on presenting topical problem areas relating to minority politics, culture, science and language in a controversial manner.

The weekly newspapers published in the Burgenland-Croatian language are supported both under the promotional funding activities for the national minorities and under the general press promotion activities based on the 1985 Press Promotion Act. The periodicals, association newsletters, etc. are also supported from funding for the promotional activities for the national minorities, in keeping with the respective application for promotional funding and the respective recommendation by the advisory board of the national minority.

Letter f ii:

In addition to the funding available for national minorities, as mentioned in letter d, general support schemes such as promotional activities for the arts and support by the federal province of Burgenland are also available for audio-visual productions in the Burgenland-Croatian language.

Paragraph 2:

The freedom of communication is fully guaranteed in Austria by the constitution. In this context, one should mention Article 10 of the Human Rights Convention, which has constitutional ranking in Austria, Article 13 (1) of the Basic State Law on the General Rights of Citizens, Imperial Law Gazette No. 142/1867, the decision of the Provisional National Assembly of 1918 on the abolition of censorship, State Law Gazette No. 3/1918, as well as the federal constitutional law on ensuring the independence of broadcasting, Federal Law Gazette No. 396/1974. Cable television and satellite programs from Croatia can be received in Burgenland without any restrictions.

Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities):

Paragraph 1:

Letters a and d:

In the framework of promotional activities for the national minorities, numerous cultural facilities and activities are supported that aim at preserving the Burgenland-Croatian language. The essential requirement for allocating promotional funding to national minorities is that the languages of the national minorities are promoted. All types of cultural facilities and areas of activities, as listed in Article 12 (1) of the Charter, may be supported from the funding available for the national minorities.

In the year 2007, 37 organizations of the Burgenland-Croatian national minority, located in Burgenland, received a total amount of EUR 955,100.00. The entities receiving funds include twelve folklore ensembles ("Tamburicas"), three amateur theater groups, five choirs and five other local cultural associations. These smaller associations each received amounts between EUR 1,600.00 and EUR 2,100.00. The associations that received larger sums of promotional funding are described in detail below:

The "Kroatische Kulturverein im Burgenland" (Croatian Cultural Association in Burgenland) received EUR 145,000.00 for the following projects:

- Afternoon care for small groups of children in the Burgenland-Croatian language
- Publication of the association newsletter "Glasiilo" in the Croatian language
- Organizing various holiday language courses for children and juveniles in Croatia and Burgenland
- Organizing "Recital", the speaking competition for children in Burgenland Croatian
- Publication of a wall calendar for 2008 with a major text portion in the Burgenland-Croatian language
- Publication of the re-print "Gradišćanski Hrvati", a work by Mate Ujević that was first published in 1934
- Organizing performances of the opera "Nikola Šubić"
- Video library and theater archives
- Production of the CD-ROM "1,2,3 – hrvatski znaš i ti" with exercises and study units on Croatian grammar
- Publication of the Burgenland-Croatian or bilingual youth magazine "Dvotočka"
- Publication on the brochure "Šalni dogodjaji i anecdote"
- Administering and expanding the "Tanagh" archives (Tamburica music sheets)
- Publication of a Burgenland-Croatian picture book on the subject of environmental protection ("Obramba okoline")
- Publication of the CD "Panonci" with pupils singing songs in Burgenland-Croatian or two languages
- Publication of the DVD "Med Dolinjimi"
- Support for the local activities of the Croatian Cultural Association in Burgenland, which organizes lectures/seminars/courses that are specific of the national minority, other Burgenland-Croatian or bilingual lectures/seminars/courses, singing afternoons and evenings, concerts, readings in Burgenland-Croatian or two languages, exhibitions with Croatian artists, wine dedication ceremonies, disco evening and bowling competitions (only printing and mailing expenses for the last three items the concerning invitation material in Burgenland-Croatian or two languages)

The „Kroatisches Kultur- und Dokumentationszentrum“ (Croatian Cultural and Documentation Center) received EUR 145,000.00 for the following projects:

- Rent, operating expenses for the association premises, staff costs, office overhead costs
- Preserving and expanding the archives and the documentation material
- Publication of the research study "Die Rolle der kroatischen Intelligenz zur Zeit des Nationalsozialismus" (The Role of the Croatian Intelligentsia at the Time of National Socialism)
- Re-publication of the brochure "Warum nicht? Zač ne?- Argumente für das zweisprachige Schulwesen" (Why not? – Arguments for a bilingual school system)
- Publication of the bilingual children's books "Das verschwundene Schneckenhaus" (Disappearance of the Snail's House), complete with CD
- Publication of two further volumes of the Burgenland-Croatian bilingual series "Kroatisches Kulinarium" (Croatian Culinary Delights) (the municipalities of Hornstein and Drassburg)
- Publication of the bilingual children's book "Vlahijamärchen – Povidajka o Vlahiji"
- Publication of "Burgenländischen Kartenspiels" (Burgenland Game of Cards)

- Publication of the Burgenland-Croatian four-language reader “7 Geschichten in 4 Sprachen” (7 Stories in 4 Languages) (complete with working material and CD-ROM)
- Publication of the Burgenland-Croatian spelling primer for the 4th to 8th grades
- Publication of the CD-Rom „Memo i mi“ (support material for the first primer)
- Publication of “Bildgeschichten – Priče u Slika” (Stories with Pictures) (teaching material)
- Publication of the inter-active CD-Rom for mathematics

The Croatian press association received EUR 144,000.00 for publishing the Croatian weekly newspaper “Hrvatske novine” (with articles overwhelmingly in Burgenland-Croatian, and some articles in Standard Croatian).

The Croatian section of the Eisenstadt Diocese received EUR 100,500.00 for publishing “Glasnik”, the church newspaper in the Croatian languages that is published weekly.

“KUGA – Kulturna zadruga”, the regional cultural center, received EUR 98,500.00 for preparing a cultural program specifically for the national minority, in particular

- for organizing “*Croatisada*”, the summer festival
- for organizing folklore events in Burgenland-Croatian and/or two languages
- for courses in music and the creative arts in Burgenland-Croatian or two languages for children up to the age of 6
- for organizing the Burgenland-Croatian, bilingual Rock Pop Workshop “rok na tambura” for juveniles as of the age of 12
- for holding language courses in Burgenland-Croatian and for holding language courses in Hungarian with Burgenland-Croatian as the language of communication; moreover, dancing and kinesthesia courses conducted in Burgenland-Croatian or two languages
- for the multi-lingual children’s play with songs “Mali Dodo, ča sviraš?”
- for the project “Sprachenparcours” (language race): fees for bilingual tutors and coaches (Burgenland-Croatian, Hungarian, Romany, Slovak)
- for “Kuga 4 kids”, a Burgenland-Croatian bilingual program for creative holidays for children
- for organizing Burgenland-Croatian and/or bilingual theater performances
- for organizing a series of workshops on Croatian folk dancing
- for the Burgenland-Croatian bilingual KUGA children’s choir (full-year project)
- for organizing discussion events and working groups for and around the KUGA anniversary year
- for organizing exhibitions with Croatian artists
- for organizing Burgenland-Croatian and/or bilingual music events specifically for the national minority

The Croatian Adult Education College received EUR 68,700.00 for the following program items:

- Rent, operating expenses, staff expenses, office overheads
- Organization of a program of courses and lectures in the Burgenland-Croatian language,
- Producing teaching aids (teaching games)
- Publication of a Burgenland-Croatian multi-language story in pictures (material for nursery schools and primary schools) "Willst du mein Freund sein" (Do you want to be my friend?)
- Publication of the Burgenland-Croatian multi-language story in pictures (material for nursery schools and primary schools) "Der Bär HRKO auf dem Weg zum Jesuskind" (HRKO, the Bear, on his Way to Meet Jesus, the Child)
- Publication of the Burgenland-Croatian multi-language story in pictures (material for nursery schools and primary schools) "Antuntun"
- Publication of the children's magazine in the Burgenland-Croatian language (to be used as teaching aid) "Novi mini multi"

The Working Group of Croatian Municipal Politicians in Burgenland received EUR 57,000.00 for the following projects:

- Staff costs, rent and operating expenses for the association premises, office overheads
- Expansion of the association's library
- Publication of a re-print of "Christliche kroatische Zeitung" (Christian Croatian Newspaper) of which 4 issues were published 85 years ago
- Publication of "Moje selo", an information bulletin in Burgenland-Croatian or two languages relating to a bilingual municipality
- Publication of a playback dual CD with Croatian folk songs and pop songs
- Organization of "Naš zavičaj", a series of cultural events
- Organization of continuing education events specifically for the national minority (especially for Burgenland-Croatian municipal politicians, municipal office holders, teachers, nursery-school teachers; project name: regional conferences)
- Organization of an exhibition with Croatian artists
- for the organization of "HRVAT 2007", a rock-pop festival specifically for the national minority in the Burgenland-Croatian language and two languages

The Presidium of MPs of the Austrian Socialist Party from Croatian and mixed-language municipalities in Burgenland received funding of EUR 39,000.00 in support of the following program items:

- Rent of the association premises, office overheads
- Publication of three Burgenland-Croatian or bilingual CD-ROMs with portraits of three bilingual municipalities
- Co-publication of a municipal calendar for two bilingual municipalities with a major text portion in the Burgenland-Croatian language
- for the publication of postcards introducing Burgenland-Croatian bilingual villages (to show that these are bilingual villages)

The "Wissenschaftliches Institut der Burgenländischen Kroaten" (Scientific Institute of the Burgenland Croats) received EUR 36,500.00 for the following program items:

- Staff expenses, rent and operating costs (including insurance) for the Institute's

- premises, office overheads
- Acquisition of publications and CD-ROMS for this specific national minority
 - Managing the web site of the Institute, including its inter-active scientific journal
 - for the project “Das Einmaleins der burgenlandkroatischen Sprache (Die häufigsten Fehlerquellen und wie man sie vermeidet)“ (The ABC of the Burgenland-Croatian Language – The most common pitfalls and how to avoid them)
 - for continuing the standardization and lexical expansion of the written Burgenland-Croatian language, as part of the “Sprachkommission” (Language Commission) project

The “Pannonisches Institut” (Pannonian Institute), a cultural association, received EUR 31,000.00 in support of the following projects:

- Publication of the Burgenland-Croatian multi-lingual “Pannonischen Jahrbuches 2007” (Pannonian Year Book 2007)
- Publication of “Panonski List”, the Burgenland-Croatian multi-lingual information bulletin

“Tamburicaorchester und Chor Güttenbach”, an association, received EUR 27,000.00 for conducting bilingual rehearsals and musical adaptations in Burgenland-Croatian for its “Music School”.

“Bildungswerk der burgenländischen Kroaten” (Educational Activities of the Burgenland Croats) received EUR 22,500.00 for organizing language courses in Burgenland-Croatian, for folk-dancing courses held in Burgenland-Croatian or two languages, for organizing “zajačimo si“, folk song courses in Burgenland-Croatian, Tamburica courses held in Burgenland-Croatian or two languages, as well as producing the CD “Jačke za dicu - Neue Kinderlieder” (New Children’s Songs) and publishing “Tamburica i zbor” (sheet music).

It should be pointed out, in particular, that the promotional funding for the national minorities constitutes an essential contribution to the standardization of the Burgenland-Croatian language, which differs from the variant spoken in Croatia. This ongoing process of codification of new words and decisions in cases of doubt is handled by the Scientific Institute of the Burgenland-Croats as part of the “Language Commission” project. In 1999, the Federal Chancellery published a legal dictionary for Burgenland-Croatian/German and German/Burgenland-Croatian (ISBN No. 3-85052-021-8). These activities are a valuable tool for making it possible to use Burgenland-Croatian as a full-fledged official and teaching language.

In recent years, inter-active teaching programs have increasingly been produced on CD-ROMs. In 2003, for example, "Sprachkurse für Erwachsene" (Language Courses for Adults) were produced in the Croatian, Hungarian and Romany languages, which were co-financed by the Federal State, the federal province and the European Union (Copyright by "Kroatisches Kultur- und Dokumentationszentrum"). This product received the European Seal for innovative language projects. Between 2003 and 2006, the Croatian Cultural Association in Burgenland produced 3 CD-ROMs, with support from the promotional funding for the national minorities, for the series "Hrvatski teško nij!" (Burgenland-Croatian training tool for vocabulary, grammar and technical subjects). In the year 2007, the series was continued with an inter-active CD-ROM "Hrvatski znaš i ti". It deals with the grammar of the Standard Croatian language and was specifically adapted for Burgenland-Croatian students. (In the higher grades of the upper-level secondary schools, instruction is no longer given in Burgenland-Croatian but in Standard Croatian). One further example as to how activities for the national minorities also try to use new technologies is the inter-active quiz in the Croatian language ("Kvizomenija"), which was produced by the Croatian Cultural Association in the year 2005, with support from the promotional funding activities for the national minorities. In 2005, the Croatian Cultural and Documentation Center produced, inter alia, a Burgenland-Croatian inter-active CD-ROM ("To kanim znati 3"), which supplements the text book. This CD-ROM with a quiz section has been licensed for teaching technical subjects in the Croatian language in the 4th grade of primary school and for teaching geography in the first grade of lower-level and/or upper-level general secondary schools. The Presidium of MPs of the Austrian Socialist Party from Croatian and Mixed-Languages Municipalities in Burgenland has produced a complete series of CD-ROM with bilingual portraits of bilingual municipalities in Burgenland, and it is continuing this series.

Moreover, "Memo", a CD, was approved for first reading instruction. At present, a CD with exercises for teaching mathematics in the Croatian language is being produced. (Both projects are implemented by the Croatian Cultural and Documentation Center). A large number of the associations of the national minority already have their own web site on the Internet.

As the promotional funding activities of the Federal Chancellery also support infrastructure projects, especially by paying the rent for association premises and the

staff of larger associations, this provides the basis for further projects that are not promoted by the Federal Chancellery. Some of the associations of the national minorities also participate in trans-frontier projects with EU funding.

In addition to the Federal Chancellery, the federal province of Burgenland and its municipalities also support the national minorities. Moreover, the organizations of the national minorities are treated just like organizations of the majority population when applying for promotional funding in the fields of education, science, the arts or sports, for example. Under this title, the local cultural associations also receive support, time and again, from the municipalities in which they are established – either in the form of grants or, for example, by being allowed to use specific premises.

Paragraph 2:

The activity or the institution to be promoted does not necessarily have to be located in the autochthonous settlement area of the national minority in order to be allocated promotional funding. Four Burgenland-Croatian associations headquartered in Vienna, for example, are supported with funding for the national minorities. In the year 2007, they received a total of EUR 149,600.00. This amount was used as follows:

The “Burgenländisch-kroatische Zentrum” (Burgenland-Croatian Center) received EUR 102,500.00

- for rent and operating costs, including the insurance for the association premises; staff costs, office overheads
- for organizing language courses for adults in Burgenland-Croatian and Standard Croatian

The “Burgenländischkroatischer Kulturverein in Wien” (Burgenland-Croatian Cultural Association in Vienna) received EUR 22,500.00:

- for the bilingual children’s group “VIVERICA”
- for the school section to organize Burgenland-Croatian or bilingual courses and events with specific programs for the national minority (school and pre-school children)
- for organizing the “Kroatischen Kirtag” (Croatian Kermis”) at “Böhmische Prater” in Vienna with a cultural program for this specific national minority
- for “OTVORENA SRCA”, the association’s own choir.

The “Kroatischer Akademikerklub” (Club of Croatian University Graduates) received EUR 22,500.00 for:

- the project “Dan mladine – Tage der kroatischen Jugend 2007“ (Days of Croatian

- Youth 2007) with a cultural program for this specific national minority
- publishing “Novi glas”, the Burgenland-Croatian or bilingual journal
 - for organizing “Jour fixe”, a series of discussions on specific issues of the national minorities
 - organizing the project “Dan sridnioškolcev – Tage der burgenländischkroatischen Mittelschüler in Wien” (Days of the Burgenland-Croatian High-School Students in Vienna)

Moreover, a folklore ensemble also has its headquarters in Vienna. It received promotional funding in the amount of EUR 2,100. These four Burgenland-Croatian associations constitute the central meeting place for the Burgenland-Croatian population in Vienna.

Paragraph 3:

When pursuing its cultural policy abroad, Austria makes every effort to present Austria’s linguistic diversity, as it is also reflected in its national minorities. For example, on 24 February 2004 the Austrian embassy and the Cultural Forum Agram/Zagreb organized the presentation of “Grammatik der burgenländisch-kroatischen Sprache” (Grammar of the Burgenland-Croatian Language) by representatives of the Burgenland-Croatian population. High-level Croatian politicians attended this book presentation. Moreover, on 27 May a round-table conference was held on the subject of “Die Burgenländerkroaten und Kroaten: Wissenschaftliche Tribüne – 50 Jahre im Rückblick” (Burgenland Croats and Croats: Scientific Platform – a 50-Year Retrospective). In addition to representatives of the Burgenland-Croatian population, Croatian scientists, representatives of the umbrella organization of Croatian immigrants, as well as the Burgenland-Croatian community attended the event.

The Austrian embassy and the Cultural Forum Pressburg/Bratislava reported that the Tabmucia Jelka Perusič from Burgenland represented Austria at the 6th European Cultural Festival of the People and Nationalities at Košice in 2005, and the Tamburica Zagersdorf attended the 8th European Cultural Festival.

Article 13 (Economic and social life):

Paragraph 1, letter d:

This provision is implemented, first and foremost, by the ban on discriminating against speakers of minority languages (for details see the comments on Article 7 (2)), as well

as by Article 66 (3) of the State Treaty of St. Germain, which has constitutional ranking and guarantees the right to use any language in private and business transactions. In addition, impulses are given time and again by the promotional activities in order to support the use of the minority languages in economic and social life. The Croatian Cultural and Documentation Center, for example, publishes one to two Burgenland-Croatian bilingual cook books every year, with support from the promotional funding for the national minorities. In 2004, the publication of a bible for children in the Burgenland-Croatian language was supported. In 2003 training was provided to conduct Burgenland-Croatian bilingual tours through the barrows at Schandorf. In 2005 a Burgenland-Croatian and/or multi-lingual hiking map was published in connection with the Schandorf barrows. In 2004 the new publication of a prayer and song book in Burgenland-Croatian received funding. The Adult Education College of the Burgenland-Croats also receives funding for courses and lectures that do not specifically deal with a topic of the national minorities but are held in the Croatian language.

Article 14 (Trans-frontier exchanges):

Letter b:

ARGE Alpen-Adria plays a special role in maintaining trans-frontier exchanges. The activities and stimuli from ARGE Alpen-Adria were an important contribution for creating more awareness and giving more intensive consideration to minority issues in Central Europe. By mutually learning about possible solutions made it possible to contribute towards mitigating conflicts in the member regions. It is generally seen to be a positive effect of the events organized by ARGE Alpen-Adria to date that members of the various minorities were given an opportunity to get into direct contacts with each other and to get to know each other in course of the cultural activities. A direct cooperation between the regional authorities results already from the fact that the federal province of Burgenland is a member of ARGE Alpen-Adria, and as such it is represented by its provincial governor.

Trans-frontier contacts also exist in the form of festivals and teaching assignments for Croatian-speaking artists in Burgenland, as well as in the form of continuing training activities and children's language holidays in Croatia. The primary school at Croatian-Minihof and the lower-level secondary school at Rechnitz maintain school partnerships

with Hungary (the western part of Hungary is settled by a Burgenland-Croatian minority). The same applies to the project “Zu zweit geht es besser! - Interkulturelle Begegnung im neuen Europa“ (It’s easier doing it together! – Inter-cultural encounters in the new Europe), in the course of which colleges for the applied sciences maintain partnerships with their neighbors to the east. These three projects received the European Seal for innovative language projects in 2007.

Moreover, the primary school at Dürnbach engages in lively exchanges with its partner school at Fesöcsatar in Hungary. In 1988 these schools established the first cooperation of this type in Burgenland. Since that date the partnership has been maintained through regular activities and mutual pupils’ exchanges.

The tamburica “Ivan Vuković” maintains contacts with the Croatian towns of Senj and Osijek, as well as the Slovak villages of Senez and Stupava (a Burgenland-Croatian minority also resides in Slovakia). In the year 2007, “Ivan Vuković” actually won the Tamburica competition in Osijek in the category “orchestra with more than 25 musicians”. Other Tamburica groups also represent Austria at various festivals abroad.

“KUGA Kulturna zadruga” at Großwarasdorf reported about the following trans-frontier projects: For several years, a Hungarian course has been held in which Burgenland-Croatian serves as the language of communication. This is an experimental form of teaching Hungarian. The course is taught by a Burgenland-Croatian teacher from Hungary. As a result, not only Hungarian is learnt, but Burgenland-Croatian is also applied and improved in a functional manner. Burgenland-Croatian children are also looked after by KUGA during the holidays (KUGAforKids). Here, a Burgenland-Croatian tutor from Hungary is assigned to the task. Every year a rock-pop workshop is being held, where 90% of the songs studied are in the Croatian language. Burgenland-Croatian is also the language of communication. Young people from Slovakia and Hungary also participate in this workshop. One of the workshop leaders comes from Hrvatski Jandrof in Slovakia, which is a Burgenland-Croatian village.

In the framework of a Centrope project (INTERREG IIIA), KUGA organized a concert at Sopron three years ago, as well as one at Großwarasdorf, to which rock bands from Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic were invited. This gave Burgenland-Croatian groups an opportunity to present themselves to audiences from

the neighboring countries. Numerous other rock, folklore and theater events (amateurs and professional groups), organized by KUGA, are also attended by visitors from across the borders.

III.2. Slovene in the Slovene Language Region of the Federal Province of Carinthia:

Article 8 (Education):

Paragraph 1

Letter a iv:

Numerous studies and, in particular, statistical facts and practical experience in the Carinthian educational system indicate very clearly that pre-school bilingual education is becoming increasingly important. A growing number of children of members of the Slovene national minority have only little, if any, knowledge of the Slovene language at the age at which they enter school. The bilingual nursery-school system in Carinthia is therefore of particular importance.

On 1 October 2001, the Carinthian Nursery-School Fund Act, Provincial Law Gazette No. 74/2001, entered into force. The aim of this law is to promote private bilingual or multi-lingual nursery schools in the settlement area of the Slovene national minority in Carinthia. The fund was set up for the purpose of reaching this goal. Its task is to grant financial assistance to the operators of bilingual or multi-lingual nursery schools, in order to cover their operating losses, to advise the operators of bilingual or multi-lingual nursery schools on matters of language teaching in connection with educating and caring for children, as well as to evaluate the language-teaching concepts of the operators of bilingual or multi-lingual nursery schools. The law grants private bilingual or multi-lingual nursery schools a legal title to financial assistance in order to cover their operating losses, provided that they meet the necessary requirements, and does not exclude nursery schools that may be set up in the future.

For several years, the Federal Chancellery has also been promoting a group of small children in the bilingual settlement area, in order to also support the bilingual pedagogical care for children below the age of three.

Moreover, the bilingual nursery-school groups (Slovene and German) in a total of seven Carinthian municipal nursery schools receive funding as part of the promotional activities of the Federal Chancellery for the national minorities. These are located at Ludmannsdorf, Gobasnitz, St. Michael ob Bleiburg, Eisenkappel-Vellach, Sittersdorf, Bleiburg and Feistritz im Rosental. In the year 2007, the promotional funding amounted to a total of EUR 137,987.00.

The municipal nursery school at Ludmannsdorf should be mentioned here as a positive example. It was awarded the European Seal for innovative language projects in November 2007. The successful work at this nursery school proves that a living high-quality bilingual education does not rule out that a further foreign language is being acquired. In addition to the bilingual nursery-school teachers, an English teacher (native speaker) comes to the nursery school once a week.

The responsible department in the regional Carinthian government offers continuing training programs in the form of workshops in order to ensure the best-possible continuing training of the bilingual nursery-school teachers.

The Working Party of Private Bilingual and Multi-Lingual Nursery Schools and the Pedagogical Association also offer programs for the continuing training of bilingual or multi-lingual nursery-school teachers. Projects and workshops to this effect receive regular financial support from the funds available to the Federal Chancellery for promoting the national minorities.

Letter b ii:

The title under international and constitutional law to school instruction of the Slovene national minority in its mother tongue is implemented in Carinthia by the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia of 1959.

In general, the provisions applicable to the organization and instruction at Austrian primary and lower-level secondary schools are also applied to the schools (classes, departments) within the scope of application of the Minorities' School Act for Carinthia, together with a few additional provisions. The latter includes the stipulation contained in § 16 (1) of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia.

Bilingual education in Carinthia, the basis of which is the Minorities' Schools Act, is essentially supported by three pillars:

- In general, the demand of the national minorities in Austria for education is met by the state-run, public schools.
- A major basic philosophy is the concept of integration which provides for the joint teaching of different groups of pupils.
- In Carinthia bilingual education is organized as provided by § 12 letter b of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia, which reads as follows:

“Primary schools with German and Slovene as languages of instruction (bilingual primary schools) also include – for the purposes of the present federal law – primary schools with German as a language of instruction that have classes taught in German and Slovene as languages of instruction (bilingual primary-school classes) and primary-school classes with German and Slovene as languages of instruction (bilingual primary-school departments).”

§ 7 of the Minorities' Schools Act defines the principle of registration, namely registration for participation in the bilingual classes, as the expression of the parental right, which means that registration is required:

“The right to use the Slovene language as a language of instruction or to learn it as a compulsory subject shall be granted to every pupil in the territories defined in accordance with § 10 (1) of the present federal law in the schools to be determined in keeping with § 10 (1) of the present federal law, if this is the will of the legal representative. A pupil may only be required to use the Slovene language as a language of instruction or to learn it as compulsory subject if this is the will of his/her legal representative.”

With the registration of their children, the persons entitled to provide for a child's education state that they accept for their children the special education offered by the Austrian school system. It is prohibited to check on whether the child belongs to the Slovene national minority or to urge a child to express its affiliation to an ethnic group.

On account of various initiatives, which initially were only geared to intensify the German-language teaching (section) at bilingual primary schools (e.g. by using assistant teachers), there was eventually a major reform discussion, and several commissions were set up. The main problem that was identified was that children who had been registered for bilingual education and monolingual children were taught together in classes and departments of bilingual primary schools. It was feared that the monolingual pupils would be disadvantaged during the periods in which the teacher was addressing the bilingual pupils in the Slovene language. Another problem is that the children who are registered for bilingual education increasingly have no prior knowledge of the Slovene language because they come from German-speaking families or are members of the Slovene national minority, whose parents leave the teaching of the Slovene language – for whatever reasons – to the schools.

The comprehensive preparatory work of these commissions was taken into account when ultimately amending the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia in 1988. This amendment improved the organizational framework conditions for bilingual primary schools. It contains essentially the following novel features:

- smaller numbers of pupils per class,
- setting up parallel classes,
- a system of having two teachers in classes with a monolingual and a bilingual department.

Both groups of pupils, i.e. the monolingual and the bilingual one, are taught together and encounter good conditions for their education. There are certainly pedagogical challenges. Efforts are undertaken to cope with them by applying new forms of teaching and by giving adequate thought to the methodology and didactics of instruction, by teaching the language in a communicative form, as well as by designing the teaching with comprehensive differentiation and/or individualization.

The smaller class-room units and the fact that a second teacher is assigned to classes in which registered and non-registered pupils are taught together, ensures good learning and teaching conditions, as well as the possibility of looking after pupils or groups of pupils individually. The cooperative form of teaching and learning is intended to ensure that all pupils receive optimum attention. The two teachers assigned to a class are both responsible for all pupils, with the team teacher usually performing the

didactic work in German. For a time, the two-teacher system was unique in the Austrian school system. Now, it is also applied to other areas of practical pedagogical work, especially to heterogeneous groups, as well as to situations where integration is an important motif. Only about 15% of the children registered for bilingual instruction have Slovene-language skills before entering school. Most begin by acquiring elementary Slovene-language skills. The challenge for the teachers is that teaching is complicated by the heterogeneous mix of the class-room population and the different Slovene-language skills. The curricula are designed as “planning concepts which make it possible for the teachers to choose the tasks and the content and thereby to meet the individual needs and requirements of the children, as well as to cope with the special circumstances.”

The locations of primary and lower-level secondary schools especially for the Slovene population were determined for those municipalities in which there was bilingual instruction at the beginning of the 1958/1959 school year.

In addition, additional primary schools outside this area need to be determined, where there is a sustained need to satisfy the right under Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna. For these schools the school districts need to be defined in such a manner that it covers the entire area of Carinthia, with the exception of the area described in the previous paragraph.

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 9 March 2000, file number G 2-4/00-7:

In this decision the Constitutional Court stated that “elementary education” in the meaning of Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna, which has constitutional standing, refers to the first four years of school education. In these grades, instruction must therefore be given in two languages in the schools under consideration. In its decision the Constitutional Court explained that elementary education in the Slovene language will not be ensured whenever Slovene – as well as other foreign languages – is only taught as a compulsory subject, whereas all other subjects are taught only in German. As this was the case to date in the fourth grade of primary school, the restriction of bilingual education to the first three grades was lifted.

This decision has been fully implemented. Elementary education is now in the first four grades of primary school.

Decision of the Constitutional Court of 27 June 2002, file number B 1230/01:

One should first point to the decision of the Constitutional Court of 27 June 2002, file number B 1230/01, in which the Constitutional Court dealt with the constitutionality of the closing down of a primary school within the scope of application of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia. In the aforementioned decision the Constitutional Court stated, inter alia, that on account of Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna there are no reservations under constitutional law concerning the provisions of the Carinthian school law with regard to setting up and continuing the operation of primary schools, their closing down or the setting up of classes as school branches (*Expositurklasse*), because these arrangements did not affect § 1 (3) of the Carinthian regional law that was enacted to implement the basic principles of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia. According to the relevant implementing provisions for Carinthia, every pupil living on the territory of municipalities at which instruction at primary and lower-level secondary schools was given in two languages at the beginning of the 1958/1959 school year was entitled to being taught at a bilingual primary and lower-level secondary school. However, with these arrangements Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna has been implemented. The provision of the State Treaty requires that – in line with the objective of Article 7 of the State Treaty of Vienna – elementary schools for the national minority must be designated for every municipality in the autochthonous settlement area of the Slovene minority in Carinthia, as it derives from the Article 7, item 3, of the State Treaty of Vienna (see file number VfSlg. 12.345/1989). There is also compliance with Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna and § 1 (3) of the aforementioned Carinthian regional law if in a municipality (that of Zell in the case of this court decision) there is (any) one bilingual primary school for the pupils of that school district. The further existence of an (additional) primary school in a designated municipality (namely the primary school at Zell-Pfarre) is therefore not required. There is even less reason for reservations whenever a class is set up as a school branch (*Expositurklasse*) at the location of the former primary school, at which elementary instruction is offered in the Slovene language. After all, the organization of the instruction under school law does not matter in this context.

This decision has made it clear that according to Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna there are no obstacles to closing down a bilingual primary school, at least not in those cases in which the bilingual classes are continued at the respective school site

in a school branch. In the meantime, the small number of pupils (less than 10 pupils per school location) has led to the closing down of the primary schools at Ebriach, Windisch Bleiberg and Zell-Winkel.

The decrease in birth rates in the various school districts is a matter of serious concern. One the number of pupils registered for a school falls below a certain number, the question is whether that operation of that school can be continued. The regional authorities take a generous stand with regard to this problem. The regional school council (department VII/ minorities' schools) holds bi-annual information meeting with the organizations representing the Slovene population in Carinthia. These talks help both sides to cope with the imminent questions.

Primary schools within the scope of application of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia:

District Hermagor

Egg bei Hermagor
St. Stefan im Gailtal
Görtschach-Förolach

District Klagenfurt (environs)

Feistritz i.R.
Ferlach 1
Ferlach 2
Ferlach 3
Grafenstein
Gurnitz
Keutschach
Köttmannsdorf
Ludmannsdorf
Maria Rain
Mieger
Radsberg (branch of Gurnitz primary school)
St. Margareten im Rosental
Schiefling
Wabelsdorf
Zell Pfarre

District Villach (environs)

Arnoldstein
Damschach

Okraj Šmohor

Brdo pri Šmohorju
Štefan na Zilji
Gorièe-Borlje

Okraj Celovec-deže

Bistrica v Rožu
Borovlje 1
Borovlje 2
Borovlje 3
Grabštanj
Podkrmos
Hodiše
Kotmara vas
Bilèovs
Žihpolje
Medgorje
Radiše
Šmarjeta v Rožu
Škofièe
Vabnja vas
Sele Fara

Okraj Beljak-dežela

Podklošter
Domaèale

Finkenstein
Fürnitz
Goritschach
Gödersdorf
Hohenthurn
Köstenberg
Latschach
Ledenitzen
Lind ob Velden
Maria Elend
Nötsch im Gailtal
Rosegg
Rosenbach
St. Egyden
St. Georgen im Gailtal
St. Jakob im Rosental
St. Leonhard bei Siebenbrunn
Thörl Maglern
Velden 1

District Villach (City)

VS 11 Villach - Maria Gail

District Völkermarkt

Bleiburg
Diex
Eberndorf
Ebriach (branch of Bad Eisenkappel p. school)
Edling
Bad Eisenkappel
Gallizien
Globasnitz
Greutschach (branch of Griffen primary school)
Griffen
Haimburg (Völkermarkt 3)
Heiligengrab
Klein St. Veit (Völkermarkt 4)
Kühnsdorf
Leppen (branch of Bad Eisenkappel p. school)
Loibach
Mittertrixen (Völkermarkt 5)
Möchling
Neuhaus
Rinkenberg

Bekštanj
Brnca
Gorièe
Vodièa vas
Straja vas
Kostanje
Loèe
Ledince
Lipa pri Vrbi
Podgorje
Èajna v Ziljski dolini
Rožek
Področca
Šentilj
Šentjurij v Ziljski dolini
Šentjakob v Rožu
Šentlenart pri Sedmih studencih
Vrata
Vrba 1

Okraj Beljak-mesto

LŠ 11 Beljak - Marija na Zilji

Okraj Velikovec

Pliberk
Djekše
Dobrla vas
Obirsko - closed
Kazaze
Železna Kapla
Galicija
Globasnica
Krèanje
Grebini
Vovbre (Velikovec 3)
Božji grob
Mali Šentvid (Velikovec 4)
Sinèa vas
Lepena
Libuèe
Srednje Trušnje (Velikovec 5)
Mohlièe
Suha
Vogrèe

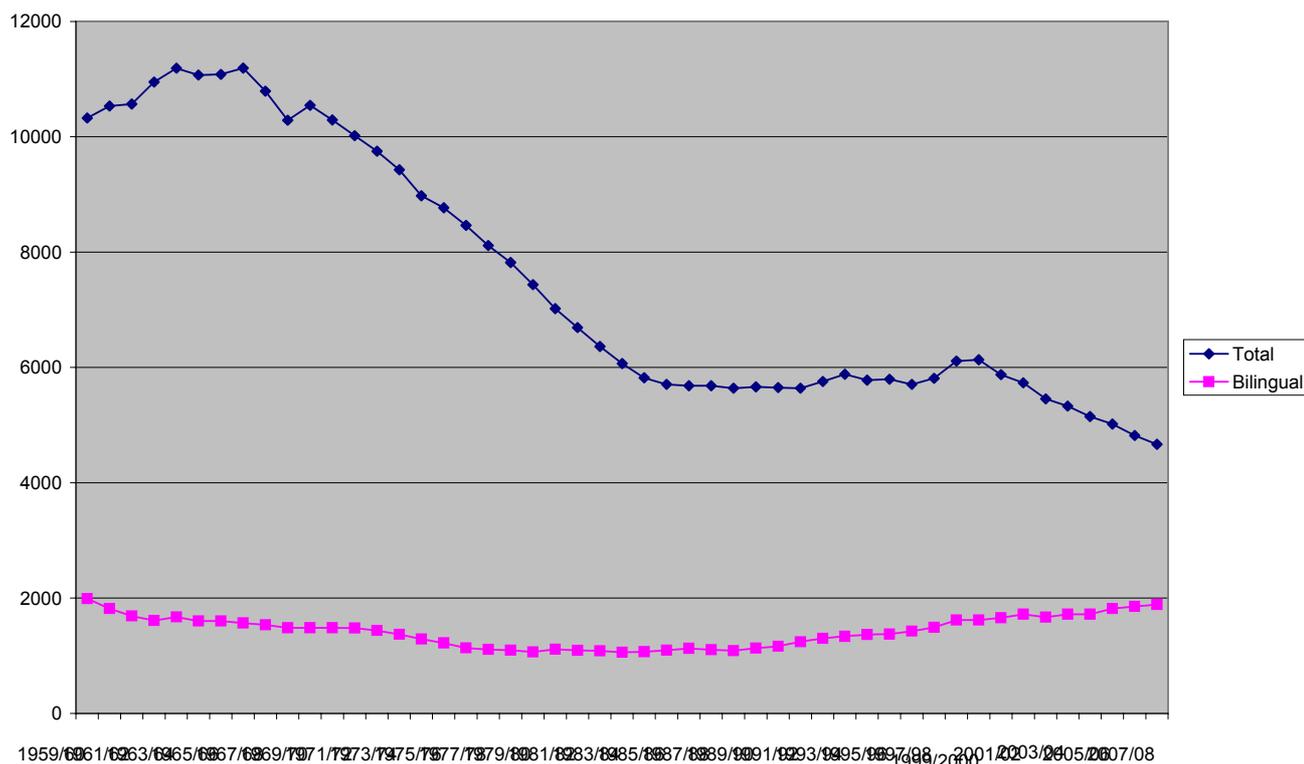
Ruden	Ruda
St. Kanzian	Škocjan
St. Margarethen o. T. (Völkermarkt 6)	Šmarjeta pri Velikovcu (Velikovec 6)
St. Michael ob Bleiburg	Šmihel pri Pliberku
St. Peter am Wallersberg (Völkermarkt 7)	Šentpeter na Vašinjah (Velikovec 7)
St. Philippen ob Sonnegg	Šentlipš pri Ženeku
St. Primus	Šentprimož
Schwabegg (branch of Neuhaus p. school)	Žvabek
Sittersdorf	Žitara vas
Tainach (Völkermarkt 8)	Tinje (Velikovec 8)
Untermitteldorf (branch of Ruden p. school)	Srednja vas
Völkermarkt 1	Velikovec 1
Völkermarkt 2	Velikovec 2
District Klagenfurt (City)	Okraj Celovec-mesto
VS 24 Klagenfurt	LŠ 24 Celovec
VS Hermagoras	LŠ Mohorjeva

VS = primary school

Evolution of the enrollment for bilingual instruction / Slovene-language instruction since the 1958/59 school year

School year	Total pupil number	bilingual	percentage	Pre-school	Klagenfurt
1959/60	10325	1994	19.31%	0	0
1960/61	10533	1820	17.27%	0	0
1961/62	10570	1689	15.97%	0	0
1962/63	10950	1610	14.70%	0	0
1963/64	11188	1673	14.95%	0	0
1964/65	11070	1602	14.47%	0	0
1965/66	11082	1602	14.46%	0	0
1966/67	11193	1569	14.01%	0	0
1967/68	10791	1538	14.25%	0	0
1968/69	10288	1487	14.45%	0	0
1969/70	10544	1485	14.08%	0	0
1970/71	10290	1485	14.43%	0	0
1971/72	10019	1481	14.78%	0	0
1972/73	9748	1441	14.78%	0	0
1973/74	9427	1372	14.55%	0	0
1974/75	8978	1292	14.39%	0	0

1975/76	8768	1224	13.96%	0	0
1976/77	8461	1138	13.45%	0	0
1977/78	8113	1111	13.69%	0	0
1978/79	7819	1100	14.07%	0	0
1979/80	7435	1065	14.32%	0	0
1980/81	7020	1115	15.88%	0	0
1981/82	6690	1096	16.38%	0	0
1982/83	6364	1088	17.10%	0	0
1983/84	6068	1063	17.52%	12	0
1984/85	5821	1070	18.38%	19	0
1985/86	5707	1098	19.24%	34	0
1986/87	5682	1130	19.89%	31	0
1987/88	5683	1107	19.48%	32	0
1988/89	5638	1092	19.37%	63	0
1989/90	5664	1134	20.02%	44	41
1990/91	5650	1163	20.58%	54	71
1991/92	5639	1242	22.03%	69	100
1992/93	5757	1302	22.61%	67	118
1993/94	5881	1338	22.75%	81	113
1994/95	5780	1368	23.67%	71	110
1995/96	5798	1375	23.71%	100	101
1996/97	5707	1427	25.00%	109	102
1997/98	5811	1494	25.71%	113	110
1998/99	6108	1620	26.52%	SchE	103
1999/2000	6133	1619	26.40%	SchE+10	105
2000/01	5876	1657	28.20%	SchE+4	113
2001/02	5735	1722	30.03%	SchE+8	116
2002/03	5456	1670	30.61%	SchE+3	127
2003/04	5328	1720	32.28%	SchE+3	143
2004/05	5150	1720	33.39	SchE	146
2005/06	5018	1819	36.25	SchE	165
2006/2007	4818	1855	38.50%	SchE + 9	180
2007/2008	4666	1892	40.55%	SchE + 11	187



Within the scope of application of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia (and if there is a sustainable demand also beyond it), the persons responsible for their children's education have the possibility of registering them for bilingual instruction (primary school) and Slovene education (as of the secondary-school grade I).

Within the territorial scope of application of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia there are 74 primary schools, of which 6 are classes at school branches (*Expositur*) and 2 bilingual primary schools in Klagenfurt which were attended by a total of 4666 pupils during the 2007/2008 school year.

1892 pupils, which correspond to 40.55%, have been registered for bilingual instruction at 64 primary schools, of which 5 are classes at school branches (*Expositur*). In Klagenfurt, 187 pupils are taught in two languages at another 2 primary schools.

Letter c iii:

As a matter of principle, Slovene may also be taught at lower-level secondary schools, as well as general and vocational middle-level and higher-level secondary schools as an optional/compulsory exercise, as an optional subject, but also as a compulsory subject, if there is demand for this instruction and if teaching staff with the necessary

qualifications, as well as sufficient hours of instruction within the curriculum are available. This also applies to schools outside the scope of application of the Minorities' Schools Act.

During the 2007/2008 school year, a total of 354 pupils were taught the Slovene language in grade I of the secondary-school level (14 lower-level secondary schools). Of these 92 had signed up under the Minorities' Schools Act, 133 attended Slovene as a living-language subject, 129 pupils signed up for Slovene as an optional subject.

Slovene instruction at lower-level secondary schools within the scope of application of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia during the 2007/2008 school year:

Lower-level secondary schools	Total pupil number	Enrolment options			Total
		A	B	C	
Arnoldstein	247	0	0	14	14
Bleiburg	153	25	0	0	25
Eberndorf	160	34	0	0	34
Bad Eisenkappel	130	14	32	4	50
Ferlach	337	13	0	33	46
Finkenstein	171	0	15	0	15
Kühnsdorf	130	0	0	11	11
St. Jakob i.R.	183	4	0	32	36
Griffen	130	0	0	0	0
Nötsch	109	2	0	4	6
Velden	257	0	55	2	57
Völkermarkt	358	0	0	10	10
Hermagor	437	0	1	1	2
HS 3 Klagenfurt	408	0	0	0	0
HS 6 Klagenfurt	187	0	0	18	18
HS 13 Klagenfurt-Viktring	162	0	30	0	30
HS 1 Villach	360	0	0	0	0
PTS Völkermarkt	81	0	0	0	0
Total	4000	92	133	129	354

A= enrolment under the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia
 B = Slovene as an alternative to English
 C = Slovene as an optional subject

The knowledge of the Slovene language obtained while attending compulsory school can be deepened and extended when continuing to attend general or vocational middle-level or higher-level schools.

Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna provides for a "proportionate number of own upper-level secondary schools" for the Slovene minority. As a result, the federal upper-level grammar school (*Bundesgymnasium*) (now also an upper-level secondary school = *Bundesrealgymnasium*) for the Slovene population was founded in Klagenfurt in 1957, where classes are taught in the Slovene language. With the establishment of the so-called Slovene Grammar School, significant educational dynamism set in within the Slovene national minority. This was further reinforced when the University of Klagenfurt was founded in the seventies.

Since the 1999/2000 school year the so-called "Kugy Class" was introduced at the Slovene Grammar School, which is a unique pedagogical innovation. This is an autonomous school project in the course of which new methods are used for multi-lingual instruction so that pupils and students from Carinthia, Slovenia and Friuli-Venezia can attend classes. The main languages of the project are Slovene (the common language of all children), German and Italian, as well as English.

The Federal Grammar School and the Federal Upper-Level Secondary School for Slovenes in Klagenfurt was attended by a total of 543 pupils during the 2007/2008 school year.

Slovene instruction at general and vocational middle-level and upper-level secondary schools in Carinthia		
2007/2008 School Year		
School	Optional compulsory subject or alternative compulsory subject	Optional subject

General upper-level secondary schools		
Europagymnasium Klagenfurt	0	12
BG/BRG Mössingerstr. Klagenfurt	0	18
ORG Klagenfurt	0	1
BORG Klagenfurt	6	5
BG/BRG Ingeborg Bachmann Klagenfurt	0	9
BG/BRG Lerchenfeldstr. Klagenfurt	0	9
BG/BRG Viktring	0	13
BAKIP Klagenfurt	0	65
BG/BRG St. Martin Villach	0	15
BG/BRG Alpen-Adria Völkermarkt	43	24
BG Tanzenberg	0	13
GB Porcia Spittal	0	17
BORG Spittal	0	2
BRG Spittal	0	2
BG/BRG St. Veit	0	15
	49	220
Upper-level vocational schools		
BHAK International Klagenfurt	25	0
BHAK I Klagenfurt	0	11
BHAK Völkermarkt	50	6
BHAK Wolfsberg	0	9
BHAK Spittal	0	25
HBLA Klagenfurt	0	16
HBLA St. Veit	0	9
HBLA Villach	0	30
KTS Villach	0	15
HTL Mössingerstraße Klagenfurt	0	26
HTL Villach	0	[^] 16
FS f. Sozialberufe II Klagenfurt	54	35
	129	196
Upper-level general and vocational		

schools with Slovene and German as instruction languages		
BG/BRG für Slowenen Klagenfurt	543	
ZBHAK Klagenfurt	159	
HLA St. Peter	111	
One-year technical business course St. Peter	17	
	830	
Total for Carinthia		1426

As parts of the autochthonous settlement area is located on the periphery, some of the pupils live at dormitories during the week. However, this is not a specific problem of the national minority. Members of the majority population also have to live under similar circumstances. However, the number of pupils living at dormitorites is on the decrease.

Letter d iv:

The legal basis for lower-level secondary schools also applies to instruction at the polytechnic schools in Carinthia.

According to the amendment of the Minorities' Schools Act,

“a bilingual commercial college shall be set up in Carinthia, especially for Austrian nationals of the Slovene minority. (...) At the bilingual commercial college, instruction in all classes shall be given equally in the Slovene and German languages. As to the languages taught, German, Slovene, English and another living foreign language shall be the compulsory subjects.”

Since the 1990/1991 school year a bilingual commercial college has been operated in Klagenfurt. In addition, the bilingual teaching institute for business occupations of the Convent of the School Sisters (denominational private school) at St. Peter near St. Jakob im Rosental has been established.

During the 2007/2008 school year, a total of 159 pupils attended the bilingual federal commercial college in Klagenfurt. During the same period, a total of 128 pupils were

enrolled at the private bilingual higher-level teaching institute for business occupations and the attached one-year technical school for business occupations.

596 pupils had signed up for Slovene as optional subjects or attended Slovene classes as an optional compulsory subject at the other general and vocational upper-level secondary schools. The current pupil numbers can be seen above in the table on Slovene instruction at general and vocational middle-level and upper-level secondary schools in Carinthia (*letter c iii*).

There is no instruction in the Slovene language and/or of the Slovene language at the vocational schools that apprentices attend in the course of the dual vocational training.

Letter e iii:

Slovene is taught in study courses at the following Austrian universities:

- University of Vienna, Institute for Slavic Studies
- University of Graz, Institute for Slavic Studies
- University of Graz, Institute for Theoretical Applied Translation Science
- University of Innsbruck, Institute for Slavic Studies
- University of Klagenfurt, Institute for Slavic Studies

At the Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt it is possible to enroll in diploma courses for Slavic studies and to attend the study course for teachers with Slovene as one of the teaching subjects, as well as to enroll in a diploma course in applied business management, with Slovene as a foreign language.

Letter f iii:

Slovene is taught at various adult-education colleges, and language courses are offered by the organizations of the national minorities. The programs offered also receive support from the federal budget for promoting the activities of the national minorities.

Letter g:

In Austria, this provision is especially met by the curricula, which also take account of the history and culture of the national minorities.

The very comprehensive and detailed ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Education, which determines the curricula for minority primary schools and for instruction of the minority languages in the primary schools and lower-level secondary schools of the federal provinces of Burgenland and Carinthia (Federal Law Gazette 1966/118, as last amended by Federal Law Gazette II 1998/309), contains the following summary statement in connection with teaching the history and culture of members of the national minorities:

“The aspects of inter-cultural learning, with special emphasis on the cultural heritage of the respective national minority, are most likely to be developed in those federal provinces of Austria where children belonging to a national minority and/or Austrian and foreign children are taught together. In the course of dealing with the respectively other cultural heritage, such aspects as lifestyle habits, language, customs, texts (for example stories, tales and legends), traditions, songs, etc., must be dealt with, in particular. Inter-cultural learning is not restricted to learning about other cultures. Rather, the issue is to learn together and to understand, to experience and help shape cultural values. What is also required is to arouse interest in and curiosity for the cultural differences, so that not only cultural unity but also cultural diversity can be experienced as something valuable.”

It is mentioned in this context that the curricula are of a general character, which makes it possible to take account of novel features and changes in society, culture and the economy and to attach the respective significance to the content of the various curricula in keeping with the objectives of the specific school. There are teaching principles that apply to schools in general and to different subjects, which includes the principle of “inter-cultural learning”, thinking and acting. It is part and parcel of the general goals of education at all Austrian schools (not only at the schools of and for the national minorities). Occasionally, the school authorities will make suggestions, make recommendations or provide assistance, but they will not issue binding rules. It is largely left to the scope of autonomous action (and thus to the responsibility) of the schools and/or the teachers to comply with the provisions on the curriculum. However, an additional provision concerning the curriculum applies to the Grammar School and Upper-Level Secondary School for Slovenes in Klagenfurt in connection with the subjects of “history” and “sociology”, namely that “the Slovene history must also be dealt with as an integral part of the curriculum on all school levels”. Two approved text books in Slovene are available for this purpose (History of the Slovene People, 1978; History of the Slovenes in Carinthia from the Year 1918 to Today, Including Overall Slovene History, 1985).

Letter h:

A sound basic and continuing training for teachers is an important prerequisite if a bilingual school system is to function and if Slovene culture and history are to be taught. In addition to the technical qualification of teachers it is also of major importance to have good pedagogical training. Teamwork, conflict resolution, inter-cultural learning, as well as handling the new communication technologies have become more important today than ever before.

On 1 October 2007 the Pedagogical University for Carinthia was inaugurated. It is also referred to as Viktor Frankl University. It is the successor institution to the Federal Pedagogical Academy in Carinthia and the central institution for the basic and continuing training of teachers. As it is the pedagogical university of the Alpen-Adria region, it is committed to inter-cultural education on an international level. This is also demonstrated by a center of competence for "Multi-Lingualism and Inter-cultural Education". The focus of education and research activities is on inter-cultural pedagogy in the fields of language didactics/multi-lingualism, global learning and peace pedagogy. The multi-lingualism and mobility of students and teachers finds expression in a wide range of educational cooperation projects and is an obvious aspect of activities. In view of the historical and cultural situation in Carinthia, the Slovene language is of major importance in the basic and continuing training of teachers for the minority school system.

In addition to offering general vocational qualifications for teachers at compulsory schools, the Viktor Frankl University also offers courses to obtain the teaching qualification for the minority school system. This means specifically that students may also obtain training as bilingual teachers, as well as team teachers by following a modularized curriculum. The requirement for this training is to have a sound knowledge of the Slovene language. Language courses to obtain Slovene language skills are offered at the Pedagogical University.

The scope of activities of the aforementioned center of competence comprises the organization, implementation and evaluation of language teaching, continuing language training and language research. It comprises all foreign languages taught at schools, Slovene as a first and second language, as well as German as a second language for pupils with a migration background. The goal is to offer a high quality of

training for teachers at bilingual schools, which is achieved through close practical cooperation with experienced teachers. Contacts and joint projects with the universities of Klagenfurt/Celovec, Ljubljana/Laibach and Koper/Capodistria support these efforts.

It is planned that, in the course of the coming years, the training of foreign-language or second-language teachers will be put on a common basis and coordinated with regard to curriculum, methodology and didactics, using the European reference frame for languages. The curricula will be upgraded to the latest methodological and didactic level, on the basis of a scientifically founded competence model. In the field of languages, this is achieved by employing the European language portfolio and in the methodological and didactic field by using a language didactics portfolio developed by the Council of Europe.

During a multi-year introductory phase, the training of bilingual teachers and team teachers will be evaluated. The goal of this measure is to ensure and to enhance both the quality of the training and the quality of bilingual instruction and of teaching the Slovene language.

The following table shows the number of students that completed their training as bilingual teachers for primary schools for German and Slovene as the languages of instruction, and/or who received their training as team teachers in recent study years (up to the end of 2006 at the Pedagogical Academy and as of January 2007 at the Pedagogical University).

Study year	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Bilingual teachers:	50	49	20	34
Team teachers:	13	28	44	49

Study year	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
Bilingual teachers:	12 R + 5 W = 17	5 R + 9 W = 14	2 R + 7 W = 9
Team teachers:	5 R + 6 W = 11	2 R + 7 W = 9	13 R + 7 W = 20

R = full-time students

W = students obtaining continuing education

Letter i:

Article 7, item 2, of the State Treaty of Vienna stipulates that a department shall be set up with the school inspectorate for the Slovene schools. According to § 31 of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia, the regional school inspectorate for Carinthia shall have a department for matters a) of the primary schools and lower-level secondary schools with Slovene instruction, b) of Slovene-language instruction in the bilingual primary schools and the Slovene-language departments of lower-level secondary schools, as well as c) of the federal upper-level secondary school with Slovene as the language of instruction and the bilingual commercial college. The regional school inspectorate for Carinthia complied with this instruction by setting up a separate department for the minority schools which is responsible for supervising the schools. It publishes an annual comprehensive report on the situation of the minority-school system in Carinthia. These annual reports are based on an internal official evaluation and are used as a premise for quality assurance and developing the minority-school system.

Paragraph 2:

§ 11 (1) of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia stipulates that, if there is demand, bilingual instruction should also be offered in Carinthia outside the autochthonous settlement area of the national minority (see letter b ii above). This means in practical terms that if seven primary-school pupils and/or five lower-level secondary school pupils have signed up, the demand is regarded as being sustainable.

Article 9 (Judicial Authorities):

Paragraph 1:

Letter an ii:

According to § 13 and following of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with the Ordinance on the Use of Slovene, the Slovene language has been admitted as official language, in addition to the German language, before the local courts of Ferlach, Eisenkappel and Bleiburg, as well as before the Regional Court Klagenfurt. Austrian nationals, as well as citizens from other EU States can therefore apply that they may use Slovene as the official language in penal proceedings conducted against them before these courts. If the provisions on official languages are violated, the title to be

heard in court is regarded as having been violated. The sanction pursuant to § 17 (2) of the National Minorities Act for violations of the provisions on official languages at trials in criminal proceedings is nullity of the court decision:

“Whenever the trial in criminal court proceedings have not been conducted in the language of the national minority, contrary to § 15, this constitutes nullity, as defined in § 281 (1) item 3 of the 1975 Code of Criminal Procedure. This reason for nullity cannot be claimed to the detriment of the person who filed the application pursuant to § 15 (2) (to use the language of he national minority), but to his advantage, irrespective as to whether the violation of form could have had an influence on the decision ...”

Letter an iii:

Austrian law does not contain a provision, according to which documents or other pieces of evidence in criminal proceedings may only be submitted in a specific language. The court shall translate or have translated, without delay, oral and written submissions in the Slovene language.

Letter a ii and letter a iii:

The costs and fees for translations which a court produces or has produced, shall be borne *ex officio*. When assessing the amount of lump-sum costs of criminal proceedings, the costs of an interpreter, called in pursuant to the provisions of the National Minorities Act shall not be taken into account (§ 22 (1) of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with § 381 (1) item 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). If a party (person concerned) in criminal court proceedings is represented or defended by an attorney-at-law or a penal-law counsel, the Federal State pays the fee of that attorney-at-law or penal-law counsel for the last third of such proceedings which are also conducted in the Slovene language.

Letter b ii:

On the basis of the same provisions as mentioned in letter a, in civil proceedings a party may use Slovene as an official language before the same courts. A person who intends to us Slovene, as the official language, in an oral hearing shall inform the court thereof without delay upon being served the summons. If a person is found guilty of failing to provide this information in time, that person may be required to pay for the additional costs incurred in this case. This obligation to provide information does not apply to proceedings that are conducted on the basis of a submission prepared in Slovene. The information by the party on the use of the Slovene language applies for

the full length of the subsequent proceedings, unless it is revoked. If the German or Slovene language is not used, or if the use of the Slovene language is not admitted – contrary to the provisions on official language (§ 13 and following of the National Minorities Act) – the title of the party to be heard by court is deemed to have been violated in the respective step in the proceedings to whose detriment the violation has occurred.

Letter b iii:

Austrian law does not contain a provision which stipulates that documents or other pieces of evidence in civil proceedings may only be submitted in a specific language. The court must cover the costs of translation *ex officio*, which the court has to produce or to obtain pursuant to the provisions on official language (§ 13 and following of the National Minorities Act).

The Federal Ministry of Justice provided the following statistical material on the number of persons working for the courts who have language skills in the language of the national minority, as well as on the number of cases conducted in the Slovene language in Carinthian courts (The figures relate to the year 2004):

The number of officials with Slovene language skills and of the court cases conducted in Slovene as an official language:

Local Court Bleiburg: 3 persons, including the director of the local court and the head of the court office.

Local Court Eisenkappel: 4 persons, including the director of the local court and the head of the court office.

Local Court Ferlach: 5 persons, including the director of the local court, one further judge and the head of the court office.

During the period under review, no proceedings before the Regional Court Klagenfurt were conducted in the Slovene language. This correlates with the figures for the previous years. It was only in the year 2002 that one case (criminal media law) was conducted in the Slovene language.

Before the local courts of Bleiburg, Eisenkappel and Ferlach, a total of 100 proceedings were conducted in the course of which – partly completely – hearings and examinations were conducted in the Slovene language and/or actions and submissions were filed in the Slovene language. Moreover, advice on legal matters was given in the Slovene language – especially on the court days of the local courts at Eisenkappel and Ferlach.

A comparison with the figures for the year 2003 shows an increase in the number of cases before the Local Court Bleiburg (+4), as well as the Local Court Ferlach (+10) and a slight decrease before the Local Court Eisenkappel (-3). The total number of cases continued to increase, as compared to the year before. The strong downward trend of earlier years therefore appears to have been stopped (total number of cases in 2000: 158; in 2001: 83; in 2002: 69; in 2003: 89; 2004: 100).

A submission for being granted the fee according to § 22 (4) of the National Minorities Act was filed in three cases (Local Court Eisenkappel: 2; Local Court Ferlach: 1). For the sake of comparison the figures were 1 for Eisenkappel in 2003; 2 for Eisenkappel in 2002; and 1 for Eisenkappel in 2001.

Letter c ii:

Pursuant to § 13 and following of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with § 4 of the Ordinance on the Use of Slovene as an Official Language, Slovene is admitted as an additional official language before the Independent Administrative Senate for Carinthia (an administrative authority according to Austrian law, but a tribunal as defined in Article 6 of the Human Rights Convention). The details of the provisions correlate in essence with the comments made above. § 17 (3) of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with § 68 (4), item 4, of the General Administrative Proceedings Act sanctions violations of § 15 of the National Minorities Act, which governs the use of the Slovene language in proceedings, by rendering the Senate's decision null and void.

Letter c iii:

Austrian legislation on administrative proceedings, too, which applies to proceedings before Independent Administrative Senates, does not contain any obligation to submit pieces of evidence only in a specific language.

Letter d:

§ 22 of the National Minorities Act makes sure that a party does not incur any additional costs when resorting to the use of the Slovene language as an official language. § 22 of the cited law reads as follows:

§ 22. (1) Costs and fees for translations which an authority or service unit must produce or obtain pursuant to the present federal law shall be covered ex officio. When assessing the lump-sum contribution to costs pursuant to § 381 (1) item 1 of the 1975 Code of Criminal Procedure, the costs of an interpreter/translator, recruited in accordance with the present federal law, shall not be taken into account.

(2) (Constitutional provision) If the proceedings are also conducted in the language of a national minority, only two thirds of the actually required time input (for the length of a hearing) shall be used as a basis when assessing the fees that a territorial corporation shall receive and that are calculated according to the time input.

(3) If – on account of the present federal law – a paper must be produced directly in two official languages, the stamp fee shall be due for only one of the copies.

(4) If a party in court proceedings (a party involved) is represented or defended by a legal counsel, a criminal-law counsel or a notary public, the Federal State shall pay for the last third of the fee of such legal counsel, criminal-law counsel or notary public, incurred in such proceedings (hearings) that are also conducted in the language of a national minority. Payment of that amount of the fee shall be claimed always before the end of such a hearing or such proceedings by submitting a statement of costs, with the loss of this claim being forfeited otherwise; the judge shall decide on the amount of the fee immediately and instruct the accounting officer to pay this amount to the legal counsel, criminal-law counsel or notary public. This additional fee expense shall be assessed in such a way as though the opponent of the person entitled to this claim were obliged by law to refund these costs to that party.

Paragraph 2:

Letter a:

As was mentioned before, the validity of a legal document does not depend on the language in which it is drawn up.

Article 10 (Administrative authorities and public services):

Paragraph 1

Letter an iii and letter c:

§ 3 of the Ordinance on the Use of Slovene as an Official Language also mentions three district administrative authorities, i.e. Villach (environs), Klagenfurt (environs) – with the exception of the branch office at Feldkirchen – and Völkermarkt, in addition to three local courts, before which Slovene is admitted as an official language. § 4 (1) of the cited law also stipulates as general facts of a case that Croatian shall also be admitted as an official language before the other authorities and service units of the Federal State and the provincial government with offices in Carinthia, the geographical competences of which coincide in full or in part with the geographical competences of the aforementioned district administrative authorities and/or local courts, if Slovene were admitted as an official language in a case in which one of the district administrative authorities or local courts had subject-matter competences in the case in question, or if the authority has competences as a legal-remedy instance in proceedings that were conducted before an authority on a first-instance basis, where Slovene is admitted as an official language in addition to the German language. Slovene as an official language shall also be used at police stations that have geographical competences that coincide in full or in part with the municipalities listed in § 2 of the cited law. Slovene is admitted as an official language, in addition to the German language, before the Military Command in Klagenfurt, whenever the matters relate to supplementary military issues.

According to § 13 and following of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with the Ordinance on the Use of Slovene as an Official Language, an Austrian national (as well as nationals of another EU State) may inform the aforementioned authorities that he/she wishes to use to the language of the national minority. No separate information to this effect is required whenever the proceedings are conducted on the basis of a submission drawn up in the language of the national minority. The information applies for the full length of the subsequent proceedings, unless it is revoked. In particular, the right to use the language of the national minority comprises the right to submit written or oral submissions, as well as the right to be served decisions by or orders of the authority concerned in the German and Slovene languages.

Since the decision of the Constitutional Court of 4 October 2000, file number V 91/99-11, it especially applies to the political district of Völkermarkt that every authority must take the initiative and examine whether it must use Slovene as the official language. This is due to the fact that the State Treaty of Vienna applies directly in this case.

Paragraph 2

Letter b:

Please refer to the information in connection with the preceding paragraph. The municipal authorities of the 12 municipalities listed in § 2 of the Ordinance on the Use of Slovene as an Official Language, as well as additional bilingual municipalities in the district of Völkermarkt, as well as those three district administrative authorities, in which these municipalities are located, i.e. Villach (environs), Klagenfurt (environs) – with the exception of the branch office at Feldkirchen – and Völkermarkt, especially qualify as local or regional authorities, as defined in the provisions of the Charter. Slovene is also admitted as an official language before the Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government. The right to use Slovene as a language of a national minority especially comprises the right to submit written and oral applications in this language.

The Office for National Minorities, set up specifically with the Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government, has translated a number of forms into the Slovene language (applications for passports, applications for amendments and/or modifications of passports, applications for being issued an identity card, applications for being issued a driving license, residence registration forms, applications for being issued a hunting card, etc.), which are available for downloading on its web site (www.volksgruppenbuero.at/services/C4), in order to enhance the functionalities of Slovene as an official language. Moreover, the Office for National Minorities also acts as a translation service.

Letter d:

Moreover, § 13 (4) of the National Minorities Act empowers the municipalities listed in the ordinance on the Use of Slovene as an Official Language to use the language of the national minority also for general public announcements.

Paragraph 4

Letter a:

Written and oral applications in Slovene, submitted in proceedings before the aforementioned administrative authorities conducted in Slovene as the official language shall be translated into German *ex officio* (§ 14 (1) of the National Minorities Act). Pursuant to § 15 of the cited law, an interpreter shall be called in, if necessary, for oral hearings. If minutes of these proceedings are prepared in German, they shall be translated into Slovene without any delay. The costs incurred by such translation or interpreting assignments shall be covered *ex officio*, pursuant to § 22 of the cited law.

Paragraph 5:

According to § 21 of the Civil Status Act, in conjunction with § 154 of the Austrian Civil Law Code, a child is generally given his or her first name by the parents. There is no requirement under Austrian law that the name must be in German, nor does the surname have to be in German. This also derives from § 5 (3) of the Civil Status Ordinance, according to which a person's names, which are to be registered on the basis of a document presented in Latin letters, must be recorded in the original letters and characters. This means that diacritic characters not used in the German language must also be used. However, the civil-status registers must be kept in the German language (§ 18 of the National Minorities Act). Whenever documents are submitted for registration in the civil-status registers that are in a language of a national minority, the authority shall have them translated. Inversely, excerpts from the civil-status registers shall be issued as translations into the language of the respective national minority, if so requested (§ 20 of the National Minorities Act). In keeping with the case law of the Constitutional Court (Constitutional Court decision of 5 March 1996, file number VfSlg. No. 14.452/1996), the foregoing shall also apply if it was not possible to conduct the procedure resulting in the register entry (e.g. marriage ceremony) in the language of the national minority, in the absence of an application to this effect by the member of the national minority.

An amendment of the Names Modification Act (Federal Law Gazette No. 25/1995) resulted in a large measure of liberalization concerning the possibility to modify one's name. The members of a national minority, who already have a name, converted into German, have the possibility to assume once again their original name in the language of the national minority. Under the amended legislation, one may modify one's name for any random reason. However, an important reason is required if this change of

name is to be carried out free of charge. A member of a national minority may use the important reason pursuant to § 2 (1) item 10 of the Names Modification Act, which states that the intended change of name is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable disadvantages in his/her social relations and that these drawbacks cannot be avoided in any other way. According to § 2 (2) of the Names Modification Act, this reason also applies to a change of the first name.

Article 11 (Media):

Paragraph 1:

Letter b ii and letter c ii:

Amendments of the federal law on Austria's broadcasting corporation (ORF Act) entered into force on 1 January 2002. Pursuant to § 5 (1) of the ORF Act, the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) is now required to broadcast a commensurate portion of its programs in the languages of the national minorities for which national-minority advisory boards have been set up. The broadcasting times shall be laid down on an annual basis, after hearing the Audience's Council. Moreover, pursuant to § 28 (4) of the ORF Act a seat in the Audience's Council of the ORF is reserved to a member of the national minorities. According to § 30 (1) of the ORF Act, the Audience's Council proposes measures, inter alia, to comply with this statutory obligation and comments on the program portions for national minorities which are to be counted as broadcasting times. The amendment of the ORF Act also facilitated the cooperation between the ORF and private radio stations. It also improved with sustainability the programs offered in favor of the languages of the national minorities.

Every day and/or week, the regional broadcasting station (Landesstudio Kärnten) broadcasts the following radio programs in the Slovene language:

Program	Broadcasting dates	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
Slovene magazine	Wed (1 x per week)	57'	21.03 h	Slovene
3-language magazine ¹⁾	Mon – Fri	177'	16.03 h	German / Italian / Slovene
2-language magazine	Sun (1 x per week) and on holidays	54'	6.06 h	Slovene / German

1) At 18.30 h, a three-language news broadcast is broadcast in the course of the program.

The following specific programs are broadcast in the Slovene language:

RADIO CARINTHIA

Program	Broadcasting dates	Start of program	End of program	Length of program
Dežela ob dravi / Land along the Drava River (Slovene)	Wed	21.03 h	22.00 h	00.57
Servus, Srečno, Ciao (German, Slovene, Italian)	Mon – Fri	16.03 h	19.00 h	02.57
News in German, Slovene, Italian	Mon – Fri	18.30 h	18.33 h	00.03
Dobro jutro / Good morning (Slovene, German)	Sun + holidays	06.06 h	07.00 h	00.54

As part of the cooperation with AKO Lokalradio GmbH, the ORF has been producing an information and entertainment program in the Slovene language since March 2004, which is broadcast throughout the day with a total of eight hours daily broadcasting time. It is broadcast via "Radio DVA-AGORA" (main frequency: 105.5 MHz) at the following time slots: 06.00 - 10.00 h, 12.00 - 13.00 h, 15.00 -18.00 h. AKO Lokalradio GmbH is responsible for the time zones 10.00 -12.00 h, 13.00 - 15.00 h, as well as 18.00 -06.00 h, which produces the program for these time slots. In Carinthia there is therefore a full 24-hour program for the Slovene minority.

On the ORF program platforms, the ORF news broadcast in German is taken over at every full hour (except at 12.00 h); Slovene news are broadcast at 6.30 h, 7.30 h, 8.30 h, 9.30 h, 15.30 h and 16.30 h. Moreover, at the time slots 10.00 -12.00 h (Radio DVA) and 13.00 -15.00 h (Radio AGORA) the ORF news are broadcast in German, always at the full hour, and at 10.30 h and 11.30 h the news in the Slovene language are taken over by "Radio DVA-AGORA" from the regional studio for Carinthia. As a result, throughout the day (6.00 h to 18.00 h), uniform news coverage is ensured. The music format comprises hits, oldies and folklore music, with the focus on Slovene songs.

ORF Program on RADIO DVA-AGORA

Program	Broadcasting date	Start of program	End of program	Length of program
News in Slovene at 06.30, 07.30, 08.30, 09.30, 10.30, 11.30, 15.30, 16.30	Mon – Sun			00.03 each
Dobro jutro / Good morning	Mon - Fri	06.00 h	10.00 h	04.00
Studio ob 12-ich / Studio at 12	Mon – Sat	12.00 h	13.00 h	01.00
Lepa ura / Pleasant hour	Mon - Fri	15.00 h	17.00 h	02.00
Studio ob 17-ich / Studio at 17	Mon – Fri	17.00 h	17.30 h	00.30
Naša pesem / Our song	Mon – Fri	17.30 h	18.00 h	00.30
Dobro jutro / Good morning	Sat, Sun	06.00 h	09.00 h	03.00
Veseli vrtiljak / The funny carousel	Sat	09.00 h	10.00 h	01.00
Farant / After-hours	Sat	15.00 h	18.00 h	03.00
Zajtrk s profilom / Breakfast with a profile	Sun	09.00 h	10.00 h	01.00
Čestitke in pozdravi / Music request concert	Sun	12.00 h	13.00 h	01.00
Vikend / Weekend	Sun	15.00 h	18.00 h	03.00

Moreover, the program for national minorities, broadcast by Radio Carinthia, can be received in digital format via the ORF, as well as throughout Austria by means of Live-Stream on the Internet. "volksgruppen.ORF.at" offers the journals "Studio ob 12-ich / Studio at 12", and "Studio ob 17-ich / Studio at 17" via Live-Stream (1476.orf.at), as well for one week in the audio archives for later listening or repeat listening. AKO-Lokalradio GmbH is responsible for the time slots 10.00 - 12.00 h, 13.00 - 15.00 h and 18.00 - 06.00 h, and it produces programs for them. In addition, the following television programs are broadcast in the Slovene language:

REGIONAL STUDIO CARINTHIA

Program	Station	Broadcasting date	Start of program	End of program	Length of program	Language
Dober dan, Koroška	Lokal – K TV Slovenija	Sun	13.30 h	14.00 h	00.30	Slovene
Dober dan, Koroška		Mon	15.05 h	15.35 h	00.30	Slovene
Dober dan, Koroška, repeat		Wed	17.35 h	18.05 h	00.30	Slovene

This television program of the regional broadcasting studio for Carinthia is also available for downloading throughout Austria as a Real-Video via the Internet. The on-demand offer can be accessed after about one hour after broadcasting and remains accessible until the next broadcasting date.

Programs that can be received throughout Austria:

Repeat radio & TV programs broadcast for the national minority in Slovene by the Regional Studio for Carinthia

RADIO

Program	Broadcasting date	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
Slovene magazine	Sat., Sun	120'	18.00 h	Slovene

The radio programs broadcast by Radio Carinthia are also broadcast on Radio 1476 and can be received throughout Austria.

TELEVISION

Program	Broadcasting date	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
Heimat fremde Heimat (ORF2)	Sun (1 x per week)	30'	13.30 h	German and occasionally in other languages with German sub-titles
Heimat fremde Heimat (repeat of Sunday program on ORF2)	Mon (1 x per week)	30'	Night program	German and occasionally in other languages with German sub-titles
Dober dan, Koroška (repeat of Sunday program on ORF2)	Mon (1 x per week)	30'	Night program	Slovene
Heimat fremde Heimat (3sat edition)	Sat (every 14 days) on 3sat	30'	10.50 h	German and occasionally in other languages with German sub-titles
Slovenian magazine	Thurs (every	25'	11.45 h	German

14 days) on
3sat

(contributed by RTV Slovenija
with editorial management from
ORF/ broadcast on 3 sat)

On the web site of the regional studio for Carinthia (<http://kaernten.orf.at>) the programs broadcast by Radio Carinthia are available live, and the Slovenian television programs and information programs of the ORF on "Radio DVA-AGORA" are available for downloading at volksgruppen.orf.at.

The on-line platform of the ORF (volksgruppen.orf.at), which is being produced jointly by the minorities' editing desk and national minorities' editing desks of the regional studios for Burgenland and Carinthia, went through a re-launch at the beginning of 2006. The newly designed entry page offers an overview in several languages about the most important news of the day. From this page, interested users can access directly the in-depth reports, both on the Slovene-language and the German-language pages. Events for specific target groups are listed in a clear layout on the channel "Termine" (dates), and the content of the radio and TV programs for the national minorities are listed on the channel "Programm" (program). The newly set-up channel "Radio 1476" gives an overview of the programs offered to the national minorities by ORF-Radio 1476. There, the programs in German, Romany, Slovak, Czech and Hungarian are also available "on demand" for downloading and can thus be listened (again) at a later date. "volksgruppen.orf.at" thus supplements the Live-Stream programs available from Radio 1476 on the Internet. In addition to all TV programs produced by the national minorities' editing desks, all radio magazines can now also be accessed on the Internet for a period of one week.

Letter d:

In the framework of federal promotional funding for the national minorities, CDs with language courses in the languages of the national minorities, video works and theater productions are also promoted.

Letter e i:

In connection with press promotion, reference is made to § 2 (2) of the 2004 Press Promotion Act, Federal Law Gazette I No. 136/2003, which offers the media of the national minorities easier access to press promotion funding. While weekly newspapers must have a minimum circulation of 5,000 copies and must have a staff of

two full-time employed journalists, in order to receive promotional funding, these requirements do not apply to the weekly newspapers of the national minorities.

„Novice“, the Carinthian weekly newspaper in the Slovene language, and “Nedelja”, the Slovenian church bulletin of the Gurk Diocese receive support as general press promotion funding under the 1985 Press Promotion Act. The newspaper of the Club of Slovene Students (“PUNTI!”) is promoted from publication promotion funding.

Letter f ii:

In addition to the funding available for national minorities, as mentioned in letter d, general support schemes such as promotional activities for the arts are also available for audio-visual productions in the Slovene language.

Paragraph 2:

The freedom of communication is fully guaranteed in Austria by the constitution. In this context, one should mention Article 10 of the Human Rights Convention, which has constitutional ranking in Austria, Article 13 (1) of the Basic State Law on the General Rights of Citizens, Imperial Law Gazette No. 142/1867, the decision of the Provisional National Assembly of 1918 on the abolition of censorship, State Law Gazette No. 3/1918, as well as the federal constitutional law on ensuring the independence of broadcasting, Federal Law Gazette No. 396/1974. Cable television and satellite programs from Slovenia can be received in Carinthia without any restrictions.

Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities):

Paragraph 1:

Letter a:

Various cultural facilities and activities, which aim at preserving the Slovene language, are being promoted in the framework of promotional funding activities for the national minorities. All types of cultural facilities and areas of activities, as listed in Article 12 (1) of the Charter, are eligible for promotional funding. In the year 2007, 76 organizations of national minorities with registered offices in Carinthia, as well as facilities of the Catholic church for the specific purposes of the national minorities received a total amount of EUR 1,140,000.00 from the Federal Chancellery as promotional funding for the national minorities. Moreover, the organizations of the national minorities also

received funding from the federal province of Carinthia and the municipalities. In addition to this special promotional funding for specific purposes of the national minorities, the organizations of the national minorities can also apply for promotional funding from other areas such as, for example, education, science, the arts, etc.

The 76 organizations of the national minorities in Carinthia, which received promotional funding for the national minorities in the year 2007, comprised 33 local cultural associations. They received an amount between EUR 1,000.00 and EUR 6,500.00, on average EUR 3,670.00. Especially frequent were projects to produce music CDs in the Slovene language or in two languages, as well as fees for leaders of Slovene choirs and for adapting pieces of music, also the production of theater or puppet theater performances in the Slovene language or in two languages, or to organize concerts in the Slovene language or in several languages. In addition, 8 sports clubs received promotional funding for working with juveniles in the Slovene language, and the Slovene Sports Association received promotional funding for publishing print products in the Slovene language or in two languages, as well as for organizing a sports and language week for children, to be held in two languages, including Slovene. The central organizations received the biggest amounts of promotional funding, i.e. EUR 95,000.00 each. These are: "Rat der Kärntner Slowenen" (Council of Slovenes in Carinthia), "Zentralverband slowenischer Organisationen" (Central Association of Slovene Organizations), "Christlicher Kulturverband" (Christian Cultural Association) and "Slowenischer Kulturverband" (Slovenian Cultural Association). "Gemeinschaft of Kärntner Slowenen und Sloweninnen" (Community of Carinthian Slovenes) received EUR 65,500.00. The Council of Slovenes in Carinthia, the Central Association of Slovene Organizations and the Community of Carinthian Slovenes regard themselves as organizations representing the Slovene minority in matters concerning the national minority. They received their promotional funding mainly for maintaining their infrastructure, i.e. rent, operating expenses, cost of staff, and partly also for office overheads and for publishing the association newsletter. The Christian and the Slovene Cultural Association are the umbrella organizations of the local cultural associations and often serve in a coordinating and service function. They also received basic promotional funding (for staff costs).

In 2006 the Slovene Cultural Association, together with a local cultural association, implemented their own, Slovene-language theater production ("Nosorogi / The

Rhinoceros”), which was shown at festivals in Carinthia, Slovenia and Italy. The Slovene Cultural Association facilitates performances by professional theater groups from Slovenia in Carinthia and promotes good and quality-oriented theater work. A season’s ticket for Slovene theater performances was launched, which comprises 6 performances for adults and 6 performances for children and juveniles. In summer, painting weeks for young people from Slovenia, Italy, Hungary and Austria are organized, as well as an ethnological workshop, which young people from Austria and Slovenia hold, monitored by qualified staff members. The research results were published in the series of books called “Naša regija/Unsere Region” (Our Region). Continuing training seminars for members of the local cultural associations are organized, as well as literature days and literature workshops for bilingual juveniles from Carinthia, Vienna, Slovenia and southern Tyrol. Another service provided is to make available the archives of specific sheet music/theater texts of the national minority, which the choir leaders and theater groups of the local cultural associations may use. Continuing-training events are offered in Slovenia. Together with the local cultural associations, the Slovene Cultural Association also organizes or helps organize events in the Slovene language and/or specific of the national minority (concerts and exhibitions, readings by Slovene authors in Austria, Slovenia and Italy). Every year a Slovene-language package of books is published which is sold at favorable rates.

The Christian Cultural Association supports its member organizations in organizing cultural events in the Slovene language and/or specific of the national minority. It offers seminars for continuing education, procures special literature and working tools and publishes a Slovene-language information bulletin. It maintains archives for the specific music of the national minority, as well as theater texts in the Slovene language and the chronicles of associations. It organizes festivals of puppet theater and theater groups from Slovenia and promotes the performance of own productions of the Slovene minority. Slovene language holidays for juveniles are organized at Novo mesto (Slovenia). Moreover, the Christian Cultural Association organizes readings by Slovene-language authors, a Slovene-language speaking competition, and it arranges for speakers to address the local cultural associations in various Slovene-language lectures and presentations that are specific of the national minority.

The Christian Cultural Association and the Slovenian Cultural Association jointly organized a theater workshop at Ankaran (Slovenia) in 2006. Its purpose was to assist the youth and puppet-theater groups of the local cultural associations. 13 theater groups and about 170 juveniles attended the workshop.

The Slovene Study Library, attached to the Slovene Cultural Association, received EUR 34,000.00 in promotional funding from the Federal Chancellery in 2007. The Slovene Study Library takes care of purchasing, inventorying, cataloguing and lending media in the Slovene language and specific of the national minority, and it advises pupils and students who need background information for presentations, seminar and diploma papers, as well as doctoral theses. It also maintains bibliographies, both about publications concerning Carinthian Slovenes and of literature by Slovene-speaking Carinthian authors, of the translations of Slovene-language works by Carinthian authors, as well as of literature by Carinthian Slovenes in the German language. The bibliographies are published both in written form in the "Koroški koledar" and on its web site. The Slovene Study Library maintains a traveling library which it makes available to the various Slovene cultural associations. It also provides material to several primary schools and nursery schools, several municipal libraries and even to the library of the Klagenfurt penitentiary.

The Slovene Scientific Institute received EUR 11,500.00 from the budget available for the national minorities. In addition to its own scientific work on issues of the national minorities, the focus of its activities is an ongoing documentation of the national minorities in Austria, especially of the Slovene national minority. To this end, newspapers and journals are reviewed for specific articles about the national minorities, which are archived and published in press reviews. Nowadays, the archives are also maintained in digital form. Moreover, scientific studies, as well as correspondence on topics relating to the national minorities are archived and documented. The documentation materials and archives of the Scientific Institute are also open to the public, and students, pupils and other interesting persons from Austria, Slovenia, Italy and Germany avail themselves of these resources.

Glasbena šola, the Slovene music school, received EUR 97,000.00 from the budget of the Federal Chancellery available for promoting the national minorities, as well as EUR

150,000.00 from the federal province of Carinthia. Glasbena šola gives music lessons in Slovene or two languages to about 550 children.

“Urban Jarnik”, an ethnological association, received EUR 11,500.00 in 2007 from the budget of the Federal Chancellery for promoting the national minorities. “Urban Jarnik” engages in ethnological research and documentation work in the fields of historical utensils and working tools of everyday life, including their Slovene names, which are often dialect expressions that only the older generation still knows; Slovene folk songs; Slovene-language topographical names for places and houses; Slovene customs and their change in the course of time; traditional knowledge about diseases and cures. Moreover, the association supported the setting up of the “Museum der Alltagsgeschichte” (Museum of Everyday History) at Köstenberg/Kostanje, a German- and Slovene-language village. The museum accommodates 400 objects from the rural life during the 20th century. In 2002 a museum guide was published in Slovene and German with detailed descriptions of the objects. Moreover, the association records the life stories of Carinthian Slovenes, as well as children’s games from the settlement area of the Carinthian Slovenes. “Urban Jarnik” maintains many contacts to institutions in Slovenia and participates in trans-frontier projects.

With the educational center of Sodalitas at Tainach, the Slovene minority has an important adult-education facility. It offers a wide range of courses, lectures, symposia, some of which are held in Slovene. A bilingual (Slovene and German) program bulletin is published. For 2007, Sodalitas received EUR 23,000.00 from the budget for promoting the national minorities.

A few years ago, „Kulturni dom Pilberk“, a multi-functional event center was built at Bleiburg, where many associations of the Slovene minority stage their events. The operating association received EUR 13,000.00 in 2007 for operating costs from the budget available to promote the national minorities.

In Klagenfurt the Slovene minority has two student homes offering both boarding-school facilities as well as afternoon tutoring in the Slovene language. These options are mainly used by the pupils of the federal grammar school for Slovenes and the bilingual commercial college in Klagenfurt. Moreover, there are two day nurseries with Slovene and bilingual tutoring for pupils of the bilingual primary schools in Klagenfurt.

„Hermagoras“, an association, received EUR 68,570.00 in the year 2007 from the budget for promoting the national minorities for operating its dormitory, day nursery and bilingual primary school. The “Slowenischer Schulverein” (Slovenian School Association“ received EUR 69,075.00 for its dormitory and day nursery. The convent of the School Sisters at St. Peter bei St. Jakob im Rosental operates a bilingual (Slovene and German) upper-level secondary school for business occupations with an attached boarding school. This project received EUR 55,130.00 in 2007 from the budget available for promoting the national minorities.

There are also three publishing houses specializing in literature in the Slovene language and specific of the national minority. However, initially they were not supported with funding from the budget for promoting the national minorities because, as a matter of principle, funding for the promotion of the national minorities cannot be allocated to commercial enterprises.

Letter d:

§ 1 (3) letter f) of the Promotion of Culture Act, Provincial Law Gazette No. 45/2002, defines the purpose of promoting activities as follows, inter alia:

„to preserve the cultural diversity of the cultural region of Carinthia, which is due to the various ethnic influences, including the influence of the Slovene national minority

§ 5 (?) letter d) of the Carinthian Regional Museums Act lists the following as one the principles governing the tasks of museums:

“to open up and to document the cultural diversity of the cultural region of Carinthia, which is due to the various ethnic influences, including the influence of the Slovene national minority, as well as the mutual exchanges with the neighboring regions.”

Letter f:

The “Kärntner Kulturwoche der Kärntner Slowenen” (Carinthian Cultural Week of the Carinthian Slovenes” should be mentioned here as a particularly positive example. This year it was held for the 15th time, i.e. at Millstatt from 20 to 24 May 2007. It is organized by the Carinthian Office for the National Minorities, together with the respective organizing town outside the autochthonous settlement area. In the course of the week, cultural events are staged every day by the Slovene national minority in the fields of theater, film, choir, concerts and alike.

In 2004, "Urban Jarnik", the Slovene ethnological institute, helped the Regional Museum of Carinthia to prepare an exhibition about Alpine and shepherds' horns by obtaining exhibition objects from the Slovene region. Moreover, it supported contacts between the director of the ethnological collection of the Regional Museum of Carinthia and ethnological institutions in Slovenia.

Paragraph 2:

The allocation of funding to promote the national minorities does not depend on whether the activity or institution to be promoted is located in the autochthonous settlement area of the national minority or not. For example, Slovene-language organizations of the national minority located in Vienna or Graz also receive funding from the budget for the national minorities.

Paragraph 3:

When pursuing its cultural policy abroad, Austria makes every effort to present Austria's linguistic diversity, as it is also reflected in its national minorities (see also the activities mentioned in connection with Article 14, for example).

The Austrian embassy and the Cultural Forum Laibach/Ljubljana reported that several projects of members of the Austrian national minority were promoted, most of which were by members of the Slovene national minority. Below is an overview of the projects for the years 2005 to 2007:

2005:

- Exhibition Piran – the artist Karl Vouk
- Exhibition Ljubljana - Tanja Prušnik
- Concert Ljubljana – Danica Choir
- Concert at the closing of the Tanja Prušnik exhibition – Gabriel Lipuš
- Participation in the Veronika Lyrics Festival at Celje – Maja Haderlap
- Exhibition Drago Druskovic
- Exhibition Karl Vouk – Rutarzentrum
- Concert Tonc Feinig Band
- Cross-over Exhibition – "Neue Tendenzen in der modernen Kärntner Kunst" (New Trends in Modern Carinthian Art) – some of the participants are Slovenes from Carinthia
- Reading at the 15-year anniversary celebration of the Austrian Library in Maribor (Florian Lipuš, ...)

2006:

- Traveling exhibition “Zusammenleben der Volksgruppen seit 1918” (Life Together – National Minorities since 1918) – AACC and Anne-Frank House at four event locations in Slovenia
- Readings – Carinthian Culture Days
- Exhibition Tanja Prušnik at Piran at the European Film Days

2007:

- Exhibition Katarina Schmidl
- Concert of the Carinthian Suha Octet
- Participation of Tonc Feinig and Daniel Nösig at the Jazzinty Festival
- Exhibition Simona Ana Krajgar
- Presentation of a film by Andrina Mračnikar
- Concert Alpen-Adria – Carinthian Slovenes at the Municipal Museum
- Concert Gabrijel Lipuš at Nova Gorica
- Exhibition Marko Lipuš in Ljubljana
- Theater performance of the Carinthian theater group Trotamora in Ljubljana
- Round Table – “Kulturelles Erbe als Chance für grenzüberschreitende Kooperationen zwischen Österreich und Slowenien“ (Cultural Heritage as an Opportunity for Trans-Frontier Cooperation between Austria and Slovenia) with Carinthian Slovenes participating in the “Wochen der Grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit“ (Weeks of Trans-Frontier Cooperation)
- Round Table – “Unsere gemeinsame europäische Zukunft – grenzüberschreitende Kooperationen im Lichte der slowenischen EU-Präsidentschaft“ (Our Common European Future – Trans-Frontier Cooperation with a View to the EU Presidency) with Carinthian Slovenes participating in the “Wochen der grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit“ (Weeks of Trans-Frontier Cooperation)

The Austrian embassy and the Cultural Forum Belgrade report that it has been possible to recruit a young culture manager, a Carinthian Slovene, to work as a volunteer for one year at the Cultural Forum in the year 2006. This woman launched numerous projects and, time and again, advised artists from among the Carinthian Slovenes and helped them to establish contacts to the Serbian cultural scene. The Cultural Forum Belgrade specifically promotes projects that are launched by representatives of the Austrian national minorities or in which their representatives participate. On the occasion of the Belgrade Book Fair in October 2007, Loize Wieser, who specializes in publishing Eastern-European literature, was awarded a prize for promoting Serbian literature.

Article 13 (Economic and social life):

Paragraph 1, letter d:

This provision is implemented, first and foremost, by the ban on discriminating against speakers of minority languages (for details see the comments on Article 7 (2)), as well

as by Article 66 (3) of the State Treaty of St. Germain, which has constitutional ranking and guarantees the right to use any language in private and business intercourses.

In addition, impulses are given time and again by the promotional activities in order to support the use of the minority languages in economic and social life. In 2006, for example, the “Bäuerliche Bildungsgemeinschaft” (Farmers’ Educational Cooperation) published a glossary of technical terms in the field of farming technologies with support from the budget available to promote the national minorities.

The Slovene Business Association Carinthia is a private association of Slovene entrepreneurs and business experts in Carinthia. Its tasks include, inter alia, to help establish contacts among the members of the association, as well as to customers and suppliers in the Alpen-Adria region, as well as to provide information to members about business and fiscal matters and the specific technical training in the Slovene language. In December 2006 the Slovene Business Association received funding from the budget available for the national minorities (EUR 2,500.00) to organize three workshops on the subject of “Preparing the National Minority for the New EU Financial Period 2007-2013”, where the new EU promotional programs were presented, in particular.

Article 14 (Trans-frontier exchanges):

Letter b:

ARGE Alpen-Adria plays a special role in maintaining trans-frontier exchanges. The activities and stimuli from ARGE Alpen-Adria were an important contribution for creating more awareness and giving more intensive consideration to minority issues in Central Europe. By mutually learning about possible solutions it may be possible to contribute towards mitigating conflicts in the member regions. It is generally seen to be a positive effect of the events organized by ARGE Alpen-Adria to date that members of the various minorities were given an opportunity to get into direct contacts with each other and to get to know each other in course of the cultural activities. A direct cooperation between the regional authorities results already from the fact that the federal province of Carinthia is a member of ARGE Alpen-Adria, and as such it is represented by its provincial governor.

The organizations of the Slovene national minority, in particular, cooperate very intensively with organizations, artists and also state bodies in Slovenia, but also in Italy. The following examples do by no means constitute a complete list. One should mention "Urban Jarnik", the ethnological institute, which cooperates with the museum at Ravne and the Slovenian municipalities of Žiri and Prevalje and maintains contacts to the Museum for Ethnography (Etnografski muzej), the Institute for Slovene Ethnography (Inštitut za slovensko narodopisje) and the Institute for Music Ethnography (Glasbeno-narodpisni inštitut) at the Academy of Sciences and the Arts in Laibach/Ljubljana. One should also mention the Slovenian Scientific Institute which cooperates with the Institute for Issues of the National Minorities in Laibach/Ljubljana, as well as the Slovene Study Library that cooperates in the COBISS project (Slovene library data base). Whenever invited by cultural associations, Slovene theaters will perform in Carinthia.

During the 2006/2007 school year, "Mladinski dom", the youth center of the Slovene School Association in Klagenfurt, was a partner in the Leonardo da Vinci project of "Srednja vzgojiteljska šola in Gimnazija v Ljubljani" (Middle School for Teachers and Grammar Schools in Laibach/Ljubljana). In the course of the project, a total of 19 pupils of that upper-level secondary school were guests of the youth center for one month each. At the same time, they worked as trainees in a bilingual nursery school in Carinthia. Further partners of the project were the Federal Educational Institute for Nursery-School Pedagogy in Klagenfurt, Delovna skupnost privatnih dvo- in večjezičnih vrtcev / Arge zwei- und mehrsprachiger Kindergärten (Working Party of Bilingual and Multi-Lingual Nursery Schools) and the parent-teachers' association at the Federal Training Institute for Nursery-School Pedagogy in Klagenfurt. In the course of the exchange program, students of the Austrian Federal Training Institute for Nursery-School Pedagogy worked as trainees in Laibach/Ljubljana. In addition, every year the teachers' council takes part in a continuing-training seminar in Slovenia. The Slovene school association in Klagenfurt also maintains lively contacts with "Srednja vzgojiteljska šola in gimnazija v Ljubljani", which was mentioned before, with regard to theater performances by children. In this context, every year one to two theater performances by students of that school are offered in the course of their excursions to the Mladinski dom youth center, where they play for the children of the "Sonce" nursery school, the ABCČ day nursery (also accommodated at the youth center) and for the younger pupils of the youth center. On the level of pupils' dormitories, the Slovene

school association also maintains close contacts with “Dijaški dom Lizike Jančar» (pupils' dormitories) in Marburg/Maribor. During the 2005/2006 school year, these contacts were intensified through the „Skriti zaklad“ project (The Hidden Treasure), whereas before these contacts had been limited to mutual annual visits. One further example of trans-frontier cooperation is „Filmkreis - Filmski krožek - Mladinski dom“, which organizes film workshops in addition to working with juveniles from Slovenia and Italy on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. The workshops were held at Piran, Slovenia, in 2003, at Portorož, Slovenia in 2004, and in Klagenfurt in the years 2005 to 2007.

Every year, a special “Educational Day of the Youth Center“ is held at the youth center of the Slovene School Association. For the program, lectures and workshops are organized for the pedagogical staff, for the pupils of the Mladinski dom youth center and for the parents. The workshops are moderated by renowned experts in pedagogy, communications or psychology from Slovenia.

The bilingual nursery schools in Carinthia maintain a wide range of visiting contacts with nursery schools in Slovenia. The Working Party of Private Bilingual and Multi-Lingual Nursery Schools organized continuing-training events for bilingual teachers, inviting lecturers from Slovenia, and it organized an excursion to a nursery school in Slovenia.

Time and again, the association “Gabriel – Musiktheater, Film und Medien” (Gabriel – Music Theater, Film and the Media) cooperates with Slovene artists and stages performances both in Austria and in Slovenia.

“Peter Marković”, a cultural association, reported that it maintains partnership contacts to the cultural association at Bohinj, Slovenia, in the course of which members participate in the events of the respectively other cultural association.

The association “OK Petzenmarathon Kralj Matjaž” reports that it did not organize the trans-frontier marathon run in 2007, which it had still organized in the year 2006. However, it continues to maintain contacts with its neighbors in Slovenia by organizing the joint participation in various running events in Slovenia and Austria.

On 16 May 2007, the Mixed Commission, set up pursuant to Article 20 of the Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Slovenia on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education and Science, adopted the second program for the implementation of the agreement, which will be in force as of 2008. The program expressly welcomes, inter alia, the trans-frontier activities and contacts of the educational institutes for nursery-school pedagogy, the universities for pedagogy and the university departments for pedagogy, of the Slovene Scientific Institute in Klagenfurt, of "Urban Jarnik", the ethnographical institute in Klagenfurt and of the Slovene Study Library in Klagenfurt.

III.3. Hungarian in the Hungarian Language Region of the Federal Province of Burgenland:

Article 8 (Education):

Paragraph 1

Letter a ii:

The first linguistic experience of every child is the basis from which to begin language-learning, as well as to specifically promote the linguistic development of children. In addition to the family situation, nursery schools also play an important role.

The 1995 Nursery-School Act for Burgenland stipulates in § 2a which nursery schools must also offer Hungarian, in addition to German. At present, there are 9 **public** nursery schools, where German and Hungarian are spoken. The regional government hires assistant nursery-school teachers for those nursery schools that do not have nursery-school teachers with bilingual qualifications among their staff.

The parents (minimum: 25%) may apply to the regional authorities for the recruitment of an assistant nursery-school teacher for the Hungarian language in case the nursery school does not have to operated as a bilingual nursery school under the nursery-school law for Burgenland.

With the amendment of the Burgenland nursery-school law of 8 July 2005, the use of the Hungarian language was extended from a minimum of nine to twelve hours per

week in the bilingual public nursery schools. Parents, who do not wish that their children are taken care of in two languages, may sign off their children from the respective group.

The Federal Training Institute for Nursery-School Pedagogy at Oberwart offers training in Hungarian, as well as bilingual didactics.

Letter b ii:

Austria's school laws make sure that an education in the Hungarian language can be obtained in the framework of the public school system from the pre-school level up to the school-leaving examination.

The Minorities' Schools Act for Burgenland, as well as the corresponding implementing laws of the federal province of Burgenland state that classes in primary schools must be taught in Hungarian and/or in two languages in municipalities with a Hungarian-speaking population. The two language portions of the bilingual instruction should be more or less balanced. Parents who do not wish that their children are taught in Hungarian may sign off of their children. These children must, however, remain with the pupils of that class. In case of a sustained demand, there is also the entitlement to be taught in the language of the national minority in schools outside the autochthonous settlement area.

§ 6 (1) of the Minorities' Schools Act for Burgenland (Federal Law Gazette No. 641/1994) stipulates that bilingual primary schools must be available in those municipalities so that all members, if possible, of the Hungarian national minority who signed up for attending a bilingual primary school can actually attend such a school Pursuant to § 7 (1) the entire territory of the federal province of Burgenland must be divided in so-called entitlement districts, so that persons outside the Hungarian language area of Burgenland can also benefit from bilingual instruction.

Furthermore, it is the goal of educating pupils in the bilingual primary schools of the Burgenland region to familiarize the pupils with the values of bilingualism on a cognitive and emotional level

- So that they can cope with practical needs,

- for successfully engaging in positive communication and cooperation processes in the respective individual surroundings,
- for making personal contributions to the peaceful co-existence of the national minorities.

The table below shows the number of pupils who attended bilingual primary schools (German, Hungarian) in Burgenland during the 2007/2008 school year:

School	Pupils	Type of instruction
Siget/Wart	6	Bilingual classes
Unterwart	22	Bilingual classes
Total	28	

The table below indicates the number of those pupils who attended bilingual classes at primary schools and/or classes in which Hungarian was taught as a compulsory subject (*Pflichtgegenstand* = PFG) during the 2007/2008 school year:

School	Pupils	Type of instruction
Horitschon	27	Bilingual classes
	16	Compulsory subject
Lutzmannsburg	16	Bilingual classes
Markt Neuhodis	18	Bilingual classes
Neusiedl/See – Am Tabor	82	Compulsory subject
Nickelsdorf	7	Compulsory subject
Oberpullendorf	24	Bilingual classes
Oberwart	767	Bilingual classes
Steinberg-Dörfl	11	Compulsory subject
Total	203	

Primary schools with Hungarian as an option subject (*Freigegegenstand* = F), a compulsory (*Verbindliche Übung* = VÜ) and/or an optional exercise (*Unverbindliche Übung* = UÜ):

School	Pupils	Type of instruction
Buchschachen	18	UÜ
Deutsch-Kaltenbrunn	14	UÜ
Deutschkreutz	19	UÜ
Deutsch Schützen	21	UÜ
Dürnbach	17	UÜ
Eberau	32	UÜ
Eisenstadt	27	UÜ
Goberling	15	F

Gols	31	UÜ
Großpetersdorf	6	UÜ
Halbtorn	19	UÜ
Hannersdorf	17	UÜ
Horitschon	16	UÜ
Illmitz	32	UÜ
Jois	11	UÜ
Kemetten	11	UÜ
Kobersdorf	27	UÜ
Kohfidisch	10	UÜ
Kroatisch Minihof	8	UÜ
Lockenhaus	35	UÜ
Loipersbach	25	UÜ
Loipersdorf/Kitzladen	11	UÜ
Lutzmannsburg	13	UÜ
Mariasdorf	6	UÜ
Markt Allhau	35	UÜ
Markt Neuhodis	11	UÜ
Mattersburg	13	UÜ
Mischendorf	22	UÜ
Mogersdorf	12	UÜ
Mörbisch	13	UÜ
Moschendorf	17	UÜ
Nbersdorf	8	UÜ
Neudörfel	11	UÜ
Neumarkt i.T.	10	UÜ
Neusiedl/See – Am Tabor	8	UÜ
Neusiedl/See r.k.	14	UÜ
Neutal	8	UÜ
Nickelsdorf	14	UÜ
Nikitsch	11	UÜ
Oberloisdorf	6	UÜ
Oberpetersdorf	11	VÜ
Oberschützen	5	UÜ
Oberwart	36	UÜ
Pamhagen	18	UÜ
Podersdorf	17	UÜ
Pötsching	22	UÜ
Podersdorf	17	UÜ
Rechnitz	18	UÜ
Riedlingsdorf	6	UÜ
Rotenturm/Pinka	14	UÜ
Rust	24	UÜ
Schattendorf	6	UÜ
Sigleß	5	UÜ
Stadtschlaining	31	UÜ
St. Andrä	16	UÜ
Steinberg-Dörfel	12	UÜ
St. Georgen	14	UÜ
St. Margarethen	5	UÜ

Tadten	24	UÜ
Trausdorf	5	UÜ
Unterloisdorf	11	UÜ
Unterrabnitz	28	UÜ
Unterschützen	15	UÜ
Wallern	19	UÜ
Weppersdorf	32	UÜ
Wiesen	20	UÜ
Winden	14	UÜ
Wolfau	13	UÜ
Zemendorf	29	UÜ
Total	1104	

Total figure for primary schools: 32 + 277 + 1104 = 1409 pupils

Letter c iii:

The Minorities Schools' Act for Burgenland stipulates that instruction in the Hungarian language shall be given at lower-level secondary schools, at a separate general upper-level secondary school and, in addition, also at other schools in Burgenland in the form of so-called "special language-learning options", which means at public schools in Burgenland in general. The comments contained under letter b ii also apply to the requirements for setting up a bilingual lower-level secondary school.

Lower-level secondary schools and/or departments / cooperative middle schools (KMS) with Hungarian as an optional compulsory subject (*Wahlpflichtfach*):

School	Pupils	Type of instruction
Eberau	5	Optional compulsory subject (department)
Güssing (KMS)	18	Optional compulsory subject (pilot school project)
Markt Allhau (lower-level secondary school - competence)	43	Optional compulsory subject
Oberpullendorf	31	Optional compulsory subject
Oberwart EMS	62	Optional compulsory subject
Rechnitz	58	Optional compulsory subject
Total	217	

Lower-level secondary schools with Hungarian as an optional subject (*Freigegegenstand* = FG), as a compulsory exercise (*Verbindliche Übung* = VÜ), and/or as an optional exercise (*Unverbindliche Übung* = UÜ):

School	Pupils	Type of instruction
Andau	45	FG/UÜ
Deutschkreutz	8	UÜ
Eberau	21	FG
Frauenkirchen	16	UÜ
Großpetersdorf	12	UÜ
Großwarasdorf	6	UÜ
Güssing	7	UÜ
Horitschon	31	UÜ
Illmitz	9	UÜ
Kobersdorf	156	UÜ
Kohfidisch	16	UÜ
Lockenhaus	7	UÜ
Mattersburg	7	UÜ
Neusiedl/See r.k.	13	UÜ
Oberpullendorf	6	UÜ
Pamhagen	11	UÜ
Schattendorf	6	UÜ
Steinberg r.k.	27	UÜ
Stoob	15	UÜ
Total	419	

Total figure for lower-level secondary schools: 217 + 419 = 636 pupils

School type	Number of pupils
Total for primary schools	1409
Total for lower-level secondary schools	636
Total for compulsory schools	2045

Lower-level secondary schools in the area of bilingual primary schools must also offer instruction in the Hungarian language. Here, the pupils must sign up for instruction in the language of the national minority. Instruction in that language must be offered as of the registration of the first pupil.

§ 12 of the Minorities' Schools Act for Burgenland requires a bilingual general upper-level secondary school. That school is located at Oberwart. The bilingual grammar school at Oberwart offers instruction in Hungarian and German and/or Croatian and German up to the level for university admission. Moreover, several general upper-level secondary schools also teach Hungarian classes of various types as an additional education. The classes may range from optional compulsory subjects to optional exercises. Similar arrangements can be found in upper-level vocational schools.

Instruction in Hungarian at general upper-level secondary schools during the 2007/2008 school year:

Optional subject: BG Mattersburg	15
Optional exercise:	
BORG Jennersdorf	8
BG Oberschützen	22
Total	30
Compulsory subject: BG Oberpullendorf	4
Optional compulsory subject: BORG Güssing	10
Pilot school project:	
BG Oberpullendorf	24
Bilingual BG Oberwart	167
Total	250

Letter d iv:

The same legal situation that applies to lower-level secondary schools in Burgenland also applies to instruction at polytechnic schools which are called upon to prepare pupils for their choice of an occupation by providing vocational guidance, as well as to provide basic vocational training. In addition, the Minorities' Schools Act for Burgenland also facilitates bilingual instruction at the vocational schools.

The teaching of Hungarian at middle-level and upper-level vocational schools during the 2007/20086 school year:

Optional subject:	
BHAK Mattersburg	20
BHAK Oberpullendorf	6
LFS Stoob	8
Total	34
Optional exercise: BHAS Jennersdorf	12
Optional compulsory subject:	
BHAK Frauenkirchen	103

BHAK Oberwart	93
HBWL Oberwart	29
Total	225
Total for Burgenland	271

It can be stated by way of summary that a total of 271 pupils at middle-level and upper-level vocational schools in Burgenland attended Hungarian classes during the 2007/2008 school year.

Letter e iii:

On account of the autonomy of universities, regulated by law, state intervention in the study courses offered by universities is only possible to a limited extent. In fact, though, Hungarian is being offered as a study course at several Austrian universities:

- University of Vienna, Institute for Finno-Ugric Studies
- University of Vienna, Institute for Translator and Interpreter Training
- Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Institute for Slavic Studies
- University of Graz, Institute for Theoretical and Applied Translation Sciences

At the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Hungarian is taught as an optional subject. Hungarian is also taught at the University of Vienna, namely at the diploma course in Slavic studies, for the bachelor's degree in translation and interpreting, as a teaching qualification, as well as at the language courses of the Language Center of the University of Vienna. There is also a broad range of studies that are offered at the University of Vienna which are linked to the languages of the national minorities.

It is compulsory to learn one of the Eastern-European languages at the University of Applied Science for International Business Relations in Eisenstadt. Hungarian may be chosen among other languages. The University of Applied Science at Pinkafeld offers Hungarian as a second living foreign language.

Letter f iii:

The "Burgenländisch-Ungarische Volkshochschule" (Burgenland-Hungarian Adult Education College) made use of the right to set up private education and training facilities. It offers, inter alia, courses in Hungarian. Various organizations of the

national minority also offer courses in Hungarian. Most of the courses are supported with federal funding for the promotion of the national minorities.

Letter g:

The statutory situation is the same here as for the Burgenland-Croatian minority and the Slovene national minority. There is compliance with this provision especially on account of the curricula that incorporate history and culture.

The very comprehensive and detailed ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Education, which determines the curricula for minority primary schools and for instruction of the minority languages in the primary schools and lower-level secondary schools of the federal provinces of Burgenland and Carinthia (Federal Law Gazette 1966/118, as last amended by Federal Law Gazette II 1998/309), contains the following summary in connection with teaching the history and culture of the members of the national minorities:

“The aspects of inter-cultural learning, with special emphasis on the cultural heritage of the respective national minority, are most likely to be developed in those federal provinces of Austria where children belonging to a minority and/or Austrian and foreign children are taught together. In the course of dealing with the respectively other cultural heritage, such aspects as lifestyle habits, language, customs, texts (for example stories, tales and legends), traditions, songs, etc., must be dealt with, in particular. Inter-cultural learning is not restricted to learning about other cultures. Rather, the issue is to learn together and to understand, to experience and help shape cultural values. What is also required is to arouse interest in and curiosity for the cultural differences, so that not only cultural unity but also cultural diversity can be experienced as something valuable.”

Letter h:

In 2008 a new study course for the basic and continuing training of teachers for the Hungarian language was launched at the newly founded Pedagogical University.

Letter i:

In keeping with the Minorities' Schools Act for Burgenland a separate department has been set up with the regional school inspectorate for matters relating to the national minorities. A special inspector for Hungarian is responsible for inspecting the compulsory schools. A school inspector with language competences is responsible for the inspections at the other school types.

Paragraph 2:

§ 6 (3) as well as § 10 (3) of the Minorities' Schools Act for Burgenland stipulate that, if necessary, bilingual instruction shall also be offered outside the autochthonous settlement area of the national minority in Burgenland.

Article 9 (Judicial Authorities):

Paragraph 1:

Letter a ii:

According to § 13 and following of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with the Ordinance on the Use of Hungarian, the Hungarian language has been admitted as official language, in addition to the German language, before the local courts of Oberpullendorf and Oberwart, as well as before the Regional Court Eisenstadt. Everybody can therefore apply that he/she may use Hungarian as the official language in penal proceedings conducted against them before these courts. If the provisions on official languages are violated, the title to be heard in court is regarded as having been violated. The sanction pursuant to § 17 (2) of the National Minorities Act for violations of the provisions on official languages at trials in criminal proceedings is nullity of the court decision:

“Whenever the trial in criminal court proceedings has not been conducted in the language of the national minority, contrary to § 15, this constitutes nullity, as defined in § 281 (1) item 3 of the 1975 Code of Criminal Procedure. This reason for nullity cannot be claimed to the detriment of the person who filed the application pursuant to § 15 (2) (to use the language of the national minority), but to his advantage, irrespective as to whether the violation of form could have had an influence on the decision ...”

Letter a iii:

Austrian law does not contain a provision, according to which documents or other pieces of evidence in criminal proceedings may only be submitted in a specific language. The court shall translate or have translated, without delay, oral and written submissions in the Hungarian language.

Letter a ii and letter a iii:

The costs and fees for translations which a court produces or has produced, shall be borne *ex officio*. When assessing the amount of lump-sum costs of criminal proceedings, the costs of an interpreter, called in pursuant to the provisions of the

National Minorities Act, shall not be taken into account (§ 22 (1) of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with § 381 (1) item 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). If a party (person concerned) in criminal court proceedings is represented or defended by an attorney-at-law or a penal-law counsel, the Federal State pays the fee of that attorney-at-law or penal-law counsel for the last third of such proceedings which are also conducted in the Hungarian language.

Letter b ii:

On the basis of the same provisions as mentioned in letter a, a party may use Hungarian as an official language in civil proceedings before the same courts. A person who intends to use Hungarian, as the official language, in an oral hearing shall inform the court thereof without delay upon being served the summons. If a person is found guilty of failing to provide this information in time, that person may be required to pay for the additional costs incurred in this case. This obligation to provide information does not apply to proceedings that are conducted on the basis of a submission prepared in Hungarian. The information by the party on the use of the Hungarian language applies for the full length of the subsequent proceedings, unless it is revoked. If the German or Hungarian language is not used, or if the use of the Hungarian language is not admitted – contrary to the provisions on official language (§ 13 and following of the National Minorities Act) – the right of the party to be heard by court is deemed to have been violated in the respective step of the proceedings to whose detriment the violation has occurred.

Letter b iii:

Austrian law does not contain a provision which stipulates that documents or other pieces of evidence in civil proceedings may only be submitted in a specific language. The court must cover the costs of translation *ex officio*, which the court has to produce or to obtain pursuant to the provisions on official language (§ 13 and following of the National Minorities Act).

The Federal Ministry of Justice communicated that seven persons, including three judges, had Hungarian language skills at the Local Court Oberwart in 2004.

Letter c ii:

Pursuant to § 13 and following of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with § 4 of the Ordinance on the Use of Hungarian as an Official Language, Hungarian is admitted as

an additional official language before the Independent Administrative Senate for Burgenland (an administrative authority according to Austrian law, but a tribunal as defined in Article 6 of the Human Rights Convention). The details of its provisions correlate in essence with the comments made above. § 17 (3) of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with § 68 (4) item 4 of the General Administrative Proceedings Act sanctions violations of § 15 of the National Minorities Act, which governs the use of the Hungarian language in proceedings, by rendering the Senate's decision null and void.

Letter c iii:

Austrian legislation on administrative proceedings, too, which applies to proceedings before Independent Administrative Senates, does not contain any obligation to submit pieces of evidence only in a specific language.

Letter d:

§ 22 of the National Minorities Act makes sure that a party does not incur any additional costs when resorting to the use of the Hungarian language as an official language. § 22 of the cited law reads as follows:

§ 22. (1) Costs and fees for translations which an authority or service unit must produce or obtain pursuant to the present federal law shall be covered *ex officio*. When assessing the lump-sum contribution to costs pursuant to § 381 (1) item 1 of the 1975 Code of Criminal Procedure, the costs of an interpreter/translator, recruited in accordance with the present federal law, shall not be taken into account.

(2) (Constitutional provision) If the proceedings were also conducted in the language of a national minority, only two thirds of the actually required time input (for the length of a hearing) shall be used as a basis when assessing the fees that a territorial corporation shall receive and that are calculated according to the time input.

(3) If – on account of the present federal law – a paper must be produced directly in two official languages, the stamp fee shall be due for only one of the copies.

(4) If a party in court proceedings (a party involved) is represented or defended by a legal counsel, a criminal-law counsel or a notary public, the Federal State shall pay for the last third of the fee of such legal counsel, criminal-law counsel or notary public, incurred in such proceedings (hearings) that are also conducted in the language of a national minority. Payment of that amount of the fee shall be claimed always before the end of such a hearing or such proceedings by submitting a statement of costs, with the loss of this claim being forfeited otherwise; the judge shall decide on the amount of the fee immediately and instruct the accounting officer to pay this amount to the legal counsel,

criminal-law counsel or notary public. This additional fee expense shall be assessed in such a way as though the opponent of the person entitled to this claim were obliged by law to refund these costs to that party.

Paragraph 2:

Letter a:

As was mentioned before, the validity of a legal document does not depend on the language in which it is drawn up.

Article 10 (Administrative authorities and public services):

Paragraph 1:

Letter a iii and letter c:

§ 3 of the Ordinance on the Use of Hungarian as an Official Language also mentions two district administrative authorities, i.e. Oberpullendorf and Oberwart, in addition to two local courts, before which Hungarian is admitted as an official language. § 4 (1) of the cited law also stipulates as general facts of a case that Hungarian shall also be admitted as an official language before the other authorities and service units of the Federal State and the provincial government with offices in Burgenland, the geographical competences of which coincide in full or in part with the geographical competences of the aforementioned district administrative authorities and/or local courts, if Hungarian were admitted as an official language in a case in which one of the district administrative authorities or local courts had subject-matter competences in the case in question, or if the authority has competences as a legal-remedy instance in proceedings that were conducted before an authority on a first-instance basis, where Hungarian is admitted as an official language in addition to the German language. Hungarian as an official language shall also be used at police stations that have geographical competences that coincide in full or in part with the municipalities listed in § 2 of the cited law (a total of four). In exceptional cases, Hungarian is also admitted as an official language before authorities located in Vienna, i.e. federal authorities headquartered in Vienna, if their district coincides fully or in part with the district of one of the aforementioned local courts or district administrative authorities. Hungarian is admitted as an official language, in addition to the German language, before the Military Command for Burgenland or the Recruitment Commission in Vienna or the Recruitment Commission of Styria, if the former uses the services of the two latter units, whenever the matters relate to supplementary military issues.

According to § 13 and following of the National Minorities Act, in conjunction with the Ordinance on the Use of Hungarian as an Official Language, an Austrian national (as well as nationals of another EU State) may inform the aforementioned authorities that he/she wishes to use to the language of the national minority. No separate information to this effect is required whenever the proceedings are conducted on the basis of a submission drawn up in the language of the national minority. The information applies for the full length of the subsequent proceedings, unless it is revoked. In particular, the right to use the language of the national minority comprises the right to submit written or oral submissions, as well as the right to be served decisions by or orders of the authority concerned in the German and Hungarian languages.

Paragraph 2:

Letter b:

Please refer to the information in connection with the preceding paragraph. The municipal authorities of the four municipalities listed in § 2 of the Ordinance on the Use of Hungarian as an Official Language, as well as those two district administrative authorities, in which these municipalities are located, i.e. Oberpullendorf and Oberwart, especially qualify as local or regional authorities, as defined in the provisions of the Charter. Hungarian is also admitted as an official language before the Office of the Burgenland Provincial Government. The right to use Hungarian as a language of a national minority especially comprises the right to submit written and oral applications in this language.

Letter d:

Moreover, § 13 (4) of the National Minorities Act empowers the municipalities listed in the ordinance on the Use of Hungarian as an Official Language to use the language of the national minority also for general public announcements.

Paragraph 4:

Letter a:

Written and oral applications in Hungarian, submitted in proceedings before the aforementioned administrative authorities conducted in Hungarian as the official language shall be translated into German *ex officio* (§ 14 of the National Minorities Act). Pursuant to § 15 of the cited law, an interpreter shall be called in, if necessary. If

minutes of these proceedings are prepared in German, they shall be translated into Hungarian without any delay. The costs incurred by such translation or interpreting assignments shall be covered *ex officio*, pursuant to § 22 of the cited law.

Paragraph 5:

According to § 21 of the Civil Status Act, in conjunction with § 154 of the Austrian Civil Law Code, a child is generally given his or her first name by the parents. There is no requirement under Austrian law that the name must be in German, nor does the surname have to be in German. This also derives from § 5 (3) of the Civil Status Ordinance, according to which a person's names, which are to be registered on the basis of a document presented in Latin letters, must be recorded in the original letters and characters. This means that diacritic characters not used in the German language must also be used. However, the civil-status registers must be kept in the German language (§ 18 of the national Minorities Act). Whenever documents are submitted for registration in the civil-status registers that are in a language of a national minority, the authority shall have them translated. Inversely, excerpts from the civil-status registers shall be issued as translations into the language of the respective national minority, if so requested (§ 20 of the National Minorities Act). In keeping with the case law of the Constitutional Court (Constitutional Court decision of 5 March 1996, file number VfSlg. No. 14.452/1996), the foregoing shall also apply if it was not possible to conduct the procedure resulting in the register entry (e.g. marriage ceremony) in the language of the national minority, in the absence of an application to this effect by the member of the national minority.

An amendment of the Names Modification Act (Federal Law Gazette No. 25/1995) resulted in a large measure of liberalization concerning the possibility to modify one's name. The members of a national minority, who already have a name, converted into German, have the possibility to assume once again their original name in the language of the national minority. Under the amended legislation, one may modify one's name for any random reason. However, an important reason is required if this change of name is to be carried out free of charge. A member of a national minority may use the important reason pursuant to § 2 (1) item 10 of the Names Modification Act, which states that the intended change of name is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable disadvantages in his/her social relations and that these drawbacks cannot be avoided

in any other way. According to § 2 (2) of the Names Modification Act, this reason also applies to a change of the first name.

Article 11 (Media):

Paragraph 1:

Letter b ii and letter c ii:

Amendments of the federal law on Austria’s broadcasting corporation (ORF Act) entered into force on 1 January 2002. Pursuant to § 5 (1) of the ORF Act, the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) is now required to broadcast a commensurate portion of its programs in the languages of the national minorities for which national minority advisory boards have been set up. The broadcasting times shall be laid down on an annual basis, after hearing the Audience’s Council. Moreover, pursuant to § 28 (4) of the ORF Act a seat in the Audience’s Council of the ORF is reserved to a member of the national minorities. According to § 30 (1) of the ORF Act, the Audience’s Council proposes measures, inter alia, to comply with this statutory obligation and comments on the program portions for national minorities which are to be counted as broadcasting times. The amendment of the ORF Act also facilitated the cooperation between the ORF and private radio stations.

Every day and/or week, the regional broadcasting station (Landesstudio Burgenland) broadcasts the following radio program in the Hungarian language:

ORF REGIONAL STUDIO BURGENLAND

RADIO

Program	Broadcasting date	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
Hungarian journal	Mon to Sun	5'	18.55 h	Hungarian
Hungarian magazine	Sun (1 x per week)	30'	19.30 h	Hungarian
3-language magazine	Mon (1 x per week)	56'	20.04 h	Burgenland-Croatian (26') / Hungarian (15') / Romany (15')

Below is a detailed list of the programs in Hungarian:

Program	Broadcasting date	Start of program	End of program	Length of program
As part of the multi-lingual magazine for the national minorities	Mon	20.04 h	21.00 h	00.56
Színes Kultúránk (cultural program in Hungarian)	Mon	20.30 h	20.45 h	00.15
Magyarul Burgenlandban (Hungarian magazine)	Sun	19.30 h	20.00 h	00.30

The programs can also be received on ORF-Radio 1476.

Moreover, the following television programs are broadcast in Hungarian:

ORF REGIONAL STUDIO BURGENLAND

TELEVISION

Program	Broadcasting date	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
Adj'isten magyarok	Sun (6 x per year)	25'	13.05 h	Hungarian
4-language magazine ("Servus / Szia / Zdravo / Del tuha")	Sun (4 x per year)	45'	14.20 h	German / Hungarian / Burgenland-Croatian / Romany

Programs that can be received throughout Austria:

Repeat Broadcasts of Radio & TV programs for the national minority in Hungarian by the Regional Studio Burgenland

RADIO

Program	Frequency	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
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Radio 1476

Hungarian magazine Csipős Nyelv	Sat	30'	20.00 h	Hungarian
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Repeat broadcasts of programs for the national minorities by the Regional Studio Burgenland:

Hungarian magazine Magyarul Burgenlandban	Mon (1 x per week)	30'	21.00 h	Hungarian
Hungarian magazine Magyarul Burgenlandban	Wed (1 x per week)	15'	21.15 h	Hungarian

The comments on programs available via the Internet for other national minorities also apply here.

Letter d:

CDs and CD-ROMs with language courses in the languages of the national minorities, video works and theater productions, for example, are funded from the federal promotional budget for the national minorities.

Letter e i:

“Örség”, the periodically published newspaper in Hungarian, is supported with promotional funding for the national minorities, just as the other information bulletins in Hungarian. Moreover, „Napocska“, a newspaper for children in Hungarian, and “cool-túra“, a newspaper for juveniles, also receive funding from the budget to promote the national minorities. In general, it must be stated that, as a matter of principle, promoting the publication of newspapers and other print products is of great importance from the perspective of policies for the national minorities.

Letter f ii:

In addition to the funding available for national minorities, as mentioned in letter d, general support schemes such as promotional activities for the arts are also available for audio-visual productions in the Hungarian language.

Paragraph 2:

The freedom of communication is fully guaranteed in Austria by the constitution. In this context, one should mention Article 10 of the Human Rights Convention, which has constitutional ranking in Austria, Article 13 (1) of the Basic State Law on the General Rights of Citizens, Imperial Law Gazette No. 142/1867, the decision of the Provisional National Assembly of 1918 on the abolition of censorship, State Law Gazette No. 3/1918, as well as the federal constitutional law on ensuring the independence of broadcasting, Federal Law Gazette No. 396/1974. Cable television and satellite programs from Hungarian can be received in Burgenland without any restrictions.

Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities):

Paragraph 1:

Letters a and d:

In the framework of promotional activities for the national minorities, numerous cultural facilities and activities, which deal with preserving the Hungarian language, are supported. All types of cultural facilities and areas of activities, as listed in Article 12 (1) of the Charter, may be supported from the funding available for the national minorities. In the year 2007, 9 organizations of the Hungarian national minority and church facilities located in Burgenland received promotional funding from the budget for the national minorities in the total amount of EUR 204,560.00. An amount of EUR 134,000.00 went to the Burgenland-Hungarian cultural association for the following items:

- for rent, operating costs, insurance of the association premises, staff expenses, office overhead costs
- for the publication of various Hungarian or bilingual periodicals (“Őrvidéki hírek”, the association newsletter; “Napocska”, a newspaper for children, “Cool-túra”, a newspaper for juveniles, “Őrség”, a year-book)
- for organizing the Takács Jenő-Memorial Symposium in Hungarian or two languages
- for the theater group of the association
- for the singing group of the association
- for organizing lectures and a concert in commemoration of Zoltán Kodály, the Hungarian folklore song researcher, composer and adult educator
- for organizing “Ungarischen Kinderstunde” (An Hour of Hungarian for Children)
- for organizing the language holiday camp for children and juveniles in Hungary
- for the course “Sprachübungen für Schüler” (Language Exercises for Pupils)
- for a Hungarian and/or bilingual holiday language course
- for organizing the Hungarian-language story-telling competition
- for organizing a “Bunter musikalischer Abend” (An Evening with a Variety of Music) with a Hungarian-language music program
- for organizing Hungarian-language lectures and exhibitions
- for organizing a garden party with a cultural program for the specific national minority
- for organizing a formal dance with a cultural program for the specific national minority
- for inventorying the library material
- for organizing symposia on specific topics of the national minority (name of project: “Ungarisches Institut” / Hungarian Institute)
- for fees for Hungarian or bilingual teaching of folk dancing to the folklore dance group of the association, for choreography and musical accompaniment, for buying national costumes

UMIZ – “Verein zur Förderung des ungarischen Medien- und Informationszentrum” (Association for the Promotion of the Hungarian Media and Information Center) received EUR 31,150.00 in the year 2007 from the budget of the Federal Chancellery for promoting the national minorities. The focus of activities of this association is on library and archiving services. The association is especially committed to applying modern technologies; it cooperates with educational facilities in Hungary, as well as with the Hungarian minorities in Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia and Croatia. UMIZ has 8 Internet work stations, as well as two servers. The work stations are used in the framework of cooperation projects (for example, the primary school at Unterwart holds e-learning lessons at UMIZ on a regular basis), by children and juveniles in the course of the afternoon programs, by members of the association, by students and research workers. UMIZ currently has about 25,000 media units, of which about 90% are in Hungarian. The association has a rental service. Moreover, it operates two servers that host several platforms of the institute, as well as the web sites of other organizations of the Hungarian national minority (e.g. www.umiz.at/virgonc, www.umiz.at/dlarda, www.umiz.at/theaterverein). The site managed by UMIZ (www.eduhu.net) comprises programs to learn Hungarian; www.langos.at offers news from Burgenland and Hungarian-language areas abroad, both in German and Hungarian, as well as the periodicals published by other Austrian associations of the Hungarian minority. A Hungarian dictionary is available at www.umiz.at; Hungarian radio and television programs can also be received on-line from this site.

The adult education college of the Burgenland Hungarians received EUR 11,870.00 in the year 2007 from the budget for promoting the national minorities to cover staff costs, to pay for the use of the office and teaching facilities, including the attaching infrastructure, as well as to promote projects for Öri-banda, a group preserving tradition and belonging to the association, and to publish a text book on Burgenland-Hungarian folk music. The association regularly offers Hungarian courses and lectures on specific topics of the national minority, as well as cultural events. In 2005 the association produced a CD with Burgenland-Hungarian folk music. The adult education college has been recognized as an ECL examination center (European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages) for the Hungarian language. In 2003, the project “Ungarisch Plus - Sprachinitiative der Volkshochschule der Burgenländischen Ungarn“ (Hungarian Plus – Language Initiative of the Adult

Education College of the Burgenland Hungarians) was awarded the European Seal for innovative language projects.

On 300 m² of exhibition space, the “Heimathaus” center at Unterwart documents the life of the Hungarian minority in the Wart region in former times. It has a wealth of exhibits relating to farming and household work, as well as the historical workshop equipment of shoemakers, blacksmiths, coach-makers and carpenters, in addition to traditional costumes. In 2007, the association of the “Heimathaus” center at Unterwart received EUR 1,270.00 from the budget for promoting the national minorities.

Theater in the Hungarian language is promoted by amateur theater groups of the Hungarian theater association at Unterwart and the reading association of the Reformed Youth Group at Oberwart.

The Hungarian cultural association for central Burgenland received EUR 17,620.00 in the year 2007 for maintaining the association premises, for a number of projects such as Hungarian as well as for bilingual services to look after children, for the choir, for publishing the bilingual (German and Hungarian) news bulletin of the association, organizing events with a program that is specific of the national minority, as well as for organizing a language holiday camp for children in Hungary.

The Roman-Catholic parish at Oberwart received funding for staging the traditional Hungarian Nativity plays.

Paragraph 2:

The allocation of funding to promote the national minorities does not depend on whether the activity or institution to be promoted is located in the autochthonous settlement area of the national minority or not. For example, Hungarian-language organizations of the national minority located in the federal provinces of Salzburg, Tyrol, Upper Austria and Styria also receive funding from the budget for the national minorities.

Paragraph 3:

When pursuing its cultural policy abroad, Austria makes every effort to present Austria's linguistic diversity, as it is also reflected in its national minorities (see also the activities mentioned in connection with Article 14, for example).

Article 13 (Economic and social life):

Paragraph 1 letter d:

This provision is implemented, first and foremost, by the ban on discriminating against speakers of minority languages (for details see the comments on Article 7 (2)), as well as by Article 66 (3) of the State Treaty of St. Germain, which has constitutional ranking and guarantees the right to use any language in private and business transactions. In addition, promoting measures provide impulses that are intended to facilitate the use of the Hungarian language in business and social life. For example, the Roman-Catholic parish at Mittelpullendorf published a book of religious song in Hungarian with support from the budget for promoting the national minorities.

Article 14 (Trans-frontier exchanges):

Letter b:

ARGE Alpen-Adria plays a special role in maintaining trans-frontier exchanges. The activities and stimuli from ARGE Alpen-Adria were an important contribution for creating more awareness and giving more intensive consideration to minority issues in Central Europe. By mutually learning about possible solutions it was possible to contribute towards mitigating conflicts in the member regions. It is generally seen to be a positive effect of the events organized by ARGE Alpen-Adria to date that members of the various minorities were given an opportunity to get into direct contacts with each other, as well as to get to know each other in course of the cultural activities. A direct cooperation between the regional authorities results already from the fact that the federal province of Burgenland is a member of ARGE Alpen-Adria, and as such it is represented by its provincial governor.

In November 2007, the Imre Samu Sprachkompetenzzentrum (Imre Samu Language Competence Center – ISSZ) was set up at UMIZ – “Verein zur Förderung des ungarischen Medien- und Informationszentrums“. It is an integral part of the UMIZ

structure and serves as an advisory board for philological issues. The objectives and trans-frontier concerns of the Hungarian Academy of Science were coordinated when setting up this institute as a component of the network of cooperating scientific institutions serving the purpose of philological research. The ISSZ coordinates research into the Hungarian language in Burgenland/Austria, Slovenia and Croatia. It is planned, inter alia, to establish a data base to document the Hungarian vernacular of the Wart region in video and sound recordings. Between June 2007 and April 2008, UMIZ is implementing an Interreg project in cooperation with a youth club at Zalaegerszeg (Hungary), in the course of which an Internet platform is to be produced of those associations that are active in the "Euroregio Western Pannonia". Exchange programs for juveniles from Burgenland and western Hungary will eventually be organized.

The project "Zu zweit geht es besser" – Interkulturelle Begegnung im neuen Europa" (It is easier when you do it together – Inter-Cultural Encounters in the New Europe) of "Fachhochschulstudiengänge Burgenland GmbH" (Study Courses in Applied Science) relates to partnerships with neighboring countries to the east, including Hungary. It received the European Seal for innovative language projects in 2007.

One should mention the language holiday camp for children at Lake Balaton, which has become a traditional event in the meantime. It is organized by the Burgenland-Hungarian Cultural Association. The adult education college of the Burgenland Hungarians carries out the project "Freie Sommeruniversität in Siget in der Wart" (Free Summer University at Siget in the Wart Region), to which juveniles and lecturers from Hungary are invited.

III.4. The Czech Language in the Federal Province of Vienna:

Article 8 (Education):

Paragraph 1:

Letter a iv:

The Komensky School Association, which is the private bilingual educational facility with public-law status, offers bilingual instruction and education from the nursery-

school level to the school-leaving examination in Czech/Slovak and German. This school is operated by the Komensky School Association. In 2007/2008, a total of 80 children as of the age of two attended the nursery school of the Komensky School, of 59 had Czech as their mother tongue. They are cared for in 4 groups, partly together with children having German, Slovak or Hungarian as their mother tongue.

The Komensky School Association also receives federal funding from the budget for promoting the national minorities.

Article 11 (Media):

Paragraph 1:

Letter d:

CDs with language courses in the languages of the national minorities, video works and theater productions, for example, are funded from the federal promotional budget for the national minorities.

Letter f ii:

In addition to the funding available for national minorities, as mentioned in letter d, general support schemes such as promotional activities for the arts are also available for audio-visual productions in the Czech language.

Paragraph 2:

The freedom of communication is fully guaranteed in Austria by the constitution. In this context, one should mention Article 10 of the Human Rights Convention, which has constitutional ranking in Austria, Article 13 (1) of the Basic State Law on the General Rights of Citizens, Imperial Law Gazette No. 142/1867, the decision of the Provisional National Assembly of 1918 on the abolition of censorship, State Law Gazette No. 3/1918, as well as the federal constitutional law on ensuring the independence of broadcasting, Federal Law Gazette No. 396/1974. Cable television and satellite programs from the Czech Republic can be received in Vienna without any restrictions.

The following additional comments need to be made in connection with the media situation of the Czech population in Vienna. In keeping with § 3 (7) of the ORF Act, the

ORF has been broadcasting middle-wave programs (1476 kHz) in Czech on a regular basis from the Bisamberg transmission station.

In the program slot between 19.05 and 19.30 h Radio Drát'ák is broadcast from Monday to Wednesday. This weekly magazine in Czech focuses on events within the Czech national minority in Vienna. The topics of the broadcasts range from politics to culture, as well as to sports. The mother-tongue programs offer the national minority a platform for an intensive exchange of information.

On Friday (between 19.05 and 19.30 h) a Czech youth program is broadcast by Radio 1476 ("Zvidavýmikrofon"). This youth magazine of the Czech population in Vienna deals with all topics of major city. In the bilingual programs (Czech and German) language is a dramaturgical tool that is applied conscientiously. The pupils of the Komensky upper-level secondary school and of the American International School in Vienna prepare the magazine.

Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities):

Paragraph 1:

Letters a and d:

As part of the activities to promote the national minorities, various cultural activities and facilities that deal with cultivating the Czech language receive promotional funding. An important criterion for being allocated promotional funding for the national minorities is cultivating the language of the national minorities. All types of cultural facilities and activities, as they are listed in Article 12 (1) of the Charter, are eligible for receiving promotional funding. In 2007, 11 associations of the national minority, as well as one church facility located in Vienna received EUR 451,409.00 from the budget of the Federal Chancellery to promote the national minorities. The largest amount, i.e. EUR 362,555.00, was allocated to the Komensky School Association. The school association offers a bilingual educational path from the nursery-school level to the school-leaving examination. The teachers employed by the Komensky School Association are also paid by the State. The school association also looks after comprehensive archived materials and a large library and makes available its premises for theater performances and other events of the entire national minority. Three Czech-language or bilingual periodicals also receive promotional funding. They are: Česká a

slovenská Videň dnes, Kulturní klub and Videňské svobodné listy The Catholic Mission received EUR 17,000.00 in 2007 for its work with young people in the Czech language or in Czech and German. In addition to the work going on the course of the whole year, the Catholic Mission also organizes a holiday camp in Czech and/or German and Czech for the Czech population. The association newsletter was put on electronic media and can be accessed at www.rozhledy.at. The Catholic Mission maintains an altogether close cooperation with the Komensky school. The Jirásek Library Association received EUR 2,300.00 for renting its library premises. Five Sokol gymnastic clubs received promotional funding in 2007, as the Sokol movement has a standing among the national minority that enhances its tradition and identity. One of the clubs organizes sports and language weeks for children and juveniles in the Czech Republic. The Czech-Austrian Contact Forum arranges Czech performances in Austria. The amateur theater group "Vlastenecka omladina" stages two own productions in the Czech language every year.

Paragraph 3:

When pursuing its cultural policy abroad, Austria makes every effort to present Austria's linguistic diversity, as it is also reflected in its national minorities (see also the activities mentioned in connection with Article 14, for example). Promotional funding by the Austrian Foreign Ministry may be received under the heading of "cultural activities abroad". The Austrian embassy in Prague supported the following projects, for example, with this funding:

6 April 2001: Lecture by Ilona Slawinski, Vienna: "Beitrag der tschechischen Wissenschaftler und Künstler für Wien und Österreich" (The Contribution of Czech Scientists and Artists to Vienna and Austria).

22 November 2005: Book presentation by Marie Brandeis: "Wir kamen von anderswo" (We came from some place else)

8 November 2006: Presentation by Helena Basler(ová): "Die Wiener Tschechen" (The Czech Population of Vienna)

Article 14, letter b (Trans-frontier exchanges):

From September 2002 to December 2004 the Komensky School Association carried out the project “Forum bilinguale” with co-financing from the budget for promoting the national minorities. It received EUR 200,000.00 from EFRE funds. The Czech partner was a bilingual grammar school in Znaim/Znojmo. The goal of this project was to set up a network that serves to preserve and promote Czech culture on the basis of sound skills in the Czech and German languages. This objective is to be obtained, inter alia, by organizing sports competitions, arranging contacts for companies for cooperation projects or by teaching motivation and job strategies.

Since 1997/98 the pilot school project “European middle school” has been pursued in Vienna. This school follows the curriculum for the first four grades of upper-level secondary schools. However, it also takes account of Czech, Hungarian and Slovak curricula. The idea is to put together classes in which one half of the pupils has German as its mother tongue, and the other half has Czech, Hungarian or Slovak as its mother tongue. To this end, pupils from the neighboring countries, as well as Austrian pupils with the respective mother tongues may be admitted. In addition to Austrian teachers, teachers from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia are also assigned to class-room teaching.

The events of the Czech-Slovak/Austrian Contact Forum, as well as the sports and language weeks in the Czech Republic must also be mentioned in this context. Time and again, the Culture Club of Czechs and Slovaks in Vienna organizes events to which representatives of the Czech Republic are also invited. In the year 2006, for example, this event was “Die Wiener Tschechen 1945 – 2005” (The Czech Population in Vienna 1945 – 2005).

III.5. The Slovak Language in the Federal Province of Vienna:

Article 8 (Education):

Paragraph 1:

Letter a iv:

12 children with Slovak as their mother tongue also attend the nursery school of the Komensky school. This activity is also funded from the federal budget for promoting the national minorities.

Article 11 (Media):

Paragraph 1

Letter d:

CDs with language courses in the languages of the national minorities, video works and theater productions, for example, are funded from the federal promotional budget for the national minorities.

Letter f ii:

In addition to the funding available for national minorities, as mentioned in letter d, general support schemes such as promotional activities for the arts are also available for audio-visual productions in the Slovak language.

Paragraph 2:

The freedom of communication is fully guaranteed in Austria by the constitution. In this context, one should mention Article 10 of the Human Rights Convention, which has constitutional ranking in Austria, Article 13 (1) of the Basic State Law on the General Rights of Citizens, Imperial Law Gazette No. 142/1867, the decision of the Provisional National Assembly of 1918 on the abolition of censorship, State Law Gazette No. 3/1918, as well as the federal constitutional law on ensuring the independence of broadcasting, Federal Law Gazette No. 396/1974. Cable television and satellite programs from Slovakia can be received in Vienna without any restrictions.

The following additional comments need to be made in connection with the media situation of the Slovak population in Vienna. In keeping with § 3 (7) of the ORF Act, the

ORF has been middle-wave broadcasting programs (1476 kHz) in the Slovak language on a regular basis from the Bisamberg transmission station.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays (alternating) “Radio Dia: Ton” and “Radio Spöngia” are broadcast on Radio 1476. This is a program for young people in the Slovak language. Topics of the Slovak population are in the foreground, but they also refer to issues of cultural identity, mother tongue and European integration. The program of the youth broadcast is prepared by the pupils of the Komensky School. The media training, which was set up at the school in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, provides the necessary know-how and serves as a workshop for productions.

Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities):

Paragraph 1:

Letters a and d:

As part of the activities to promote the national minorities, various cultural activities and facilities that deal with cultivating the Slovak language receive promotional funding. All types of cultural facilities and activities, as they are listed in Article 12 (1) of the Charter, are eligible for receiving promotional funding. In 2007, 3 associations of the national minority located in Vienna received EUR 111,155.00 from the budget of the Federal Chancellery to promote the national minorities (2 of these of the Slovak national minority, 1 of the Czech national minority). The largest amount, i.e. EUR 60,500.00, was used by the Austrian-Slovak Cultural Association for the following purposes:

- rent costs, operating expenses, insurance for the association premises, staff expenses, and office overhead costs
- publication of POHLÁDY, the Slovak-language association newsletter
- for organizing Slovak-language theater performances in Vienna
- for organizing a cultural program that is specific of the national minority and/or in the Slovak language
- for the children’s folk dance group, conducted in Slovak or bilingually
- for organizing screenings of Slovak-language films, followed by discussions
- for producing a film about the life of Irma Trksak, a Slovak resistance fighter from Vienna
- for preparing the anniversary publication on the occasion of the 25-year anniversary of the association
- for publishing a Slovak-language or bilingual calendar (with poems in Slovak)
- for publishing POHLÁDY, the Slovak-language association newsletter

SOVA, the Slovak School Association, received EUR 11,300.00 for the following budget items:

- for staff, office expenses
- for the Internet presentation of the association at www.slovaci.at
- for buying literature, video and sound carriers specifically for the national minority
- for the parent-children group (project title: “promoting the Slovak language in small children”)
- for organizing theater performances for children and with puppets in the Slovak language, as well as classes in creative activities conducted in Slovak or bilingually
- for organizing the summer camp for children and juveniles, conducted in Slovak or bilingually
- for publishing the manual “Slowakisch für Kindergartengruppen - II Teil“ (Slovak for Nursery-School Groups – Part II)
- for teaching Slovak to children
- for the literature project “Kinder entdecken die slowakische Literatur” (Children Discover Slovak Literature)
- for organizing programs for juveniles in the Slovak language or specifically for the national minority
- music lessons in Czech or bilingually

The Komensky School Association received EUR 39,355.00 for staff expenses for one Slovak-language day-nursery teacher, as well as for one Slovak or two bilingual nursery-school teachers, as Slovak children are also looked after at the Komensky School.

Paragraph 3:

When pursuing its cultural policy abroad, Austria makes every effort to present Austria’s linguistic diversity, as it is also reflected in its national minorities (see also the activities mentioned in connection with Article 14, for example). Promotional funding by the Austrian Foreign Ministry may be received under the heading of “cultural activities abroad”.

Article 14 (Trans-frontier exchanges):

Letter b:

The contacts of the organizations of the Slovak national minority comprise, for example, the organization of a holiday camp in Slovakia by the cultural association or that Slovak nationals participate in various association projects. Time and again, artists from Slovakia are invited to cultural events.

The project CentroLING of the European Office of the School Inspectorate for Vienna should also be mentioned here, in the course of which native speakers from Slovakia, inter alia, teach at schools in Vienna. This project, which received the European Seal for innovative language projects in 2007, also published a text book for the Slovak language for pupils between 13 and 18 years of age.

III.6. The Romany Language in the Federal Province of Burgenland:

Article 8 (Education):

Paragraph 1

Letter f iii:

Several organizations of the national minority of the Roma offer courses in Romany as part of the adult-education and continuing-education program and received funding from the budget available for promoting the national minorities.

Moreover, it was decided in October 2005 to use remaining funds from the Reconciliation Fund in the amount of EUR 1.1 million (spread out over ten years) for the Roma national minority and to earmark these funds for educational activities and working with juveniles of the Roma population. As a result, the money was put in the Roma Fund, from which EUR 90,000.00 may be spent every year for educational projects with pupils, juveniles and adults of the national minority of the Roma. Among other items, the funds are used for the RomBus of “Romaservice”, an association, as well as for the school bus of the association “Roma Oberwart”. An amount of EUR 200,000.00 has been earmarked for research projects. The Roma Fund supports the members of the national minority throughout Austria.

The Minorities’ Schools Act for Burgenland of 1994 (Federal Law Gazette No. 641/1994), as well as the relevant implementing laws in Burgenland provide that there is a legal title to Romany classes if there is demand for them.

As the Romany language became a written language only very late, this right can only be implemented in steps. The language of the Burgenland Roma is a language with an oral tradition which thus had not been recorded in writing. It was only about ten years

go that as part of a scientific Romany project by dedicated linguists, who also work at the Institute of Philology of the University of Graz, in cooperation with representatives of the Roma Association at Oberwart, work was begun to establish a written language and to codify it. In the course of the Romany project of the University of Graz, the main varieties of the Romany language spoken in Austria were compiled and processed on a scientific basis. As a result of this work, newspapers of Roma associations can now be published in two languages, and bilingual collections of Roma stories and teaching games were produced, and classes taught in Romany were set up at Oberwart and Unterwart, for which curricula and teaching materials had to be produced. Ongoing scientific support is required for the production and publication of bilingual association newspapers and for the preparation of the Romany classes.

In the meantime, first teaching materials have been completed and put to use. However, there is still not a sufficient volume of materials available which would allow studies in the Romany language. As a result, no courses can be offered to train teachers at a pedagogical university. “Native speakers” are therefore used on a substitute basis for the Romany classes, who are given a basic pedagogical training.

The “RomBus” project of the association Roma Service is responsible for supporting educational activities for Roma children on a mobile basis. It also serves to provide public relations work.

Roma	2004/2005	2005/2006	
Primary school Oberwart	10	5	Optional exercise
Primary school Unterwart	5	4	Optional exercise
Lower-level secondary school Oberwart	9	9	Optional exercise
Total	24	18	

According to current information from the regional school inspectorate for Burgenland, there is no Romany instruction in the current school year (2007/2008), as the threshold of 5 pupils was not reached at any location. Nor was it possible to organize classes jointly for several locations.

Article 11 (Media):

Paragraph 1

Letter b ii:

Every week, the regional studio for Burgenland broadcasts the following radio program in the languages of three national minorities in Burgenland:

ORF REGIONAL STUDIO BURGENLAND

RADIO

Program	Broadcasting date	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
3-language magazine, inter alia Roma Sam (magazine in Romany	Mon(1 x per week)	56'	20.04 h	Burgenland-Croatian (26') / Hungarian (15') / Romany (15')

The program "Radio Kaktus" can be received throughout Austria on Radio 1476. The program "Radio Sam" of the national minority desk at the regional studio for Burgenland is also broadcast throughout Austria on the 1476 kHz frequency.

In addition, the station ORF Burgenland broadcasts the following programs, inter alia, also in the Romany language:

ORF REGIONAL BURGENLAND

TELEVISION

Program	Broadcasting date	Length	Broadcasting time	Language
4-language magazine ("Servus / Szia / Zdravo / Del tuha")	Sun (4 x per year)	45'	14.20 h	German / Hungarian / Burgenland-Croatian / Romany

Letter d:

CDs with language courses in the languages of the national minorities, video works and theater productions, for example, are funded from the federal promotional budget for the national minorities.

Letter f ii:

In addition to the funding available for national minorities, as mentioned in letter d, general support schemes such as promotional activities for the arts are also available for audio-visual productions in the Romany language.

Paragraph 2:

The freedom of communication is fully guaranteed in Austria by the constitution. In this context, one should mention Article 10 of the Human Rights Convention, which has constitutional ranking in Austria, Article 13 (1) of the Basic State Law on the General Rights of Citizens, Imperial Law Gazette No. 142/1867, the decision of the Provisional National Assembly of 1918 on the abolition of censorship, State Law Gazette No. 3/1918, as well as the federal constitutional law on ensuring the independence of broadcasting, Federal Law Gazette No. 396/1974. Cable television and satellite programs can be received in Burgenland without any restrictions.

Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities):

Paragraph 1:

Letters a and d:

As part of the activities to promote the national minorities, various cultural activities and facilities that deal with cultivating the Romany language receive promotional funding. An important criterion for receiving promotional funding for the national minorities is to cultivate the language of the national minority. All types of cultural facilities and activities, as they are listed in Article 12 (1) of the Charter, are eligible for receiving promotional funding. In 2007, two associations of the national minority located in Burgenland received EUR 154,400.00 from the budget of the Federal Chancellery for promoting the national minorities. The largest part of this amount, i.e. EUR 114,000.00, was allocated to the association Roma Service for the following projects:

- for staff expenses and office overhead costs
- for buying literature, video and audio carriers that are specific of the national minority
- for producing teaching material for teaching Romany
- for publishing dROMa, the newspaper in Romany and German
- for publishing Mri Nevi Mini Multi, the children's newspaper in Romany
- for operating "RomBus" (mobile teaching assistance)
- for an interview project with members of the national minority of the Roma

"Roma – Verein zur Förderung von Roma" (Association to Promote the Roma) received EUR 39,500.00 from the budget of the Federal Chancellery to promote the national minorities for the following purposes:

- office expenses
- staff expenses for teaching-assistance coaches
- for publishing "Romani patrin", the newspaper in Romany or two languages

The desk for the ethnic groups of the Eisenstadt diocese received EUR 900.00 for

- organizing the traditional Roma pilgrimage comprising a cultural program
- activities for children and juveniles

In this context, one should mention, in particular, the codification and teaching of the Romany language which became possible with funding from the budget for the national minorities. As a result, it was possible to put the language that had previously been handed over only in oral form into a written form, so that the cultural expressions of this national minority can also be disseminated in written form (e.g. publishing bilingual association newsletters, teaching materials in Romany, partly also in electronic form, a children's newspaper in the Romany language and stories passed on in oral form). Philologists have been conducting this Romany project since 1993, together with representatives of the national minority. In addition to the scientific work, to publishing books, which disseminate the stories and tales of the different Roma groups both in their language and in German, the project also relates to supporting the organizations of the national minorities in publishing newspapers and teaching materials in Romany and German. In addition, data bases are setup and managed, i.e. ROMBASE (at <http://romani.uni-graz.at/rombase/>), which provides information on the culture and history of the Roma, ROMLEX (<http://romani.kfunigraz.ac.at/romlex/>), which is a linguistic data base, and ROMANE LILA (<http://www-gewi.uni-graz.at/romani/lila/index.en.html>), which contains a bibliography. In the year 2007, the Romany project received EUR 58,500.00 from the budget available to promote the national minorities.

Paragraph 3:

When pursuing its cultural policy abroad, Austria makes every effort to present Austria's linguistic diversity, as it is also reflected in its national minorities (see also the activities mentioned in connection with Article 14, for example). The Austrian embassy and the Cultural Forum Prague in the Czech Republic, for example, supported the following events:

22 May 2001	Seminar „Die Roma und die EU“ (The Roma and the EU) with participants from Austria, including Rudolf Sarközi
23 May 2001	Concert with Harri Stojka
26 September 2002	Theater performance by the Austrian Roma theater ROTA
23 May 2002 and 25 May 2002	Concert with Rusza Nikolić-Lakatos

26 May 2003	Lecture by Christiane F. Juhasz on Roma music
18 May 2004	Concert with Harri Stojka
30 May 2005	Film with Ceija Stojka
23 May 2006	Concert with Harri Stojka
17 June 2006	Concert with Harri Stojka

The Austrian embassy and Cultural Forum Laibach/Ljubljana reported that in 2005 it supported a concert with Martin Lobenov in Slovenia, a concert by the Hans Samer Band and a theater performance of “Romanovela – Love in Translation”.

The Austrian embassy and Cultural Forum Bratislava/Pressburg reported in September 2005 it supported that an event with Ceija Stojka. On that occasion, pictures by Ceija Stojka and the music works of Koloman Polak were presented in the course of a project called “Auschwitz ist mein Mantel” (Auschwitz is my Coat). Moreover, a concert by Harri Stojka on 25 June 2006 in Pressburg/Bratislava was supported.

Article 14, letter b (Trans-frontier exchanges):

With the funding to promote the organizations of the national minorities among the national minority of the Roma, projects of trans-frontier cooperation are being facilitated time and again. To give but one example, one should mention the cooperation, begun in June 2007, between the adult education college of the Burgenland Croats, the association Roma Service and the Romani Union at Murska Sobota (Slovenia). The association Roma Service, which publishes “Mri nevi MiniMulti”, the children’s newspaper in Burgenland Romany (which in turn is based on “Moj novi minimulti”, the newspaper published in the Burgenland-Croatian language by the adult education college of the Burgenland Croats), makes available the material produced by the Romani Union in Slovenia which it translates into Prekmurski Romany.

III.7. The Slovene Language in the Federal Province of Styria:

Article 8 (Education):

Paragraph 1:

Letter a iv:

According to the 2004 Language Census, only 4 children in the district of Bad Radkersburg and eight children in the district of Leibnitz, who are growing up bilingually (German and Slovene) went to nursery schools of their districts in the 2004/2005 nursery-school year. On account of the lack of demand, there are therefore no nursery-schools that are specifically run in the two languages and/or groups to which a mother-tongue Slovene-speaking nursery-school teacher would be assigned in addition to a German-speaking nursery-school teacher.

There is, however, a partnership between the municipal nursery school at Bad Radkersburg and the nursery school of Gomja Radgona (Slovenia). In the course of this partnership, joint projects are being carried out and/or small groups from one nursery school regularly spend some time in the respectively other nursery school. Time and again, the Federal Training Institute for Nursery-School Pedagogy at Mureck organizes projects with the nursery school at Apače/Abstall. The students are also offered to study Slovene as an optional subject.

It would however, be possible at any time to organize pre-school education also in the languages of the national minority with funding for private nursery-school groups, available from the budget for promoting the national minorities.

Letter e iii:

On account of the universities' autonomy, as stipulated by law, state intervention into the study courses offered by the universities is only possible to a limited extent. In fact, though Slovene is being offered as a study course at the following Austrian universities:

- University of Vienna, Institute for Slavic Studies
- University of Graz, Institute for Slavic Studies
- University of Graz, Institute for Theoretical and Applied Translation Sciences
- University of Innsbruck, Institute for Slavic Studies

- University of Klagenfurt, Institute for Slavic Studies

Letter f iii:

Slovene is taught at various adult-education colleges, as well as by the organizations of the national minority. These programs are also promoted from the public funds. For example, language courses are organized by the "Article VII Cultural Association" (Pavel House), the association "Österreichisch-Slowenische Freundschaft", the regional "Zukunftswerkstatt" (Future Workshop) at Ehrenhausen, by "Treffpunkt Sprache" (Meeting Point Languages) at the University of Graz (additional programs offered), by Urania, WIF1 (Institute for Economic Promotion) and the "Bildungshaus Retzhof" near Leibnitz.

Slovene is offered as an optional exercise at various primary and lower-level secondary schools, as well as at one polytechnic school. Approximately 260 pupils attended these courses.

The "Article VII Cultural Association" is engaged in the continuing training of Slovene teachers and informs them about seminars and new textbooks. In 2006 it organized a first meeting of teachers at the Pavel House so that Slovene teachers can also get to know each other and discuss opinions, problems and ideas. The organization was supported by the pedagogy coach for the Slovene teachers for the Raab area/Porabje, but also by Carinthian-Slovene pedagogues.

Article 11 (Media):

Paragraph 1

Letter d:

CDs with language courses in the languages of the national minorities, video works and theater productions, for example, are funded from the federal promotional budget for the national minorities.

Letter e i:

"Novice", the weekly newspaper published in Slovene, receives press-promotion funding and can also be obtained in Styria. In addition, the "Artikel-VII-Kulturverein für Steiermark" (Article VII Cultural Association for Styria) publishes "Signal", a

comprehensive information journal, which receives funding from the budget available to promote the national minorities.

Letter f ii:

In addition to the funding available for national minorities, as mentioned in letter d, general support schemes such as promotional activities for the arts are also available for audio-visual productions in the Slovene language.

Paragraph 2:

The freedom of communication is fully guaranteed in Austria by the constitution. In this context, one should mention Article 10 of the Human Rights Convention, which has constitutional ranking in Austria, Article 13 (1) of the Basic State Law on the General Rights of Citizens, Imperial Law Gazette No. 142/1867, the decision of the Provisional National Assembly of 1918 on the abolition of censorship, State Law Gazette No. 3/1918, as well as the federal constitutional law on ensuring the independence of broadcasting, Federal Law Gazette No. 396/1974. Cable television and satellite programs can be received in Styria without any restrictions.

It should also be mentioned that the ORF has been broadcasting its radio and television programs also via satellite. A receiver, including an ORF SmartCard, is necessary in order to be able to receive these programs. Radio and television program consumers can thus receive not only the regional programs of their own region but also of the other federal provinces. This means that programs broadcast in Carinthia for the Slovene national minority can also be received in Styria. This option to receive programs via satellite was chosen deliberately as a measure to comply with the need to promote the national minorities.

Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities):

Paragraph 1:

Letters a and d:

As part of the activities to promote the national minorities, cultural activities that deal with cultivating the Slovene language receive promotional funding. One should mention the support given to a cultural center located in southern Styria, which stages cultural events (readings, exhibitions, etc., that are also supported from the budget

available for the national minorities) on a regular basis. The “Artikel VII-Kulturverein”, which operates this cultural center, received EUR 58,200.00 in 2007 from the budget available for promoting the national minorities, i.e. for:

- staff expenses
- operating costs for the Pavel House
- publishing “Signal”, a bilingual journal in Slovene and German

The federal province of Styria supported the “Article VII Cultural Association” with a total amount of EUR 12,000.00 in 2006 and of EUR 10,000.00 in 2007.

The Slovene Student Club in Graz received EUR 5,000.00 for the following program items:

- for publishing “Informator”, the Slovene or bilingual club newspaper
- the festival “Slovenski Dnevi” – “Slovenian Days“
- for organization a cultural program in Slovene or two languages

Paragraph 2:

The allocation of funding to promote the national minorities does not depend on whether the activity or institution to be promoted is located in the autochthonous settlement area of the national minority or not.

Paragraph 3:

When pursuing its cultural policy abroad, Austria makes every effort to present Austria’s linguistic diversity, as it is also reflected in its national minorities (see also the activities mentioned in connection with Article 14, for example). The Austrian embassy and Cultural Forum Laibach/Ljubljana reported that in the year 2007 it promoted a concert of the Pavel Choir (Article VII Cultural Association) in the course of the “Weeks of Trans-Frontier Cooperation”.

Article 13 (Economic and social life):

Paragraph 1 letter d:

This provision is implemented, first and foremost, by the ban on discriminating against speakers of minority languages (for details see the comments on Article 7 (2)), as well as by Article 66 (3) of the State Treaty of St. Germain, which has constitutional ranking and guarantees the right to use any language in private and business transactions.

Article 14 letter b (Trans-frontier exchanges):

Letter b:

ARGE Alpen-Adria plays a special role in maintaining trans-frontier exchanges. The activities and stimuli from ARGE Alpen-Adria were an important contribution for creating more awareness and giving more intensive consideration to minority issues in Central Europe. By mutually learning about possible solutions it was possible to contribute towards mitigating conflicts in the member regions. It is generally seen to be a positive effect of the events organized by ARGE Alpen-Adria to date that members of the various minorities were given an opportunity to get into direct contacts with each other, as well as to get to know each other in course of the cultural activities. A direct cooperation between the regional authorities results already from the fact that the federal province of Styria is a member of ARGE Alpen-Adria, and as such it is represented by its provincial governor.

As a specific example of trans-frontier cooperation, one should mention the partnership between the municipal nursery school at Bad Radkersburg and the nursery school at Gomja Radgona (Slovenia). Joint projects are carried in the course of this partnership and/or small groups of the nursery schools regularly spend some time in the respectively other nursery school. There is one further school partnership between the lower-level secondary school at Arnfels and the OŠ Muta and the OŠ Sentilj. One lower-level secondary school at Leibnitz is looking for a Slovenian partner school.

III.8. The Hungarian Language in the Federal Province of Vienna:

Article 8 (Education):

Paragraph 1

Letter a iv:

One should report about the most recent development, namely that since 1 October 2007 a (to date) small group of Hungarian children attend the nursery school of the Komensky School Association. For the time being, it continues to be integrated into a bilingual group (Czech, German). During the startup phase, a Hungarian- and German-speaking nursery-school teacher takes care of four children. One may expect a considerable increase in the number of children. As of the fall of 2008, the Hungarian

nursery-school group will be run independently and offer room for more children – as soon as the building facilities have been adapted.

This Hungarian children's group is supported from the budget available for promoting the national minorities.

In addition, once a week the "Zentralverband ungarischer Organisationen in Österreich" (Central Association of Hungarian Associations in Austria) teaches children with Hungarian as their mother tongue in the Hungarian language and culture (name of the project: "Hungarian Nursery School"). The Hungarian School Association in Vienna also teaches weekly classes in the Hungarian language and culture in the course of the "Honismeret" project, inter alia, to pre-school children.

Letter e iii:

On account of the universities' autonomy, which is stipulated by law, state intervention into the study courses offered by universities is possible only to a limited extent. In fact, though, Hungarian is being offered as a study course at the following Austrian universities:

- University of Vienna, Institute for Finno-Ugric Studies
- University of Vienna, Institute for Translator and Interpreter Training
- Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Institute for Slavic Studies
- University of Graz, Institute for Theoretical and Applied Translation Sciences

At the Vienna University of Economic and Business Administration Hungarian is taught as one of the optional subjects. Hungarian is also taught at the University of Vienna, i.e. as part of the diploma course in Slavic studies, as the bachelor's degree course in translation and interpreting, to obtain a teaching qualification, as well as one of the languages offered by the Language Center of the University of Vienna. The University of Vienna also offers a broad range of study courses in connection with the languages of the national minorities.

At the University of Applied Science for International Relations in Eisenstadt, learning one language of an Eastern-European country is compulsory. Hungarian is one of the

languages that can be studied. The University of Applied Science at Pinkafeld offers Hungarian as a second living foreign language.

Letter f iii:

Various organizations of the national minority offer courses in Hungarian, which also receive funding from the federal budget available to promote the national minorities. The Hungarian School Association, set up in Vienna in 1921, regards it as its primary task to communicate the language of the Hungarian national minority by way of language courses.

Article 11 (Media):

Paragraph 1

Letter d:

CDs with language courses in the languages of the national minorities, video works and theater productions, for example, are funded from the federal promotional budget for the national minorities.

Letter e i:

“Bécsi Napló”, which is published periodically in the Hungarian language, is promoted from the budget available for the national minorities.

Letter f ii:

In addition to the funding available for national minorities, as mentioned in letter d, general support schemes such as promotional activities for the arts are also available for audio-visual productions in the Hungarian language.

Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities):

Paragraph 1:

Letter a and d:

As part of the promotional funding given to the national minorities, the organizations of the Hungarian national minority headquartered in Vienna, which cover many of the areas of activities listed in paragraph 1, are supported by way of promotional funding. In concrete terms, 13 associations of the Hungarian national minority and three church facilities headquartered in Vienna received funding in a total amount of EUR

185,120.00 in the year 2007. The Central Association of Hungarian Associations and Organizations in Vienna received EUR 77,490.00 for the following purposes:

- rent and operating expenses for the association premises, office overheads and staff expenses
- publishing "Bécsi Napló", the bi-monthly journal in Hungarian
- "Wiener ungarische Schule" (Vienna Hungarian School) – looking after children every week or every second week with coaching in Hungarian or two languages, as well as courses in Hungarian and Hungarian civilization
- organizing the traditional March celebrations
- organizing the October celebration
- organizing a Hungarian-language recital competition for children and juveniles
- for organizing the ceremonial lecture about Zoltán Kodály, followed by a concert
- for organizing lectures, discussion evenings, literature workshops, film screenings and exhibitions in the Hungarian language or on specific topics of the national minority
- grants to a Hungarian-language publication on presentations held at the symposium in 2006 on "Flucht und Integration der Ungarn-Flüchtlinge" (The Flight and Integration of Refugees from Hungary)
- grant to publish the Örség calendar

The Hungarian School Association received EUR 21,760.00 for the following purposes:

- staff expenses
- the "Honismeret" project (weekly instruction for children and juveniles in the Hungarian language, civilization and folk music, as well as a holiday course)
- publishing a text book for teaching Hungarian as a mother tongue (first and second grade)
- organizing a year-end celebration for the Honismeret courses

Délibáb, the Hungarian cultural association in Vienna, received EUR 20,770.00 for:

- "Szivárvány", a dancing group for children: fee for writing and studying the choreography, fees for musicians and Hungarian-bilingual dancing teachers, fees for Hungarian-bilingual coaches for the summer camp, printing costs for pamphlets and invitations in the Hungarian language or two languages
- organizing the "Wochenendschule für Ungarische Volksmusik" (Weekend School for Hungarian Folk Music)
- organizing dancing clubs and music workshops
- organizing the gala evening of the Association for the Presentation of the Dancing Groups
- active participation of the children's dancing group "Szivárvány" and of the "Délibáb" dancing group in a folk dance festival in Pécs (Hungary)
- active participation of the children's dancing group "Szivárvány" and the "Délibáb" dancing group in another festival
- publishing the brochure presenting the "Délibáb" dancing group
- new choreographies for the association's own dancing groups
- buying costumes and accessories for performances in accordance with historical models

The "Ökonomische Interessengemeinschaft der Ungarn in Österreich" - KALÁKA-Club (Economic Interest Group of Hungarians in Austria) received EUR 5,000.00 for:

- publishing the Hungarian-language "Yearbook for 2008"
- the pre-Christmas event "Ungarische Weihnachtsbräuche in Wort und Musik" (Hungarian Christmas Customs in Texts and Music)
- Lecture evening on the subject of "Originaldokumente zur Geschichte der ungarischen Revolution von 1956" (Original Documents on History of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956), up to EUR 600.00 for printing and mailing costs; printing mailing costs for invitations in Hungarian or two languages, lecture fees

"Europaclub" received EUR 10,390.00 for:

- renting rooms and archives, for office materials and web site management
- for publishing the Hungarian-language and the two-language calendar
- four lectures in Hungarian on specific topics of the national minority
- two literature evenings in Hungarian
- showing of a documentary film in Hungarian on the events of 1956
- two cultural events in Hungarian with juveniles, followed by a discussion on the role of young people in the Hungarian national minority
- organizing the Hungarian Folklore Evening with Hungarian "peasant music"
- organizing theater performances with theater groups from the Hungarian minorities in Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine

The Hungarian Workers' Association received EUR 11,370.00 for:

- rent and operating costs for the association facilities, office overheads
- the children's theater group
- buying Hungarian-language literature, sound and video carriers on specific topics of the national minority
- Publishing the Hungarian and bilingual newsletter of the association
- organizing the traditional ball at the end of the Carnival season

The Umbrella Association of Independent Hungarian Associations in Austria received EUR 8,900.00 for:

- Internet access fees, producing and managing a web site, IT maintenance, telephone charges, small IT components, toner
- organizing the traditional March celebrations at Nickelsdorf
- organizing the formal dance "Ball der Wiener Ungarn"
- organizing a Christmas celebration with a Hungarian-language program specifically for the national minority
- organizing the "Kodály Zoltán" conference program, consisting of a workshop on Kodály's teaching method and an accompanying dancing club
- publishing the newspaper "Új Magyar Kronika"

The Peter Bornemisza Society received EUR 7,500.000 for:

- grant to pay the rent and operating expenses for the association premises
- publishing the Hungarian-language newsletter "Bécsi Posta"
- the lecture program in Hungarian and/or concerning specific topics of the national minority

The Hungarian Boy-Scout Association “Széchenyi István No. 72” of the Hungarian Union of Boy Scouts Abroad received EUR 4,400.00 for its camps held in Hungarian or two languages.

The Hungarian-Protestant Community A.B. received EUR 5,000.00 for

- publishing “Másokért Együtt”, the news bulletin in Hungarian
- the youth group conducted in Hungarian or two languages: fees for Hungarian-language graduates as speakers, buying Hungarian-language publications, DVDs and CDs for children and juveniles

The “Wiener ungarische röm.-kath. Seelsorgeamt” (Viennese Roman-Catholic Spiritual Care Services) received EUR 5,000.00 for:

- organizing the annual concert
- the cultural program on the occasion of celebrating St. Stephen

Further organizations received smaller amounts. In addition, the Komensky School Association received EUR 7,504.00 for its Hungarian-language nursery-school teacher.

Paragraph 2:

The allocation of funding from the budget available for the national minorities does not depend on whether the activity or facility to be promoted is located in the autochthonous settlement area of a national minority. Accordingly, in 2007 two organizations in Upper Austria received funding for the national minorities in the amount of EUR 4,300.00, as well as one organization in Salzburg (EUR 530.00), two organizations in Styria (EUR 3,600.00) and two organizations in Tyrol (EUR 2,600.00).

Paragraph 3:

When pursuing its cultural policy abroad, Austria makes every effort to present Austria’s linguistic diversity, as it is also reflected in its national minorities.

Article 13 (Economic and social life):

Paragraph 1, letter d:

This provision is implemented, first and foremost, by the ban on discriminating against speakers of minority languages (for details see the comments on Article 7 (2)), as well as by Article 66 (3) of the State Treaty of St. Germain, which has constitutional ranking and guarantees the right to use any language in private and business transactions. Occasionally, the promotional funding may act as an incentive for promoting the use of

the Hungarian language in business and social life. One can mention as one example the Yearbook of the Economic Interest Group of Hungarians in Austria – the KALAKA Club: In addition to a calendar section, the yearbook contains several articles, as well as a list of Hungarian entrepreneurs in Vienna and Burgenland.

Article 14, letter b (Trans-frontier exchanges):

A growing number of projects of trans-frontier cooperation is facilitated by promoting the organizations of the national minorities among the Hungarian national minority. In particular, artists and scientists from Hungary, but also from Transylvania and other regions with a Hungarian minority participate in the events of Hungarians in Vienna, give lectures or teach folk dancing and folk music. One should also mention the CentroLING project of the European Office of the School Inspectorate for Vienna, in the course of which native speakers from Hungary, inter alia, teach at schools in Vienna.

Since 1997/1998, the pilot school project “European middle schools” has been pursued in Vienna. This school is run in keeping with the curriculum of the first to fourth grades of an upper-level secondary school; however, it takes account of Czech, Hungarian and Slovak curricula. The idea is that half of the classes should consist of pupils with German as a mother tongue, and the other half should be pupils with Czech, Hungarian or Slovak as their mother tongue. In this context, both pupils from the neighboring countries and Austrian pupils with the respective mother tongue may be admitted. In addition to Austrian teachers, teachers from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia are also assigned to the project.

ANNEX I: LIST OF SLOVENE-LANGUAGE TEXT BOOKS, TEACHING AIDS AND TEACHING MATERIALS

Status: 2007/08 school year

A. Text books for teaching national minorities (lists of text books – text book campaign)

Mathematics

Slovenske računske naloge za 2. šolsko stopnjo, Eder, Johann; Jarolim, Franz; Schön, Rudolf; Kukovica, Franz; Kukovica, Stanislava; ÖBV Pädagogischer Verlag, Wien, 2. Schulstufe

Slovenske računske naloge za 3. šolsko stopnjo, Eder, Johann; Jarolim, Franz; Schön, Rudolf; Kukovica, Franz; Kukovica, Stanislava; ÖBV Pädagogischer Verlag, Wien, 3. Schulstufe

Mathematik 4 in slowenischer Sprache, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt

Music education

Poj z menoj I, Kovačič, Jožko; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. und 2. Schulstufe

Zapoj še ti 1, Gregorič, Janez; Krop, Pepej; Logar, Stefan; Opetnik, Jurij; NOREA Verlag, Klagenfurt, 2., 3., 4. Schulstufe und 5., 6., 7. und 8. Schulstufe

Zapoj še ti 2, Gregorič, Janez; Krop, Pepej; Logar, Stefan; Opetnik, Jurij; NOREA Verlag, Klagenfurt, 2., 3., 4. Schulstufe und 5., 6., 7. und 8. Schulstufe

Poj z menoj II, Kovačič, Jožko; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 3. und 4. Schulstufe und 5., 6. Schulstufe

Glas - glasba – glasbila, Kovačič, Jožko; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5. Klasse

Mladina poje – Pesmarica za koroško mladino, Vouk, Rudolf; Kramolc, Luka; ÖBV Pädagogischer Verlag, Wien, 2., 3., 4. Schulstufe und 5., 6., 7. und 8. Schulstufe

Religion

Jaz sem pri tebi, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Schulstufe

Verujem – Ich glaube, Verouk/Religion, Kulmesch, Angela; Hermagoras Verlag
Klagenfurt
1., 2., 3., 4. Schulstufe

Ob tebi rastem, Diestler Heribert; u.a., St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 2. Schulstufe

S teboj na poti . Mit Dir auf dem Weg, Arbeitsgemeinschaft / Veroučna knjiga/Religionsbuch 3 / Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 3. Schulstufe

Veroučna knjiga Skupno oblikujmo naš svet – Miteinander unsere Welt gestalten
Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 4. Schulstufe

Moje prvo sveto pismo, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras Klagenfurt, 3., 4. Schulstufe

Vstopi v sveto pismo, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1., 3., 4., 5. Jahrgang

Veroučna knjiga za 5. letnik, Autorenteam Projektgruppe Wien, St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5. Schulstufe

Sveto pismo nove zaveze (Bibel), Moder, Janko; Zdesar, Janez; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5. Schulstufe und 9. Schulstufe

Veroučna knjiga za 6. letnik, Autorenteam Projektgruppe Wien, St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 6. Schulstufe

Veroučna knjiga za 7. letnik, Autorenteam Projektgruppe Wien, St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 7. Schulstufe

Veroučna knjiga za 8. letnik, Autorenteam Projektgruppe Wien, St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 4. Klasse AHS

Slavimo Gospoda / Gebet- und Gesangbuch in slowenischer Sprache, Bischöfliches Seelsorgeamt, Slow. Abteilung, St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. und 9. Schulstufe, 1. Jahrgang

Skupaj na poti, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5. Klasse AHS

Zgodovina katoliške Cerkve 1, Polanc, Johann; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5. Klasse
AHS, 2. Jahrgang

Verouk za 1. razred gimnazije- Skupaj na poti v novi svet, Verlag Hermagoras, 1. Klasse AHS

Verouk za 2. razred gimnazije- Kdo je ta, ARGE Religion kroatisch, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 2. Klasse AHS

Verouk za 3. razred gimnazije- V življenje, ARGE Religion kroatisch, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt , 3. Klasse AHS

Verouk za 4. razred gimnazije-Gradimo prihodnost, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, 4. Klasse AHS

Zgodbe svetega pisma, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1.,2.,3.,4. Klasse AHS

Skupaj v novi svet, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Klasse AHS

Zgodovina katoliške Cerkve 2, Polanc Johann; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 3. Jahrgang
BHS, 7. Klasse AHS

Sveto pismo stare in nove zaveze (ekumenska izdaja) Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt 5. Klasse

Specific subjects

Ljudje - živali – rastline - stvari 3, Delovni listi (Slowenische Fassung von Kettenbach u.a., Menschen – Tiere –Pflanzen – Dinge 3, Arbeitsblätter), Kettenbach, Helene; Jarolim, Franz;
Ebner, Anton; Raschun, Irmgard; Wrulich, Josef; ÖBV Pädagogischer Verlag, Wien, 3. Schulstufe

Sachunterricht in slowenischer Sprache, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 4. Schulstufe

Slovene, reading, writing

Slišim, vidim, pišem, Schellander, Anton; Žele, Irene; Opetnik, Hildegard; Semprimoschnig, Mathilde; Schmölzer, Gunthilde; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Schulstufe

Sonja in Peter se učita slovensko I (Sonja und Peter lernen Slowenisch), Kukovica, Franc; Wrulich, Jožko; Raschun, Irmgard; Kukovica, Stanislava; Pinter, Marica; Drava Verlag, Klagenfurt, 1. Schulstufe und 5., 6. Schulstufe

Sonja in Peter se učita slovensko II (Sonja und Peter lernen Slowenisch), Kukovica, Franc; Wrulich, Jožko; Raschun, Irmgard; Kukovica, Stanislava; Pinter, Marica; Drava Verlag Klagenfurt,1., 2., 3. Schulstufe und 5., 6., 7. Schulstufe

Otroci radi beremo, Žele, Irene; Vrbinc, Michael; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1., 2. Schulstufe

Slovenščina za ljudske šole 2, Vauti, Valentin; Kumer, Rozvita; Kukovica, Franc; Opetnik, Hilda; Semprimoschnig, Matilda; Wrulich, Jožko; Žele Irena; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 2. Schulstufe

Slovenščina za ljudske šole 3, Vauti, Valentin; Mitarbeiter: Kukovica, Franc; Opetnik, Hilda; Semprimoschnig, Matilda; Wrulich, Jožko; Žele Irena; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 3. Schulstufe

Slovenščina za ljudske šole 4, Vauti, Valentin; Kraut, Jože; Božič, Andrej; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 4. Schulstufe

Poslušam berem govorim / Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1., 2., 3., 4. Schulstufe

Slowenisch 4 – Učimo se – für die 4. Klasse VS
/ Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 4. Schulstufe

Slovensko – Slowenisch 1 für Anfänger, Bednarik-Grieder; Terbuch; Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, Anmerkung: Weiterverwendung bis zur 4. Schulstufe

Slowenisch für Anfänger 1 – Pozdravljene besede! (1., 2. in 3. del), delovni zvezek za začetni pouk branja in pisanja, Kapus, Tamara; Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Schulstufe

Naša začetnica, Vouk, Rudolf; ÖBV Pädagogischer Verlag, Wien, 1. Schulstufe

Moja dežela, Kukovica, Franc; NOREA Verlag, Klagenfurt, 4. Schulstufe und 5. – 8. Schulstufe

Moja dežela – delovni listi, Kukovica, Franc, NOREA Verlag, Klagenfurt, 5. – 8. Schulstufe

Langenscheidts Universal-Wörterbuch Slowenisch-Deutsch, Deutsch-Slowenisch/ Langenscheidt, Wien, 3. Schulstufe und 5. Schulstufe, 1. Jahrgang, 5. – 8. Klasse AHS

Nemško-slovenski moderni slovar – Slowenisch-deutsches modernes Wörterbuch, Debenjak, Doris, Drava Verlag, Klagenfurt, 5. Schulstufe, 1. Jahrgang

Wörterbuch der Rechts- und Wirtschaftssprache – slovar pravnega in ekonomskega jezika, Apovnik, Paul; Karničar, Ludwig; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Jahrgang BHS

Wörterbuch der Rechts- und Wirtschaftssprache – slovar pravnega in ekonomskega jezika 2, Apovnik, Paul; Karničar, Ludwig; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1., 2., 3. 4. 5. Jahrgang BHS

Oblikujmo svoj jezik I, Germ, Hermann; Ogris, Thomas; Srienc, Mirko; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5., 6. Schulstufe

Oblikujmo svoj jezik II, Germ, Hermann; Srienc, Mirko; Ogris, Thomas; Wakounig, Stanko; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 7., 8. Schulstufe

Slovensko berilo 1, Inzko, Franz; Vospersnik Reginald; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Jahrgang, Weiterverwendung II. Jahrgang

Slovensko berilo 2, Inzko, Franz; Feinig, Anton; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 7. Schulstufe, 1. Klasse BHS, 3. Lernjahr, BG f. Slowenen 2. Klasse

Slovensko berilo 3, Kovačič, Jožko; Inzko, Franz; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 7. und 8. Schulstufe, BG f. Slowenen 3. Klasse

Pozdravljeni, Vrbinc, Miha; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt. Anmerkung: Klasse entspricht Lernjahr, 1. und 2.; 5., 6., 7. Klasse

Slovenska čitanka 4/5, Zablatnik, Paul; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 8. Schulstufe, 5. Klasse AHS

Jezikovna vadnica 1, Jalen, Marija; Kupper, Maja; Messner, Janko; 6. und 7. Schulstufe

Jezikovna vadnica 2, Feinig, Anton; Jalen Marija; Spieler, Marija; 6., 7., 8. Schulstufe, BG f. Slowenen 2. Klasse

Jezikovna vadnica 3, Bunc, Stanko; Feichter Valentin; Inzko, Valentin; St. Hermagoras Verlag, Klagenfurt

Jezikovna vadnica 4, Bunc, Stanko; Vospernik, Reginald; Zablatnik, Pavel; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 8. Schulstufe, Bg f. Slowenen

Zgodovina slovenskega slovstva 2. del, Slodnjak, Anton; Drava Verlag, Klagenfurt, 5., 6., 7., 8. Klasse AHS

Dober dan književnost, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5. Klasse

Svet književnosti 1, Kos, Janko, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5. Klasse

Svet književnosti 2, Kos, Janko, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 6. Klasse

Svet književnosti 3, Kos, Janko, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 3., 4. Jahrgang

Svet književnosti 4, Kos, Janko, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 3., 4. Jahrgang

Slovenska književnost 1, Beg, Jozef, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1., 2., 3., 4., 5. Jahrgang

Oblikoslovje, Pavlin; Povodnik, Marta; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt: Zweisprachige BHAK Klagenfurt, 1. Jahrgang

Skladnja, Pavlin; Povodnik, Marta; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, Anmerkung: zweisprachige BHAK Klagenfurt, 2. Jahrgang

Pregled slovenskega slovstva, Kos, Janko; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 2. und 3. Lernjahr
Anmerkung: zweisprachige HAK Klagenfurt

Na Pragu Besedila 1 – delovni zvezek za slovenski jezik v 1. letniku gimnazij, strokovnih in tehniških šol, Bester Turk, Marja; Križaj Ortar, Martina; Koncina Marija; Bavdek Mojca; Poznanovic, Mojca; Ambroz Darinka; Zidan, Stanislava – Založba Rokus, Ljubljana, 5. Klasse, AHS

Na Pragu Besedila 1 – učbenik za slovenski jezik v 1. letniku gimnazij, strokovnih in tehniških šol / Bester Turk, Marja; Križaj Ortar, Martina; Koncina, Marija; Bavdek, Mojca; Poznanovic, Mojca – Založba Rokus, Ljubljana, 5. Klasse AHS

Na Pragu Besedila 2 – delovni zvezek za slovenski jezik v 1.letniku gimnazij, strokovnih in tehniških šol, Bester Turk, Marija; Križaj Ortar, Martina; Koncina, Marija; Bavdek, Mojca; Poznanovic, Mojca; Založba Rokus, Ljubljana, 6. Klasse AHS

Na Pragu Besedila 2 – učbenik za slovenski jezik v 1. letniku gimnazij, strokovnih in tehniških šol, Bester Turk, Marija; Križaj Ortar, Marina; koncina, Marija; Bavdek, Mojca; Poznanovic, Mojca, 6. Klasse AHS

Na Pragu Besedila 3 - delovni zvezek za slovenski jezik v t. letniku gimnazij, strokovnih in tehniških šol, Bester Turk, Marja; Kiržaj Ortar, Martina; Koncina, Marija; Bavdek, Mojca; Poznanovic, Mojca, Založba Rokus, Ljubljana, 7. Klasse AHS

Na Pragu Besedila 3 – učbenik za slovenski jezik v 1. letniku gimnazij, strokovnih in tehniških šol, Bester Turk, Marja; Križaj Ortar, Martina; Koncina, Marija; Bavdek, Mojca; Poznanovic, Mojca, Založba Rokus, Ljubljana, 7. Klasse AHS

Na Pragu Besedila 4 – delovni zvezek za slovenski jezik v 1. letniku gimnazij, strokovnih in tehniških šol, Bester Turk, Marja; Križaj Ortar, Martina; Koncina, Marija; Bavdek, Mojca; Poznanovic, Mojca ; Založba Rokus, Ljubljana, 8. Klasse AHS

Na Pragu Besedila 4 – učbenik za slovenski jezik v 1. letniku gimnazij, strokovnih in tehniških šol, Bester Turk, Marja; Križaj Ortar, Martina; Koncina, Marija; Bavdek, Mojca; Poznanovic, Mojca; Založba Rokus, Ljubljana, 8. klasse AHS

Svet iz besed 5, samostoj ni delovni zvezek za branje, Založba Rokus Klett, Ljubljana, 1. Klasse AHS

Gradim slovenski jezik 5; Rad te imam, samostojne delovni zvezek za slovenščino / Založba Rokus Klett, Ljubljana, 1., 2. Klasse AHS

Svet iz besed 6, samostojni delovni zvezek za slovensščino / Založba Rokus Klett, Ljubljana, 2. Klasse AHS

Gradim slovenski jezik 6, samostojni delovni zvezek za branje / Založba Rokus Klett, Ljubljana, 2. und 3. Klasse AHS

Slovenščina za vsakdan in vsak dan 7, delovni zvezek za slovenski jezik / Založba Rokus Klett, Ljubljana, 3. Klasse AHS

Svet iz besed 7, samostojni delovni zvezek za branje /Založna Rokus Klett, Ljubljana, 3. Klasse AHS

Slovenščina za vsak dan in vsak dan 8, delovni zvezek za slovenski jezik /
Založba Rokus Klett, Ljubljana, 4. Klasse AHS

Svet iz besed 8, samostojni delovni zvezek za branje / Založba Rokus Klett,
Ljubljana, 4. Klasse AHS

History and sociology

Zgodovina slovenskega naroda, 1. del, Inzko, Valentin; St. Hermagoras Verlag,
Klagenfurt, 6. und 7. Schulstufe

Zgodovina koroških Slovencev od leta 1918 do danes z upoštevanjem
veslovenske zgodovine, Inzko, Valentin und Mitarbeiter: Broman, Cilka;
Bruckmüller, Irena; Haas, Hanns; Lukan, Joško; Lukan, Walter; Moritsch, Andrej;
Pinter, Stefan; Pirjevec, Jože; Stuhlpfarrer, Karl; Titz, Heimo; Vospernik, Reginald;
Wutte, Anton; Zerzer, Janko; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt

Geography and Economics

Naša zemlja (Unsere Erde), Kuchler, Harald; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 2. Klasse
BG und BRG für Slowenen

Physics

Preprosti poskusi iz fizike – Einfache Physik-Versuche, Ottowitz, Niko; Eigenverlag
BG für Slowenen, Klagenfurt, 2., 3., 4. Klasse

Poskusi iz fizike – Physik-Versuche Oberstufe, Ottowitz, Niko; Eigenverlag BG
Slowenen, Klagenfurt – DIR, 5., 6., 7., 8. Klasse

Psychology

Psihologija, Pinter Stefan; Eigenverlag BG Slowenen Klagenfurt – DIR, 7., 8. Klasse

Latin

Veni, vidi, didici I , Stockmann, Fritz; Stres, Marjeta; Pavlic, Katja; Serjanc; St.
Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5., 6. Klasse

Veni, vidi, didici – Latein Grundlehrgang, Teil 2 in slowenischer Sprache,
Stockmann, Fritz; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 6., 7., 8. Klasse

Latinščina 1, Stockmann, Fritz, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5., 6. Klasse AHS

Latinščina 2, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, 7., 8. Klasse AHS

English

Veliki angleško – slovenski slovar (Englisch-Slowenisches Wörterbuch), Grad, Anton; Skerlj, Ruzena; Vitorovic, Nada; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Jahrgang, 5. Klasse AHS

Slovensko – angleško slovar (Slowenisch-Englisches Wörterbuch), Grad, Anton; Leeming Henry; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Jahrgang, 5. Klasse AHS

Wirtschaftswörterbuch Deutsch-Slowenisch-Englisch, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1., 2., 3., 4., 5. Jahrgang

Wirtschaftswörterbuch Slowenisch-Deutsch-Englisch, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1., 2., 3., 4., 5. Jahrgang

Nutritional science

Prehrana (Ernährungslehre in slowenischer Sprache), Gregori-Lindner, St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt

Italian

Slovensko – italijanski slovar (Slowenisch-italienisches Wörterbuch), Kotnik, Janko; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Jahrgang

Veliki italijansko – slovenski slovar, Slenc, Sergej; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1., 2. Jahrgang

Business administration

Gospodarsko poslovanje 1, Schneider, Wilfried; Schwankhart, Karl; Wirth, Helga; Wirth, Helmut; Grbenic, Stefan A.; Kleissner, Siegfried; Potočnik, Vekoslav; Furlan, Milena; Grilc, Peter; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Jahrgang

Gospodarsko poslovanje 2, Schneider, Wilfried; Schwankhart, Karl; Wirth, Helga; Wirth, Helmut; Grbenic, Stefan A.; Kleissner, Siegfried; Potočnik, Vekoslav; Furlan, Milena; Grilc, Peter; Zavasnik, Majda; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 2. Jahrgang

Gospodarsko poslovanje 3, Schneider, Wilfried; Schwankhart, Karl; Wirth, Helga; Wirth, Helmut; Potočnik, Vekoslav; Ribnikar, Ivan; Furlan, Milena; Zavasnik, Majda; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 3. Jahrgang

Gospodarsko poslovanje 4, Schneider, Wilfried; Schwankhart, Karl; Wirth, Helga; Wirth, Helmut; Potočnik, Vekoslav; Furlan, Milena; Zavasnik, Majda; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 4. Jahrgang

Gospodarsko poslovanje 5, Schneider, Wilfried; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 5. Jahrgang

Tourismus und touristische Organisationen in slowenischer Sprache, Turnšek, Janez; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 4. Jahrgang

Praktikum 1 – SL, Löschenberger, Josef; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1. Jahrgang

Praktikum 2 in slowenischer Sprache, Löschenberger, Josef ; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 2. Jahrgang

Praktikum 3 in slowenischer Sprache, Löschenberger, Josef; Verlag Hermagoras, Klagenfurt

SbX Wörterbuch 3-sprachig; D-E-SL, Potočnik, Vekoslav / Hermagoras Verlag, Klagenfurt

Anmerkung: fächerübergreifend

Zugeordnetes Schulbuch: 116.440, 116.441

Zugeordnetes Schulbuch: 131.574, 131.575

SbX-Kombi Wörterbuch 3-sprachig: SL-D-E /Hermagoras Verlag, Klagenfurt

Zugeordnetes Schulbuch: 116.441

Zugeordnetes SbX: 121.172

SbX-Kombi Poslovna korespondenca / Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Hermagoras Verlag

Zugeordnetes Schulbuch: 100.763

Zugeordnetes SbX: 130.503

Biology and ecology

Biologija (Biologie), Haupt, Wolfgang; Zavasnik Majda; u.a., St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, 1., 4. 5. Jahrgang

Biologija človeka, Korosak, Berta, Verlag Hermagoras, 4. Klasse AHS

Commercial correspondence

Handelskorrespondenz in 4 Sprachen (Slowenisch, Deutsch, Italienisch, Englisch),

Degen-Kos, Vlasta; Cimador, Livio; Lesničar, Barbara; Tomišek, Irena; St. Hermagoras, Klagenfurt, Anmerkung: auch Englisch, Italienisch, 1., 2., 3., 4., 5. Jahrgang

SbX Poslovna korespondenca, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Hermagoras Verlag, Klagenfurt

Anmerkung: auch Englisch, Italienisch

Zugeordnetes Schulbuch: 100.763

Zugeordnetes Schulbuch: 131.573

Merchandise knowledge

Poznavanje blaga (Warenkunde), Haupt, Wolfgang; Ozbolt, Tanja; Kralj, Metka; Munibari, Bernarda; Zavasnik, Majda; St. Hermagoras. Klagenfurt, 1., 4. 5. Jahrgang

Covering several subjects

Das Europäische Sprachenportfolio als Lernbegleiter in Österreich. Mittelstufe (10-15 Jahre), Abuja, Gunther, Horak, Angela; Keiper, Anita; Nezbeda, Margarete; Ohler, Rose; Stefan, Ferdinand, Leykam Buchverlags-GmbH, Graz, Anmerkung: Deutsch und Fremdsprachen, 1., 2., 3., 4. Schulstufe

Descriptive geometry

Nadaljevanje z MicroStation V8 / Eigenverlag BG Slowenen Klagenfurt-DIR, 7. u. 8. Klasse AHS

Uvod v MicroStation V8 / Eigenverlag BG Slowenen Klagenfurt – DIR, 7. u. Klasse AHS

Accounting

Računovodstvo, Arbeitsgemeinschaft / Hermagoras Verlag, Klagenfurt
Zugeordnetes SbX: 130.504
Zugeordnetes SbX-Kombi: 131.446

SbX Računovodstvo 1, Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Hermagoras Verlag, Klagenfurt
Zugeordnetes Schulbuch: 125.187
Zugeordnetes Schulbuch: 126.598

B. Didactic materials and hand-outs by various institutions, working parties, associations and initiatives

Zentrum für Schulentwicklung (Abt. I, Klagenfurt) (Center for School

Development

DIDAKTISCHE MATERIALIEN UND HANDREICHUNGEN; die von Lehrer/innen entwickelt und den Schulen zur Verfügung gestellt wurden

Handreichung Nr. 1, Unterrichtsprinzip »Interkulturelles Lernen« (1.Teil), Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1988

Handreichung Nr. 2; Grundschuldidaktische Maßnahmen (Bericht über Schulversuch der VS Maria Rain), Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1989

Handreichung Nr. 3 – Gestaltung der Lernumwelt, Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten; Beispiele - Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1989

Handreichung Nr. 4 + Beilage; Thema: »Wasserspiele«, Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1989

Handreichung Nr. 5 + Beilage; Thema: »Wasser«, Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1989

Handreichung Nr. 6, Thema: »Wald – Quartett«, Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1989

Handreichung Nr. 7, Materialien zur Einschätzung und Förderung von Lernvoraussetzungen, Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1989

Handreichung Nr. 8; Slowenische Lieder für die Grundstufe I, Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1989

Handreichung Nr. 9; Im Winter ist es lustig (Pozimi je lušno), Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1990

Handreichungen Nr. 10; Verkehrserziehung (Prometna vzgoja), Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele - Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1990

Handreichung Nr. 11; Die Erarbeitung von »Größen«, Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1990

Handreichung Nr. 12; Auf der Wiese (Na travniku), Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1990

Handreichung Nr. 13; Unsere Umwelt (Naše okolje), Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1991

Handreichung Nr. 14: Körper und Gesundheit (Človeško telo in zdravje), Handreichung für die zweisprachigen Volksschulen in Kärnten, Beispiele – Empfehlungen – Erläuterungen; 1991

MLADI ROD - Izbor, predlog za kopiranje ob 40-letnici izhajanja šolskega lista za koroško mladino ; Ringmappe; Celovec 1990

Die Reform des Minderheitenschulwesens in Kärnten. Kommission für Angelegenheiten des Minderheitenschulwesens in Kärnten + Begleitband, 1991

Minderheitenschulwesen-Mappe: Arbeitsmaterialien für den zweisprachigen Unterricht in Kärnten. Delovno gradivo za dvojezični pouk na Koroškem, 1992

Dobro jutro – 1. Teil (Sammelmappe, Einheit 7, 1992; Einheit 8, 1992; Einheit 9, 1993; Einheit 10, 1994; Einheit 11, 1994;

Dobro jutro – Gesamtmappe, 1994

Tako je! (Materialien für das Minderheitenschulwesen in Kärnten) Einheiten 1-3, 1995

Tako je! (Materialien für das Minderheitenschulwesen in Kärnten) Einheiten 4-6, 1996

LP – Lehrplan der Volksschulen mit deutscher und slowenischer Unterrichtssprache / Učni načrt ljudskih šol z nemškim in slovenskim učnim jezikom – Stand 1. 9. 1995, 1996

LP – Lehrplan der Volksschulen mit deutscher und kroatischer Unterrichtssprache –Stand Jänner 2000, 2000

Tako je! (Materialien für das Minderheitenschulwesen in Kärnten) Einheiten 7-8, 1997

Tako je! (Materialien für das Minderheitenschulwesen in Kärnten) Sammelmappe, 1998

Tako je? (Computerübungen auf CD-Rom), 1999

50 Jahre Mladi rod 1951 – 2001, Sammelmappe, 2001

Zentrum für Schulentwicklung (Abt. III, Graz) (Center for School Development)

Zoom, Fremdsprachenlernen in der Grundschule (6-10), Heft 1

Zoom, Fremdsprachenlernen in der Grundschule (6-10), Heft 2

Zoom, Fremdsprachenlernen in der Grundschule (6-10), Heft 3

Zoom, Fremdsprachenlernen in der Grundschule (6-10), Heft 4

Zoom, Fremdsprachenlernen in der Grundschule (6-10), Heft 5

Arbeitsgruppe für Slowenisch im Mittelstufenbereich (Zentrum für Schulentwicklung – heute Bundesinstitut für Bildungsforschung, Innovation und Entwicklung des Bildungswesens Graz-Klagenfurt)
Interaktive elektronische Lehr- und Lernhilfe – www.sloviklik.at

Pädagogische Fachvereinigung / Strokovno pedagoško združenje
(Pedagogical Association)

MINI VUP-VAJE, Irmgard Raschun; Materialien für das offene Lernen und für die selbstständige Arbeit des Einzelnen

Jezikovne VUP-VAJE, Stanislava in Franc Kukovica; Übung der richtigen Sprachformen in der dritten und vierten Schulstufe

Sestavljenka, Jožko Wrulich; Unterrichtsmittel für das selbstständige Lernen (Lesen, Aufsätze) in der 2. und 3. Schulstufe.

Število samostalnika / par slika – beseda, Franc Kukovica; didaktisches Spiel aus zwei Paketen mit 80 Karten

Kvartet »Koliko je ura«, Rezika Iskra; didaktisches Spiel mit verschiedenen Uhren.

Stavčne sestavljanke za prebrisane, Marica Hartmann; Sieben Puzzles: 1) Auf dem Eislaufplatz; 2) Der Faschingstanz; 3) Die Milch; 4) Die slowenische Fabel; 5) Der Regenschirm; 6) Der Ausflug; 7) Auf der Wiese

Včeraj, danes, jutri, Rezika Iskra; Verschiedene Handlungen in der Vergangenheit, Gegenwart und Zukunft. Spiel mit 45 Karten und 15 verschiedenen Zeitwörtern

Lev in miš, Jurij Opetnik; Vier Geschichten für den kommunikativen Unterricht und das Lesen

Pet didaktičnih iger, Rezika Iskra; Die Fälle des slowenischen Hauptwortes

Računske VUP-VAJE, Stanislava und Franc Kukovica; für die 2. und 3. Schulstufe

Deset sprehodov med Slovenci na Koroškem. 1. Buch, Niko Rupel; ein Führer für Lehrer/innen und für alle, die Führungen durch Kärnten vorbereiten (Kenenlernen von Orten, Schriftstellern, Dichtern, kulturgeschichtlichen Denkmälern)

Deset sprehodov med Slovenci na Koroškem (2. Buch) Niko, Rupel; Lexikon mit wichtigen Daten und zusätzlichen Texten.

Leto v pesmi ujeto, Herman, Germ; Sammlung von Kindergedichten, Wortspielen, Sprichwörtern und Rätseln

Moja dežela, Franc Kukovica; Unterrichtsmittel für den Sachunterricht und politische Bildung ab der 4. Schulstufe.

Čarobna dežela slovenske poezije, Herman, Germ; Gedichtesammlung

Osem tekstovnih vaj za šolo in doma, Franc, Kukovica; Lesetexte für Kinder im Alter von 7 bis 9 Jahren

Uganke za vas za kratek čas, Herman Germ; 340 Rätsel zur Auflockerung des Unterrichts,

Zapoj še ti I, Janez, Gregorič; Pepej, Krop; Štefan, Logar; Jurij, Opetnik; Kasette mit 15 Volksliedern und Anhang (Noten, Begleitung für Orff-Instrumente, Playback)

Zapoj še ti II, Janez, Gregorič; Pepej, Krop; Štefan, Logar; Jurij Opetnik; Kasette mit 15 Volksliedern und Anhang (Noten, Begleitung für Orff-Instrumente, Playback)

Zapoj še ti III, Janez, Gregorič; Pepej, Krop; Štefan, Logar; Jurij, Opetnik; Handbuch und CD, 20 Lieder von Lenčka Kupper

Zbirka dialogov in otroških iger, 1. und 2. Teil, Franc, Kukovica; (ausgewählt); Lehrmittel für die Arbeit mit der Jugend bis zum 12. Lebensjahr

Pojem, plešem, se igram, Simona, Rovšek; Handbuch für die Vorschulstufe

Babica pripoveduje, Kati, Marketz; Kurzgeschichten mit wenig anspruchsvollem Wortschatz

Kažem, skačem, govorim, igraje se slovenščine učim! Rezika, Iskra; Vermittlung der slowenischen Sprache mit kommunikativer Methode

Podjuna, Rož, Zilja, Herman Germ (ausgewählt); Beiträge verschiedener Kärntner Autoren über unsere engere Heimat für die 3. und 4. Schulstufe der zweisprachigen Volksschule

Hej ti! Katarina, Sticker; Sammlung von Übungen für das kommunikative und interaktive Lernen der slowenischen Sprache

Z igro se učimo, Simona, Rovšek; Christine, Masopust; didaktische und gesellschaftliche Spiele für Kleinere (Kindergärten und Volksschule)

Šolski vsakdan na dvojezičnem Koroškem / Schulalltag im zweisprachigen Kärnten, Franc, Kukovica

Ping pong, Ferdinand, Stefan; Rezika, Iskra; Leni, Sticker; Katarina, Sticker; Nada, Malle; Marica, Pörtsch; Handbuch für das kommunikative Lernen der slowenischen Sprache

Vrednotenje naroda / Die Wertschätzung eines Volkes (Textbeispiele), Franc, Kukovica; (ausgewählt)

Pričevanje učiteljstva, Franc Kukovica

Zemljevid Koroške - **Koroška - Kärnten** , Franc Kukovica

CD-Rom – Koroška spoznaj svojo domovino, Danilo Katz, Stefan Logar, 2002

CD-Rom Velikovec – Spoznaj okraj in 13 občin, Danilo Katz, Stefan Logar, 2004

CD-Rom KOROkviz, Danilo Katz, Stefan Logar

CD-Rom Pisana Koroška, Danilo Katz, Stefan Logar

Universität Klagenfurt (University of Klagenfurt)

Zakladnica za komunikativni pouk, vom Glöckel-Verein gefördertes Lehrerhandbuch für kommunikativen Zweitsprachenunterricht an Volksschulen / Priporočnik za komunikativni pouk drugega jezika na osnovnih šolah

Pädagogische Akademie des Bundes in Kärnten: (Federal Pedagogical Academy in Carinthia)

Förderung von Minderheitensprachen – Herausgegeben von Josef Hieden und Karl Heinz Abl – Band 1 - **Expertisen**

Förderung von Minderheitensprachen Herausgegeben von Josef Hieden und Karl Heinz Abl – Band 2 – **Input-Studie der Universität Klagenfurt**

Förderung von Minderheitensprachen. Herausgegeben von Josef Hudl – Band 3 – **Didaktische Materialien 1** (Erarbeitet von der Arbeitsgruppe »Zweisprachiger Unterricht Kärnten«) einschließlich CD Rom »Didaktično gradivo – Didaktischer Material« - Projekt Comenius 2.1

Förderung von Minderheitensprachen. Herausgegeben von Josef Hieden und Karl Heinz Abl – Band 4 – **Didaktische Materialien 2** einschließlich der CD-Rom „Stories“ – 7 Geschichten in vier Sprachen (SL, D, I, E)

Förderung von Minderheitensprachen. Herausgegeben von Josef Hieden und Karl Heinz abl – Band 5 – **Konsequenzen für Lehrerinnen und Lehrer**

Verein „Schulzeitschrift MLADI ROD“ (Association)

MLADI ROD, periodische Schul- und Jugendzeitschrift; erscheint seit 1952, Redaktion: Jurij Opetnik

MLADI ROD - Izbor, predlog za kopiranje ob 40-letnici izhajanja šolskega lista za koroško mladino; Ringmappe; Celovec 1990

Ministerium der Republik Slowenien für Schule und Sport / Ministrstvo
Republike Slovenije za šolstvo in šport (Ministry of the Republic of Slovenia
for Schools and Sports)

Dober dan, slovenščina! Vladimir Donaj; učbenik in delovni zvezek za pouk slovenskega jezika in kulture v tujini, Ljubljana 1996

JESEN - Slovenščina skozi letne čase, Marjanca Klepac - Slavka Pogač; učbenik in delovni zvezek za začetni pouk slovenskega jezika in kulture v tujini, Ljubljana 1999

ZIMA - Slovenščina skozi letne čase, Slavka Pogač – Marjanca Klepac; učbenik in delovni zvezek za začetni pouk slovenskega jezika in kulture v tujini, Ljubljana 1997

POMLAD IN POLETJE – Slovenščina skozi letne čase, Vladimir Donaj, Marjanca Klepac

Deželni zavod za pedagoško raziskovanje v Furlaniji Julijski krajini – IRRE
Friuli Venezia Giulia

Šest poučevalnih modelov za slovenščino v šolah in vrtcih v Furlaniji Julijski krajini – Zgodbe učenje slovenskega jezika v jezikovno in narodnostno mešanem okolju Furlanije Julijske krajine

Skripten EWFS St. Peter bei St. Jakob i.R. (Manuals)

Veda od zdravju in vzgoji, Konvent der Schulschwester in St. Peter bei St. Jakob i.R. – Konvent šolskih sester

Vodenje gospodinjstva, Kovent der der Schulschwester in St. Peter bei St. Jakob i.R. – Konvent šolskih sester

Hranoslovje, Konvent der Schulschwester in St. Peter bei St. Jakob i. R. – Konvent šolskih sester

Zweisprachige Lehrplanausgaben (Bilingual editions of curricula)

Lehrplan der Volksschulen (Volksschulklassen, Volksschulabteilungen mit deutscher und slowenischer Unterrichtssprache) – Učni načrt ljudskih šol (ljudskošolskih razredov, ljudskošolskih oddelkov) z nemškim in slovenskim učnim jezikom

Lehrpläne für Slowenisch – Sekundarstufe 1 (Hauptschule, Unterstufe der allgemeinbildenden höheren Schulen) – Učni načrti za slovenščino – (sekundarna stopnja I (glavna šola, nižja stopnja splošno izobraževalnih višjih šol)

ANNEX II: REPORTS BY THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE NATIONAL MINORITIES ABOUT THEIR TRANS- FRONTIER ACTIVITIES

Slovene National Minority

Mehrsprachiger Kindergarten/večjezični otroški vrtec/
scuola materna plurilingue KEKEC; Völkermarkt (multi-lingual nursery school)

December 2007 – June 2008: baby watching

December 2007 and 2008: Nikolaus in der Tropfsteinhöhle Griffen ; in 3 languages (D, SLO, I)

December 2007: 2 actors visit the nursery school and read and sing with the children (in 3 languages: D, SLO, I)

December 2007: Christmas bazaar; afternoon of handicraft work with the parents, including one artist from SLO.

January: Excursion to SLO; Ljubljana – visit to a theater

March 2007 and 2008: Excursion to Vienna: Schönbrunn Palace and “Haus des Meeres” in 3 languages (D, SLO, I)

April 2007 and 2008: Excursion to Tarvis/Tarvisio (I) in Italian

May 2007 and 2008: Excursion to Kranjska Gora (SLO): visit to KEKEC Land in Slovene

June 2007 and 2008: Excursion to Portorož, Piran, Trieste: in Slovene and Italian

We do not receive any grants for these visits or excursions.

Working Party of Private Bilingual and Multi-Lingual Nursery Schools,
Klagenfurt

1. 30 April 2007

Izobraževalni dan za vzgojiteljice in vzgojitelje dvo- in večjezičnih vrtcev

Day of continuing training for nursery-school teachers in bilingual and multi-lingual nursery schools.

Place: Bildungshaus Sodalitas, Tainach

Presenters: Dr. Zdenka Zalokar-Divjak

Metka Dulmin

Marjan Kunaver

Our presenters came from Slovenia; their lectures were given in Slovene, which helps participants to enlarge their language competences.

2. 21 March 2005

Strokovna ekskurzija v vrtec Murska Sobota

Excursion to the Murska Sobota nursery school – Slovenia

Goal: to get an insight into the pre-school pedagogical work in Slovenia

3. 13 December 2004

Lecture: Otrok in narava

The relationship between children and nature

Place: otroški vrtec/ nursery school KEKEC Velikovec/Völkermarkt

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Amand Papotnik, Pedagogical Department, University of
Maribor

Prof. Dane Katalinič, Director of Murska Sobota nursery school

All three events received financial funding from *Urad Vlade RS za Slovence v zamejstvu*. Moreover, individual nursery schools (represented in our working party) have lively trans-frontier contacts which they maintain on an autonomous basis.

Slovene School Association, Klagenfurt

The staff members of the institutions of the Slovene School Association (3 nursery schools and the Mladinski dom youth center) try to create language situations, beyond the working program, in which the Slovene language can be additionally promoted. We achieve this goal by cooperating with institutions in Slovenia, which in turn are looking for partners beyond country borders for their projects. Below are some examples for these activities:

a) During the 2006/2007 school year the Mladinski dom center was a partner in the **Leonardo da Vinci project** of “Srednja vzgojiteljska šola in gimnazija v Ljubljani” (middle school for teachers and grammar school in Ljubljana). In the course of this project, a total of 19 pupils of that middle school were each guests of the youth center for one month and worked, at the same time, as trainees at the bilingual nursery school “Sonce”. Further partners of the project were the Federal Training Institute for Nursery-School Pedagogy in Klagenfurt, Delovna skupnost privatnih dvo- in večjezičnih vrtcev / Arge zwei- und mehrsprachiger Kindergärten (Working Party of Bilingual and Multi-Lingual Nursery Schools) and the parent-teacher association of the Federal Training Institute for Nursery-School Pedagogy in Klagenfurt.

b) Every year, a **continuing training seminar for the faculty of teachers** of the youth center in Slovenia. This three-day seminar, which is held every year shortly after the start of a new school year (and has been held 38 times so far), is also attended by teachers from Trieste/Trst und Gorizia/Gorica. On that occasion, pedagogical issues are discussed in Slovene, and lectures are given by renowned Slovene psychologists and pedagogues. The seminar is financed by "Zavod RS za šolstvo in šport« (Educational Authority of the Republic of Slovenia).

c) We also have lively contacts with the aforementioned "Srednja vzgojiteljska šola in gimnazija v Ljubljani" in the field of theater for children. Every year, one to two **theater performances** by pupils of this school are presented to the children of the "Sonce" nursery school and the ABCČ day nursery (which is also located at the youth center) at the Mladinski dom youth center in the course of their excursions. These contacts have been maintained for more than two decades.

The two partners finance the costs of these meetings.

d) On the level of pupils' centers, the Mladinski dom youth center has maintained lively contacts with "Dijaški dom Lizike Jančar« (pupils' center) in Maribor for 20 years. During the 2005/2006 school year, these contacts, which previously consisted of annual visits, were intensified with the project "**Skriti zaklad**" (**The Hidden Treasure**). In this context, our young people from the Mladinski dom youth center organized five joint events and excursions with the juveniles of the Slovene national minority in Hungary and pupils from Maribor:

12.01.2006: event in Maribor with the title: "Festival der Völker" (Festival of the Peoples)

22.03.2006: excursion to southern Hungary to the Slovene national minority

05.04.2006: visit of the pupils from Maribor and southern Hungary to Carinthia

24.04.2006: live broadcast on Radio Slovenija in the youth series "Gymnasium"

16.05.2006: closing event of the project in Maribor (photo exhibition about the project, discussions evaluating the project and city sightseeing). The project was financed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Slovenia.

e) One further example for trans-frontier cooperation is "Filmkreis - Filmski krožek - Mladinski dom". In addition to ongoing work throughout the school year together with juveniles from Slovenia and Italy, **film workshops** were organized from 04.09. - 07.09. 2003 at Piran (SLO), from 28/06 to 01/07/2004 at Portorož (SLO), from 26/06 to 01/07/2005, from 29/6 to 29/6/2006 and from 19/06 to 21/06/2007 in Klagenfurt. This activity was financed as a youth project by Slowenischer Kulturverband (Slovene Cultural Association) and from funding for the promotion of the national minorities of the Republic of Slovenia.

f) Every year, a special “**Training Day of the Youth Center**” is held at the youth center, in the course of which lectures and workshops are organized for the pedagogical staff, the pupils of the Mladinski dom youth center and for the parents. These are held and moderated by renowned pedagogues, experts in communication or psychologists from Slovenia. This event is also supported by the Office for the National Minorities, set up with the Office of the Government of the Federal Province of Carinthia.

g) Here I will give two examples – representative for many others – for the **occasional events and contacts** on the level of the nursery schools. The children of the nursery school “Pika” were guests of the nursery school “Črnuče” on 15 June 2007, and the staff members of the nursery school “Logatec” were guests of the nursery school “Pika” and of the Working Party for Private Bilingual and Multi-Lingual Nursery Schools on 30 October 2007. An exchange of experience and information was held on these occasions, which related to the language-teaching concept of private bilingual and multi-lingual nursery schools.

Kralj Matjaž

We, representing the association “OK Petzenmarathon Kralj Matjaž” no longer organize any trans-frontier events. We held our last event on 2006. We continue, though, to be in contact with our neighbors in Slovenia, by way of jointly attending running events in Slovenia and Austria.

Peter Marković

In reaction to your circular letter of 5/11/2007 I would like to inform you that our cultural association only has modest contacts to the cultural association at Bohinj in Slovenia. So far, three groups from Bohinj were guests at our events, at present we are “negotiating” an invitation for our youth group Didldumdaj to Bohinj, which is under considerable time constraints.

Glasbena Šola - Kärntner Musikschule (Carinthian Music School)

Glasbena šola organizes joint concerts every year by way of cooperating with music schools in Slovenia.

At 2-year intervals jointly organized concerts are held with our music school at the following places in Slovenia:

Jesenice

Slovenj Gradec

Ravne na Koroškem

Annual concerts are held:
in Italy

Moreover, the following cooperation projects were organized in 2006/07:

06/06/2006	Ljubljana -	Exhibition opening
13/10/2006	Gorica -	Concert
19/04/2007	Kranj –	Concert with the music schools from Gorenjska
10/05/2007	Kranj –	Concert

The respective organizer bears the costs of these concerts.

Bäuerliche Bildungsgemeinschaft Südkärnten – KIS (Farmers' Educational Cooperation)

“Kmečka izobraževalna skupnost” (KIS)/ Bäuerliche Bildungsgemeinschaft (Farmers' Educational Cooperation) was founded in 1988 and has its offices at the education center of Sodalitas at Tainach. It is responsible for carrying out educational programs for the rural population in southern Carinthia. In this context, the use of the Slovene language is of major importance, as language skills in the language of the neighboring country are gaining increasingly in importance. Very often, it is also one of the prerequisites for operating successfully in this region. In southern Carinthia, language competences in Slovene are one of the resources which were previously given too little, if any, attention.

With its trans-frontier activities in the framework of the project “Bildungskooperation in der Landwirtschaft” (Educational Cooperation in Agriculture – BIKOLA/InterregIIIA), KIS contributes towards getting to know each other and removing prejudices. The goal of these efforts is to strengthen the economy of the region and to enhance the presence of the Slovene language as an obvious matter of course. Lectures, seminars, courses, conferences and special excursions, inter alia, are organized in order to reach this goal.

After the Interreg IIIA project was approved, it has been possible to staff the KIS office on a permanent basis. The BIKOLA project was submitted by the LFI. KIS has a contractual relationship to Slovenia concerning the cooperation. The project receives 80% EU funding. Vida Obid, employed by the association KIS, is responsible for the organizational work of the project.

During the period January 2005 to November 2007 it was possible for 3,000 farmers in the region of southern Carinthia to take part in the educational events organized by KIS.

Activities:

The focus of KIS activities during the period under review was in the field of continuing training, in order to assist the farming enterprises in reaching their economic objectives. For this purpose, a survey was conducted concerning the structure of the member enterprises in order to adapt the program even more to the interests of the undertakings. In this context, improving Slovene language skills plays an important role, enabling farmers in southern Carinthia to communicate and to cooperate across borders. Every year, KIS offers farmers courses in Slovene so that they can acquire and/or expand their language skills. These courses meet with lively interest. Specific technical expressions, in particular, are practiced, using special glossaries. Their production was promoted two years ago by the Federal Chancellery. The acquired skills are tested in the course of technical excursions.

As part of the Interreg IIIA project, KIS organizes events such as lectures, language courses, technical excursions, seminars, meetings, talks with partner organizations and responsible politicians and civil servants in Slovenia and Austria in order to reach the project targets. Together with Slovene senior civil servants, KIS representatives organized a visit of the Minister of Agriculture (2005) and the responsible civil servants in Carinthia and initiated talks with the respective political and technical representatives and civil servants. Representatives of KIS took part in trans-frontier projects and events in visible functions, and they established contacts between agricultural enterprises in Carinthia and Slovenia. They also actively attended agricultural fairs and exhibitions on both sides of the border.

Representatives of KIS took part in the federal farmers' conferences and held talks on trans-frontier cooperation among rural women. As a result, KIS representatives were invited to the meeting of farmers' women at Slovenjgradec/SLO. As a follow-up to these contacts, a regional meeting of rural women took place at Tainach in November 2005, which specifically dealt with insurance and health issues. This ongoing cooperation led to a first trans-frontier bread award in 2007, organized by the Chamber of Agriculture of Carinthia. Staff members of our association made a major contribution to this event, also with their language competences. Moreover, in November 2007 the symposium "Južna Koroška – perspektive za naše podeželje/Südkärnten – Perspektiven für den ländlichen Raum" (Southern Carinthia – Perspectives for the Rural Regions) was held at Tainach, which was particularly intended for rural women on both sides of the border. In the course of the symposium the "Kmetice/Bäuerinnen 2008" farmers' calendar was presented, which comprises the portraits of 12 female farmers and 12 calendar stories. It was possible to produce the calendar with funding from the Federal Chancellery for the promotion of the national minorities.

The lectures on tax and insurance issues in agriculture also meet with great interest, given by experts from Slovenia and Carinthia, as well as the individual advice given to farmers in these matters. Trans-frontier continuing training events for farmers were offered together with consultants at Prevalje. As part of the 2006/2007 program, events were organized on renewable energy and on the problem of genetically adapted organisms. KIS was a partner in 2006 in the "e-Kenntnisse" (electronic knowledge) training sessions on farming estates. On the basis of the records made by the KIS chairman, a data base in Slovene was produced for biogenic farmers.

Every year KIS participates actively in the "Dobrote slovenskih kmetij" competition (specialties from Slovene farms) at Ptuj by motivating Carinthian farmers to participate in the event, by collecting the produce and delivering it to the responsible bodies. Every year, farmers from Carinthia receive several gold, silver and bronze medals. Representatives of the Carinthian Chamber of Agriculture regularly attend the closing event (3 days). KIS participates in this exhibition with an information stand. Excursions are organized on a regular basis to attend the prize-awarding events in May.

KIS participated actively in producing the bilingual excursion guide "Katalog dobrih praks na kmetijah. Vodnik za ekskurzije/Landwirtschaftliche Betriebe Kärnten – Slowenien" (Agricultural Enterprises in Carinthia and Slovenia) which was initiated by the Chamber of Agriculture at Celje. The catalogue features 50 model estates in Slovenia and Austria and was presented in 2005. It is a useful book for both sides of the border, when organizing trans-frontier technical excursions, which are another focus of our activities. Every year, several excursions are organized to model estates on either side of the border. KIS staff members are responsible for the technicalities of the excursions and assist with their language competences.

At the end of May and in early June the project "Jugend ohne Grenzen/Mladina brez meja/Giovani senza confine" (Youth without Borders) on the subject of "Agriculture in the EU" was organized in cooperation with the bilingual commercial college in Klagenfurt. Schools from Carinthia (Klagenfurt), Friuli (Udine), Slovenia (Maribor and Kranj) and from Croatia (Vis) participated in this project. Altogether 40 pupils and 8 teachers dealt intensively with the subject of agriculture. This cooperation has resulted in technical contacts with the agricultural technical school "Biotheniški center Naklo" which are maintained on a regular basis. In November 2007, a first group of pupils from this school will work as trainees for a wide range of agricultural activities with farmers in Carinthia for one week.

In addition, KIS also organized continuing-education lectures on issues such as building sewage lines; it also organized courses on tree-pruning, soil testing, accounting practices and

completing forms for tax offices, producing fruit juices, distilling, caring for senior citizens, etc. Since September 2006 the KIS project “AS (Aktivni v starost/Aktive SeniorInnen)” (Active Senior Citizens) is offered at the municipality of Lundmannsdorf. Once a week (4 hours), memory exercises in both languages are offered to senior citizens. At present, this is a pilot project; it is planned to expand it and organize it in Carinthia and Slovenia, as soon as the bilingual study material and teaching aids have been produced.

Slowenischer Wirtschaftsverband – SGZ (Slovene Business Association)

The Slovene Business Association reported about the following Interreg IIIA projects:

Project	Organized by	Project budget
Jagd / lov (approved an implemented)	Klub der Jagdfreunde (Club of Hunting Friends)	EUR 93,000.--
Schengen-Chance (approved an implemented)	SGZ	EUR 80,000.--
Stein-Kamen-Stone (approved an implemented)	HAK Villach	EUR 15,000.--
Anton Jobst (approved an implemented)	Institute Urban Jarnik	EUR 15,000.--
Cross-border services (approved)	SGZ	EUR 115,000.--
Agrar-interregional (approved)	Interessensgemeinschaft Zeller Bauern	EUR 75,000.--
Sablatnigmoor (approved as part of a larger project)	Sablatnigmoor, association	EUR 80,000.--
Drauwein (approved)	Municipality of Sittersdorf	EUR 75,000.--
Total		EUR 548,000.--

Konvent der Schulschwestern, St.Jakob im Rosental (Convent of the School Sisters)

This secondary teaching institute for business occupations (Höhere Lehranstalt für wirtschaftliche Berufe/Višja Šola St. Peter) carried out a number of trans-frontier projects and activities with the following partner schools:

1. Istituto d'istruzione superiore

“Ingeborg Bachmann“

Via Vittorio Veneto 54

33018 Tarvisio / ITALY

Comenius project: Schule ohne Grenzen/scuola senza confini (School without borders) – working on the culinary specialties and the cultural history of the “triangle of countries” (Carinthia, Friuli, Slovenia).

The Comenius project was completed in the year 2003, but there are still occasional contacts and activities.

2. Srednja gostinska šola Radovljica

Kranjska cesta 24

4240 Radovljica / SLOVENIA

Comenius project: see above.

Moreover, there was a teacher-exchange program in the school years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007. A colleague from Radovljica worked part-time at St. Peter. During the 2007/2008 school year both schools (St. Peter und Radovljica) will perform at the three-day Carinthian folklore fair in Klagenfurt. Both schools will submit an INTERREG project shortly that will deal with expanding tourism in the “three-country triangle” (Carinthia, Slovenia, Friuli). This project is primarily meant to encourage young people in Europe to visit the “three-country triangle”.

3. Srednja ekonomsko-turistična šola

Gorenjska cesta 13

4240 Radovljica / SLOVENIA

Comenius project: see above.

4. Srednja šola Zagorje

Cesta zmage 5

1410 Zagorje / SLOVENIA

Together with the Czech partner school at Luhačovice and the Slovenian middle school at Zagorje, a cook book with the title "Nationalspeisen dreier Länder" (National Dishes from Three Countries) was produced and presented to the public during the 2005/2006 school year in the course of a Leonardo project. The mutual visits were of great interest to the participating pupils. From time to time, the contacts are renewed.

5. Hajnik Karoly

KÖSGAZDASAGI SZAKKÖZEPISKOLA ES GIMNAZIUM

Muranyi u. 10.

Levelezési cím: 1443 Bp.Pf.141

1078 Budapest

Director: Zoltan Szunomar

The activities include mutual visits and exchanges of opinion on the Austrian and Hungarian school system, as well as annual German courses (during the last week of school) at St. Peter for Hungarian pupils, with tours and excursions in Carinthia, Italy and Slovenia. The Hungarian pupils are accommodated at the boarding school or in a hotel. The German course (approximately 4 hours per day) are organized free of charge and held by a German teacher from HLW St. Peter.

6. Bourne Grammar School

Bourne /ENGLAND

This contact was established in the year 1999. In the meantime, there are visits to St. Peter by English pupils on an annual basis. Joint excursions are organized in the "three-country triangle" (Austria, Slovenia, Italy). A parallel option is to organize individual exchanges during the holiday season. The host families are always selected by the teachers in Austria and England and recommended to pupils and parents. This is the most economical way for young people to spend some time abroad.

7. Nazareth College

Solvezi

Zambia / AFRICA

The project "Wir alle sind die Welt" (We all are the world) was implemented during the 1998/99 school year. The net earnings of the project (calendar for the year 2000) in the amount of ATS 35,000.00 were donated to the partner school. In October 1999 the African choir "Ba Cengelo" visited St. Peter for three days (in the course of a tour through Slovenia, Austria, Germany, England and Ireland).

During the 2002/2003 school year, the pupils of the HLW St. Peter participated in the project "Wasser für Afrika" (Water for Africa). In August 2003 a group of pupils, teachers and parents visited the partner school at Solvezi and handed USD 12,000.00 to Father Miha Drevenšek, the contact person, to build a well in the remotest villages, as well as to assist the pupils in Zambia.

During the 2007/08 school year, the 34th Mission Raffle is being organized at St. Peter by the third-grade pupils.

N.B.: Of course, there are also contacts to other schools in Austria and abroad. However, these are not as intensive at present.

Volkskundeverein Urban Jarnik (Ethnological Association)

1. Cooperation of the Slovene Ethnological Association Urban Jarnik with ethnological institutions, institutions for ethnological issues, as well as scientific linguistic and cultural institutions in Slovenia.

The activities comprise joint research projects, the participation of Slovenian scientists in symposia organized by the Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik, participation of scientific staff members of the Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik in symposia by Slovenian scientific institutions, scientific contributions by Slovenian scientists to the publications of the Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik, contributions by staff members of the Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik to scientific publications by Slovenian institutions, as well as cooperation in exhibitions and joint excursions.

The Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik cooperates in the project "Register des immateriellen Kulturerbes" (Register of the Intangible Cultural Heritage). The Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts in Ljubljana is the project leader (project period: 2006-2008). The goal of the project is to draw up a register of the intangible cultural heritage in Slovenia and of the Slovene national minorities in Austria, Italy, Hungary and Croatia.

The project is co-financed by the Ministry of the Republic of Slovenia for University Matters, Science and Technology within the framework of its specific research program.

The Agency for Scientific Activities (Agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost – ARRS) is the entity promoting research projects (basic research, applied research, specific research projects).

Further cooperation in research projects

Project: Preserving and inventorying the cultural heritage of the Slovene national minorities in Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia – specific research project 2004 – 2006

Project leader: Institute for Ethnic Studies in Ljubljana

Project: Establishing an electronic data base for the intangible cultural heritage for ethnological and folklore studies

Applied research project (for the period 2005 - 2008)

Project leader: Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts in Ljubljana

Cooperation with institutions in Slovenia

Universities in Ljubljana, Maribor and Koper

Univerza v Ljubljani, Oddelek za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo FF

Univerza v Ljubljani, Oddelek za slovenistiko

Univerza v Ljubljani, Oddelek za slavistiko

Univerza na Primorskem, ZRS Koper

Univerza v Mariboru, Pedagoška fakulteta

Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts in Ljubljana

Inštitut za slovensko narodopisje ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana

Glasbenonarodopisni inštitut ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana

Inštitut za slovenski jezik Frana Ramovša ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana

Zgodovinski inštitut Milka Kosa ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana

Inštitut za arheologijo ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana

Institute for National Issues in Ljubljana

Inštitut za narodnostna vprašanja, Ljubljana

Folklore Studies Association in Ljubljana

Slovensko etnološko društvo, Ljubljana

Museums

Slovenski etnografski muzej, Ljubljana

Koroški pokrajinski muzej, Enota Ravne na Koroškem

Gorenjski muzej, Kranj

Science Research Centers

ZRS Bistra Ptuj

Austrian Science Office in Ljubljana (ASO)

Avstrijski znanstveni inštitut v Ljubljani

Cooperation with ethnological institutions and other research institutions of the Slovene minority in Italy

SLORI - Slovenski raziskovalni inštitut / Slovene Research Institute, Trieste / Trst

Odsek za zgodovino in Inštitut za etnologijo pri Narodni in študijski knjižnici / History Section of the Slovene National Study Library, Trieste / Trst

Slovensko kulturno središče Planika - Kanalska dolina / Centro Culturale Sloveno Stella Alpina Valcanale/Kanaltal

2. Agreements on cooperation in the scientific field with scientific institutions in Slovenia

1995

Agreement between the Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik and *Znanstveno-raziskovalni center ZRC SAZU* (Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts in Ljubljana) on cooperation in the field of producing audio-visual products on the cultural heritage of the Carinthian Slovene national minority

Project leader: *Avdiovizualni laboratorij ISN ZRC SAZU* (Audiovisual Laboratory of the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts in Ljubljana)

2005

Agreement between the Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik and the *Inštitut za narodnostna vprašanja* (Institute for Ethnic Studies in Ljubljana) on cooperation in the fields of research, science and education.

3. Regular meetings of representatives of scientific institutions of the Slovene national minorities in Austria, Italy and Hungary (since 2006)

Goal: To exchange experience in the field of research and science accumulated by the Slovenian scientific institutions in Austria, Italy and Hungary

4. Cooperation between the Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik and the Ethnological Museum in Ljubljana for setting up the “*Museum für Alltagsgeschichte – Etnološki muzej Drabosnjakov dom*” (Museum for Everyday History) at Köstenberg / Kostanje

The museum was opened on 21/9/2002.

The project leaders are: Slovene Cultural Association SPD Drabosnjak, Christian Cultural Association, Slovene Cultural Association, Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik.

The museum accommodated about 400 objects from rural life in the 20th century.

In the year 2002 a museum guide was also published giving detailed descriptions of the objects in the Slovene and German language.

5. Traineeships with and assistance in field research projects in the course of seminars, diploma and master’s papers for students from Slovenia by the Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik

Since 1992 the Urban Jarnik Institute has been supporting 5 students from Slovenia by way of organizational assistance at their field research work in the Slovene-language area in Carinthia in preparation of diploma and master’s papers.

In the year 2007, 4 students from the Ethnological Institute at the University of Ljubljana (Oddelek za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani) did their compulsory traineeship with the Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik.

6. Projects as part of the scientific-technical cooperation between Austria and Slovenia

2002-2003

Project: Folklore customs as a regional identity factor in the process of emerging new European regions

Supported as part of the WTZ program (scientific and technical cooperation between Austria and Slovenia) for 2002 and 2003

Supporting bodies: ÖAD (Vienna) – MZT (Ljubljana)

The ÖAD has approved special financing for three months for young Slovenian scientists.

2007-2008

Project: The intangible cultural heritage as an integrating factor of the European cultural region

The project is supported as part of the WTZ program (scientific and technical cooperation between Austria and Slovenia) 2007 and 2008

Supporting bodies: ÖAD (Vienna) – ARRS (Ljubljana)

7. EU Projects

1999-2000

Project: Od Pliberka do Traberka / Von Bleiburg bis Dravograd (From Bleiburg to Drabograd)
Supported with funding from the Phare CBC-Program Slovenia – Austria, Small Projects Fund
1997

Projekt leader: Koroški muzej Ravne na Koroškem (Slovenia)

Project partners: Sklad RS za ljubiteljske kulturne dejavnosti OI Ravne na Koroškem (Slovenia), association “Društvo Kulturni dom Pliberk-Bleiburg”, Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik/Slovenski narodopisni inštitut Urban Jarnik

Project content: to present the historical, economic, religious and cultural development of the municipality of Bleiburg and the Mieß and Drava valleys in Slovenia

Results: exhibition and exhibition catalogue

2004-2005

Project: Cooperation of the museums at Köstenberg/Kostanje (Carinthia) and Žiri (Slovenia)
The funding comes from the promotional funds of the joint initiative Interreg IIIA Austria - Slovenia – Small Projects Fund

Project leader: Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik/Slovenski narodopisni inštitut Urban Jarnik

Project partner: Muzej Žiri (Museum at Žiri, Slovenia)

Project content: Cooperation of the *Museum für Alltagsgeschichte / Etnološki muzej Drabosnjakov dom (Museum of Everyday Life)* at Köstenberg/Kostanje and the museum *Muzej Žiri* in Slovenia. Results: museum documentations, bilingual brochure about a composer “Anton Jobst 1894-1981“, concert with songs by Anton Jobst. This Slovene composer and organist was born in the Fail Valley and worked in the municipality of Žiri in Slovenia

2005-2006

Project: Po poteh koroške kulturne dediščine – Auf den Wegen des Kärntner Kulturerbes (On the tracks of Carinthia’s cultural heritage)

Supported with funding from the Phare CBC Program Slovenia – Austria, Small Projects Fund
2003

Project leader: Občina Prevalje (municipality of Prevalje)

Project partners: Koroški pokrajinski muzej – Enota Ravne na Koroškem (Slovenia), municipality of Bleiburg / Pliberk, association “Društvo Kulturni dom Pliberk-Bleiburg”, Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik/Slovenski narodopisni inštitut Urban Jarnik

Project content: Documentation of the cultural heritage in the municipalities of Prevalje (Slovenia) and Bleiburg/Pliberk (Austria).

Results: Monographs, photo monographs, information material and film on the subject of the historical, economic, religious and cultural heritage of the municipalities of Prevalje (Slovenia) and Bleiburg/Pliberk (Austria).

2006-2007

Project: Pozdravljeni ljubitelji utrdb

Supported with funding from the national bodies of the joint initiative Interreg IIIA Slovenia – Austria 2002 - 2006

Project leader: Občina Žiri (municipality of Žiri)

Project partners: Muzejsko društvo Žiri (Museum Association Žiri), Turistično društvo Žiri (Tourist Office Žiri), Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik/Slovenski narodopisni inštitut Urban Jarnik

Project content: encouraging cultural tourism and setting up an information center for the visitors to the ruins of the fortresses along the former border of Rapallo.

Results: setting up a museum, preparing an exhibition on the development of the border of Rapallo at Žiri (Slovenia); joint excursion with visit to the *Dolomitenfreundemuseum 1915-1918 (Museum of Friends of the Dolomites)* at Kötschach-Mauthen.

8. Symposium »Matija Majar im tschechisch-slowenischen Kontext – Kulturelle Kontakte in der Vergangenheit, Gegenwart und Zukunft« (Matija Majar in the Czech-Slovene Context – Cultural Contacts Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow) in Prague

On the occasion of the 110-year anniversary of the death of Matija Majar Ziljski, the Slovene priest who was born in the Gail Valley in Carinthia in 1809 and died in Prague in 1982, a symposium was held at the Charles' University in Prague in 2002 about M. Majar's political and cultural activities in the 19th century. The symposium was organized by the Slovene Cultural Institute Urban Jarnik (Slovenski narodopisni inštitut Urban Jarnik), the Slovene Scientific Institute in Klagenfurt (Slovenski znanstveni inštitut), the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts in Ljubljana (Znanstvenoraziskovalni center SAZU), the embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Prague, the Philosophical Department of Charles' University (Ústav slavistických a východoevropských studií Filozofické fakulty UK v Praze) and the Slavic Library of the National Library of the Czech Republic in Prague (Slovanská knihovna při Národní knihovně ČR Praha).

In 2004 a volume with the presentations held at the symposium was published in the Slovene and Czech languages with summaries in German.

The project was co-financed by the Federal Chancellery and the Austrian Institute for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in Ljubljana.

9. Project: Minority status of the Slovene population in Carinthia – A multi-perspective analysis

Project leader: Prof. Dr. Tom Priestly, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Period: 1999-2001

The Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik accepted the organizational tasks in connection with the field research work in the bilingual area in Carinthia, which were conducted by Prof. Dr. Tom Priestly and his scientific assistants (students from the universities in Alberta, Vienna, Klagenfurt, Graz and Ljubljana).

The project was funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and the Arts.

10. Financing

The trans-frontier projects of the Slovene Ethnological Institute Urban Jarnik are co-financed as part of the basic funding and under project financing for the Institute.

Supporting bodies:

Urad Republike Slovenije za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu

Federal Chancellery – Promotion of the National Minorities

Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (bm:bwk)

Biro za slovensko narodno skupnost pri Koroški deželni vladi (Office of the National Minorities of the Federal Province of Carnthia)

Croatian National Minority

Šara jesen

The association Šara jesen is not involved in any trans-frontier projects. The only contact with Burgenland-Croats outside of Austria was a concert by DUO CORDEFIATO (SK) and the performance of the folklore ensemble KOLO SLAVUJ, with individual members from Hungary and Slovakia. However, some of the visitors also came from the neighboring countries. As this association mainly implements projects with the municipality of Großwarasdorf, it is not

planned at present to have any direct cooperation with associations across the border. However, there will always be occasional performances of groups from “abroad”.

KUGA – Kulturna zadruga – Kulturvereinigung (Cultural association)

Ever since it was founded 25 years ago, the cultural association KUGA has made efforts to involve in its activities and priorities the Burgenland Croats across the border in Hungary, separated by the Iron Curtain at that time, and later also in Slovakia.

Hungarian courses with native speakers from nearby Hungary have always been organized. In recent years, an experiment in this connection was not only launched but actually carried out. The novel feature was that a Burgenland-Croat teacher from Hungary who had only a very limited knowledge of German gave classes in Hungarian. It would have been a total-immersion course, if the Burgenland-Croatian course participants had not acted as interpreters, whenever situations occurred in the course of the course that required more detailed explanations.

At KUGAforKids the same language coach is assigned to looking after the children from 7.30 h until the actual start of the course at 10.00 h. In addition to using Croatian, she will also throw in a few words of Hungarian, as if in a game.

The annual rock-pop workshop, which has also been organized for nearly twenty years and which has been expanded in recent years to include Tamburica instruments, has led to many new young bands being set up. It therefore can boast a most successful development. In fact, the number of course participants is growing year by year at a still steady rate. Here, too, an interesting observation can be made – one of the workshop leaders from the Burgenland-Croatian village of Hrvatski Jandrof in Slovakia has become one of the supporting pillars of the workshop team, and visitors from Slovakia and nearby Hungary also come to attend the rock-pop workshop of the KUGA every year. One must also underline, in connection with this summer festival, that communicating musical knowledge is not the only focus, but that 90% of the songs are Croatian, ranging from pop to folk songs, and that Burgenland-Croatian is the language of communication during the workshop. This is a fact which does not stop juveniles speaking only German to also participate in the workshop.

Three years ago, KUGA organized a trans-frontier series of events in the field of modern music, as a partner of a Centrope project (EU, Interreg IIIA) with the WUK in Vienna. It comprised rock concerts in Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. KUGA's role was to organize one concert each at Sopron and at KUGA, with rock bands from the participating regions, which were thus given an opportunity to also present themselves to an

audience from the neighboring countries. Of course, KUGA made it a point to have Burgenland-Croatian bands perform on that occasion.

On account of the central location of Burgenland and as KUGA has the only hall of larger dimensions that is owned by an association (among the Burgenland-Croatian associations), KUGA is in a position to welcome guests from all of the Burgenland-Croatian regions on many occasions, including Vienna, where many Croats from Burgenland live. The concerts of Lado or Oliver Dragojević, for example, thus transform KUGA into a meeting place for old and young people. Rock, folklore and theater performances (amateurs and professional groups) at the KUGA are also attended by visitors from across the borders.

Croatian Section of the Eisenstadt Diocese

1. Pilgrimages

Every year the Croatian section of the Eisenstadt Diocese organizes six major pilgrimages for the Burgenland-Croatian population – in 2008 these will go to Dürnbach on 29 March 2008 (Burgenland/Austria), Győr on 4 May 2008 (Hungary), one separate pilgrimage for children on 11 June 2008 to Stinatz (Burgenland/Austria), Mariazell from 22 to 24 August 2008 (Styria/Austria), Loretto on 20 and 21 September 2008 (Burgenland/Austria), and to Eisenstadt/Oberberg on 5 October 2008. Several thousands of Burgenland-Croatians from Austria – especially from Burgenland and Vienna, but also from other federal provinces of Austria – from Hungary and Slovakia, Croatia, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina take part in these pilgrimages. To a large part, the participants are families (often multi-lingual ones), so that all generations and languages are represented.

The program and organization of the pilgrimages underline the linguistic and cultural diversity, in addition to the religious character of these events, which is of great benefit for the Burgenland-Croatian national minority. Attention is paid to bilingualism and thus to tolerance in the co-existence of the cultures. Moderators, presenters, choirs, Tamburica ensembles, music groups, cantors, etc also come from all of the aforementioned countries. The necessary materials (programs, texts, etc.) for these Burgenland-Croatian pilgrimages are also prepared and made available free of charge to all participants.

The costs incurred are covered to a large extent by the Croatian Section of the Eisenstadt Diocese, with support from the parishes concerned. Only a very minor portion (for the printing costs) is covered with funding from the budget of the Federal Chancellery for promoting the national minorities. Participation fees, admission prices, remunerations for publications or similar are not collected. These trans-frontier events are of a model character for a united Europe of different nationalities and serve the purpose of understanding peoples.

2. Spiritual Exercises

Priests, parish councilors and parish staff are invited on a regular basis to attend several days of spiritual exercises. As the highly qualified presenters and moderators use the Burgenland-Croatian language, participants have the possibility to thus continue their language training, in addition to receiving spiritual care, all of which is done on a voluntary basis. The mutual exchange enhances the cultural ties and is of importance for the further existence of the national minority. The participants are important leaders and multipliers in the work for the national minority. The Croatian Section of the Eisenstadt Diocese invites Burgenland-Croats from Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, as well as Croats from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina to attend these spiritual exercises. The moderators also come from these countries.

3. Glasnik

“Glasnik” is the church newspaper of the Eisenstadt Diocese in the Burgenland-Croatian language. At the same time, it is the biggest weekly newspaper in Croatian. It is published in 3,600 copies of 8 pager per issue, with some of the 50/51 issues in every year covering two weeks at a time. The target groups are the Burgenland-Croats in Burgenland, Vienna and the other federal provinces of Austria, but also in the neighboring countries of Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina. “Glasnik” constitutes an important link among these population groups and promotes tolerance. “Glasnik” was published first at the Easter holidays in 1946 and has been published every since – 2007 was the 62nd year of its publication – in a regular and continuous fashion, and it has constituted an essential pillar in the preservation of the Croatian national minority, as it communicates the Croatian language and Croatian culture, and because it supports further education among readers, as well as expands and deepens their Croatian vocabulary. The texts and pictures are on topical subjects and cover reports from at home and around the world, especially the countries and villages in which the Burgenland-Croatian population lives (see above!).

A large number of persons in Austria and abroad help to publish the newspaper – they collect articles, distribute the paper in the parishes, etc. The voluntary helpers in the parishes help on a gratuitous basis. All tasks – staff and salary costs, fees, printing and mailing costs, office materials – are borne by the Croatian Section of the Eisenstadt Diocese with funding for the national minorities given by the Republic of Austria. The revenues from the sale of the newspaper – since 2001 it is sold at a price of EUR 0.30 per copy – cover the constantly growing costs only to a minor extent. “Glasnik” is therefore a trans-frontier press medium of enormous significance for preserving the Burgenland-Croatian population in the Pannonian region, for passing on and developing the Burgenland-Croatian language and for promoting the Burgenland-Croatian culture, as well as for the spiritual care of the Croat population.

4. Croatian or bilingual materials

The Croatian Section prepares for the parishes working materials, folders, hand-outs, thematic presentations, brochures with a specific content on the various topics throughout the year, events, celebrations and ceremonies, anniversaries and memorial days. These are published with different types of make-up, lay-out, design and format. In addition to being disseminated in Austria, they are made available free of charge to the Burgenland-Croatian populations in Slovakia, Hungary, as well as to the Croats in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are valuable collections of various topics and of significance for the existence and further development of the Burgenland-Croatian population. The production costs are borne by the Croatian Section of the Eisenstadt Diocese. Assistance of a minor extent is being provided by the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria.

5. Continuing Education Events

At the beginning of a working year of the Eisenstadt Diocese, the Croatian Section invites the parish councilors and parish staff members to attend a conference for their continuing education in their parishes. In this context, the priorities for the year are being discussed and the necessary plans are made. The mutual exchange enhances the work and helps the national minority, as well as its language and culture.

6. New Prayer and Song Book

The first cultural treasure in the history of the Burgenland-Croatian population was a prayer book. In consequence, the Croatian song and prayer book is an essential element of the identity of the Croatian national minority. "Kruh nebeski", which is currently being used, was published more than 60 years ago and must now be completely re-written – it can no longer be revised. For many years, the Croatian Section of the Eisenstadt Diocese has been working intensively on the "New Croatian Prayer and Song Book", so that the "New Croatian Prayer and Song Book" will also be valid for the next decades. As it is a standard book for every Catholic, the target group comprises all nearly 60,000 Burgenland-Croats, mainly in Burgenland and Vienna, but also throughout Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The Croatian Section is working on the publication of the "New Prayer and Song Book", in addition to all the many other tasks, resorting to the support of additional assistants with theological, linguistic and musical qualifications in Austria and abroad. In addition to the voluntary contributions, fees must also be paid for these contributions. As it is a publication on particularly thin paper (small format with about 1,200 pages), which must be quite sturdy, though, only a few printing shops in Austria (none in Burgenland) are in a position to print this book, which means that the printing costs are quite considerable. Among the quotations received, a printing shop in

Croatia submitted the most economical option – the job was much more favorably priced than those of printing shops in Austria. Part of the expenses for fees was supported from funding for the promotion of the national minorities by the Republic of Austria, but the Federal Chancellery did not indicate that further funds will be available for the printing. The book will be sold on a long-term basis, and it will not be possible to charge the full price for the copies sold abroad – no support can be expected from the foreign dioceses, as they need support themselves. Financing is therefore a major problem. The historical and cultural value, however, is of top importance for the national minority!

This information is a brief overview of the dimension of the tasks which the Croatian Section of the Eisenstadt Diocese performs for the benefit of the Burgenland-Croatian national minority. It does not claim to be a complete overview. One would have to mention many other activities as well; however, this would exceed the scope of this report.

Scientific Institute of the Burgenland-Croatian National Minority

Language Commission: 1 staff member from Slovakia, 1 staff member from Hungary, 2 staff members from Croatia; no EU co-financing

Publications:

Series on “Burgenland-Croatian Studies”:

No. 1 – author from Croatia (Dr. Jembrih), no. 2 – author from Croatia (Dr. Lukezic), no. 3 – author from Hungary (Dr. Horvath), no. 4 - author from Hungary (Dr. Nyomarkay)

Book "Grammatik der bgld.kroat. Sprache" (Grammar of the Croatian Language): Contributors were also from Croatia, co-financed by the EU. EU co-financed book "Katechismus" (Catechism) – author from Croatia (Dr. Jembrih), book "Horvatcki Virgilius" – author from Croatia, scientific journal "Zbornik 1 + 2" – contributions by authors from Croatia, Hungary and Germany, book "Knjizevnost GH 1 + 2" – cooperation with the Association of Croatian Literary Artists.

All projects were financed and/or co-financed by the Federal Chancellery.

Croatian Cultural Association in Burgenland, Eisenstadt

1. Activities in and with Croatia

- Annual language courses with and for pupils and juveniles
- Partnerships of and exchanges with Tamburica and folklore groups
- Organizing festivals in Burgenland (opera singers, groups, theater performances)

- Exchange of performers and artists, literary artists, as well as lectures (for example at Bakovčica – exhibition, folk music performance and lecture, at Pregrada – lecture and film screening, and at Valpovo – book presentation and lecture about Burgenland-Croatian organizations).

2. Activities with Hungary

- Expanding the contacts to Croatian organizations
- Further training, especially of nursery-school teachers
- EU project Interreg IIIA: “1,2,3 – Croatian/Hungarian are not difficult” (between Kophaza/Kolnof and Nikitsch/Filež)
- EU project Interreg IIIA: documentary “Vino na Poljanci“
- 2003 in preparation of the film – 2 events (at Wulkaprodersdorf/Prodrštof and Kophaza/Kolnhof with more than 100 participants)
- Opera performances “Nikola Šubić Zrinski“ in Sopron and Austria (Nebersdorf and Eisenstadt)

3. International cooperation with FUEV (Federalist Union of European Folklore Groups)

- Organization of a seminar on the Slavic minorities in Europe, together with the Sorbian organization “Domowina“ at Lutzmannsburg from 12 – 14 October 2007. Topic: Acquiring a Mother Tongue and Bilingual Education

Tamburica Ivan Vuković

Mass in the Old-Croatian Language: (Croatia - Austria)

The project was commissioned by the Tamburica association “Ivan Vukovic“ to the Croatian composer FRAN ŠOJAT who wrote a mass for Tamburica, which is to be performed for the first time at Parndorf and Senj (the Croatian home town of the composer).

Promotions: None so far. Financed from association funds.

Culture Summer Inaugurations at Parndorf : (Croatia - Austria)

In recent years we repeatedly invited various associations from Senj (Croatia) to inaugurate the Cultural Summer Festival at Parndorf together with us.

Promotions: A large part of the costs was borne by the HKDC, the rest of the funding came from the association's funds.

Charity Concert at Senj : (Croatia - Austria)

In recent years, 2 charity concerts were organized for needy families at Senj.

Promotions: The travel costs were partly borne by the municipality of Parndorf, the rest of the money came from the association's funds.

Tamburica Cultural Exchange Osijek : (Croatia - Austria)

For many years the association has maintained close contacts with the Tamburica association "Pajo Kolaric" from Osijek. Several joint events were already held at Parndorf and Osijek.

Promotions: The travel costs were partly borne by the municipality of Parndorf, the rest of the money came from the association's funds.

Tamburica Competition at Osijek: (Croatia - Austria)

In the year 2007 the Tamburica association "Ivan Vukovic" was invited to participate in the Tamburica competition at Osijek, through the good offices of the Tamburica association "Pajo Kolaric" from Osijek. More than about 100 groups applied to participate in this competition, which takes places on several stages and lasts for more than one week. After a pre-selection, 26 groups were admitted to the competition. The Tamburica association "Ivan Vukovic" from Parndorf performed in the highest category "orchestra with more than 25 musicians" and received the gold medal, earning the highest number of points in the whole competition and third-best result since the existence of the competition.

Promotions: No financing from the association's funds. When the prizes were awarded at Parndorf, several bodies promised that our cash expenses in the amount of almost EUR 7,000 would be paid for, unfortunately we ultimately received only EUR 2,000 from the Burgenland regional government.

Christmas Concert at Senez and Parndorf: (Slovakia - Austria)

In the past few years we organized several Christmas concerts at Senez and Parndorf, together with musicians from Senez.

Promotions: The municipality of Parndorf paid for the meals of the artists, the rest of the money came from the association's funds.

Spring Concert at Parndorf: (Slovakia - Austria)

In the past few years we organized several spring concerts at Parndorf, together with musicians from Stupava.

Promotions: The municipality of Parndorf paid for the meals of the artists, the rest of the money came from the association's funds.

Hungarian National Minority

Ungarischer Kulturverein Mittelburgenland (Hungarian Cultural Association for Central Burgenland)

- Ongoing cooperation with the choir (Güns) from Kőszeg

- Ongoing cooperation with the at "BARÁTI KÖR" from Kőszeg
Mutual invitations and attendance of all events

- 07/06/2007

Welcome of the "Piaristenvereinigung" (major group of bicyclists) from Vác in western Hungary and in Burgenland – presentation of the MUKV – What does central Burgenland offer to visitors?

- 16/06/2007

Cultural excursion (by bus)

46 participants - **Sárvár-Nádasdy** - **Sümege** Castle - **Rönök** Castle - Székely tanya

- 08 – 09/09/2007

Cultural excursion (by bus)

42 participants **Eger-Gödöllő-Szentendre**

- 28 – 29/09/2007

Participation in the festival "Határok nélkül" at Győr - meeting of all former Hungarian expatriates

- Topic: Presentation of central Burgenland

Focus: wine, thermal springs, ceramic art

Performance by our choir

- 19/10/2007

Visit to Andau (border to Hungary)

Dedication of an obelisk at the refugees' bridge

Organized by the Central Association of Hungarian Associations and Organizations in Austria and by the Győr-Sopron County and the Mayor's Office of Kapuvár

Wiener ungarisches röm.-kath. Seelsorgeamt (Vienna's Hungarian Roman-Catholic Spiritual Care Office)

In 2007, our community organized three projects in cooperation with Hungarian cultural institutions. Below you find information about these events:

1. Saint Stephen's Celebration on 25 August 2007

26 Hungarian folklore groups from western Hungary and southern Slovakia signed up for the event.

The folklore groups of the national minority presented a many-faceted and impressive program of dances and songs in their traditional folklore costumes on St. Stephen's Square and at the Archbishop's Palace in Vienna.

2. Concert on 21 October 2007

The annual concert can look back on a tradition of 22 years. A Hungarian music group "MISZTRAL" was invited to perform at the concert.

With this concert we celebrated the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 at the Deutschorden Church.

3. Saint Elizabeth Exhibition from 13 November to 21 December 2007

The exhibition at the Collegium Hungaricum was inaugurated on 13 November. We opened this anniversary year of St. Elizabeth – she was born 800 years ago – with an excellent exhibition. This event was organized together with the Hungarian Protestant Community in Austria and with the support from the protestant churches and the "Diakonische Werke" in Hessa, Germany and Switzerland.

UMIZ – Verein zur Förderung des ungarischen Medien- und Informationszentrums (Association to Promote Hungarian Media and Information Center)

UMIZ reported about the newly established "Imre Samu Sprachkompetenzzentrum - ISSZ" (Imre Samu - Language Competence Center)

11. General Remarks:

The "Imre Samu Sprachkompetenzzentrum" (ISSZ) was set up in compliance with the ideals, objectives and trans-frontier guidelines of the Hungarian Academy of Science (MTA), as part of the network for philological research projects (terminological research network). The ISSZ is an integral component of the Hungarian Media and Information Center (hereinafter referred to as UMIZ) and meets its tasks as a philological advisory body of this Institute. The ISSZ is more or less an autonomous institution with its own decision-making authorities. It unites the philological institutes with Hungarian research objectives in the countries of Austria, Slovenia and Croatia, which are always headed by regional representative. The common strategy of the Institute is developed by these representatives. The ISSZ is an international center and does not only serve to encourage and support research work in the individual autonomous regions, but – as it also part of the network of other language competence centers – it also participates in joint trans-frontier works and also regards objectives with an overall European content as one of its tasks.

Austria has been a member of the European Union since 1995. For many centuries a population speaking German, Croatian and Hungarian, as well as of Roma origin has been living together in peace, thus signaling not only the linguistic and cultural diversity of this country but also offering ideal conditions for implementing joint projects. With the scientific work undertaken by the Institute, we would like to draw public attention to the integrating force of languages and cultures, to the preservation and cultivation of a linguistic diversity, to those values that are integral components of the cultural heritage of the entire region. Preserving the language and the national identity is the common responsibility of the population belonging to all three nations.

2. The Profile

Language competence centers:

The research institutions of the Hungarian Academy of Science (MTA) in Slovakia, the Ukraine and Serbia were set up in 2001 to study the language use and the modifications (everyday variants) of the language of the Hungarian national minority communities. The locations of the Szabó T. Attila Language Competence Center are at Kolozsvár (Romania) and Sepsiszentgyörgy (Romania), that of the Hodika Antal Institute at Beregszász (Ukraine) and that of the Scientific Center for Research into Hungarian Civilization at Szabadka (Serbia). The Institute for Ethnology and Minority Research of the Hungarian Academy of Science (MTA) is providing the central administrative and specific scientific background for these institutions. The Philological Institute of the MTA is responsible for managing and coordinating the specific research projects.

Private Research Activities:

In the year 2003 the research projects on the basis of private initiatives in Austria, Slovenia and Croatia joined this development. In practice, these activities had meant that independent individual persons – conducting tasks manageable on a local level – tried to keep up with the bigger research institutions. This situation came to an end when Szilvia Szoták announced at the fall conference of the language competence centers, held on 3 and 4 September 2007 at Debrecen (Hungary), that an institution would be established for them in Burgenland. The members present unanimously approved and supported this project. The ISSZ is thus the outcome of a merger among the individual research initiatives from regions in Austria, Slovenia and Croatia.

Terminological Research Network:

The members of the research network cooperate on an ongoing basis with philologists from Hungary, i.e. with university departments, research institutions and – particularly close – with

the Philological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Science (MTA). This cooperation was confirmed on 8 May 2007 at the board meeting of the Academy when István Kenesei, the director of the Philological Institute, and János Péntek (who is a professor at the Babes Bolyai University) on behalf of the research network, signed a cooperation agreement. The effectiveness of the flow of information between the research network and researchers from Hungary is enhanced by the Internet platform of the Terminological Research Network (<http://ht.nytud.hu/index.php>), where current projects and results are accessible to all interested persons.

3. Range of Activities:

- fulfilling the tasks of the research establishments of the MTA, paying special attention to local specificities: multi-cultural aspects and linguistic diversity
- scientific research, including the local population and local persons with competence
- development of language-related data bases
- language-design activities
- language services
- basic and continuing education
- building up libraries, organizing the research work and acting as experts
- documenting the living and endangered Hungarian language of the three regions, as well as awakening public attention for these issues
- publishing the research results in scientific journals and book publications
- publicizing the areas of activities of the Institute, maintaining permanent contacts to local and supra-regional media in the four countries
- organizing scientific conferences
- public relations activities for the publications of the language competence centers
- coordinated joint activities with the research institutions of the MTA

4. Results:

Dictionaries – Book Publications

- Although the regional centers work independently, it is the outcome of their joint activities that the most commonly used language elements of expatriate Hungarian were included in the following dictionaries:
- Lackó Krisztina - Mártonfi Attila 2004. Helyesírás [spelling]. Budapest, Osiris Verlag.
- Tolcsvai Nagy Gábor 2007. Idegen szavak szótára [dictionary of foreign words]. Budapest, Osiris Verlag.
- Eöri Vilma, main author. 2007. Értelmező szótár+ [explanatory dictionary+]. Budapest, Tinta Verlag.

- Prószéki Gábor MORPHOLOIC MS-Word spell-check program (currently being published)
- Every year the members of the network take part in a conference and present the results of their research into the living languages. The papers can be found in the following publications:
- Nádor Orsolya - Szarka László - author. 2003. "Sprachrechte, Volksgruppen, Sprachpolitik in Ostmitteleuropa" (Language rights, national minorities, language policies in Eastern Central Europe). Budapest. Verlag der Akademie.
- Edited by Franz Glatz in 2003. "Begegnungen 21. Die Sprache und die kleinen Nationen Ostmitteleuropas" (Encounters 21. Language and the small nations). Budapest. Europa Institut.
- Maticsák Sándor - author 2007. "Sprache, Nation, Identität. I. Sprachwissenschaftliche Vorträge des VI. internationalen Hungarologiekongresses" (Language, Nation, Identity – Philological Lectures at the VIth International Congress of Experts of the Hungarian Language) (Debrecen, 22 - 26 August 2006). Debrecen-Budapest: Internationale Gesellschaft für Hungarologie.

The following research projects are currently under way:

- Collection and analysis of expatriate-Hungarian language elements
- Supplements to the expatriate-Hungarian word list (ht list) of the three regions. Research into the living language in the areas settled by members of the Hungarian national minority in Austria, Slovenia and Croatia
- Collection and codification of the names of places and villages.

National Minority of the Roma

Verein Romaservice (Roma-Service Association)

Upon an initiative by the Federal Chancellery, a contact was established between the ZORA association and the Roma association, of which Emmerich Gärtner-Horvath was the director for many years. As a result of the cooperation that followed "Mri MiniMulti", a children's newspaper in Romany came into being.

Already some 10 years ago, Emmerich Gärtner-Horvath, the chairperson of the association Roma-Service, alerted Jozek Horvat (Muc), chairperson of the Romani Union, of the importance of the mother tongue. Ever since "Mri MiniMulti" – "Mri nevi MiniMulti" was founded, the association "Romani Union" has received copies from Emmerich Gärtner-Horvath. Since the year 2004 the association Roma-Service cooperates with the adult education college of the

Burgenland-Croats. The monolingual children's newspaper "Mri nevi MiniMulti" was given a new lay-out. "Mri nevi MiniMulti" was upgraded from a pedagogical perspective.

Since June 2007 there is cooperation between the adult education college of the Burgenland-Croats, the association Roma-Service and the Romani Union of Murska Sobota in Slovenia. So far, the Romani Union has published 2 issues of "Mri nevi MiniMulti" in Prekmurski Romany.

Procedure:

We, the association Roma-Service, get the texts for every issue in German from the adult education college of the Burgenland-Croats. Josef Schmidt translates these texts into Burgenland Romany. Then the texts (in German and Burgenland Romany) are sent to the Romani Union, attention Monika Sandreli, who then translates them into Prekmurski Romany. After translating, we at Roma-Service are informed by e-mail about the status of affairs. The texts, where Monika Sandreli had difficulties, are then translated by Josef Schmidt of the Roma-Service on site, after an appointment has been made. At the same time, the corrections are made. After all texts have been checked, they are sent by e-mail to MAS MSc Stefan Bunyai. He produces the lay-out for the texts that he receives. After the lay-out has been finished, Josef Schmidt and/or Monika Sandreli receive a pdf file for first corrections. After all corrections have been made, Stefan Bunyai receives the files as e-mails or is given the corrections over the phone, which can then be entered into the original files. Then there is second round of corrections. If there are no further corrections, the text is okayed for printing. The printing is done in Austria. Once "Mri nevi MiniMulti" has been finished, it will be taken to Murska Sobota by the RomBus and handed to the chairperson of the Romani Union.

Financing and field of application of "Mri nevi MiniMulti":

"Mri nevi MiniMulti" is financed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Slovenia. "Mri nevi MiniMulti" is used in nursery schools and schools. Moreover, it is distributed in Roma settlements. The children's newspaper is also available in libraries, municipalities and other public places. For the year 2008, 6 issues of the children's newspaper "Mri nevi MiniMulti" are planned in Prekmurski Romany. This year, one further issue will be published.

Czech National Minority

Schulverein Komensky (Komensky School Association)

Name	Content	Time frame	Supported by	Participating institution and project partner(s)
Refurbishing the archives	Inventorying and refurbishing	Up to 12/2002	Foreign Ministry of the Czech Republic, State Archives of the Czech Republic	Archives of the school association, State Archives of the Czech Republic
Forum Bilinguale	"The bilingual hub for sports-media-culture-business"	Preparations since 11/2002 The project ran from 06/2003 to 12/2004	Federal Chancellery Municipal Department 24 Interreg III A	All institutions of the school association, partner schools, partner companies
As part of the Forum Bilinguale – computer course at Breclav	Learning the CAD program	Since 03/2003 Every year	Up to 12/2004 by Interreg III A, then from own funds	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), HTL Breclav
As part of the Forum Bilinguale – Takeshi International	International skill games	Since 06/2003 Every year	Up to 12/2004 by Interreg III A, then from own funds	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), partner schools
As part of the Forum Bilinguale – books on individual life stories	"Books for traveling in your mind in Czech and German"	Since 04/2004 ongoing	Up to 12/2004 by Interreg III A, then from own funds	All institutions of the school association, Czech associations, partner schools
As part of the Forum Bilinguale – Sports without frontiers	International athletic triathlon	Since 09/2004 Every year	Up to 12/2004 by Interreg III A, then from own funds	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), bilingual secondary school level, partner schools
Radio 1476, Media course	Czech and Slovak programs broadcast by ORF	Since 01/2003	ORF radio programs for the national minorities	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), partner schools

Czech course in Prague	Improving Czech language skills	Every July/August	Czecho-Slovak Foreign Institute	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), Czecho-Slovak Foreign Institute
Four Countries – One Region	International school competition	Fall 2003	CERNET	Bilingual secondary school level, partner schools
Our Neighbors	Culture of the Czech and Slovak neighbors	05/2007	Funds from the integration school at Kröllgasse	Bilingual secondary school level, partner schools
Welcome Party for the Czech Republic – EU referendum	Presentation of the Czech schools	14/06/2003	Erste Bank, Ceska sporitelna	Bilingual primary school, bilingual secondary school level
STAGE4U	Presentation of the Czech schools	13/06/2003	City of Vienna	Bilingual primary school
European Day of the Languages	Creative language workshops	Every year in September	Initiative of the European Union	Bilingual primary school, bilingual secondary school level
International Day of the Animals	Protection of animals	Every year in September		Bilingual primary school
Week of Czech expatriates	Meeting of Czech expatriates in Prague	Every year in September	International Coordinating Committee for Czech Expatriates	Ing. K. Hanzl on behalf of the school association
School-leaving and representation dance	Formal dance for school-leavers and the Czech minority	Every year in February	Advisory Council of the National Minority	Komensky School Association, bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), partner organizations
Encounters 2004 – active school plays	Forms of dramatic expression	17/02/2004	School Inspectorate for the City of Vienna, Regional Youth Desk, wienXtra	Bilingual secondary school level
European Spring	Understanding of peoples	Spring 2004	Wiener Kaufmannschaft (Vienna Trade Association)	Bilingual grammar school (th to 8 th grade)
Welcome Europe 25	Presentation of the Forum Bilinguale	01/05/2004	INTERREG III A	Komensky School Association, EU organizations

School-leaving celebrations	Ceremony honoring the school-leavers	Every year since 06/2004	2004 – Interreg III A, then from own funds	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), Czech minority, partner organizations
Czech Republic and Austria – Good Neighbors in a United Europe, essay competition, President Fischer, President Klaus	Neighborly relations	04/2004		Bilingual secondary school level, bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), grammar school in Prague
ÖGB (Austrian Trade-Union Congress)	Presentation of the school association	11 and 12 June 2005	ÖGB (Austrian Trade-Union Congress)	Komensky School Association, partner organizations
Landscape painting in the heart of Europe	Cultural exchange	01/06/2005	Visegrad Fund, Fund “Wir lernen zusammen“ (We Learn Together)	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), partner organizations
Pupils’ exchange	Language and cultural exchange	Every year	Own fund	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), grammar school at Bilikova
As part of the Forum Bilinguale Pre-Christmas concert at Charles’ Church	Cultural exchange, understanding among peoples	18/12/2004	Interreg III A	Komensky School Association, Theater Association Omladina, choir from Kromerz
Visit of the Czech Prime Minister J. Paroubek	Presentation of the schools and the school association	12/06/2005		School association, embassy of the Czech Republic, Presidium Office
Slovak Library	Expansion of the library by works in the Slovak language	05/10/2005	Austrian-Slovak Society, Wiesenthal & Co AG, Sova School Association	Komensky School Association
Visit of the Czech Foreign Minister C. Svoboda	Presentation of the schools and the school association	28/11/2005		School association, embassy of the Czech Republic, foreign ministry
Bridge between the Cities	Cultural program for the understanding between neighbors	25/11/2005	SPÖ Association Favoriten	Bilingual secondary school level, partner schools in Bratislava
Sports games in Budapest	Hungarian-Slovak sports games	20/04/2006	Hungarian school authorities	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade)

Cooperation with the Czech-Slovak foreign office	Everyday school life	Ongoing	Czech-Slovak foreign office	School association
Skalica – Environmental Protection	Education in environmental protection	06/2006	SPÖ Association Favoriten	Bilingual secondary school level, partner schools at Skalica
Podyjum	Trans-frontier theater meeting	06/2006	Czech-Slovak foreign office, Urban Administration of Znojmo	Bilingual secondary school level, partner schools in Znojmo
English course in Croatia	Improving English language skills	09/2006	INTERREG III A	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), Globe Grammar School, CZ
Together or side by side? Discussion at Urania	Taking stock of the current relations	05/2006	Parent-teacher association of the Komensky schools	Ing. Karl Hanzl on behalf of the school association
Meeting of bilingual primary schools, bilingual secondary school level	Inter-cultural project	03/2006	Parent-teachers association of the Komensky schools	Bilingual primary school, bilingual secondary school level
Calendar of the partner school at Krouna, CZ	Poems for the calendar	2006 / 2007		Bilingual primary school, bilingual secondary school level
1000twins	Getting to know the respectively other capital	03/2007	Municipal School Council	Bilingual secondary school level, schools in Bratislava
Physicians without Frontiers	Trans-frontier commitment	03/2007		Bilingual secondary school level, bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade)
Concert by Eva Pilarova	Performance by the well-known Czech singer at the Czech embassy	04/2007	Embassy of the Czech Republic, Contact Forum, Komensky School Association	Komensky School Association, embassy of the Czech Republic, Contact Forum
Right to Multi-Lingualism – a Human Right?	Taking stock of the current legal situation	05/2007		Ing. Karl Hanzl on behalf of the school association
Theater project	Joint work on preparing a subject	06/2007 10/2007	INTERREG III A	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade), Globe Grammar School, CZ

Dachstein Expedition 2007	Sports program, inter-cultural understanding	09/06 to 15/06/2007	INTERREG III A	Bilingual secondary school level, Czech schools
Cooperation with the Municipality of the City of Vienna – Project series TwinCities Vienna – Bratislava	Understanding among peoples	Ab 9 / 2006	Municipality of the City of Vienna	All school levels, partners from Bratislava
Brussels Project	Visit to Brussels	09/2007	Municipal Authorities, Office Hannes Swoboda	Bilingual grammar school (5 th to 8 th grade)

ANNEX III: COMMENTS BY THE ADVISORY COUNCILS FOR THE NATIONAL MINORITIES

Advisory Council for the Czech National Minority

At its meeting on 4 December 2007 the Advisory Council for the Czech National Minority discussed the draft of the 2nd Report of the Republic of Austria pursuant to § 15 (1) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which the Federal Chancellery had communicated. It suggested that the names of the three Czech or bilingual periodicals of the national minority should be mentioned under Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities). These are the periodicals concerned:

- *Česká a slovenská Videň dnes*
- *Kulturní klub*
- *Videňské svobodné listy*

Moreover, it was decided to add the following additions to the Report:

Additional Comments on the Second Report of the Republic of Austria pursuant to Article 15 (1) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the Advisory Board for the Czech National Minority

Ad Article 8 (Education)

On the basis of the First Report of the Republic of Austria pursuant to Article 15 (1) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe indicated as a first item in its recommendations a structural language policy for the protection and promotion of the languages indicated by Austria in the course of ratification.

As a matter of principle, the promotion of the languages of the national minorities has been incorporated with constitutional-law standing in Article 2 (8) of the Federal Constitution Act. The most important instrument to promote a language is to teach it on an adequate level. It is indispensable for this type of teaching to establish the

necessary schools. The legal frame that is currently in place in Austria comprises two federal laws which, however, are restricted in their content and geographical terms to the Slovene language in Carinthia and the Croatian and Hungarian language in Burgenland.

At present, there is no such statutory basis for the Vienna region, in spite of the criticism in the report of the Experts' Committee for the European Charter of the Regional or Minority Languages of January 2005. There is also no state-run school in Vienna which offers adequate instruction in the languages of the national minorities residing here. For the Czech and Slovak languages, this lacuna is bridged by private schools (primary school, bilingual secondary school, 5th to 8th grade-grammar school) of the Komensky School Association. As is mentioned in the 2nd Report of the Republic of Austria, the State pays for the teachers at these schools. The additional costs, though, incurred by the instruction, as well as the maintenance of the school are the responsibility of the school association. In this context, the school association is supported with funds from the budget to promote the national minorities, as the Czech organizations waive a major part (75%) of the promotion intended for their sake for the benefit of the school maintenance costs. However, this support is not enough, by far, in order to ensure the maintenance of the schools. Fortunately, the federal province of Vienna has been supporting the facilities for one year now. As there are no long-term guarantees, though, these funds have only a limited effect on ensuring the permanent operation of the schools.

The promotion of the Czech and Slovak languages in Vienna has therefore neither been ensured by law nor fact, in spite of many years of endeavors and a recommendation to this effect by the Advisory Committee for the Framework Convention on the Protection of the National Minorities of the Council of Europe, dated May 2002.

ad Article 11 (Media)

As far as the media are concerned, Austria only ratified support for audio and audio-visual works for the Czech national minority, as a result of which the far more important problems in connection with radio and television programs will not be discussed in any further detail at this point.

ad Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities)

The Federal Chancellery supports cultural activities and facilities as one of the objectives of its efforts to promote the national minorities. As is mentioned in the comments concerning Article 8, the associations are left with only 25% of the respective funding for the language and culture of the national minorities, which is spent mainly on looking after juveniles, but also on sports and cultural activities.

Advisory Council for the Slovene National Minority

At its meeting on 4 December 2007 the Advisory Council for the Slovene National Minority agreed on a summary by the chairperson of the advisory council. The text reads as shown below. In this context, a document by the "Article VII Association for Styria" was added:

Summary Statement of the Advisory Council for the Slovene National Minority in the Federal Chancellery:

On 19 November 2007 the members of the Advisory Council for the Slovene National Minority received the 2nd Report pursuant to the European Charter for the Regional or Minority Languages from the Federal Chancellery for commenting. The Report had been communicated to the members of the advisory council in electronic form one week earlier.

Comments by the Council of Slovenes in Carinthia were available at the meeting of the advisory council on 4 December 2007, and two members announced that they would submit further comments. The advisory council instructed its chairperson to produce a summary statement upon receiving these comments and to enclose the individual comments as annexes. In fact, one further comment was received by the Article VII Cultural Association for Styria.

1. Concerning the comments of the "Rat der Kärntner Slowenen"

The “Rat der Kärntner Slowenen” submitted comprehensive comments (16 pages) and arrives at the following conclusions:

“1) The period of time, during which the organizations of the national minorities can deal in depth with the Report of the Republic of Austria, is much too short, and they therefore reserve the right to make further comments eventually.

2) The Report is incomplete on many points and, in fact, almost misleading on the most topical of issues relating to the Slovene population in Carinthia, i.e. the problems concerning the topographical signs and the official language.

3) During the period under review the Republic of Austria did not comply with the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of 19 January 2005 concerning the Slovene population in Carinthia.”

The Council of Slovenes in Carinthia criticizes in particular that the decisions of the Constitutional Court on bilingual topographical names and signs still have not yet been implemented, that the provisions for Slovene as an official language (in the areas of administration, judiciary and private-economic administration), too, are not comprehensive enough and that, altogether, the Federal Chancellery did not seriously inquire about the decline in numbers of the Slovene national minority in Carinthia. In particular, the Council criticizes in its comments that the structural disadvantages of the Slovene language continue to exist in various respects. The Council especially refers to the comments of the governor of the federal province of Carinthia, which put into question the national minorities, as well as a state of law and order, for which no sanctions have imposed as yet by the State (open refusal to implement the decisions of the Constitutional Court, etc.). The Council mentions specifically mention that, for example, the governor of the federal province of Carinthia replaced the sign posts leading the way to Slovenia by mono-lingual sign posts. The Council of Slovenes in Carinthia then also criticizes that the presentation of the history is limited to describing the facts and does not contain any substantive analysis of the life together. With regard to the promotional funding, the Council of Slovenes in Carinthia criticizes that the amount of funding for the national minorities has remained unchanged since 1995 and thus declined by 25% in real terms.

The Council of Slovenes in Carinthia refers to the fact that a growing number of people in Carinthia are making use of the possibility of a bilingual education at nursery schools and schools, but that the statutory conditions need to be improved.

2. From the perspective of the Central Association of Slovene Organizations it is stated

that, in spite of all justified criticism concerning Austria's policy in connection with the national minorities, progress has been achieved on some items. It should be pointed out, in particular, that the Austrian Parliament decided – upon an initiative of all advisory councils for the national minorities – to adopt a basic policy clause as a result of which “the Republic (federal, regional and municipal bodies) is committed to its linguistic and cultural diversity, which has evolved in the course of time and finds its expression in the autochthonous ethnic groups. The language and culture, the continued existence and protection of these ethnic groups are to be respected, safeguarded and promoted.” Although the spirit of this provision has not yet shown its full impact in some areas, one must nevertheless recognize that positive changes have occurred (Nursery School Fund Act for Carinthia and expansion of the radio programs in the Slovene language). Moreover, it must be mentioned that all bills of the federal province of Carinthia are also submitted to the advisory council for commenting. With regard to the form of representation, as it is contemplated by the Council of Slovenes in Carinthia, it must be commented that the overwhelming majority of the Austrian national minorities do not wish to have such a public-law format.

3. In its comments the “Article VII Kulturverein für Steiermark” refers to the history of the Slovene national minority in Styria and provides detailed data on the promotional funding, the number of pupils attending Slovene instruction and its activities.

Annex:

1. Comments of the “Rat der Kärntner Slowenen”
2. Comments of the “Article VII Kulturverein für Steiermark”

Comments of the “Rat der Kärntner Slowenen”:

- I.) It should be stated at the beginning that the draft of the Report was communicated to the organizations of the national minorities on 19 November 2007 with the note that the Report will be

discussed at the meeting of the advisory council for the national minority on 4 December 2007 and that an extension of the period for commenting on the Report will not be possible. When bearing in mind that the Republic of Austria has been delayed in preparing its Report by several months, but requires the organizations of the national minorities to comment on a comprehensive report within 14 days, then the time for an in-depth statement is much too short. It would easily have been possible and could also have been requested that the competent authorities make available the Report to the organizations of the national minorities much earlier.

II.) Introduction 1.)

ad. 1.)

The draft report indicates global circumstances that positively affect the trend towards assimilation of the national minorities. It is striking, though, that one of the most important circumstances – especially as far as Carinthia is concerned – is not mentioned: the political and socio-political pressure toward assimilation. In Carinthia, in particular, a policy has systematically been pursued on several occasions which is directed against the national minority and its rights. In the Report, though, the school strikes of the national minority, the conflict over topographical signs, the “determination of the national minority” are mentioned in a different chapter. In connection with the so-called “conflict over topographical signs”, the governor of the federal province of Carinthia has pursued a policy for years that is directed against the Slovene national minority. The statements in the draft report create the impression that assimilation is a natural – albeit regrettable – fact that cannot be altered. What is left aside is that this is the result, to a large part, of a deliberate policy that can be changed.

Introduction 2.)

ad. 2.)

The short historical outline reflects the historical perspective of the Federal Government. From the perspective of the national minority, this presentation would have to be supplemented in important points, although this is not the purpose of the Report of the Republic of Austria. However, it is a questionable statement that the deeper historical roots of the potential for conflict in Carinthia are “without doubt mainly the historical territorial conflicts.” History has seen territorial conflicts in several frontier regions in Europe. However, it was only in very few cases that the historical events were indicated to be the source of the current problems of the national minorities.

In Silesia or the region of Ödenburg/Sopron, for example there were popular referenda in the years 1921 and/or 1921, as was the case in Carinthia, concerning the future status of the territory. There, the events that occurred 87 years ago have no longer been a problem for a long time, which is in contrast to Carinthia where commemorating the date of the tenth of October 1920 is misused every year to attack the Slovene national minority and its rights. On 10 October 2007, for example, the Carinthian Defense Fighters’ Union (Kärntner Abwehrkämpferbund) published a brochure under the auspices of the governor of the federal province of Carinthia in his capacity as president of the regional schools’ council which contains the following paragraph: (quotation)” The Slovenes in Carinthia and the known

opportunists voted for the SHS State of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, as it is documented sufficiently in their own publications. On account of the popular referendum they are tied – against their will – to a country with a different population. To this very day they act on various levels that have their center beyond the state borders in what is today Slovenia.” And then: “This is why we do not any more bilingual topographical signs in Carinthia, in spite of occasionally differing trends of the times, because they are a symbol for the presumed existence of a Slovene territory on Carinthian soil.” The fact that the Slovene national minority fully supports the implementation of its rights, as guaranteed by the Constitution, is still interpreted as a sign of *irridenta* in the year 2007 by the highest representative of the federal province.

In this connection one should also mention that coping with the NS past of the federal province was a process that took only place on the surface. This is the reason why it was possible that – in the year 2007 – the political party of the governor of the federal province ran advertisements in all Carinthian media – after the Federal Chancellor had presented a possible solution for the conflict over topographical signs – which referred to the proposal as a “traitor’s reward” which the (SPÖ) mayor would be receiving for betraying Carinthia. In the year 2006 the same party placed billboards throughout the region with the slogan “Do you want the final solution to the conflict over topographical signs?” Even the deputy chairman of the party admitted that, of course, he was aware of the implicit meaning of the selected words (“final solution”). By the same token, the governor of the federal province of Carinthia spread the slogan “Carinthia will become monolingual” in connection with the conflict over topographical signs and then removed several already existing bilingual topographical signs. The proximity of that slogan to the Nazi slogan “Carinthians speak German” is obvious. At present, sentiments are aroused against the new EU Treaty, with the governor of the federal province using the words “The EU will recover when adopting a Carinthian disposition”. In this connection, he emphasized that he wishes to fight the new EU Treaty in the same manner as he had fought against the bilingual topographical signs. The Federal Government does not take this obvious reference to NS terminology – especially in connection with discussions of the problems of the national minority - as an occasion to clearly dissociate itself from such statements, as well as to step up efforts to implement the rights of the national minority. On the contrary, to a large extent these incidents are acknowledged without commenting on them, and it is emphasized that a solution is only possible together with the governor of the federal province of Carinthia,

ad. 3.)

The draft report presents the results of the 2001 census. However, these results are not indicative, unless one states at the same time that the number of members belonging to national minorities has been decreasing from census to census. The Slovene population in Carinthia, for example, amounted to about 100,000 persons at the beginning of the 20th century and decreased to about 50,000 at the 1951 census and to only about 13,000 at the 2001 census. It is important to mention this trend because a decline of such scope can certainly not be explained by “natural assimilation”, on the one hand, and because, on the other hand, numerous rights of the Slovene national minority depend on their numerical

strength. Although the rights of the Slovene population in Carinthia pursuant to Austria's State Treaty would have had to be implemented in the year 1955, this has been the case only to a small extent in many areas such as Slovene as an official language or topographical signs, and there is the trend to wait with their implementation until it is no longer necessary because of the further decline in numerical strength.

ad. I.1.1.)

The draft report says that Article 19 of the Basic State Law has been repealed in parts and that there is no longer scope for its application. One must contradict this statement. In addition to the listed decision of the Constitutional Court dating back to the year 1952, there are other decisions which leave this question unanswered. In the 1990's there was an initiative to reform the Austrian Constitution, in the course of which it was planned to state officially that Article 19 of the Basic State Law is no longer applicable and should be removed from the Basic State Law. This initiative failed after the national minorities protested vehemently. At present, there are once again efforts to reform the Austrian Constitution. It is remarkable to note that Article 19 of the Basic State Law is not indicated in the recently disclosed list of constitutional provisions (comprising several hundreds of stipulations) which are planned to be abolished or stated to be no longer applicable. One must therefore contradict the view that Article 19 of the Basic State Law is no longer applicable. The term "ethnic entities" may clearly be understood to mean "national minorities", which is the modern concept. Especially the recognition of the equal status of all languages customarily used in the country in schools, offices and public life is of maximum importance for the national minority.

ad. I.1.2.)

One should mention that the National Minorities Act was partly revoked by the Constitutional Court, that major parts of the National Minorities Act urgently need to be reformed and that the national minorities have submitted detailed proposals for amendments on several occasions which, however, are not discussed any further.

The ordinance of the Federal Government determining the regional territories in which topographical signs and indications shall be affixed both in the German and the Slovene languages (Federal Law Gazette II No. 245/2006) was adopted by the Austrian Federal Government on 30 June 2006. It covers only two additional municipalities (Bleiburg/Pliberk and Ebersdorf/Drveša vas) than the previous ordinance from the year 1977, which the Constitutional Court has repealed completely in the meantime. The new ordinance fully disregards the case law of the Constitutional Court on the bilingual topographical signs. This also applies to the ordinance published in Federal Law Gazette II No. 263/2006, which has not been implemented as yet. The example of this ordinance shows that the Austrian Federal Government issues ordinances that deliberately are in contradiction to the case law of the Constitutional Court and thus the provisions of Article 7, item 3, of the State Treaty of Vienna.

ad. I.1.3.)

To this very day, the decision of the Constitutional Court of 4 October 2000, file number V 91799-11, has not been implemented. A new version of the Ordinance on the Use of Slovene as an Official Language has been overdue for seven years. Nor is there any implementation of the substance of the decision. In the municipality of St. Kanzian/ Škocjan, for example, which by now has more than 10% Slovene population, the decision is being ignored and applications in Slovene are not processed. The decision of the Constitutional Court of 13 December 2001, file number G 213/01-18, V 62, 63/01-18, has not been implemented to this very day and in not a single one of the places qualifying for it.

The decision of the Constitutional Court of 14 December 2004, file number V 131/03, is a step backwards in the efforts for a legal implementation of the rights of the national minorities, as it makes it impossible to claim collective rights of the national minority. In the meantime, an action has been filed with the European Court for Human Rights in this connection. Renowned constitutional experts – such as the majority of opinions in the Constitutional Convention – demanded, in agreement with the national minorities, that representative groups of the national minorities should be granted the right to file an action as an association. To this very day, this concern of Austria's national minorities has not been taken into account. The order issued by the Constitutional Court in its decision to Austrian authorities, namely to produce bilingual topographical signs in accordance with Article 7, item 3, second sentence, of the State Treaty of Vienna, has been disregarded to this very day.

The decision of the Constitutional Court of 26 June 2006, file number V 20/2006, actually expressed the view that the character of a municipality as a "mixed-language administrative district" may also be lost if the Slovene-language share of the residential population has fallen to below 10%. This decision did not even consider the problem identified in the provisions of Article 2 (8) of the Federal Constitution Act; in the opinion of the national minority, the case law on a "declining trend" is also in opposition to the intentions of both the Charter and the Framework Convention. In this connection, a complaint is pending with the European Court of Human Rights. Moreover, one further case is pending before the Constitutional Court in connection with St. Kanzian/ Škocjan – the municipality which is said to have lost its character as a "mixed-language administrative district". This case is intended to achieve a writ of error on the court decision.

In its decision of 13 December 2006, file number V 81/06-14, the Constitutional Court stated that affixing topographical signs in the Slovene language on a "smaller" separate sign is contrary to the law. To this very day, this decision has not been implemented. Further complaints concerning this issue are pending before the Constitutional Court.

In its decision of 13 December 2006, file number V 54/06 et alii, the Constitutional Court completely repealed the 1977 ordinance on topographical signs, indicating as a reason (which is quoted correctly in the draft report) that it practically rules out that bilingual topographical signs are affixed in other villages than those listed in the political districts indicated there and/or the political district of Klagenfurt (environs). The Federal Government nevertheless adopted a new ordinance on topographical signs for Carinthia on 30 June 2006 which stipulates exactly the same thing. In July 2007, the Federal

Chancellor stated that further political efforts to solve the conflict over topographical signs have failed during this legislative period. One may therefore assume that Austria does not have the intention to establish a situation in conformity with the Constitution up to the year 2010, at least.

ad. II.1.2.)

The advisory councils for the national minorities are not statutory organizations of the national minorities but advisory councils which advise the Federal Government. They are not corporations representing the national minorities. For a long time, some of the national minorities have expressed the wish that representative organizations under public law be set up for the national minorities. The organizations of the national minorities unanimously hold the view that representative organizations of the national minorities should be granted the right to file actions as associations. There are no statutory provisions on the representation of the national minorities, and the organizations of the national minorities have the legal status of private associations.

ad. I.1.4.)

In its draft report the Federal Government has reproduced the full text of the recommendations by the Committee of Ministers concerning the First Report of the Republic of Austria. The Committee of Ministers recommended a structural policy for the protection and promotion of the languages indicated by Austria in the course of ratification, as well as to create conditions for their use in public life. In connection with the Slovene population in Carinthia this recommendation was not implemented. Numerous municipalities refuse the use of the Slovene language before authorities. The governor of the federal province of Carinthia pursues a policy under the slogan "Carinthia is becoming monolingual" which is diametrically opposed to the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers. The Committee of Ministers recommended that the decision of the Constitutional Court on the use of Slovene as an official language be implemented without delay, which has not been the case as yet, and no efforts in this direction can be discerned.

As to the recommendation that a change in the status of schools or a change in the rules regarding the appointment of school staff in the Slovene-language area should not negatively affect Slovene-language school education in Carinthia, one should first comment in a positive vein by saying the measures concerning the training of bilingual teachers at the new Pedagogical University are pointing in the right direction, although it is too early to give an evaluation of any results. A guarantee that the position of school principal at a bilingual school requires a bilingual qualification continues to be outstanding. In the course of the current discussions on education in Austria, the Federal Government decided recently that it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that children are fluent in the German language when entering school. In this context, no consideration was given to the national minorities. It would be desirable and recommend/able to attach as much importance to fluency in the language of the national minority in the bilingual area as to fluency in the German language at a pre-school age, for example by special measures on the level of the nursery schools. There are serious deficiencies in this field; for example, there are not even rules for acquiring qualifications for bilingual nursery-school instruction.

Providing care of children in the afternoons is being expanded increasingly, but ensuring such afternoon care in a bilingual form is not ensured either.

The draft report quotes from the Program of the Federal Government which states in connection with the implementation of the decisions of the Constitutional Court on topographical signs that this "shall be constitutionally safeguarded with the maximum possible consensus from the ethnic groups on the basis of existing proposals" and that this regulation shall be implemented by the summer of 2007. This part of the government's program has not been implemented; even very far-reaching proposals by the Slovene national minority for a compromise were refused.

In connection with the implementation of the decision on Slovene as an official language, The draft report states "with regard to the implementation of the so-called 'official-language' decision of the Constitutional Court it is pointed out that, according to the present legal situation, there are linkages between the area of application of the bilingual topographical signs and indications and the scope of application of an official language. On 4 July 2007 a government bill was submitted to the National Council (file number XXIII.GP-NR 263/A) concerning a federal law amending the National Minorities Act. The bill formulates the new regulations for bilingual topographical signs and indications. One will have to wait for the requisite decisions in the National Council which will be of relevance for the aforementioned linkages to regulations on official languages."

These comments can only be regarded as cynical. The decision on the official language was passed 7 years ago. In the course the past seven years, there has been no attempt whatsoever to implement it. In connection with the topographical signs, the Constitutional Court has taken a total of 12 decisions to date, none of which has been implemented. Further decisions are expected for December 2007. The legal situation has been clarified completely, but the Austrian Federal Government refuses to produce a situation in conformity with the Constitution. The government bill that was submitted to Parliament certainly does not provide for a complete implementation of the decisions of the Constitutional Court. Moreover, there are no discussions of the bill. Rather, pressure is exerted on the representatives of the national minority – in spite of their very far-reaching readiness to reach a compromise – to agree with a still further curtailing of their rights, as laid down in the State Treaty.

It is not correct to maintain that the case law of the Constitutional Court ensures that a change in the status of schools or a change in the rules for the appointment of school staff in the Slovene-language and bilingual area do not negatively affect Slovene-language education in Carinthia. The Constitutional Court merely applied the valid legal situation. If any negative impact on Slovene-language school education were to be effectively ruled out, farther-reaching measures would be required (which are not applied). The so-called "objective procedure" for the appointment of school staff, in particular, does not ensure that the bilingual qualification result in a correspondingly positive evaluation in the course of this procedure.

It is also incorrect that the use of the Slovene language before the relevant court and administrative authorities has been ensured by internal organizational measures and steps by the authorities. At the district administrative authority of Klagenfurt/Celovec, for example, it is not possible in many areas to obtain forms in the Slovene language. In the municipality of Eberndorf/Dobrla vas parties were asked to produce a translation of forms themselves. In the municipality of St. Kanzian/Škocjan the use of the Slovene language as an official language is ignored completely. To date, no sanctions at all have been imposed on the civil servants who ignore the use of the Slovene language as an official language. In connection with civil-status documents, civil servants actually refuse to enter officially recognized bilingual names of municipalities. When asking to be able use the Slovene language for traffic tickets or alike, the result is generally that a higher fine is imposed than would be the case if one had not asked to use the Slovene language. In this context, in particular, many more examples could be given where users of the Slovene language are at a disadvantage.

ad. II.II.2.)

Although the Constitutional Court stated that the existing allocation of constituencies in Carinthia is compatible with the principle of equality, the division into constituencies is nevertheless a drawback for the Slovene national minority, as its settlement area is divided up and allocated to four constituencies, which makes it impossible for the national minority to obtain a seat for its own group in an election.

Respect of the geographical area is also disregarded in other respects and is to the detriment of the national minority. The Constitutional Court decided, for example, that it is not admissible to use the Slovene language before the local court at Klagenfurt/Celovec. It reached this conclusion by arguing that at the time when the State Treaty was signed, the court district of Klagenfurt/Celovec did not have more than 10% of a Slovene population. However, one will reach this conclusion only if you look at the capital of the federal province of Klagenfurt/Celovec jointly with the political district of Klagenfurt-Land/Celovec-dežela. If one had only looked at the political district of Klagenfurt-Land/Celovec-dežela, the evaluation would have been different.

The former court districts of Eberndorf/Dobrla vas, Rosegg/Rožek and Arnoldstein/ Podklošter were shut down. This happened quite some time ago, but after the State Treaty had been signed. In keeping with the case law of the Constitutional Court, the Slovene language would have been admitted as an official language in court, but this is not the case before the courts that have now geographical competences, i.e. the courts of Völkermarkt/Velikovec and/or Villach/Beljak.

It was only possible for the Constitutional Court to reach its conclusions in the year 2006, namely that the municipality of St. Kanzian/Škocjan no longer had the character of a mixed-language administrative district and that there was therefore no longer the need for bilingual topographical signs, because for the 2001 census – in contrast to previous censuses – the area of the municipality of St. Kanzian/Škocjan was defined differently, which almost doubled its population, as additional areas were included. If one had respected the geographical area, the percentage of the Slovene population would still have been higher than 10% and the decision would have been different. One must state in connection with respect

for the geographical territory in general that the scope of application must not be altered to the detriment of the national minority. However, this happens all the time, either because only the current results of a census are taken into consideration, while leaving aside the implementation of the rights, deriving from the 1955 State Treaty of Vienna, concerning the official languages or the bilingual topographical signs. If the provisions had been implemented in 1955, about 600 municipalities would have to have bilingual topographical signs, when applying the case law of the Constitutional Court. At present, only 94 municipalities have been earmarked for this purpose. If one were to take the results of the most recent census, i.e. of 2001, the number would only be about 250, in keeping with the case law of the Constitutional Court. The geographical territory was therefore reduced considerably in its size by not implementing the rights of the national minority. If these provisions had been implemented in 1955, the Slovene language would have had to be admitted as an official language in all municipalities of the bilingual area. As there is now the will to only take account of the current results of censuses, this is only the case in about one third of the bilingual area.

ad. II.3.1.)

The Federal Government itself stated that the amount of money for the promotion of the national minorities has remained completely the same since the year 1995. When considering inflation this means that the amount of money spent on promoting the national minorities has actually gone down by about 20%. The advisory councils for the national minorities have been asking for a major increase in the funds for the promotion of the national minorities, especially on account of the fact that the sums granted in 1995 were insufficient by far in order to cope with all tasks. However, the amount spent on promoting the national minorities is not raised. The overall budget of the Austrian government has expanded considerably during this period. When taking account of the loss in money value, due to inflation, as well as of the expansion of the overall budget, the result is that the share of money for the promotion of the national minorities, as part of the total expenditure of the State, has gone down considerably. One cannot therefore speak of resolute action in connection with promotion.

ad. II.11.8.)

Under this heading, the draft report deals with measures to eliminate discrimination. However, only the applicable statutory measures are mentioned. It would go beyond the scope of these comments to deal in detail with the individual provisions. It should be pointed out, though, that no decision of the Constitutional Court and – to the extent that can be gathered – no other authority has referred to Article 8 (2) of the Federal Constitution Act. If more attention were paid to this provision, several decisions would have to be of a different content.

The draft report also mentions the Code of Ethics of the Press. However, this code does not prevent a range of Carinthian media, in particular, from publishing letters to the editors which are clearly directed against the Slovene national minority in their content and sometimes are almost inflammatory in their nature.

ad. II.11.9.)

This section deals with the support given towards promoting respect and understanding among the language groups. In this connection, reference is made to the comments above in relation to regional politics in Carinthia which certainly are not of a character that will enhance the understanding among the language groups. On the contrary, they quite deliberately foment prejudices against the Slovene national minority.

ad. II.10.)

This section deals with the consideration given to the needs expressed and to the setting up of the various bodies. The Federal Government refers exclusively to the advisory councils for the national minorities. The needs expressed on several occasions by the organizations of the national minorities are not mentioned. As a rule, no attention is paid to the recommendations made by the advisory council for the Slovene national minority, except when it comes to financial matters. However, it is not only the needs expressed that are not given any attention; the same applies also to obligations imposed by decisions of the supreme courts.

ad. III.2.)

Article 8 (Education)

The comment is appropriate that special attention is paid to the bilingual nursery-school system in Carinthia. It is not mentioned, though, that statutory rules are completely absent in connection with public nursery schools. It largely depends on the good will of a mayor whether bilingual nursery-school groups are set up and to what extent the Slovene language is used in these nursery-school groups. It is acknowledged as a positive fact that financial support is available for private bilingual nursery schools under the Nursery-School Fund Act for Carinthia. There is, however, still room for expansion. Nevertheless, the fact remains that one should also strive to achieve a statutory solution for the public nursery schools. It should be pointed out that there is a political discussion to make attendance of a nursery school compulsory, at least for the last pre-school year. The consequence would be that the last year of nursery school would also have to be regarded as "elementary education", as mentioned in Article 7 (2) of the State Treaty of Vienna, which should make it possible throughout the bilingual area to sign up for bilingual nursery-school classes. However, no specific preparations are noticeable as yet in this direction.

In the context of schools it is correct to point out that the number of pupils is increasing who sign up for bilingual education but do not have any previous knowledge of the Slovene language, and that the pupils registered for bilingual education with a normal knowledge of the Slovene language only constitute a minority. One would have to take measures that make sure that especially children with a good knowledge of the Slovene language upon entering school are not at a disadvantage in their further learning of the language. In view of the fact that by now 40% of the pupils in the bilingual area sign up for bilingual instruction, the principle of registration should be re-considered, at least on a medium-term basis. At present, the discriminating provision of § 7 (1) second sentence of the Minorities' Schools Act for Carinthia still applies which stipulates that pupils can only be made to use Slovene as the language

of instruction or to learn Slovene as a compulsory subject if this is the will of their legal representatives. This means that every other language can be offered as a compulsory subject, although the legal representative of a child is not in favor of that language, but Slovene may be taught only if the parents agree to it.

We continue to fear that small school entities will be closed or converted into school branches (Expositor) on a medium-term basis, on account of the decline in pupil numbers. This will be a major disadvantage for the Slovene national minority, which still has the largest number of pupils especially in the small schools. One should therefore take measures that will compensate, at least, these drawbacks which may well be inevitable, at least on a medium-term basis. The draft report does not mention at all the problems in connection with looking after pupils in the afternoons. Solutions are missing which would ensure bilingual care for pupils also in the afternoons. The afternoon care for pupils is increasingly becoming the standard situation and has actually become part of everyday school life. If there are no provisions for bilingual services, this means in fact that the available options of school life are reduced by fifty per cent.

When looking at the situation in Carinthia, one notices that 10% of the children in primary schools are registered for bilingual instruction: However, as they enter secondary school, their share drops to only 4%. In reality, it is only the pupils of the Slovene grammar school that continue to learn the Slovene language on secondary level I, whereas for the majority of the pupils that are signed up for bilingual instruction on the lower school level contacts with the Slovene language end when completing primary school. When bearing in mind the discussions about introducing "integrated schools" (Gesamtschule) or "new middle schools" (neue Mittelschule) it would be urgently required to take the necessary action so that the positive development on the level of the primary schools is not aborted on the secondary-school level.

Article 9 (Judicial authorities)

Court activities in the Slovene language continue to be restricted to the local courts at Bleiburg/ Pliberk, Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla and Ferlach/Borovlje. Major parts of the bilingual area, including municipalities in which the Slovene language has been recognized as an official language and where, in fact, topographical signs have been set up in two languages, do not have the possibility to use the Slovene languages in proceedings on the level of the local courts.

The information that there was no case before the regional court of Klagenfurt/Celovec that was conducted in the Slovene language is not correct. There were proceedings in the Slovene language. However, they were not ended by a court decision but by a settlement. In one case involving an organization of the national minority the regional court Klagenfurt/Celovec refused to use Slovene as the language in court, arguing that only physical persons have that right. An appellate instance could not be asked to review the case, as it was ended by a settlement on the problem at issue. It is an urgent need to clarify whether legal entities also have the right to use the Slovene language in court.

Article 10 (Administrative authorities and public services)

To a large extent, no major problems are incurred when using the Slovene language before the district administrative authorities of Völkermarkt/Velikovec. However, especially within the domain of the district administrative authorities of Klagenfurt/Celovec, submissions in Slovene are often ignored or dealt with only after considerable delays. It proves to be extremely negative that, as a matter of principle, the Slovene language is not admitted as an official language in the capital of the federal province. As a result, there will be situations in which, for example, a large number of the Slovene organizations that have their headquarters Klagenfurt/Celovec are deprived of the possibility of using Slovene as the official language. In this context, it is overlooked that, as a matter of course, Klagenfurt/Celovec – the capital of the federal province – is also the center of the region for the national minority of the Slovenes in Carinthia.

As far as civic-status documents are concerned, the Slovene national minority is excluded to a large extent from the possibility of obtaining these documents in their language. This is, in turn, once again due to the fact that Slovene is not admitted as an official language in Klagenfurt/Celovec, the capital of the federal province. As many hospitals are located there, a large number of births and deaths will take place in Klagenfurt/Celovec.

No provisions whatsoever continue to exist for the area of private-economic administration, requiring that Slovene is used as an official language. With the exception of the municipalities, the same applies to the self-governing corporations such as the professional interest groups with compulsory membership, the social-security institutes, etc.

One may certainly not say that the activities of the administrative authorities are largely conducted in two languages in a bilingual area, as it is the case in many parts of Europe. The Slovene language is only used if an application to this effect expressly calls for it. The existing rules are discriminating in their effect if one considers the difficulties that are frequently encountered, as well as the psychological barriers, the financial drawbacks and delays caused in this connection.

As far as the municipalities are concerned, one must state once again that the Ordinance on the Use of Slovene as an Official Language has not been amended as yet, although there has been need for action for some seven years, on account of the decision of the Constitutional Court on the use of official languages. In numerous municipalities the possibility to use Slovene as an official language is being ignored.

It does not suffice that a number of forms in the Slovene language are available for downloading. This would have to apply for all forms. As far as could be gathered, the possibility to use the language of the national minority for public announcements is not used at all. This would have to be an obligation for those municipalities in which Slovene is an official language.

The provisions of the Civil Status Act are completely inadequate. It is not even possible to indicate the residence of a person in the two languages, not even in those cases where bilingual topographical signs are provided expressly for that place. The draft report of the Federal Government indicates that the diacritic signs that do not exist in the German language must also be used. The practical situation is different: A school at Völkermarkt/ Velikovec was informed – in reaction to its request to also provide the Slovene diacritic signs for the IT program that was used – that this was not possible pursuant to the Civil Status Act and that the diacritic signs should be transposed phonetically into German. A large part of the IT programs used by the public administration does not have the capability to use diacritic signs.

The authorities refuse to issue excerpts from the civil-status registers as an official translation in the language of the national minority. Translators are instructed to produce a certified translation. However, such a translation does not have any official character.

Altogether, the provisions on the official languages constitute an extreme disadvantage for the language of the national minority. The issue has required reforms for a long time. As the conflict over topographical signs has dominated discussions as a whole in relation to the situation of the Slovene population in Carinthia, there were not even any initial steps by the Austrian Federal Government towards a discussion of a reform of the provisions on official languages.

Article 11 (Media)

The arrangements for the radio programs of "Radio Dva – Agora" are satisfactory. In the field of TV programs, though, one half-hour television program per week is not sufficient, when comparing this to the arrangements for other European national minorities. Considerable problems also exist in connection with press promotion. The Carinthian press-promotion law more or less rules out any promotion for newspapers published in the Slovene language on account of its criteria (number of copies, periodicity of publication, etc.). General press promotion funding is too low by far, and without additional promotional funding from the Republic of Slovenia, "Novice" – the only weekly newspaper that is not published by the Church – could not be printed.

Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities)

One should mention here that promotional funding for the national minorities has remained unchanged since 1995. As a result, it has actually decreased considerably. On account of the short deadline it is not possible to deal with this item in detail. It should be mentioned, though, that the funds granted to the Slovene Music School/ Glasbena šola are completely inadequate. The funding per pupil at Glasbena šola is less than ¼ of the funding granted per pupil in a German-language music school. This is in contradiction to the Carinthian regional legislation. Still, there is so far no readiness to increase the promotional funding. This ought to be also in contradiction to the provision of Article 7 item 4 of the State Treaty of Vienna.

Article 13 (Economic and social life)

The report on this Article is extremely cursory. On account of the short deadline for commenting is, however, not possible to comment on this point here and now.

Article 14 (Trans-frontier exchanges)

The report is incomplete and would have to be supplemented to a large extent. Two points should also be mentioned in this context:

At the instigation of the governor of the federal province of Carinthia the previously bilingual road signs along the route to Slovenia (for example Ljubljana/Laibach) were replaced by mono-lingual signs. The Austrian Federal Minister of Finance announced that as of 1 January 2008 the import of cigarettes from Slovenia will be limited to 200 units, unless they bear German warnings. This regulation is certainly contrary to EU provisions and is a discrimination of the Slovene language, especially since cigarettes with warnings in Italian, for example, may be imported without limitation in number. These are but two examples for the way in which trans-frontier exchanges continue to be burdened and depend essentially on the initiatives undertaken by the Slovene organizations.

III. It can be stated by way of summary:

- 1.) The deadline for detailed comments on the Report of the Republic of Austria by the organizations of the national minorities is far too short, and they must therefore reserve the right to make further comments.
- 2.) The Report is incomplete on many points and almost misleading, especially on the most topical issues in connection with the Slovene population in Carinthia, i.e. the problems of topographical signs and of Slovene as an official language.
- 3.) The Republic of Austria did not take comply with the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of 19 January 2005 with regard to the Slovene population in Carinthia.

Comments by the “Artikel VII Verein für Steiermark“:

- THE FIRST PAGES REFER TO HISTORY. OF COURSE, CARINTHIA IS IN THE FOREGROUND. “STYRIA” IS MENTIONED OCCASIONALLY IN ORDER TO DO JUSTICE TO THIS REGION (AS OF PAGE 11)

The Slovene population in Styria

As early as the beginning of the Middle Ages, there was a Slovene population on the territory of today’s federal province of Styria. It lived in peace with its German-speaking neighbors. Traces of Slavic settlements can still be found today in all parts of Styria. Numerous names of places and rivers point to this fact, for example “Graz” (from the Slovene word gradec = small fortress). Both on this side of the border and on the other side of today’s southern border of Styria, the Slovene population

belonged mainly to the rural population, whereas the middle classes in the towns and market places were primarily German-speaking.

On 1 December 1918, the “Kingdom of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia” was solemnly proclaimed in Belgrade. Already on 1 November Major Rudolf Maister had taken over the powers of command in the town of Marburg/Maribor. Then, his troops advanced northwards and occupied the bilingual region within a few weeks, including also several German-speaking municipalities to its north (such as, for example, Mureck). The army engaged in heavy fighting around the border municipalities of Soboth, Leutschach, Spielfeld, Radkersburg and the surrounding municipalities. These events left deep marks in the persons concerned and made life together difficult for many decades. After the South Slavic troops had withdrawn, there was not only persecution of those persons who had supported the occupiers, but the distrust against all persons of Slovene mother tongue also grew.

On 10 September 1919, the new boundaries of the national territory were laid down in the State Treaty of St. Germain between Austria and the former wartime opponents of the collapsed monarchy. The southern boundary of Styria with the newly founded South Slavic state (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia) was drawn in such a way that parts of the bilingual region (such as, for example, Windisch Bühel – south of Mureck – and Abstaller Feld) became part of Yugoslavia, whereas others (the areas around Soboth, Leutschach and Radkersburg) became part of Austria. When the border line was drawn, personal and economic relations were ruptured. For some farmers, the national boundary suddenly extended between their estates and their fields, sometimes even between their homes and their barns. As a result of the border line many – both Austrian and Slovene – places lost their back country, which accelerated the exodus movement. Up to the present times, the region along the border has been a crisis region.

After the occupation by the South-Slavs and with the new borderlines it became increasingly difficult for Slovenes in Styria to declare that Slovene was their mother tongue. The population was expected to indicate its loyalty to Austria and the German nationality. The liberation of Austria from National Socialism would have been an opportunity to promote the co-existence of two languages in the border region. In reality, though, the old fears and suppression patterns were continued.

These were further kindled by expelling the German-speaking population of lower Styria and by Yugoslavia claiming territory from Austria. The bilingual population was thus in a dual predicament: Persons admitting that Slovene was their mother tongue were readily suspected of being close, in ideological terms, to Communist Yugoslavia. In addition, the bilingual population lost its cross-border contacts more than ever before. Moreover, the economic situation of the bilingual population also deteriorated in the cut-off border location. There was therefore a massive exodus which, in turn, further decreased the bilingual population.

Change of Trend

The “Article VII Cultural Association for Styria” (Artikel VII Kulturverein für Steiermark / Društvo člen 7 za avstrijsko) is the organization representing the minority of Slovenes in Styria who are natives of the federal province of Styria (2001 census: about 2,200 persons). After many decades of political work, it is now represented in the advisory council for the national minority in the Federal Chancellery.

The change of trend – after many decades of non-recognition – came in 1988 when the “Article VII Cultural Association for Styria” (Artikel VII Kulturverein für Steiermark / Društvo člen 7 za avstrijsko) was founded. The association pointed out that there was this “forgotten minority”, it fought for its rights, as entrenched in the State Treaty and it had to fight against strong resentments in the beginning, as the dominating political forces denied its existence and spoke of an “error” in the State Treaty. The prevailing package deal between minorities’ issues in Austria and Slovenia obstructed the recognition process, and it was only with the political changes in the former Yugoslavia and the independence of Slovenia that recognition began to take shape.

In 1995 the association bought a farming estate at Laafeld/Potrna near Bad Radkersburg which was refurbished with assistance from Vienna and Laibach/Ljubljana and inaugurated officially in 1998 by Heinz Fischer, who was then president of the National Council. The association regards this cultural center as a place of encounter between Slovenes and Austrians, on the one hand, as well as a cultural center for the local monolingual and multi-lingual population. Avgust Pavel, who was born in the nearby village of Cankova, and his family, which lived in this house for a few years, gave their name to the cultural center. Pavel grew up being tri-

lingual – Slovene, Hungarian and German. He studied in Budapest and worked later as a philologist, ethnologist, poet, teacher at the University of Szeged and museum director. His efforts were to connect the peoples of Hungary and Slovenia. His life followed this principle of a multiple identity, which was the reason to choose him as the person to give his name to the center.

On the occasion of Slovenia’s accession to the EU on 1 May 2004 the expanded and newly designed museum of the minority was opened at the Pavel House. In addition to the already existing presentation of the history of the Slovene population in Styria, the basic concept was expanded to include all minorities living in the Bad Radkersburg region in the past and at present.

1_ **Nursery school:** BAKIP Mureck has joint projects with the nursery school at Apače/ Abstall on many occasions. Slovene is also offered to the pupils as an optional subject.

2_ **Slovene courses** are being offered at: Pavel House, Austro-Slovene Friendship Association, the regional Future Workshop (Ehrenhausen), “treffpunkt sprachen“ (University of Graz, additional program), Urania, WIFI, Retzhof (near Leibnitz), ...

3_ **Schools:** only Eibiswald is mentioned!!!

Radkersburg	101
VS Bad Radkersburg	
VS / HS Straden	
VS Mureck	
Leibnitz	
VS Arnfels	12
VS Ratsch a.d.W.	8
HS/RS Arnfels:	90
HS Ehrenhausen	18
HS/RS Leibnitz:	18
	146
Deutschlandsberg	
VS Eibiswald	11
	11

258

The data for Leibnitz and Radkersburg are still missing for the present school year

District Feldbach: PTS Kirchbach - 23 pupils

District Deutschlandsberg: VS Eibiswald - 22 pupils

The district school inspector for Radkersburg wants to make the Slovene language and a number of school partnerships the priority of the district. HS/RS Arnfels continues to develop its partnerships with OŠ Muta and OŠ Šentilj by way of numerous projects. HS Leibnitz II is looking for a Slovene partner school and/or has established first contacts.

The continuing training of Slovene teachers is another concern of the "Article VII Cultural Association". The association therefore informs teachers of seminars and new text books. In 2006, for the first time, a meeting of teachers was organized at the Pavel House so that teachers of Slovene can get to know each other and exchange opinions, as well as discuss problems and ideas. In this context, we receive support from Valerija Perger, a pedagogical consultant at Raab/Porabje, for the Slovene teachers, but also from teachers of Slovene in Carinthia.

VEČER, the daily newspaper published in Maribor, cannot be bought in Graz, nor can any other daily Slovene paper be obtained in Graz.

4_ **ORF:** It would be nice if at least *Dober dan*, *Koroška* could also be viewed in Styria at a normal time of the day. This is apart from the fact that the ORF has denied our existence (see press release).

5_ **Trans-frontier exchanges:**

Pavel House, Austro-Slovene Friendship Association, Graz (Ivanka Gruber), Kultur an der Mur (Culture along the Mur River), regional Future Workshop (Celebration along the border), Retzhof, Educational Center at Castle St. Martin, Styrian-Slovene Chamber of Commerce, and many others.

Clarification on the ORF's obligations concerning the culture of the minorities (attached):

1. A clear denial was issued in response to a complaint filed by the "Österreichische Volksgruppenzentrum" (Austrian Center for the National Minorities - ÖVZ) concerning the television and radio rights of one section of the minorities living in Austria. The reasons given by the director in his negative reply are more or less based on the

viewpoint that the national minorities already receive an over-abundance of programs.

2. In the case of the recognized minority of the “Slovenes in Styria”, however, this judgment even ventures to deny the Slovenes living in Styria – who indicated their affiliation in the most recent census in 2001 (and they account for nearly one fifth of the national minority of the Slovenes in Carinthia – the existence of a minority status. So far, these arguments had only been used in the discussions over minorities by strongly nationalistically inclined forces and this is a novel feature in the way that the ORF as a public-law broadcasting corporation deals with this issue.

3. It must be stated that for preparing its comments (file number GZ 611.922/0001 BKS2007) the ORF neither went on site, nor contacted representatives of the minority. It only quoted from the contribution of a historian of obvious affiliation on the Internet. This serves as a basis for the ORF’s arguments. The process of researching the issue should not be a subject for discussion. However, it must be vehemently refuted that – at a time of (largely justified) excess coverage of the rights of migrants by the ORF, an autochthonous minority is denied its existence!

We therefore appeal of the civil-society public to continue the discussion and to let this judgment not stand as it is.

Advisory Council for the Croatian National Minority

At its meeting on 5 December 2007 the Advisory Council for the Croatian National Minority commented as follows on the draft report by the Republic of Austria:

1. The advisory council thinks that the table with the results of the 2001 census is misleading with regard to the language of everyday usage (“Introduction – Item 3. The Numerical Strength of the National Minorities”), as the number of persons speaking the languages of the national minorities is usually given in proportion to the total population and not in relation to the number of indications concerning a non-German everyday language. Moreover, the advisory council is of the opinion that the Croatian national minority was put at a statistical disadvantage by the distinction

between “Croatian” and “Burgenland-Croatian”, as a similar distinction between the language variants was not made for any of the other languages of the national minorities. The number of speakers of languages of the national minorities – and especially of Hungarian – is increased considerably by non-autochthonous speakers of the languages of the national minorities (which can also be gathered from the fact that a large number of these speakers were born abroad). For the Croatian national minority, though, the Croats migrating to Austria were not counted as belonging to the national minority. It actually happened that Burgenland Croats indicated “Croatian” by mistake at the last census. This is why the Croatian national minority seems to be smaller in proportion to the other national minorities than is actually the case.

2. The advisory council suggests that the federal province of Vienna should also be recognized as an autochthonous settlement area of the Croatian population and be granted protection according to Part III of the Charter.

3. The advisory council points out that the federal province of Burgenland only pays for the assistant nursery-school teachers during the first two years and that the operators of nursery schools – as a rule the municipalities – must then refund the costs to the federal province. It is also regarded as unsatisfactory that the public nursery schools in Carinthia do not have their own regional legislation on bilingualism and that the public bilingual nursery schools in Burgenland do not receive any promotional funding for the national minorities, which is in contrast to the public bilingual nursery schools in Carinthia.

Advisory Council for the National Minority of the Roma

On 5 December 2007 the Advisory Council for the National Minority of the Roma made the following comments on the draft of the 2nd Report of the Republic of Austria pursuant to Article 15 of the Charter on Minority or Regional languages:

Ad “Introduction / 2.6.”: Here one should add that in 1988 the detainees of Lackenbach were given equal status as the other victims of the National Socialist regime, as defined by the legislation on care for the victims. The Roma association at

Oberwart was founded in 1989 as a result of the dissatisfaction among Roma youth with being denied access to places and public events.

Ad “III.6. Romany in the Federal Province of Burgenland“: here one should add that the remaining funds from the Reconciliation Fund were paid into the Roma Fund, of which EUR 90,000.00 can be spent every year on educational purposes for pupils, juveniles and adults belonging to the national minority of the Roma. The funds are used, inter alia, for the RomBus of the “RomaSerice” association and to promote the school bus of the association “Roma Oberwart”. An amount of EUR 200,000.00 has been earmarked for research purposes. The Roma Fund supports the members of the national minority throughout the national territory.

Advisory Council for the Hungarian National Minority

At its meeting on 7 December 2007 the Advisory Council for the Hungarian National Minority commented as follows on the draft for a Second Report by the Republic of Austria in connection with the European Charter for the Minority or Regional Languages:

It is a concern of the Advisory Council for the Hungarian Minority that on the occasion of the next increase of the total funding available for promoting the national minorities a just distribution of the funds is ensured among the six Austrian national minorities, based on objective, measurable and documented criteria.