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**FOURTH REPORT SUBMITTED BY ITALY
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THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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**IV REPORT BY ITALY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES
(IN COMPLIANCE WITH ART. 25 PARAGRAPH 2)**

YEAR 2014

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Italian legal system provides for a specific form of protection through criminal law to counter the manifestations of racism and xenophobia, which include manifestations of thought aimed at disseminating ideas based on racial or ethnic superiority or hate, as well as the incitement to commit acts of discrimination or violence for racial, ethnic and/or religious reasons.

According to legislation in force, an aggravating circumstance for all crimes is racial discrimination or hate. Awareness raising measures involving all layers of society are put in place in order to prevent discrimination, intolerance, racism and xenophobia.

There exist manifold initiatives in our Country, which have strengthened the protection and promotion of the rights of linguistic minorities' members. The regional legislation aimed at the enhancement of local languages and cultures has also considerably developed.

The Department of Regional Affairs Self-Government and Sports of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers endorsed the proposal of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection of Historical Linguistic Minorities and as a result it allocated the necessary resources to set up or continue the activities of linguistic helpdesks, which are the real point of contact between the minority language speaking population and the Public Administration.

Despite the economic crisis and the related budget cuts, the allocations in favour of the linguistic minorities have progressively increased, in relation to the support to the activities envisaged by Laws No. 482/1999 and 38/2001 (in favour of the Slovenian linguistic minority) respectively. In order to uphold the activities of collaboration with, and protection of the Slovenian minority a joint body has been established at the Ministry of the Interior with the task of studying in detail the issues that are relevant to the minority itself.

Account must be taken of the fact that in Regions like Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Sardinia and Trentino Alto Adige/Südtirol, *ad hoc* legislation instruments exist that considerably supplement state funds for linguistic minorities and that favour an in-depth promotion of the languages and cultures of the concerned minorities.

When taking stock of the state of implementation of Laws No. 482/1999 and 38/2001, the resulting outcome is once again positive, as is shown by the increasing demand of minority language use, the greater awareness of their value as well as by the initiatives aimed at the preservation of the written heritage.

As far as the protection of the Roma and Sinti communities is concerned, the Italian Government is implementing the National Strategy for the inclusion of these communities in the social environment in relation to the four intervention areas, by improving the schooling of minors and giving employment opportunities.

It is anyhow necessary that a synergic action begins among the European States, to better carry out the fight against Roma exclusion, which is a priority for the Italian Government.

I. Practical solutions adopted at national level to raise awareness concerning the outcome of the Third Monitoring Cycle of the Framework Convention

In our legal system the concept of minority is linked to linguistic specificity and it is based on art. 6 of the Constitution, which states “The Republic protects linguistic minorities with relevant provisions”.

Protection is related to the recognition of the inviolable rights of man, both as an individual and as part of social groups in which he expresses his personality and to the equal social dignity of all citizens without distinctions in terms of sex, language, religion, political opinions and personal and social conditions. (articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution).

This principle is reinforced by other articles that, on the one hand, aim at ensuring that the Italian legal system comply with generally recognised international law provisions (art. 10) and on the other they focus the attention on the adjustment of legislation principles and methods to the requirements arising from autonomy and decentralisation (art. 5).

The system of local and regional autonomy is particularly relevant to the protection and promotion of minorities.

A few minority groups living in border regions enjoy a special form of autonomy as the Statutes of these Regions were adopted by means of constitutional laws.

An important stage in the development of our legal system was achieved by means of Law No. 482 of 15 December 1999 entitled “Provisions to Protect the Historical Linguistic Minorities”. This Law, though upholding the principle of national unity, recognises the multiplicity of the linguistic and cultural forms of expression in our Country and at the same time it attaches importance to the role of autonomy in terms of administrative decentralisation by allocating to local authorities fundamental tasks in the implementation of relevant provisions.

The legal framework was completed by means of Law No. 38 of 23 February 2001 entitled “Provisions in Favour of the Slovenian Minority of Friuli Venezia Giulia”.

The aim of the law is ensuring the consistency of the protective measures in favour of this minority, which lives in the majority of the Region’s Provinces, including some which enjoyed a particular system of protection arising from international agreements concluded after the Second World War, namely art. 8 of the Treaty of Osimo, concluded with former Yugoslavia and ratified by means of Law No. 73 of 14 March 1977; art. 8 confirmed the protective provisions in favour of the Slovenian minority envisaged in the special Statute attached to the London Memorandum of 5 October 1954.

Furthermore it is worth stressing that in almost all Regions where minority language speaking communities live, protective provisions have been issued in the framework of the responsibilities entrusted to the Regions by the Constitution, in keeping with the general principles set at European and international level.

Upon conclusion of the Third Monitoring Cycle on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities, the Italian Government reiterated its commitment towards a constructive dialogue with all actors involved in the implementation of the recommendations and of the principles they contained.

The elements that have emerged during the monitoring cycle have been debated at length in the course of conferences at local and national level, particularly during the thematic meetings envisaged by the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Travellers. The “Panels” organised by *UNAR* (National Office for Racial Antidiscrimination) were subdivided by thematic areas and were based not only on an interministerial approach but also on an interdisciplinary approach, thereby assuring the involvement of representatives of Roma and Sinti communities, as well as of Non Governmental Organisations active in this sector.

At national and local level the communication and dissemination of results was also possible during meetings with social practitioners, Third Sector associations and Roma community representatives which were organised in the framework of the project “Enhancing the Skills of Practitioners with regard to Roma” and which involved more than 500 public practitioners, Third Sector and volunteers’ organisations and Roma community representatives.

The issues concerning the historical minorities were disseminated as appropriate in formal and informal meetings with the organisations of minorities coordinated by CONFEMILI, which were held at local and national level; they actively participated in the drawing up of the present report by directly providing their contributions and remarks, including criticisms, which were all taken account of in the present document.

II Measures taken to address core issues

In its recommendations addressed to Italy and adopted with resolution CM/Res CMN(2012)10 dated 4 July 2012, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe hopes that a formal dialogue is held with the Slovenian minority, including with the aim of examining the implementation of the legislation that regulates the protection of the Slovenian minority, in particular Law No. 38/2001.

In order to strengthen the cooperation activities and the dialogue with the Slovenian speaking minority as well as to identify the instruments to reinforce the guarantees to the rights of those communities, the Permanent Institutional Panel on Issues concerning the Slovenian Speaking Minority in Italy was established by means of a decree of the Minister of the Interior dated 4 July 2012; its tasks include research work and in-depth study on issues concerning the implementation of Law No. 38/2001 and concerning general issues related to the protection of minorities. An operational section of the Panel was established at Trieste Prefecture, by means of the above mentioned decree. The Panel is convened to discuss issues concerning the implementation of Law No. 38/2001 and it had positive repercussions on the minority itself. Representatives of the Joint Institutional Committee for the Slovenian Minority, of the Slovenian Cultural Economic Union and of the Confederation of Slovenian Minorities also take part in the meetings in the position of permanent members. Executives and experts of the various items dealt with are invited to participate in the various meetings of the Permanent Panel.

In addition to monitoring the activity of the implementation of legislation, the Panel took part in the elimination of a number of hindrances and in overcoming delays, particularly with reference to funds allocated by the central Government to the minority to be transferred to the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, as well as with regard to the release of part of State allocations to the publication sector in Slovenian. During its most recent meeting the Panel has dealt with the issue of the Bilingual Comprehensive Institute of San Pietro al Natisone, whose building has been declared unsafe and whose pupils have been moved to other provisional locations. During the meeting

various solutions have been outlined , to be studied and evaluated. However, the renovation works of the building cannot start because of the need to comply with the constraints of the internal Stability Pact, laid down by means of a State Law.

In order to implement articles 9 and 15 of Law 482/1999 entitled “Provisions for the Protection of Historical Linguistic Minorities” and article 8 of Law No. 38/2001 entitled “Provisions for the Protection of the Slovenian Minority in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region”, the Regional Authorities promote the use of the minority languages in public offices and aims at guaranteeing the oral and written use of protected languages in the offices of the Public Administrations, by issuing specific grants.

To promote the use of Slovenian in the public sphere, various provincial and municipal public administrations have started language courses of Slovenian for public employees. By using the funds envisaged by Law No.38/2001 they have employed both temporary and permanent staff with a knowledge of Slovenian for translations and they also started the activity of helpdesks and/or offices for the Slovenian minority. Further initiatives have been adopted by the private bodies holding a public service concession.

Since 2001, the use of Slovenian has spread considerably in elected bodies and a number of meeting rooms have been provided with simultaneous interpretation equipment. Despite the presence of the relevant simultaneous interpretation equipment, some difficulties have been encountered in the Municipality of Gorizia, where the use of Slovenian is not yet possible within the Municipal Council.

The number of bodies that apply for the funding of projects involving linguistic helpdesks is constant in time, but only a few decide to share the service by setting up a network and optimising resources and experiences.

The One-Stop-Shop for Slovenians has been set up at the Government Commissioner’s Office - Prefecture of Trieste, thereby implementing art. 8 (4) of Law No. 38/2001, which makes it possible for public Administrations to rely on a single office to enable Slovenian citizens to actually exercise their right to the use of their own language. The one-stop-shop was opened by the Government Commissioner with funds of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; it was inaugurated in December 2007 and participant bodies include the following: Provincial Police Headquarters, Regional Education Authority, Regional Agency of Revenue and Customs, *INPS* (National Institute of Social Security) and *INAIL* (National Institute of Insurance against Accidents occurring at the Workplace).

The One-Stop-Shop serves as a reference point of contact of all the state sector and it is at the disposal of Slovenian speaking Italian citizens who want to utilise their own language in their relations with the Administrations that signed the relevant convention and who want to obtain information and translations and submit applications. More specifically the above Office can be turned to concerning information on administrative procedures under the responsibility of the Prefecture, of the Provincial Police Headquarters, on income declarations, on official communications to citizens concerning the recovery of credits owed to the State, taxes and levies, public state schools with Slovenian as teaching language and all school issues, issues relating to customs as well as to services provided by *INPS* and *INAIL*.

Projects to support the provincial offices of State Administrations have been carried out with funds envisaged by art. 9 of Law No. 482/1999 to guarantee the full use of Slovenian to citizens who apply for it. This initiative meets a twofold need – drawing up a complete set of bilingual forms for

the members of the Slovenian minority and train the staff of involved bodies by means of language courses to enable them to interact with persons wishing to exercise their right to use Slovenian in their relations with Public Offices.

The activities of the Regional Authority is also important, as it allocates funds to projects of the involved Public Administrations at local level concerning the implementation of the right to the public use of the individual minority languages recognised at regional level. Although differences in procedures do exist as a result of the application of the provisions of law No. 482/1999 and 38/2001 respectively, **the types of projects eligible for funding** include the following: establishment of linguistic helpdesks for relations with citizens that use the minority language, training courses in the minority language for staff of the involved administrations, translation of official deeds and documents of the Public Administration and interpretation in connection with the activities of joint bodies, making of state and institutional signs, design of institutional websites using minority languages, design of institutional websites, publication of promotional and dissemination material.

In the course of the last three years the following amounts were made available by the Central State Authorities through the Regional Authority to support the above mentioned activities aimed at favouring the use of minority languages throughout the region:

2,816,638 Euros based on Law 482/1999, to projects of local authorities of the region mainly to support the use of Friulian and German and to a limited extent of Slovenian, which, in turn, can rely on the resources envisaged by Law 38/2001. In this connection 59 linguistic helpdesks were funded on average each year.

5,098,610 Euros, based on art. 8 of Law No. 38/2001; on average 29 public administrations and 25 linguistic helpdesks in the regional territory received funding every year; the relevant sums were paid out upon presentation of the list of projects concerning the use of Slovenian in the Public Administration by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

In 2013 7,618 million Euros were allocated by the State to the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, for the Slovenian linguistic community, as envisaged by articles 16 and 21 of Law No. 38/2001. In 2012 the following amounts were paid out: 4,834 Million Euros were assigned to the support of the activities envisaged by articles 16 and 21 of Law No. 38/2001, 2,048 Million Euros as a contribution envisaged for the year 2011 (art. 8 – Use of Slovenian in the Public Administration) and 2.5 Million Euros to support activities and initiatives for 2011.

The administrative framework of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region comprises the ***Servizio corregionali all'estero e lingue minoritarie*** (Service for Fellow Regional Inhabitants Abroad and Minority Languages) which has the capability to use Friulian, Slovenian and German in relations with bodies and associations of the minority language communities that want to communicate with the Service itself in their own languages, for the purposes of Law No. 26/2007 for the Slovenian minority, 29/2007 for the Friulian Community and 20/2009 for the German speaking minority.

As regards **access to media in the minority language** for all members of the Slovenian community, the regional branch of *RAI* –Radio Televisione Italiana (Italian Public Television Network) in Friuli Venezia Giulia broadcasts programmes and news dedicated to the Slovenian speaking minority living in the regional territory. In compliance among others with the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, *RAI* is expected to broadcast 4,517 hours of radio programmes and 208 hours of television programmes in Slovenian yearly.

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers rely on the support of an Advisory and Supervisory Board whose headquarters and secretariat are hosted by the Government Commissioner's Office of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

In 2012 the regional branch of *RAI* in Friuli Venezia Giulia produced 4,558 hours of radio broadcasts in Slovenian, 3,698 of which are made up by programmes produced by the Programming Department (*Struttura di Programmazione*) using Slovenian, while 860 hours are made up by news programmes produced by the Slovenian News Department (*Redazione giornalistica slovena*). The editorial contents of the radio and television programming produced by the Programming Department using Slovenian are based on the fundamental activities and priority tasks of the public broadcasting service. Special attention is paid to the continuing updating of contents and forms of language to enliven the interest and appreciation of the reference public, for whom the public broadcasting service is a cultural institution of paramount importance. Over the last few years considerable attention and commitment have been dedicated to the enhancement of radio listening among the young, including by exploiting opportunities offered by the Internet and other media that are now largely used.

The programmes offered by the public broadcasting service in Slovenian reflect the wide range of cultural, historical and social aspects of the Slovenian minority, but it also carries out an important role in the connection and exchange among cultures, regions and neighbouring States. This is also possible thanks to specific radio and television programmes produced in collaboration with the central-European radio-television companies, in particular the neighbouring RTV in Slovenia and its regional branch in Koper-Capodistria.

Beside the programmes of *RAI*, in the **sector of publications and information** in Slovenian, Regional Law No. 26/2007, art. 18(2) envisages the category of bodies tasked with the organisation of information and editorial initiatives in Slovenian; they carry out varied editorial and publication activities such as the publication of the only daily newspaper using Slovenian in Italy (Primorski dnevnik), the Novi Matajur weekly magazine, the Gabel and Mladika monthly magazines, the Dom magazine (published twice a month) and the Slov.it monthly bulletin.

As provided for by art. 18 of Regional Law No. 26/2007, the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Region **supports the cultural, artistic, scientific, educational, sport, recreational, information and editorial activities and initiatives** promoted and carried out by the institutions and associations of the Slovenian minority. In this connection the regional Register of the organisations of the linguistic Slovenian minority and the regional Fund of the Slovenian Linguistic Minority have been established.

The Register is adopted every year by means of the Regional Financial Law and it includes the bodies and organisations of the Slovenian Linguistic Minority. The bodies awarded primary importance and responsible of institutional, cultural, artistic, scientific, educational and sport activities amount to 15, while the bodies that organise information and editorial initiatives using Slovenian amount to 6.

The financial support that the Region allocates in connection with the above mentioned article is based on state funding, which at present is regulated by the Financial Law known as Stability Law. The representatives of the minority have expressed the hope that a solution is found whereby the amount of funding becomes stable to be able to plan the activities and the structures of the professional organisations of the Slovenian minority relying on a stable financial basis. However, the present economic situation and the related aspects of the so called "spending review" require to reorganise resources with caution.

In connection with the full implementation of art. 19 of Law No. 38/2001, **various difficulties** continue to be experienced. As far as the handing back of the Trgovski dom building (in Corso Verdi, in Gorizia) is concerned, it is about to be made partially available, as envisaged by the above mentioned article. Hindrances exist in connection with the transfer of the “Narodni dom” House of Culture (Trieste, San Giovanni quarter) to the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region; the “Narodni dom” is made up by a main building and dependencies and it is to be used for free for the activities of cultural and scientific institutions using Slovenian; difficulties are also experienced in connection with the understanding between the Region and the University of Trieste whereby the building of via Filzi 9 in Trieste should host cultural and scientific Slovenian and Italian speaking institutions.

The Joint Institutional Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority carries on its intensive activity, in collaboration with the regional, provincial and municipal public bodies and with the other agencies that provide public services. The initiatives carried out by the above Committee have undoubtedly played an important role in bringing about more attention and understanding of what is provided for by the protection legislation, e.g. the appeal addressed to Municipalities to appoint representatives of the Slovenian minority in the Committees on Landscape and Urban Development, as provided for in the above mentioned protection legislation.

As far as the **educational provision** is concerned, a network of state schools using Slovenian exist in the Province of Trieste covering all levels of education. The educational provision in Slovenian is supplemented by non-state and private schools and institutes, including the municipal kindergartens, a vocational training institute recognised by the Region and a private music school supported by the funds envisaged by Law No. 38/2001. Over the last few years the number of pupils enrolled in the schools with Slovenian as teaching language has increased. These schools are allocated the human resources (including in derogation from the national standards in force) necessary to support the educational provision. The initiatives on the teaching and learning of Slovenian in schools are dealt with under the subsequent item 14.

The schools with Slovenian as teaching language carry out their activities mainly in private facilities and buildings.

The Sindikit slovenske sole – Slovenian School Trade Union – is a **trade union organisation** of the teaching and non-teaching personnel of schools with Slovenian as teaching language in Friuli-Venezia-Giulia; the Region identified it as the organisation representing the Slovenian linguistic minority in the school personnel sector; in 2010 a preliminary list of joint bodies to be supplemented with Slovenian minority representatives was identified thereby starting the partial implementation of art. 14 of Regional Law No. 26/2007, in compliance with art. 21(1 and 2) of Law No. 38/2001.

In Gorizia, the pupils of the two Slovenian language musical centres can attend the pre-academic courses taught in Slovenian and they can sit for their examinations using Slovenian at the end of the academic courses on A level Rhythm Theory and Music Perception. The examinations take place before the Internal Examining Commissions of the State Conservatoires of both Udine and Trieste, whose members have Slovenian as their mother tongue or have a good command of it.

The Resolution adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 July 2012 on the implementation of the Framework Convention by Italy contained a reference to the **lack of a legislative framework for the integration and the protection of Roma and Sinti**.

No specific piece of legislation of our legal system recognises and protects the Roma communities living in Italy as linguistic minorities as they lack a stable connection with the territory, as it is well known.

However there is a lively parliamentary debate aiming at the definition of provisions for the recognition and the protection of the Romani language and many bills have been tabled in this connection:

- Chamber of Deputies Act No. 4446 of 22 June 2011, upon the initiative of Hon. Maria Letizia De Torre and others, entitled “Modifications to Law No. 482 of 15 December 1999, concerning the Recognition and Protection of the Roma and Sinti Historical Linguistic Minorities”;
- Senate Act No. 2562 of 17 February 2011, upon the initiative of sen. Pietro Marcenaro and others, entitled “Modifications to Law No. 482 of 1 December 1999, concerning the Recognition and Protection of the Roma and Sinti Historical Linguistic Minority”;
- Senate Act No. 2558 of 15 February 2011, upon the initiative of sen. Pietro Marcenaro and others, entitled “Modifications to Law No. 211 of 20 July 2000, concerning the Extension of the Remembrance Day to the Roma and Sinti People”;
- Senate Act No. 2552 of 9 February 2011, upon the initiative of sen. Marco Perduca and others, entitled “Provisions for the Protection of and Equal Opportunities for the Roma and Sinti”;
- Senate Act No. 770 of 4 June 2013, upon initiative of senators Marco Perduca and Lo Giudice, entitled “Provisions for the Protection of and Equal Opportunities for the Roma and Sinti”, which doesn’t modify the Framework Law on the Protection of Historical Linguistic Minorities but tables an ad hoc piece of legislation laying down a set of linguistic-cultural protective provisions as well as measures for an active and proactive participation of the minority.

Despite the commitment entered into by Parliament and the various projects and bills that have been tabled, a specific national piece of legislation for the cultural and linguistic recognition and protection of the Roma population has not yet been adopted.

Although a national piece of legislation is lacking, the Italian Government supports the Roma and Sinti peoples with specific measures , particularly in connection with education, house building and inclusion in employment and health care.

In order to favour the integration of the Roma and Sinti, the **National Strategy for the Inclusion of the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti (2012-2020)** was issued to implement Communication No. 173/2011 of the European Commission; the Strategy was tabled during the Council of Ministers meeting of 24 February 2012 and it was adopted by the European Commission on 21 May 2012 with Communication No. 226. In its capacity as National Focal Point, *UNAR* began the implementation of the Strategy, by starting up the envisaged governance facility as from June 2012.

One of the objectives Italy wants to achieve through the National Strategy is overcoming the approach to the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti issue based on mere emergency measures and on a

limited political and institutional perspective; Italy rather aims at taking into consideration the opportunity of planning medium and long term integration interventions in view of the definition of the Europe 2020 Agenda, because it no longer wants to adopt “extraordinary” measures.

The general objectives of the Strategy are pursued by fully accepting the content of Communication No. 173/2011 of the European Commission and by working in a continuing and synergic interaction with the system of the institutional actors and of the civil society.

In the light of its inspiring principles, e.g. inclusiveness (that is contrary to exclusion), human rights approach, gender perspective and subsidiarity, since the beginning *UNAR* has aimed at involving all the relevant stakeholders not only at central and local level but also those belonging to civil society and representing the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities in Italy, despite the presence of numerous difficulties.

More specifically, *UNAR* laid the foundations for the implementation of the First National Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti in Italy, 2012-2020, which takes inspiration from the so called human rights approach and the gender perspective; the Strategy is based on four basic “Axes”: Employment, Education, Health Care and Lodgings, to be developed relying on a strong interministerial coordination and organised through Regional Panels and Inclusion Plans at local level.

In January 2012 *UNAR* started a first round of consultations both at political level, through the Control Board (*Cabina di Regia*) coordinated by the then Minister of International Cooperation and Integration, and at technical level together with the competent Administrations at national level and the Non Governmental Associations and the Federations of Roma and Sinti Associations that exist throughout the national territory.

In order to implement the Strategy, *UNAR* put in place the envisaged governance facility, first of all by creating the Task Force for the collection of statistical data, in collaboration with *ISTAT* (National Institute of Statistics), *ANCI* (National Association of Italian Municipalities) and the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) of the European Union. Since November 2012, *UNAR* has carried out activities to raise the awareness of the Authorities in charge of the coordination of Thematic National Panels.

Since December 2012 the following thematic panels have been set up and met with the coordination of the competent Administrations: National Panel of Regions, Panel of Legal Issues; Panel of Labour and Social Policies; Panel of Health Care; Panel of Education and Panel of House Policies.

In the framework of the above Control Board, the Minister of Integration has planned a meeting with Regions and Associations, to analyse and give new momentum to the activities that are under way or to be undertaken over the next few months.

In view of the beginning of the activities of the Regional Panels of Roma Inclusion, *UNAR* has had a fruitful meeting with the Conference of Regions, followed by an invitation made by the Conference itself aimed at the establishment of Regional Panels within the Italian Autonomous provinces, aimed at the social inclusion of the Roma and Sinti communities. The Regional Panels are coordinated by the regional institutional figure directly responsible of each relevant issue and the participation of the other involved regional offices is envisaged as is the participation of all peripheral State Administrations, Provinces and Municipalities with an interest in the issue of Roma; the associations and the bodies of the civil society active in the protection of the Roma and Sinti communities will also be involved. The Regional Panels have the task of raising the awareness

of municipal and provincial Authorities and of monitoring the implementation of the Strategy at local level.

The activities of panels have begun in the following regions: Emilia Romagna, Liguria, Tuscany, Latium, Molise, Umbria and Calabria; it is hoped that similar activities also start in Campania, Apulia and Sicily and in the regions of Northern Italy, where there is a considerable presence of Roma and Sinti communities. To this end, *UNAR* has already started operational meetings with the regional Administrations of Piedmont, Liguria, Tuscany, Emilia Romagna, Campania and with the Municipal Authorities of Rome, Genoa, Milan, Bologna, Turin, Bari, Palermo, Catania and Naples.

In order to involve to a greater extent the relevant associations in the decision-making process, *UNAR* published a Call for expression of interest, in order to secure the participation of the Associations in the National and Regional Panels. The call is addressed to the Associations that carry out activities in connection with the fight against ethnic discrimination and to the bodies that are active in the area of the inclusion of Roma and Sinti communities. Following the examination of the applications that were submitted, 94 Associations were included in the lists that were drawn up and in which associations were subdivided between Associations and Federation with relevance at national level, with which the functioning of the Strategy could also be shared, and Associations that operate at local level only, which will be involved in the Regional Panels that are about to be set up.

As National Focal Point and in consideration of its traditional mission, *UNAR* monitors and promotes capacity-building activities at all levels. In this connection, the following deserves specific attention:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between *FORMEZ* (Research and Training Centre for the Modernisation of the Public Administration) and *ANCI* for the development of specific activities in the cities where the risk of social exclusion is higher, like Naples, Rome and Milan.
2. The Ministry of Labour has tasked *FORMEZ* to favour the dissemination of best practices among Regions and Local Authorities. The “DIESIS” project is funded through the National Operational Programme – Systemic Actions of ESF Funds 2007-2013 and its aim is identifying best practices in the area of social inclusion, following the example of measures that have already been tried at international level. This project is part of a more far reaching think-tank and it will involve various Member States (e.g. France and Bulgaria) and the relevant Departments of the European Commission. National and regional relevant bodies (first and foremost *UNAR*) are participating in the project.

In this framework, numerous measures aimed at information and awareness raising have been carried out at all levels of society in order to prevent, counter and effectively punish all forms of discrimination, intolerance, racism and xenophobia; moreover activities connected with two projects have been carried out (“Enhancing the Skills of Practitioners concerning the Roma Issue” and the Council of Europe “Dosta!” campaign).

As regards the former project, the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for the protection of civil rights, has received funding amounting to 936,720.00 Euros in connection with the ERDF National Operational Programme (“Security for Development”) 2007-2013 Convergence Objective, 2.6 Operational Objective (“Limiting the Effects of Expressions of Deviance”).

The project was drawn up by the Central Directorate of Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities of the above mentioned Department; subsequently it was carried out by Consorzio NOVA onlus, which won the public tender. The project focused on two major objectives : on the one hand investing resources to enhance the skills of public and private practitioners and disseminating more awareness on this phenomenon to favour the inclusion of Roma at local level and on the other setting up operational and cultural networks among public practitioners (high ranking officials of Prefectures, local authorities, Local Health Units, local branches of the Ministries of Justice and Education) and private practitioners belonging to Third Sector entities (volunteers' associations and other associations) active in the sector of the Roma phenomenon.

This initiative made it possible to achieve the following results: enhancing the skills of public practitioners dealing with social issues relating to the general understanding of the Roma phenomenon, the Roma history and culture, with particular reference to their presence in Italy; involving Roma cultural mediators, who are important points of contact not only in the relations with the members of this community particularly in connection with the awareness raising of Roma parents on the schooling of their minor children but also in easing their access to social and health care services; developing the knowledge of legal and regulatory aspects concerning emerging social issues, particularly in connection with the presence and social inclusion of Roma (social and health care services, security, schooling of children, compliance with the law); promoting the development of relations among institutions; favouring the acquisition of skills and knowledge necessary to create networking; acquiring best practices through networking that are likely to support the integration process of the Roma community.

The project activities have been carried out in the following provinces of the 4 Convergence Objective Regions (2007-2013); Catanzaro, Cosenza, Crotona and Reggio Calabria (in Calabria); Caserta and Naples (in Campania); Bari, Lecce and Foggia (in Apulia); Agrigento, Catania, Palermo, Siracusa and Messina (in Sicily).

The initiative included a training stage, a stage for the creation of a network of relations among institutions and the communities themselves and a stage for the dissemination of results.

The training was organised on a provincial level and it included two sessions- a "basic training" according to the "classroom training" methodology, which was focused on issues concerning Roma culture and the management of the phenomenon, in terms of active policies; a "practical training" focused on the drawing up of project drafts concerning the various aspects of the social integration of Roma, with particular reference to the integration of Roma women who experience further discrimination due to the condition of women and to the integration of minors.

Thanks to the network of relations among the institutions and the communities themselves, the project promoted the knowledge of the various situations under scrutiny. The participants were experts interested in the Roma issues and came from various organisations; through mutual relations they identified the most appropriate instruments to favour the social inclusion of the Roma and they designed practical projects on various relevant sectors (social and health care services, assistance to compliance with the law and to schooling, easing access to employment); these projects took account of the situation existing on the territory and were likely to be used for possible future interventions. In order to favour the creation of a network of all involved individuals, seminars were held at provincial level during which the projects drafts were presented and discussed to assess their practical feasibility at local level. An important aspect of the network was the participation of Roma cultural mediators, capable of favouring the establishment of stable points of contact both for the institutions and for the communities themselves, providing guidance to the

members of the communities on the services existing on the territory in connection with the population register, health care, education, training, rest areas, etc.

The presentation of the results achieved through training and in connection with best practices took place during regional conferences and it ended with a national seminar held in Rome on 18 December 2013. Work on the territory was also carried out, e.g. meetings with the Roma communities.

The DOSTA! campaign was launched in 2010, in this connection and in line with the National Strategy *UNAR*, the National Focal Point, is convinced of the importance of systematising and extending the Campaign to various situations and areas. As far as the communication sector is concerned, the “DOSTA!” campaign was initially launched by the Council of Europe in eastern European countries and *UNAR* promoted it in 30 Italian cities, in close cooperation with the ad hoc Roma, Sinti and Caminanti Working Group. In order to organise the Campaign, *UNAR* set up a coordination technical Panel with the Roma and Sinti associations and federations. The activities of the campaign were funded with a yearly budget amounting to 200,000.00 Euros and they took place in 2010-2011 when the following were organised and/or designed : events, projects, cultural and educational initiatives, training and information campaigns, including a training course for journalists, a tool-kit for schools and various advertisements to be posted on public transportation vehicles. *UNAR* formally confirmed the continuation of the project for 2012-2013. The DOSTA Campaign has been turned into a permanent activity, to be extended to the entire national territory as from 2013, in close collaboration with the Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities (and through the Regional Panels, where they are established), as a result, the outcome of the initiative will be made available to the National Focal Point, in order to promote awareness raising campaigns on the workplace, in the sector of mass media and in connection with the provision of goods and services, so as to overcome all forms of prejudice and discrimination and to promote prevention and the peaceful settlement of controversies, as well as the dissemination of information, of ad hoc instruments and of the protective networks put in place by *UNAR* on the basis of Action No. 2.

Listed below are some particularly important *UNAR* activities implementing the National Strategy:

- the National Technical Panel on Health providing for health measures for Roma and Sinti for an amount of Euro 350,000.00 allocated by the Ministry of Health;
- the National Technical Panel on Statistical Analysis chaired by *ISTAT* which includes representatives of the National Association of Italian Municipalities (*ANCI*), *ISTAT*, the National Association of Italian Provinces (*UPI*), *UNAR* and the Italian Ministry of Public Education, University and Research.
The Panel has already started its consultations. The allocation for its activities amounts to 500,000.00 Euros. As to data collection, *UNAR* also set up a working group involving *FRA*, *UNAR* and *ISTAT* called *CERIDER* (*UNAR* Permanent Research Centre on Racial Discrimination), for which 250,000.00 Euros were allocated.
- In order to ensure greater synergy between central and local administrations and *UNAR*-National Focal Point, the Department for Equal Opportunities signed an agreement with *FORMEZ PA* which established the allocation of 500,000.00 Euros for the years 2013-2014. The agreement also covers the financing of local inclusion projects in the cities of Naples, Rome, Milan, Turin and Venice.

As regards awareness raising campaigns, the Italian research institutes *ISTISSS* and *IREF* have started projects, such as Action no. 6 - Axis D, for informing and training mediators, respectively.

To this effect, *UNAR* allocated 130,000 Euros for each of the two projects. In addition, with the cooperation of *ISTISSS*, *UNAR* is completing the translation of the fact-sheets on Roma drawn up by the Council of Europe, to be disseminated in the national education system. 40,000.00 Euros were allocated for this project.

Since early 2013, on occasion of the Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January), the National Focal Point has been taking special initiatives of national importance to commemorate and disseminate information concerning the “*Porrajmos*”. With the same awareness raising objective, *UNAR* planned to take special initiatives to combat Anti-Gypsy actions during the Action Week Against Racism, which has been taking place every year since 2005, in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (21 March). To implement these measures, three different interventions were carried out, two of which were made by the Ministry of the Interior and the Department for Equal Opportunities on the basis of the “Security” and “Governance” National Operational Plan for 2007-2013. The third and last project will soon be initiated by the Juvenile Justice Directorate of the Ministry of Justice in the framework of the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals for 2007-2013.

The specific funding coming from *PON-GAS* 2007-2013 employed by *UNAR*- Department for Equal Opportunities is used for actions covered by the so called “ Axis D-Action no. 6” (with an allocation of about 786,000.00 Euros) aimed at fostering governance and inclusion policies as well as for tools suitable to combat discrimination against Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities. The on-going actions cover the promotion of linguistic and cultural mediation, communication patterns, a national register of Roma and Sinti linguistic mediators and the strengthening of cooperation among local authorities. *UNAR* has access to an allocation of 1,100,000.00 Euros, to be used in the Convergence Objective Regions for the actions established in Axis A and Axis B, aimed at fighting social exclusion and unemployment by facilitating social entrepreneurship, especially that of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti women, and ensuring safety at work.

The Department for Equal Opportunities responsible for managing Action no. 6 of Objective 4.2 of the ESF “Governance” NOP formalised the start-up of a pilot project, pursued by *IREF*, intended to “promote a network of cultural and linguistic RSC (Roma, Sinti and Caminanti) mediators”, which is currently underway within *ROMACT*. The project is based on the past experience of training Roma and Sinti mediators within the Council of Europe’s *ROMED* programme. The Council of Europe’s *ROMED2* and *ROMACT* programmes were presented and launched in Milan on 18 January 2014, at an event in which the Council of Europe’s and Italian Authorities’ representatives took part .

In addition, *UNAR* signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Bar Council (*Consiglio Nazionale Forense*) in order to initiate training and refresher courses for lawyers, also covering the fight against discrimination, to be expanded to *DAP* (Italian Prison Administration Department) by including the staff belonging to 18 prisons, both for adults and juveniles, with a predominant presence of RSC detainees.

A pilot project concerning the analysis of data on work-related measures for disadvantaged individuals, including Roma, will be developed in order to enhance the monitoring activity of the National Strategy. The project will be carried out within Axis B for the Convergence Objective Regions by the task force for the monitoring and evaluation of inclusion policies, in cooperation with *FRA*, *UNAR*, *ISTAT*, *ANCI*, *UPI*, as well as the Ministries and the regional and local authorities concerned. In the framework of the National Operational Programme named “Governance and ESF actions of system, Convergence Objective, Axis B – Employment”, *UNAR* started a number of actions for the years 2013-2014 intended to facilitate positive patterns of

training, guidance and integration of Roma, Sinti and other vulnerable groups in the labour market. The allocation for this programme amounts to 600,000.00 Euros. The purpose is to apply the same arrangements aimed at integration in the labour market and job placement which have already been adopted successfully in Spain with the *ACCEDER*-project between 2000 and 2012. In the Italian context, a study will be developed on the basis of which specific measures will be adopted taking inspiration from *ACCEDER*, aimed at helping Roma women and young people to gain access to employment.

In this framework, in the EU funds programming for 2014-2020, *UNAR* has obtained that a specific objective (Objective 9.5) will be explicitly dedicated to the social inclusion of RSC communities.

Again, in order to explore solutions for the inclusion of Roma and Sinti in the labour market, 600,000.00 Euros were allocated for the years 2013-2015. The project envisages an in-depth analysis by the National Institute for Statistics (*ISTAT*), aimed at determining the number of people, especially immigrants and Roma, participating in the labour market, with special regard to gender. Specific intervention patterns will be tabled after the qualitative and quantitative study.

A supplementary local project to be implemented in Milan and in the Italian region of Alto Adige/Südtirol financed by *UNAR* is directly targeted at Roma women and young people for the purpose of ensuring and improving their right to participation. 50,000.00 Euro were allocated for the project.

There is also the *PIPP*-project (Intervention Programme for Preventing Institutionalisation) initiated by the Ministry of Labour with an allocation of 500,000.00 Euros to ensure the inclusion of Roma young people at local level, in the so called “target” cities, as envisaged by Law No. 285/1997. The above Ministry also launched a sharing of sector-based best practices through the “Diesis” - project (ESF) connected to European Roma Net.

In order to root out discrimination against Roma and Sinti, *UNAR* set up a new counselling and back office service (125,000.00 Euro were allocated for 2013-2014) providing the users of this contact center with tailor-made legal advice.

In the field of education, in addition to the setting up of the National Panel on Education, in implementation of the Strategy, coordinated by *MIUR* and on the basis of a mapping carried out by *MIUR*, which indicated 117 areas in Southern Italy with a very high rate of early school leavers. In order to defeat early school leaving, in addition to the existing measures, *MIUR* is promoting specific horizontal networks involving schools, the private and the third sector and the public authorities in charge of planning ad-hoc measures for special groups as well as individual students. The ad-hoc measures of the so called F-3 action are being currently determined along with the pilot projects to be implemented in 9 areas of the Convergence Objective Regions, that is Lamezia Terme, Rosarno, Caserta, Naples, Lecce, Bari, Catania, Palermo and Irpinia. Again, in the same framework, *MIUR* intends to devote a whole chapter of its annual report to issues relevant to the access to education, early school leaving and school attendance by RSC children and young people, this being an opportunity to delve on the issue with a view to ensuring their educational inclusion.

The initiatives carried out by the **Juvenile Justice** Department of the Ministry of Justice aimed at ensuring the exercise and protection of the subjective rights of minors who came into contact with the criminal justice system, are intended to ensure that minors enjoy equal treatment and opportunities to be reintegrated into society and the labour market without distinction as to their nationality, gender, culture and religion. Special regard is to be had to the aspects which may reduce the enforceability of rights so as to address special needs with adequate countermeasures. The users

of the Juvenile Justice Services system are characterised by a wide diversity in origin, citizenship and language and they are minors from Italy, community and third-country minors of first and second generation, RSC minors, both sedentary and nomad, as well as unaccompanied minors. On account of this diversity, the targets of integration and social re-inclusion are a priority. These aims can be achieved only by promoting and carrying out socio-educational measures as well as interinstitutional, integrated and multidisciplinary support and accompanying projects.

In the framework of the legislation in force relating to political and administrative decentralisation affecting all sectors such as education, vocational training, inclusion in employment and health care, the above-mentioned Department encourages pathways addressed to minors who came into contact with the criminal justice system, especially those who are deemed to be “most vulnerable”, such as nomad minors, foreign unaccompanied minors and minors seeking asylum or protection. These projects and interventions, which in part are also cutting edge and experimental, carried out at national as well as regional level by Juvenile Justice Centres and related Juvenile Justice Services, are intended to develop initiatives, actions and agreements with public and private sector institutions, regional and local authorities, private social sector, voluntary, employment and business organisations in order to boost integration, multicultural socialisation, as well as social reintegration processes.

In order to foster the social inclusion of foreign and/or discriminated minors , including RSC minors, initiatives were financed by EIF and NOP aimed at removing social prejudicial labelling, supporting reception, cultural mediation and ethnopsychiatric interventions as well as consolidating an inter-institutional network capable of encouraging the effective social and labour market inclusion of minors.

In 2012 the “Cultural Mediation in Criminal Institutes for Juveniles and Juvenile Justice Services” project was carried out through the Funds for Social Integration of Third- Country Nationals, provided by the Ministry of the Interior for the period 2007-2013 for the implementation of cultural, social and linguistic mediation services in the Juvenile Services of the Veneto Region, Florence, Pontremoli, Rome, Palermo, Naples and Catania.

Also within the framework of EIF funding, the “MOMU – Multiagency Model for Integration” project, which has involved three territorial contexts, namely the Triveneto, Latium and Sicily Regions, has been executed starting from 2012, by identifying the social and cultural variables which negatively impact on the implementation of pathways to social re-inclusion.

In April 2013, pursuant to art. 69(2) of Decree of the President of the Republic No. 230 of 30 June 2000 (Regulation Laying Down Rules on the Prison Legislation and on Measures Involving Deprivation and Restriction of Liberty) as amended by Decree of the President of the Republic No. 136 of 5 June 2012, "the Charter of the Rights and Duties for Minors who are Entering the Juvenile Justice Services" was issued. This Charter was created within the framework of the CO.S.MI. – Social Communication and Foreign Minors in the European Justice Systems - Project, financed by the Ministry of the Interior through the European Fund for Integration of Third-Country Nationals for the period 2007-2013. In order to ensure effective information, the Charter contains a glossary and has been translated into several languages to permit broad and widespread communication.

The peculiar nature of the problems of social minorities involving marginalisation and distress, such as those often associated with the condition of being an immigrant, a second generation immigrant, a stateless person, a foreign nomad or a nomad with Italian citizenship have made it necessary to alert the Juvenile Justice Services system to ensure a cultural mediation service, to monitor the

response modalities of each area and to support projects providing for cooperation activities and the enhancement of a network of public and private-social sector resources. The social services of local authorities should also be actively involved in order to plan the social re-ininclusion and/or work placement upon termination of a criminal penalty, also by promoting paths to literacy and civic education aimed at acquiring Italian citizenship.

The interventions financed by the *PON Sicurezza* (National Operational Programme “Security”) for the period 2007/2013 for the integration of Roma communities have been very important, notably those made in the municipality of Naples for the renovation of a former school to be used for social and integration activities and as accommodation centre for Romanian Roma, by carrying out three projects for a total amount of 2,106,674 Euros; those made in the municipality of Bari to provide temporary accommodation for integration and social inclusion of a Roma community, through funds amounting to 2,100,000 Euros; those made in the municipality of Lamezia Terme (CZ) for social and employment integration of Roma, through funds amounting to 2,933,459.71 Euros; those made in the municipality of Catanzaro, by renovating-reusing the social centre *Aranceto*, a project for at-risk neighbourhoods due to the high crime rate in Roma communities living there, for a total amount of 606,882.72 euro.

In the Third Opinion on Italy, the Advisory Committee expressed reservations about the living and housing conditions of **Roma communities**, a situation that led to the appointment of Commissioners (*Commissari delegati*) for the Roma emergency. As is well known, the Council of State (*Consiglio di Stato*) found the declaration of the state of emergency unlawful by judgement No. 6050 of 16 November 2011, upheld by the Court of Cassation by judgement No. 9687 of 26 March 2013. In the light of the new legal reference framework, the municipalities concerned continued the activities that had been previously planned by following ordinary procedures, as shown in the annex containing the projects carried out at national level.

III. Further measures adopted to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention.

Article 1

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation.

The protection of human rights is one of the guiding criteria of the Italian legislation, as is testified by the 1948 Constitution which recognizes and guarantees fundamental rights and liberties.

In Italy specific protection is ensured to minorities present on the national territory following the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by means of Law No. 302 of 28 August 1997; furthermore Italy has become a party to the main treaties concerning the respect for human rights (in this specific connection it is worth mentioning that Italy signed the UN Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination – CERD), providing the necessary cooperation to the various relevant international bodies. Italy is a Member State of the Council of Europe and also participates in OECD and in the activities of its bodies, including ODHIR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights).

In 2000, Italy signed, though not ratified, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, whereas the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime was ratified by Law No. 48 of 18 March 2008, as specified in the following art. 4.

It is further worth mentioning the participation of Italy in the 126th meeting of the Governmental Committee of the revised European Social Charter, held in Strasbourg from 8 to 12 October 2012; in the OECD Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, held in Warsaw from 26 to 28 September 2012; in the High-level Meeting on Roma, held on 20 October 2010 in Strasbourg with a view to adopting the “Strasbourg Declaration on Roma”, which was approved by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers as well as in the 1st Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM) and in the round table organized by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, held in Strasbourg on 25 November 2013.

Article 2

The provisions of this Framework Convention shall be applied in good faith, in a spirit of understanding and tolerance and in conformity with the principles of good neighbourliness, friendly relations and cooperation between States.

Transfrontier cooperation enables the strengthening of cultural, social and linguistic ties across frontiers on the basis of friendly and cooperative relations in a flexible and open way. In this regard the experiences gained from transfrontier relations appear very interesting.

Good neighbourliness relations involve Slovenia, Austria, Croatia, France, Greece and Albania. Several meetings were held between the Italian and Slovenian authorities.

It is worth stressing that relations between Italy, Croatia and Slovenia have developed, also as a result of a legal framework that has been gradually adapted to the needs of the parties involved. In the past, the Italian autochthonous minority was treated as a whole in the Republic of Yugoslavia and at present it is divided between Slovenia and Croatia,- two very different countries.

After the accession of the Republic of Slovenia to the EU and, in particular, in the immediate aftermath of its accession to the Schengen area and of the opening of the labour market between the two neighbouring countries, interest in the study of the Slovenian language has experienced some growth. Such interest has been shown also at school level by setting up some Slovenian language courses, financed through state resources provided for by Law No. 482/1999. The introduction of Slovenian as second Community language is undoubtedly among the most important initiatives aimed at promoting and fostering the use of the minority language also in schools that use Italian as their teaching language. In 2012 this topic was recognized as a specific subject category for teachers' public competitions. Initiatives organized in the province of Gorizia in conjunction with the neighbouring Republic of Slovenia are worth mentioning, such as meetings between the municipal administrations of Gorizia, Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba and the continuation of activities of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) among the three municipalities of Gorizia, Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba.

In the last few years several collaboration initiatives have taken place with the assistance of the Office for Education in the Slovenian language and of the Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia in Koper. Such initiatives have involved young people from the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Austria and have contributed to the knowledge of the Slovenian language and culture and to mutual understanding between young people of different nationalities, speaking different languages.

Article 3

1) Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.

2) Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the right and enjoy the freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present Framework Convention individually as well as in community with others.

The rights arising from the Framework Convention are also enshrined in the Italian Constitution whose article 2 envisages the enhancement of all social groupings in which human personality is realised, including individuals belonging to linguistic minorities. Linguistic minorities are worth protecting first of all as they are social groupings as envisaged by the above mentioned article 2, secondly on the basis of the principle of substantial equality (art.3(2)) and thirdly because they are linguistic minorities as a result of art.6 of the Italian Constitution.

Both Law No. 482/1999 and Law No. 38/2001 meet the actual needs of individuals belonging to minority groups, who can freely choose to belong to a minority or not.

The precondition for the functioning of these provisions is the delimitation of the territorial area where the community to be protected lives. The process of identification of the concerned communities falls under the responsibility of the Province. Since the entry into force of Law No. 482/1999, the Ministry of the Interior has been drawing up a list of municipalities belonging to the various minorities, which is periodically updated by including other communities that require to have access to the protection envisaged by the above mentioned Law. Lastly, in December 2012, in the municipality of Messina the territorial area for the historic Greek linguistic minority resident in that city was delimited.

The **General population census**, to the rules of which reference is made in the Third Report, does not provide for the collection of data on language and religious beliefs which can reveal racial or ethnic origin.

Any collection of sensitive data requires the written consent of the person concerned after prior authorization of the “Guarantor of Privacy”; similarly, the dissemination of sensitive data by public entities is permitted only if expressly authorized by law (art. 22, Law No. 675/1996, paragraphs 3 and 3 bis).

Specific legislative provisions provide that, when population censuses take place, information concerning the numerical size and territorial distribution of some linguistic groups can be obtained in two cases only, namely:

the collection of data relating to persons belonging to minorities speaking the Mocheno, Cimbrian and Ladin languages, resident in the province of Trento (Legislative Decree No. 592 of 16 December 1993, art. 4) and the collection of data relating to the Italian, German and Ladin linguistic groups of the province of Bolzano (Decree of the President of the Republic No. 752 of 26 July 1976).

In 2011 the general population census was carried out in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano during which, in Alto Adige/Südtirol, a collection of data relating to the numerical size of the linguistic groups officially recognized by the Autonomy Statute (Italian, German and Ladin groups) is made through forms given in a closed and anonymous envelope to the citizens required to fill them out. The counting of declarations made anonymously by the persons concerned served to establish the numerical size of the three linguistic groups officially recognized.

The data obtained are used for the application of the so-called “ethnic proportion”: in the composition of local institutional bodies, in the assignment of funds provided by the province, in employment in the civil service and in other cases envisaged by law.

The results of the “ethnic census” that will be applied until 2021 on the occasion of the next census, confirmed that the numerical size of the linguistic groups remains stable, as shown by the following linguistic breakdowns: Italian group 26.06%, German group 69.41% and Ladin group 4.53%.

The above-mentioned declaration is required to individuals in order to apply for employment in public bodies at local level (including, apart from a few exceptions, civil service jobs in the province of Bolzano) in the cases provided for by law, to submit applications to stand as candidate for provincial and municipal elections and in several other cases.

The calculation of the numerical size of the three linguistic groups of the autonomous Province is provided for by the implementing rules relating to the Special Statute laid down for the Trentino – Alto Adige/Südtirol Region (Decree of President of the Republic No. 670/1972), i.e. by Decree of President of the Republic No. 752/1976, as amended and supplemented by Legislative Decrees No. 253/1991 and No. 99/2005.

As regards Roma and Sinti, in order to address crucial issues, one of the priorities is collection of data, in particular, disaggregated data, to better calibrate and gear sector policies, as stressed by the first sector survey conducted by the Special Commission of the Senate on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in 2011. This Commission has not failed to stress that there is a lack of knowledge, partly because it is impossible to carry out a census on the basis of ethnicity, partly due to the reluctance to declare a highly stigmatized identity. This remains the most significant obstacle to properly assess living conditions and analyse the impact of national sector policies and measures. The above mentioned Commission pointed out that the lack of disaggregated statistical data makes it difficult to set targets and identify instruments for assessing the impact of specific decisions. Improved knowledge of Roma and Sinti communities is needed to break the vicious cycle of ignorance and prejudice: ignorance leads to prejudice and prejudice encourages ignorance. To that end, *UNAR* supported an agreement between *ISTAT* and *ANCI* to carry out a random sample sector survey on a trial basis.

As regards paragraph 2 of the present article, please refer to the following article 7.

Article 4

1) The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited

2) The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.

3) The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.

As regards the legal framework on discrimination, reference is made to the Third Report.

In order to ensure the protection and promotion of the fundamental rights of all persons living in Italy and to combat discriminatory acts, in September 2010 the Observatory for Security Against Discriminatory Acts (*OSCAD*) was established at the Ministry of the Interior by the *pro tempore* Chief of the Italian National Police. With his particular passion and foresight, he had realized the need to establish a multi-agency body which could give operational responses to the demand for security of persons at risk of discrimination, by “systematising “ the activities carried out by the National Police and the Carabinieri Corps to prevent and combat all “hate crimes”.

Set up within the Public Security Department - Central Directorate of Criminal Police, *OSCAD* is chaired by the Deputy Director General of Public Security – Director General of Criminal Police and is made up by representatives of the National Police, the Carabinieri Corps and the relevant units of the Public Security Department.

More specifically, *OSCAD* aims at:

- overcoming the phenomenon of under-reporting, thus fostering the emergence of crimes committed with a discriminatory motive. (To this end, it receives reports, also made anonymously, from institutions, professional or trade associations and private individuals);
- initiating immediate and targeted operational interventions at local level to be carried out by the National Police and the Carabinieri Corps and monitoring their developments;
- enhancing the knowledge about this phenomenon. For this purpose, *OSCAD* entertains contacts with other institutions dealing with discriminatory acts and, in particular, keeps close relations with *UNAR* of the Department for Equal opportunities of the Italian Presidency of the Council; it also entertains contacts with the associations which safeguard those people risking discrimination in order to strengthen the connection between civil society and police forces thus gaining direct knowledge of those communities at risk as well as of their needs for security and safety;
- envisaging training modules for the qualification, in the field of anti-discrimination, of both National Police staff and the Carabinieri Corps. Since 2012, workshops have been organised for:

- o officials/ officers, during general training;
- o new police constables/new carabinieri constables during general training;
- o updating of professional skills for the staff belonging to various ranks/qualifications, who are already on duty.

On 29 May, 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with ODIHR of OECD for the acceptance of the training programme “TAHCLE” (“Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement”) by the Department of Public Security, aimed at training law enforcement staff in the field of prevention of and fight against “hate crimes”.

- promoting communication and prevention initiatives.

Being convinced that raising the awareness of citizens can contribute to the prevention of both anti-social behaviour and crimes against vulnerable people, many steps forward have been taken in this direction. Within this context:

- o in June 2012, a communication campaign against racial discrimination was launched with the support of UNAR (“Made in Italy”) in order to portray the multicultural scenario in our Country as well as the fundamental contribution by foreign nationals to the productive activities sector in Italy;
- o on 17th March, 2013, an awareness-raising activity took place aimed at football fans, within the context of the activities relating to “The Week against Racial Discrimination”, in the football stadiums throughout Italy in order to ban racism from sports;
- o *OSCAD* webpages have been posted on the websites of the Ministry of Interior, of the National Police and the Carabinieri Corps.
- o on 6th May, 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, University and Research was signed, with a view to promoting joint training activities at schools aimed at disseminating an anti-discrimination culture as early as at primary-school age and at preparing the ground for a real “ cultural generation revolution”.

In this context, a *OSCAD* stand was set up in Corleone (PA) on 23 May, 2013, on the occasion of “The Legality Day” organised for the anniversary of the massacres of Capaci and Via D’Amelio.

As regards the very serious phenomenon of violence against women, *OSCAD* is arranging a technical Panel consisting of representatives of National Police investigation offices, of the Carabinieri Corps and of the Crime Analysis Unit that, after defining the concept of “femicide” more accurately, should analyse available data and table amendments to the current legislation on the issue of stalking.

Finally, *OSCAD* is defining the projects already set in motion at international level:

- o “G8 – Rome-Lyon Group”: it has been decided to set up a working group which can highlight the connection between discrimination and organised cross-border crime, in order to insert *OSCAD* into the “Organised Crime” subgroup;

- o “Interpol”: the proposal has been tabled to activate a network of contact points for information, training and operational activities in the field of the fight against hate crimes;
- o “First semester 2014 of the EU Presidency”: they will take account of proper initiatives to disseminate, also in this context, possible synergies to be activated to combat discrimination;
- o the Project “MuTaVi” (“Multimedia Tools Against Violence”) co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate-General Justice, under the Daphne III Programme, aimed at preventing and fighting violence against children, young people, women and social groups at risk. Recently a training package has been developed including a specific *OSCAD* module on anti-discrimination, designed primarily for Police staff, but also addressed to other professionals such as lawyers, social workers, health practitioners and non profit organisations.

Furthermore, the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe (Budapest Convention on Cybercrime dated 23.11.2001)-ratified by Law No 48 of 18.3.2008 –is thus the first international agreement relating to the crimes perpetrated through the internet; it set the guidelines for all Member States which plan to develop a comprehensive and harmonised national legislation on cybercrime.

The above-mentioned Convention also provides the framework for international cooperation in this field by envisaging faster procedures, furthermore it is supplemented by an Additional Protocol concerning the Criminalisation of Acts of Racist and Xenophobic Nature committed through Computer Systems.

Both the activities and initiatives undertaken by *UNAR* in the field of discrimination are listed in the first part the Report.

At a local level, almost all authorities have implemented measures to combat both discrimination and racism. For example, the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Province of Florence and *UNAR* in April 2011, whereby the Province of Florence committed itself to coordinating, in cooperation with *UNAR*, the territorial network of legal-aid helpdesks and sector associations active locally in order to boost their spreading and their proximity to potential victims. In 2012 an anti-discrimination territorial Centre was therefore opened for the Province of Florence named “Zorro”, the main activities of which relate to: listening to, supporting and giving legal advice to people who consider themselves to be victims of discrimination; data collection and information relating to discriminatory behaviours delivered by citizens, bodies, trade associations and third-sector organisations; information and awareness campaigns designed for all citizens. This Centre works through a network involving all territorial bodies which carry out information and advisory activities. There is also a regional Centre for the prevention of and fight against racial discrimination active in **Genoa Municipality**, set up by the Liguria Region in collaboration with *UNAR* and through the active commitment of local associations such as *ARCI Liguria* (Italian Recreational and Cultural Association- Section of Liguria), *ANOLF Cisl* (National Association “Beyond Frontiers” of the Cisl Trade Union), and *ACLI Liguria* (Christian Associations of Italian Workers – section of Liguria).

Article 5

1) The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

2) Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.

Linguistic and cultural diversity is, indeed, an important source of our Country's richness and it is for this reason that Italy safeguards and promotes the cultures of the linguistic minorities living in its territory and specifically identified in art. 2 of Law No. 482/1999, in accordance with the provision referred to in art. 6 of the Constitution.

Several **cultural initiatives** are taken at both national and local level where national minorities live, and many of these initiatives are funded by Laws No. 482/1999 and 38/2001, others by the economic support from both regions and local authorities, referred to at length in the Third Report and which continue their activities.

Some initiatives have also been taken by Museums or Institutes aimed at extending cultural services also to the migrants residing in the national territory or at the cataloguing and showing of the communities' historic archives relating to recognized national minorities. By way of example, some projects can be quoted such as "The Calabrian Linguistic Minorities, a Universal Heritage" set up by the Calabria Region within the EU Structural Fund Programmes 2007-2013 worth 200,000 Euros; "The Mother Tongue Project" by the Piedmont Region, as well as its literature contest for encouraging the promotion of cultural, linguistic and gender differences; the various initiatives aimed at promoting tourism activities at a regional level; cooperation in the field of activities relating to language research, etc.

Municipalities have given ample space to meetings, popular festivities and festivals aiming at an in-depth study of both their own languages and at the knowledge of ethnic minorities living in Europe. In addition photo exhibitions have been arranged as well as spaces devoted to the promotion of their cultural and historical roots, theatre plays, prizes for literature works in original language, monographic studies and interactive CDs as well as bilingual DVDs.

The **Province of Oristano**, together with the municipalities and schools, have realised important projects such as "Postale de sa limba sarda", the first touring exhibition on the language and history of Sardinia; the learning platform for training in the Sardinian language "discente.or.it", which is a very important activity within the framework of minority language teaching. Furthermore a number of publications in the Sardinian language have been issued, including the Statute of the Province and the collection of the regional, national and international rules on the protection of linguistic minorities named "Leges". The website www.limbasarda.nuoro.it, which is the digital version of the linguistic helpdesk, is also worth mentioning.

The field of infrastructures and social services of interest for minorities also includes a number of works relating to **urban and rural toponymy** carried out through the placement of bilingual road signs, some of which have been just updated, others in addition to the existing ones. The creation of murales with themes relating to minorities' cultural aspects is also worth mentioning , as is the setting up of permanent art exhibitions and museums of minority customs and culture with the display of costumes, objects, ancient instruments and tools equipped with multilingual taglines and descriptive multilingual tables; the establishment of civic Libraries containing collections of volumes relating to the history and customs of that specific minority is equally relevant. In some cases the structural interventions have concerned the design of specific websites for minorities and related updating or, in other cases reserved spaces within the Town Hall.

Article 6

1) The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.

2) The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

Our Country promotes tolerance through the adoption of measures aimed at fostering mutual respect and understanding as well as cooperation among all people living in the territory, regardless of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity. Many regions, within their legislative autonomy, and as provided for by State Law No. 482/1999, have issued provisions aimed at promoting and safeguarding the linguistic and cultural heritage of minorities, pursuant to both art. 6 of the Constitution and the principles envisaged by the major international conventions. These provisions promote initiatives aimed at fostering mutual collaboration, tolerance and good understanding among the minorities living in the regional territory, the Italian-speaking community and the authorities. The Regions support the implementation of plans aimed at enhancing cultural and linguistic diversity as well as at strengthening the concept of intercultural dialogue; they promote and support public and private initiatives aimed at maintaining and expand the use of the minority languages in their respective territories. Strong support is given to both promotion work and forms of cooperation among institutions in the fields of linguistics, education, training and means of information.

Recent comments and statements, broadcast through national and local radio/tv programmes, have highlighted the alarming frequency of cases of discrimination based on ethnic and cultural diversity. The President of *Agcom* (Communications Regulatory Authority) sent a letter dated January 2014 to all private and public, national and local tv/radio stations, in which he drew attention to the risks of such messages passed on through means of information. In this letter the *Agcom* President, after stating once again that the right to freedom of expression – envisaged by the Constitution- can never

be guaranteed at the expense of human dignity, hopes that a renewed commitment is entered into by the institutions in relation to the respect of the fundamental rights of individuals; in conclusion, the *Agcom* President stated that his authority, within the sphere of its own competences, will regularly carry out monitoring activities concerning the radio/TV broadcasting system by urging broadcasters to guarantee the respect for the fundamental principles enshrined in current legislation.

For further requirements, please refer to the first Part and art. 4 of this Report.

Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

In Italy the freedom of assembly, association, expression, thought, conscience and religion is recognised by articles 17-18-19-20 of the Constitution to all citizens, including the members of minorities.

These principles are also echoed by the regional statutes and by a number of laws issued by regions where the minorities live.

A key role, from the point of view of more effective and shared protection of local linguistic minorities, is played by various associations active throughout the territory.

Minorities have often resorted to voluntary associations thus setting up various organisations, sometimes non-governmental ones, too. *CONFEMILI* (the Federal Committee of Linguistic Minorities of Italy), which is a body representing the associations of the 12 recognised historical linguistic minorities, carries out activities of coordination, guidance and planning concerning both local authorities and associations.

Minorities, in the places where they reside, are widely represented and give their own contribution to social cohesion.

For minority organisations, please refer to what has been explained at length in the Third Report.

Article 8

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations.

The text of the Italian Constitution addresses religion and churches in a spirit of laicism and pluralism.

This position is enshrined in three constitutional principles that guarantee the individual's right to religious freedom (art. 19), the equality, including equal social status, of citizens regardless of their opinions concerning religion (art. 3) and finally freedom equality of all religions before the law (art. 8(1,i)).

The system of guarantees of the rights of freedom is based on art. 19 of the Constitution, which also includes the liberty to profess freely one's own religious faith, by embracing an already existing religion, by changing one's own religious faith and by giving rise to new religious beliefs; article 19 also includes the liberty to carry out proselytism and propaganda, to profess one's own religious faith both in private and in public and finally to create associations of a religious nature or to participate in existing ones.

As regards the religious freedom of minorities, please refer to what has already been explained in the Third Report.

Article 9

1) The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.

2) Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.

3) The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.

4) In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.

The right to the **freedom of expression** is based on art. 21 of the Constitution according to which all can freely express their own thoughts orally and in writing and through any other means of dissemination. The freedom of the press is also included in this context – the freedom of the press cannot be made dependent upon authorisations or censorship, with the exception of publications and other forms of expression that are contrary to public morality.

For this right to become operational for the members of minorities, it is necessary that they can receive and communicate information or ideas in the minority language through access to media including with the possibility of creating and using own media.

As regards the safeguard of linguistic minorities in this field, the national legislation is quite multi-faceted.

The rule providing for **programmes** in French, German and Slovenian, languages which have long since been safeguarded also through international agreements, is Law No. 103 dated 14 April 1975 on public radio and television broadcasting, the so-called *RAI* reform law, which makes it mandatory for the *RAI* public service concessionaire “to broadcast radio and television programmes in both German and Ladin for the Province of Bolzano, in French for the Autonomous Region of Valle D’Aosta and in Slovenian for the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia”. (art. 19).

According to article 12 of Law No. 482/1999, the Convention between the Ministry of Communication and the Radio and Television Public Service Concessionaire Company and the resulting contract must envisage conditions for the protection of linguistic minorities in the areas where they belong. To this end the concerned regions can conclude either relevant conventions with the Concessionaire Company in the context of the regional radio-television broadcasts in the protected languages or relevant agreements with private broadcasting companies.

Between 2008 and 2012 television services underwent the digital switchover and 13 frequency usage rights were assigned to some network service providers that broadcast programmes in minority languages over their own multiplexed media to be used via over-the-air terrestrial in digital technology in Single Frequency Network (SFN).

About 20 entities, especially in the Region of Calabria (No. 11), have the licence to broadcast tv programmes in a recognised minority language, as audio-video media service providers at a local level, under Agcom Resolution No. 353/11/CONS.

In order to comply with the provisions envisaged by art.17 of the Service Contract in force for the 3- year- period 2010-2012 concluded with the Ministry of Economic Development, Department of Telecommunications concerning “ Specific Initiatives for Enhancing Local Institutions and Culture”, *RAI*, the Italian Public Service Concessionaire Company, signed a new agreement for the 3- year- period 2013-2015 in May 2013 with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano with the purpose of making and broadcasting radio and television programmes in German and Ladin in Alto Adige/Südtirol. This agreement could provide an example for the renewal of the agreements with the autonomous Valle d’Aosta and Friuli- Venezia-Giulia Regions.

To foster the spreading of the French language, the Press Agency of the Autonomous Valle d’Aosta Region co-ordinated the conclusion of an agreement with TV5 Monde which is the first traditional generic French-speaking TV in the world, broadcasting in digital terrestrial mode, at present broadcasting in the territory of 40 Municipalities of the Region with 70 per cent coverage, with a view to extending it to the whole regional territory by the end of 2013. The Convention between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and *RAI* concluded on 29 October 2007 represents the main point of reference for the promotion of the French language.

As regards the **radio broadcasters**, at present No. 9 radio stations broadcast programmes in Sardinian in the Region of Sardinia, No. 1 radio station broadcasts programmes in Friulian (in the province of Udine), No. 3 radio stations broadcast programmes in Occitan in the Region of Piedmont and No. 2 radio stations broadcast programmes in Albanian in the Region of Calabria.

In this connection it is worth mentioning that even if Romanian is not a minority language recognized by Law No. 482 of 15 December 1999, the ROMIT TV Cultural Association, broadcasting programmes in Romanian, has been recently authorized as audiovisual media service

provider at national level while in the Piedmont Region, a similar action was undertaken at local level by the local TV network named *CASA MIA TV*.

Radio programmes devoted to the Roma (called "*La Voce Rom*") are broadcasted by a local radio station (*Radio Onda d'Urto*) having its seat in Lombardy (Brescia) thus improving the dissemination of Roma culture and music as well as of practical information.

A Panel for the Communication of Minorities was established in order to encourage the development, the enhancement and the protection of the ethnic, cultural and linguistic characteristics of Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian populations in consideration of the strategic role played in connection with the protection of minorities in the Trentino region and which is granted to media as means of knowledge, dissemination, standardization and importance of the minority languages spoken within the respective communities.

In 2012, a series of television broadcasts dedicated to the Mocheno and Cimbrian communities were planned and initiated with the aim of focusing on a few specific issues that characterise the two linguistic islands. The broadcasting of television programmes on the TML TV channel of the minorities began on 30 January 2013 and will continue throughout the year. Television broadcasting was chiefly produced in Italian and integrated with some minority language inserts, mainly with the aim of providing the general public, and not only the members of the minority communities, with timely and accurate information on several aspects identifying the local communities so as to make the whole community more aware of a fundamental issue for the provincial autonomy. Still in this perspective, the publication of three pages devoted to the linguistic minorities in the institutional magazine "Il Trentino" has been planned as from 2013.

In the **Friuli Venezia Giulia Region** both radio and television broadcast news, entertainment, documentaries and fiction in Friulian.

Beside the programmes produced and broadcasted by private radio and television broadcasting companies there are the programmes produced and broadcasted by the regional branch of *RAI*. In this connection, it is worth mentioning that a convention concluded between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and *RAI* has recently envisaged 90 hours of scheduled broadcasting per year in Friulian within the local radio broadcasting schedule of the Public Service Concessionaire Company.

As regards the private radio broadcasters, two of them broadcast constantly in "*marilenghe*" (Friulian): "*Radio Onde Furlane*" (a community radio which has been broadcasting programmes almost exclusively in Friulian for over 30 years) and "*Radio Spazio 103*" which broadcasts more than three hours per day on average in the abovementioned language.

The functions of the Region concerning the provision of information in Friulian are regulated by Chapter IV of Regional Law No. 29/2007 which provides for the adoption of a specific Regulation in this sector. To this end, the Region adopted a Regulation, implemented with President's of the Region Decree No. 0279/Pres of 25 November 2011, concerning the granting of subsidies for the promotion of the Friulian language through television and radio programmes as provided for by Regional Law No. 29/07 to which reference should be made for further details of the relevant legal provisions.

The **Sardinia Region** grants regional aids to foster the programme schedule of television and radio broadcasting and websites in Sardinian (or Catalan in the Alghero area); in the latter municipality in particular the radio and television broadcaster "Catalan TV" broadcasts

programmes in Catalan and the website www.alguer.cat has a section dedicated to the Catalan language. In Oristano several publications were issued in Sardinian including the Statute of the Province and the collection of regional, national and international laws on the protection of linguistic minorities called “*Leges*”. Television and radio programmes broadcasted in Sardinian (TV news, radio news, cultural programmes and theatre, etc.) are frequently transmitted by several local broadcasting companies.

To support radio and television programmes in the minority languages, in the **Piedmont Region** every Wednesday morning the programme “*Buongiorno Regione*” devotes some time to Piedmontese linguistic minorities - Occitan, French, Franco-Provençal and Walser. As regards the issue of minorities, the regional *RAI* Editorial staff follows with special attention the Waldensian Synod of the Waldensian and Methodist Churches which takes place every year; the national programme TGR Montagne broadcasted every Friday on channel *RAI 5* and produced by the Regional Branch of *RAI* in Piedmont also pays special attention to the issues concerning the linguistic and cultural minorities spread along the Italian Alpine Arch.

With reference to the **printed information material**, since December 2006 the fortnightly free press magazine “*Il Diari*” has been completely published in Friulian. Moreover, there are two monthly magazines: the historical magazine “*La Patrie dal Friûl*” which has been published since 1946 and “*Ladins dal Friûl*” which is now in its fifteenth year of activity. The weekly magazines “*Il Friuli*”, “*La Voce isontina*” and “*La Vita Cattolica*” publish a page in Friulian on every issue. The latter also prints a magazine for kids “*Alc&cè*”. The daily newspaper “*Messaggero Veneto*” publishes a monthly page in Friulian in cooperation with the Friulian Philological Society and a daily column on the first page. Moreover, “*ARLeF - Agenzie Regionâl pe Lenghe Furlane*” the regional Agency for the Friulian language publishes a page in Friulian devoted to children who attend kindergarten or primary school and places it within the weekly insert for children “*Sgûp*”. The page is printed by the abovenamed newspaper “*Messaggero Veneto*” and it is distributed in all comprehensive institutes of the three Friulian provinces where activities in Friulian are carried out.

The **Province of Pordenone** has produced a DVD called “*Lenga di aga- providing a sight and sound journey of the Western Friulian area*”. The material recorded on DVD is addressed to the linguistic areas of Western Friuli and disseminated thanks to a local television network. Consistently with the dissemination of the multimedia material a number of night exhibition and distribution followed in the Municipalities of the province.

Article 10

1) The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

2) In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

3) The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons

for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

The right to the oral and written use of the protected language in the Offices of the Public Administrations is one of the main rights recognised to minorities by Law No. 482/99 (art. 9), which however envisages the exceptions of the Armed Forces and of Law Enforcement Agencies.

A Fund to finance projects submitted by local authorities and local state administrations has been established at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers-**Department of Regional Affairs, Self-Government and Sports** to make the exercise of this right actually possible.

This funding enables Public Administrations to ensure that in the respective offices there is minority language speaking personnel able to communicate with the public, either by organising training courses for serving personnel or by employing outer personnel specifically skilled in the use of protected languages by means of temporary contracts for a maximum period of one year.

The lack of in-house personnel speaking the minority languages led Public Administrations to carry out several initiatives: submitting projects on the implementation of linguistic helpdesks ("*Sportelli linguistici*"), developing training courses for serving personnel, employing translators and/or interpreters, projects focusing on toponyms and fostering cultural initiatives. The priority target of funding is establishing joint linguistic helpdesks in charge of given areas ("*Sportelli unici per area*") which are formed on a voluntary basis in order to improve the coordination of the linguistic helpdesks. Joint linguistic helpdesks in charge of given areas shall grant the best possible form of partnership, that is to say the maximum number of municipalities that can rely on a single facility, with either a fixed or itinerant structure taking into account the territory, the geographical location of minorities and the available facilities.

The total sum of the funds allocated in the years 2012-2013-2014 amounted to 1,807,260 Euros, 1,887,160 Euros and 1,995,068 Euros respectively, with a progressive increase despite the cuts which affected the State Budget owing to the economic crisis. Given the recent adverse economic conditions and the measures implemented to reduce the national public expenditure, on a multi-annual assessment plan, note should be taken that the available funds for the financing of interventions as envisaged by Law No. 482/1999 have undergone instability and have decreased as compared to those initially available. In view of the difficulties involved in the reduction of resources allocated, the aforesaid **Department of Regional Affairs, Self-Government and Sports** in order to optimise the allocation of commitments issued a new decree aiming at the improvement of distribution of funds. The said decree has set out useful criteria to fulfil the requirements of targeting public expenditure to the establishment or functioning of linguistic helpdesks which represent, in the light of experience gained, the real contact point between the population speaking the minority language and the Public Administration; in particular priority was given to the projects in which the partnership of municipalities was prevalent.

To foster the optimization of resources the following is envisaged: exclusion from the further distribution of funds of those bodies failing to implement the financed projects without justified reason. A provision is also envisaged to the effect of ensuring that newly determined areas actually meet the requirements contained in the relevant legislation in order to avoid the dispersion of funds in response to requests which cannot be justified by the presence of historical linguistic minorities.

Furthermore, many initiatives were implemented even at local and regional level.

In the **Sardinia Region** the linguistic helpdesks, run with the funds allocated in compliance with Law 482/1999 and also with regional funds, are still operative in several Municipalities (in Sardinian or, in Alghero Municipality, in Catalan). The duly trained personnel provide linguistic advice both to the citizens and offices of the Public Administration to ease public communication. A regional political party "*il Partito Sardo d'Azione*" (Sardinian Action Party) presented a proposal for the amendment of the Special Autonomy Statute of the Region to the Regional Council with the aim of making the Sardinian language the "official" language, so as to enable its use for the deeds issued by Public Authorities (as already in force in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano and in the Valle d'Aosta Region). In this connection and in order to improve the spreading of the Sardinian language, it is worth mentioning that the main obstacle highlighted concerns the several varieties that exist among the Sardinian languages. All attempts to create the so-called "unified Sardinian language" have so far failed given the sentence construction has proved less than effective and incomprehensible to all Sardinians.

The **Piedmont Region** has planned actions targeting the cultural heritage of Occitan, French, Franco-Provençal and Walser linguistic minorities, as well as scientific research and regional culture and history as provided for in Regional Law No. 58/1978. In this framework, for the three-year period 2012-2013, the Region allocated to bodies and associations, an amount of 642,250 Euros, 618,000 Euros and 642,000 Euros, respectively. Despite the cutbacks in resources allocated, Law No. 482/1999 still represents a strong signal of the enhanced interest in linguistic minorities. Since its implementation, namely from 2001 to 2012, it has succeeded in enabling No. 203 projects to be funded for a total amount of 9,360,457.48 Euros.

Article 11

1) The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

2) The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.

3) In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.

Article 11 of Law No. 482/1999 lays down that citizens belonging to a recognised linguistic minority, whose names and surnames had been modified before the entry into force of the above mentioned Law, may obtain that their original names and surnames are restored by means of a merely administrative procedure free of costs.

For members of the Slovenian minority art. 7 of Law No. 38/2001 lays down the right to obtain that their **names and surnames are written or printed according to the correct Slovenian spelling** in all public deeds, as well as to obtain that their surnames written in Italian are changed into the corresponding names in Slovenian or into the Slovenian names that are normally used in their social relations.

To allow the correct implementation of the legislation in force, the **Ministry for Public Administration and Innovation issued the decree dated 2 February 2009 laying down the adoption of the** transcription tables of the **diacritical marks** included in the Latin alphabet and used in the names and surnames of Italian citizens. Moreover, the Ministry of the Interior adopted an automated system for the transcription of the special characters of the Slovene alphabet. The transcribed characters become available to the Municipalities concerned whenever changes in the Registration data are entered into the system.

The Joint Committee for the Slovenian Minority complains that the problem regarding the correct spelling of Slovenian names and surnames in official documents has been only partially solved.

In that connection, it is worth mentioning that, within its own sphere of competence, the State Administration has ensured the correct spelling of Slovenian names and surnames by implementing the above-mentioned decree of the year 2009. This is further confirmed by Ministerial circular n. 23/2013 of the Central Directorate for Demographic Services of the Ministry of the Interior establishing that the technical documentation and the *INA SAIA* application for the installation of the new security system of the National Register of the Resident Population are made available to the Municipalities concerned. On top of this, as regards the issue of citizenship, the Ministerial circular dated 23.12.2013 of the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration extends the correct spelling of names and surnames to all foreign citizens, thereby complying with the provisions issued by means of the decree of the year 2009.

As regards paragraphs 2 and 3 of art. 11, concerning the minority members' right to display in their minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public, as well as traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public, it is worth mentioning that part of the resources envisaged by Law No. 482/99 and by Law No. 38/2001 are also intended for projects concerning the setting up or the updating of tourist signs and road signs bearing toponyms submitted by individual municipalities.

For the **toponymy** of Alto Adige/Südtirol, in September 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Minister for Regional Affairs and the President of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano. With due regard to the provisions on bilingualism, the Memorandum envisages the adoption of a regulatory framework for bilingualism in toponyms, thus solving a problem affecting the majority of the existing 1,500 toponyms.

For the autonomous **Valle d'Aosta Region**, the entry into force of Regional Law no. 4/2011 has allowed the setting up of the spelling criteria for local names. In their general principles they must draw inspiration from the consolidated centuries-old spelling traditions of Valle d'Aosta, as can be derived from archives and oral traditions.

Article 12

1) The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.

2) In this context the Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.

3) The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.

Specific provisions concerning **the teaching of minority languages** in the schools of the 12 recognized linguistic communities are contained in Law No. 482/99 and constitute the regulatory framework which underlies the actions taken by the Ministry of Education, University and Research.

Law n. 482/99 assigns a predominant role to schools and entrusts them with the task of enhancing the rich mosaic of languages, widening the educational opportunities and granting members of such minorities the right to learn their mother tongue.

In particular, articles 4 and 5 of Law no. 482/99 envisage a two tier intervention system: that of the Ministry of Education and that of the individual school institutions.

The efforts by the Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (*MIUR*) have been aimed at implementing the said Law by means of the following initiatives: financing the projects of the schools that introduce the teaching of the minority language; promoting the activities connected with the implementation of that Law, to include teacher training and monitoring the initiatives carried out.

In kindergartens, the use of the minority language during educational activities is envisaged; in primary and junior secondary schools the use of the [minority] language is regarded as a teaching instrument. Planning an educational provision addressed to adults is also being considered.

Across the national territory, the Regional Education Authorities have been working towards enhancing, supporting and monitoring the educational and training initiatives that involve the minority languages. They have promoted and shared examples of best practices to include *ad-hoc* research and publications, such as the 2010 survey of the language communities of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region.

Over the last few years, the Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (*MIUR*) has given due attention to minority languages by publishing the annual notes aimed at the implementation of the statutory financial intervention plan, by further supporting the establishment of networks of schools and the integration of education actions with the out-of-school context and the territory.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the promulgation of Law no. 482/99, the Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (*MIUR*) commissioned to the National Institute for the Evaluation of the Educational and Training System (*INVALSI*) a **survey** aiming at describing the situation as regards the teaching of minority languages in the schools involved.

The project stemmed from the need to take stock of the situation concerning the teaching of minority languages on the first 10-year deadline since the entry into force of the fundamental piece of legislation (Law No. 482/99) in this regard, that has allowed the official introduction into schools of the above-mentioned languages. The aim of the survey is to record the impact of the supporting and protection measures provided for by Law no. 482/99 in the schools of the minority communities. The study is divided into 4 parts:

1. The territory and the context. In co-operation with the Department for Regional Affairs to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers a study has been launched, based on the analysis of similar

data, into the general context relating to the application of the said Law and starting from the different initial legislative situations. The survey – involving each individual municipal administration where a minority community is present – was to evaluate the degree of application of some paragraphs of the above law, like the adoption of bilingualism, if any, and its extent in the Public Administration, the date from which the municipality declared itself bilingual, the kind of bilingualism and so on, and was carried out by means of an on-line questionnaire administered to the employees of the municipalities concerned.

2. The School: the law and its application. Minority schools are most diversified, as are the implementation conditions of Law no. 482/99 and the various local provisions. It was necessary, therefore, to launch a homogeneous and standardized survey across the entire territory concerned to better evaluate, in the light of the existing differences, the impact of the law. The survey, carried out by the *Centre d'Études Linguistiques pour l'Europe (CELE)*, has verified which schools have set up plans for minority language teaching, at which level and based on how many hours; the actual state of implementation of the projects financed by the Ministry and their impact on bilingualism in schools, the languages taught and the number of teaching hours employed; when the minority language is vehicular language or teaching language and which subjects are taught in the minority language; the textbooks and other teaching material adopted (whether in-house developed or not) and the anticipated relationship between language and culture in the various school institutions. The survey was conducted by means of a standardized questionnaire administered on-line and containing specific questions concerning the issues mentioned above. No less remarkable has been the collection, cataloguing and examination of the teaching material – kept in a place created for the purpose – and available to the school- and the scientific community.

3. The School: acceptance, evaluation and expectations. The method of the creative focus group, namely the evocative group interview, has been applied in order to investigate how students, teachers and parents perceive the initiatives taken by schools, their level of satisfaction and their expectations for the future. The surveys have taken place in 'target schools', i.e. schools previously selected on the basis of the minority or the territory concerned.

During the focus groups the following aspects have been evaluated: the appropriateness and the quality of the educational provision, the degree and the kind of integration of the minority language into the educational provision, the *desiderata* for the languages to be taught, (namely, the number, the kind and variety of languages – minority and other – the teaching of which is regarded as desirable), for the teaching criteria to be adopted (how and how much should the languages be taught) and for the training and work expectations (i.e. the expected results of the knowledge and the teaching of such languages).

4. The School: external evaluation. Together with what can be called an internal evaluation, the need emerged for an objective inquiry into the actual skills achieved by the pupils of the schools where a minority language is taught. Rather than being restricted to the skills in the minority language (where a uniform evaluation could be particularly difficult), an evaluation of this kind should be extended to the other school subjects, in order to assess whether the additional study of a minority language is of benefit, a burden or inconsequential in relation to general learning. The evaluation of this aspect has been carried out directly by *INVALSI* in the target schools selected for the focus groups.

As regards **training**, the *MIUR* has financed a project for the education of teachers and head teachers of schools attended by Roma pupils. A National training seminar was organized at Gardone Riviera (Brescia) on 18, 19 and 20 October 2010, subdivided into sessions devoted to reception and inclusion, teaching practices and evaluation of skills, the learning of Italian and

Romani; assembling memory and disassembling prejudice; the role of cultural mediators; the relationships with the out-of-school environment; voluntary associations, local Authorities.

Article 13

1) Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognise that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.

2) The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.

The national education system does not prevent the members of linguistic minorities from setting up and managing their own private educational institutes.

Article 14

1) The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.

2) In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.

3) Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.

In our country, the right to learn the minority language is granted to all members of the linguistic minorities.

In this connection, article 4 of Law No. 482/99 is of paramount importance, as it envisages that in addition to the use of Italian, the minority language shall be used in educational activities in the kindergartens of municipalities where minority groups exist. In primary schools and in junior secondary schools the use of the minority language is envisaged as teaching aid.

The use of the minority language contributes to the enrichment of the dimension of multilingualism by means of the combined learning of the Italian language, the community- and the minority languages. In order to ensure the learning of the minority language and in the light of the organisational and teaching autonomy, school institutions lay down the teaching modalities of the local language and traditions. In doing so, they also take account of the requests made by the pupils' parents who, upon pre-registration, declare whether they want their children to be taught the minority language.

The **Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (MIUR)** has promoted and supported the projects developed by the schools by fostering cooperation between school networks.

To this end, in the years 2011 and 2013 the action and funding Plans for the implementation of national and local projects concerning the study of the languages and cultural traditions belonging to a language minority were published. They include an appeal to head teachers of primary and

junior secondary schools located in “territorial and sub-municipal delimited areas where the provisions for the protection of the historical linguistic minorities apply” to submit network projects for the years 2011-2013 and 2013-2015. The specific indications provided are designed to include and enhance a factual network-based cooperation of the schools involved in each project. To ensure the continuous advancement of each project submitted, a two-year implementation time has been requested, with a mid-term review and a further monitoring to take place at the end of each two-year period. The minimal conditions necessary for granting the maximum usefulness of the project, aimed at achieving a real enhancement of the minority languages involved have been checked. Priority has been assigned to the projects inspired at the following criteria: the teaching of the minority language within school hours, by in-house teachers having adequate language skills; the applications of the integrated method of vehicular teaching which, by ensuring all pupils the achievement of skill development targets, employs the CLIL method; the development of transferable multimedia pedagogical resources and teaching aids based, among other, on a recreational approach. Particular attention was attached to the production of the music, sounds and songs characterizing our minority languages, with the aim of raising their visibility at international level through the electronic platform on the <http://lingueminoritarie.e-musiweb.org> website. A method to evaluate the acquired language skills, knowledge and mastery has been requested, in the form of templates such as grids, scoring sheets and logbooks, easy to use and transferable to other minority contexts. A great, awareness-based synergy with the local Authorities has been encouraged, as confirmed by Memorandums of Understanding or agreements with institutions, associations, research centres and Universities on the territory.

For the 2011-2013 two-year period, the projects submitted by 17 networks of schools have been funded, for a total of 347,099 Euros, while for the 2013-2015 two-year period the projects submitted by 19 networks of schools have been funded, for a total of 187,737 Euros.

As regards **the protection of the Slovenian minority in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region in the field of education**, it must first be pointed out that in Autumn 1945 in the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia the Military Allied Government (GMA) restored the schools with Slovenian as teaching language. As a result, since 1947 in the Province of Gorizia and since 1954 in the Province of Trieste these schools have become an established part of the Italian school system. Particularly important milestones in this respect have been the Laws no. 1012/1961, 932/1973, 38/2001 as amended, supplemented or modified from time to time. In the Province of Udine, the first public state school with bilingual Slovene-Italian instruction was set up in S. Pietro al Natisone in 2001, under article 12(5) of Law No. 38/2001.

In the Provinces of Trieste and Gorizia there is now a whole network of state schools with Slovenian as teaching language at all levels of education (7 comprehensive and 6 autonomous secondary schools, which provide 17 different educational specializations), involving an overall number of 2,399 pupils in the province of Trieste and 1,573 pupils in the Province of Gorizia in the school year 2013-2014. The educational provision in Slovenian language is further supplemented by private, non State schools and institutes. These include municipal kindergartens (in the Municipalities of Trieste and Duino-Aurisina), a vocational training Institute accredited by the Autonomous Friuli-Venezia Giulia Regional Authority, two private music schools – a regional one and another based in Gorizia – all of them financed with the funds envisaged by Law No. 38/2001.

Unlike Trieste and Gorizia, in the Province of Udine the Slovene minority, for historical reasons, has chosen bilingual education. The only state-run school with bilingual Slovene-Italian instruction in that Province is the comprehensive institute of S. Pietro al Natisone.

Following the increase in registrations to schools with Slovenian as teaching language, recorded over the last few years, in order to meet the high quality standards of the educational provision the staffing levels granted to these schools exceed the National benchmarks in force. Moreover, in derogation to Decree-law no. 98 of 6 July 2011, converted into Law no. 111/2011 (article 19, para.s 4 and 5), the autonomous institutes of the Slovenian minority (9 in the Province of Trieste, 4 in the Province of Gorizia and 1 in the Province of Udine) have been granted the right to maintain their own head teachers and administrative-and general affairs managers, in accordance to article 2 (9) of Decree of the President of the Republic No. 233 of 16 July 1998, as was further reaffirmed by article 11(2) of Law No. 38 of 23 February 2001.

To support the schools with Slovenian as teaching language, in 2002 a special Office (Office IV) was established at the Regional Education Authority of Friuli Venezia Giulia, in accordance with article 13(1) of Law. No. 38 of 23 February 2001. At the moment, all employees of the 'Office IV' are seconded school staff as provided for by art. 7 of Law No. 932 of 22 December 1973. Yet, procedures are under way for the recruitment by competition of administrative staff having a full knowledge of the Slovenian language, to be assigned to the said Office.

The Office for Instruction in the Slovenian language is in charge of the legal and administrative management of the staff working at the state-run schools with Slovenian as teaching language and/or with bilingual Slovenian/Italian teaching. The Office deals with the following: educational institutions, staff numbers and management activities falling outside the responsibility of autonomous institutions, recruiting and ranking of school Senior Officials and teachers, staff mobility and staff positions – either with permanent or with fixed-term contracts – training and updating of the staff, drafting, translation and printing of textbooks, state examinations and issues concerning the young. Furthermore, the above mentioned Office functions as Secretariat of the Regional Educational Committee for Teaching in the Slovenian language, established in compliance with art. 13(4) of the above mentioned Law No. 38/2001. Finally, insofar as the schools with Slovenian as teaching language are concerned and with the only exclusion of budgetary and social security issues, the 'Office IV' has been given the powers normally assigned to the Provincial Education Agencies. As a result, when dealing with all issues concerning the schools with Slovenian as teaching language (textbooks, training, teaching programmes, school reforms, teaching projects and experimentation, supervisory visits and so on), including matters to be tackled directly at ministerial level – the Office works in close cooperation with the acting Director General. Furthermore, it is responsible for the translation into the Slovenian language of documents of particular importance for the school environment.

One of the major highlights in the activities of the Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (MIUR) is the cooperation in the field of education developed in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Republics of Italy and Slovenia on 25 May 1995 in Ljubljana. This cooperation focuses on the following areas: training, refresher courses, textbooks and educational travels. A key role in the implementation of these initiatives is played by the Educational Consultant for the schools situated in Italy and with Slovenian as teaching language, who is appointed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Slovenia under the above said Memorandum of Understanding. In agreement with the Educational Consultant, the initiatives over the past three school years have been the following: a refresher course addressed to all teachers held in September, a residential training course restricted to forty teachers held in August, free of charge educational trips to Slovenia for pupils attending all types of schools, literary and scientific contests for teenagers, free of charge textbooks for primary schools, selection of the candidates to be awarded with the eight scholarships granted each year by the Republic of Slovenia, under bilateral agreements, to teachers working in schools based in Italy with Slovenian as teaching language.

Pursuant to Article 21 of Regional Law No.26/2007, the Region shall provide the municipality of San Pietro al Natisone with annual funds to cover the higher expenditure borne by the municipal administration for operating and routine maintenance costs, including the expenses for the introduction of supplementary school attendance services, for teaching activities as well as the provision of facilities for the Comprehensive Institute with bilingual Italian-Slovenian instruction located in San Pietro al Natisone. The amount of funds per each fiscal year is determined by the approval of the annual budget law. The yearly financial resources assigned and granted in 2012 and 2013 amounted to 50,000.00 Euros respectively. The Comprehensive Institute may also benefit from the funding provided for by Regional Law No. 11/1977 and Regional Law No. 10/1980. The funds provided for by Regional Law No. 11/1977 are allocated to joint bodies, parent meetings and committees operating in the Regional Schools with Slovenian as teaching language, as well as trade unions representing the teaching and non-teaching staff of these schools, to cover the costs of responding to the needs of the linguistic minority, forms in the Slovene language, computer programmes, translations of written texts records and documents, printing and posting of bills, notices and information notes. The funds provided for by Regional Law No. 10/1980 aim at ensuring equal rights and opportunities of education and access to culture in one's own mother tongue to the members of the Slovene minority. These interventions aim at supporting initiatives in favour of pupils and students and are implemented by allocating funds, covering up to 100% of eligible costs, to public educational establishments or private alternative State-approved schools employing Slovenian as teaching language, parental associations and committees operating in these institutions, as well as other public and private entities. In 2012, the Comprehensive Institute was granted the amount of 1,380.41 Euros for a total of 218 students involved in the projects under Regional Law No. 11/1977 and the amount of 984.60 Euros for a total of 169 students under Regional Law No. 10/1980.

The teaching of the Friulian language has been introduced in kindergartens, primary and junior secondary schools, both public and alternative State-approved private ones, located in the Municipalities of the three Provinces implementing the territorialisation provided for by Law No. 482/99 .

According to the latest survey carried out by the General Directorate of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Education Authority, 60% of the students attending the schools based in the three Provinces where Friulian is spoken, namely Udine, Gorizia and Pordenone, applied for the teaching of the Friulian language.

The above legislation provides for that the Friulian language be included in the teaching activities of kindergartens, primary and junior secondary schools, both public and alternative State-approved private ones, located in the Municipalities defined by Article 3(1) of Regional Law No. 29/2007, following specific arrangements according to types and levels of schooling.

The Regulation introduced by the Decree of the President of the Region No. 204/2011 defines the criteria for the teaching/learning of the Friulian language and specifies the total number of hours to be devoted to Friulian language teaching (no less than 30 hours per class group every school year). The way these hours are integrated in the school overall curricula rests on the organisational autonomy of each institution and, therefore, they may either be spread over the entire school year or concentrated in a given period.

Friulian language teaching is to be included in the school overall curricula formed by compulsory curricula defined at national level and curricula defined at local level according to the needs of the

social and cultural context of the area, in coordination and agreement with the Regions and Local Authorities.

The Region, in accordance with the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Education Authority, has drawn up a list of teachers with recognized skills in the teaching of the Friulian language (which should be taught in kindergartens, primary schools, junior and senior secondary schools). So far 1,350 teachers have joined the list and a considerable number of them are employed on a permanent basis and therefore teach the Friulian language during their didactic activity by using it as a vehicular language. This modality affords the school with the advantage of perfectly integrating the teaching of the Friulian language into the curricula.

In accordance with reference standards, the assessment methods are an expression of the school autonomy. Hence, each teaching staff decides both on the assessment criteria to be adopted for the Friulian language and the evaluation sheet the parents will be given, which may consist, as in the case of the Catholic religion, of a certificate containing an overall performance comment or be expressed in whatever form the staff may decide according to didactic autonomy.

At school, the minority language is not only partially adopted as a vehicular language in the teaching of different school subjects, e.g. history or science taught in Friulian, but it is also used in various innovative teaching methods which, by way of example, apply Information and Communication Technologies to didactic activities.

For the school year 2012/2013 the total Regional financial resources amounted to 1,894,643.32 Euros. In the school year 2012/2013, a total of 31,177 pupils attending the kindergartens and primary schools based in the Region were involved in the teaching of the Friulian language (activities are mostly carried out in the schools based in the Province of Udine).

In most cases, these projects support the dialogue with families in order to share targets and contents. They also promote a proactive exchange with the local context, local authorities and territorial agencies with a view to enhancing the local heritage of the entire community.

Furthermore, by Decree of the President of the Region No. 80 dated 3 April 2012 the Region established the Permanent Committee for the Teaching of Friulian within the relevant Central Directorate for Education, University, Research, Family, Voluntary Associations and Cooperation to ensure coordination among the activities carried out by the different institutions in implementing the above legal provisions.

To afford continuity to Friulian language teaching also in junior secondary schools, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region is financing projects within the framework of the plan aimed at enriching the educational provision. In the year 2012 the amount of 250,000 euros was granted to support the implementation of this measure across the whole Region, more specifically 146,000 Euros to support projects in favour of the Friulian language and 12,500 Euros to support the German language. The overall number of pupils involved amounted to 7,529.

As far as other minority languages are concerned, the Griko language has been introduced as a subject in the teaching activities of kindergartens, primary and junior secondary schools by a specific project of the *Grecia Salentina* [Greek Salento] .

The **Sardinia Region** is financially supporting initiatives intended for the spreading of Sardinian in schools. Furthermore, intermunicipal projects have been implemented to promote the learning and spreading of the Sardinian language. By way of example, thanks to linguistic helpdesks, Catalan

courses are constantly held in the schools of Alghero, a town with Catalan origins where the Catalan language is widely spoken. In 2013, with the funds made available by Regional Law No. 26/1997, the Province of Olbia-Tempio approved and published a call for applications for grants in favour of school institutions, other public administrations and private bodies, to fund various projects (including gathering of documentation and material concerning oral tradition and other research in this field, study of the different varieties of the language, organizing literary contests in the Sardinian language, experimentations in drama, etc.).

In its Third Opinion on Italy, the Advisory Committee expressed concern for **Roma children as far as their integration into the school system is concerned.**

Many initiatives have been launched by Local Authorities, while at central level the Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (MIUR) has financed national projects promoting the integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti children, including:

1. National project for the integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti minors. It refers to the school-year 2013/2014 and aims at promoting the integration of Roma children and young people into the primary and junior secondary schools of 13 towns (Turin, Milan, Genoa, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, Reggio Calabria, Bari, Palermo, Catania and Cagliari) in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and with Local Authorities. The project aims at involving whole class groups and the entire school thus avoiding separate initiatives merely targeting Roma pupils. Furthermore, the focus is placed on the early school years, i.e. the first two years of primary schools and the first year of junior secondary schools, which are considered vital phases of schooling. Training is provided to social workers, teachers and head teachers.

This project involves Local Authorities, Roma and Sinti families and associations operating at local level. The funds granted for the first year amount to 600,000 Euros.

2. Project “Growing up in Cohesion” – The project has been in operation since 2013 and is designed to discourage early school-leaving in areas suffering severe hardships in the Regions of Campania, Calabria, Apulia and Sicily. In its framework 26 schools’ networks have received funding amounting to 200,000 Euros each. At least one school in each network is committed to the integration of Roma minors.

3. Analysis of the data collected on Roma pupils – Since the school year 2007/2008 the Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (MIUR), along with the data collected on non-Italian pupils, has also been gathering data concerning Roma, Sinti and Caminanti pupils enrolled in schools of every level; these data are broken down by Regions and Provinces. The latest report “Non-Italian Pupils, school year 2011/2012” also includes data on Roma pupils in the municipalities and their trend by gender. (website Miur/intercultural)

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

In this connection reference is made to the indications given under Article 7 of the Convention concerning the freedom of association granted to the minorities living in Italy.

Article 16

The Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention.

According to the Italian legal system modifications to the territory occur through a complex procedure implying various layers of competence and a referendum whereby the various populations concerned express their opinion on the matter.

According to Article 132 of the Constitution, the merging of existing Regions and the creation of new Regions is to be provided for by a constitutional law, provided the majority of the involved populations give their approval; the same holds true for the inclusion of Provinces and Municipalities in a Region after their detachment from the one they previously belonged to.

According to Article 133 of the Constitution, the modification of a Provincial district and the establishment of new Provinces within a Region are provided for by laws of the Republic, upon initiative of the Municipalities and after hearing the opinion of the Region itself.

The Region, after obtaining the opinion of the populations concerned, may issue regional laws to establish new Municipalities in its territory as well as modify territories and names of Municipalities.

No legal provisions have been adopted for the purpose of altering the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to historical linguistic minorities.

Article 17

- 1) **The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.**
- 2) **The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.**

Article 18

1) The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States, in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.

2) Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.

As far as Articles 17 and 18 are concerned, reference is made to Article 2 as regards the issues of transfrontier co-operation and relations with the countries of origin of the linguistic minority groups living in our Country.

Article 19

The Parties undertake to respect and implement the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention making, where necessary, only those limitations, restrictions or derogations which are provided for in international legal instruments, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in so far as they are relevant to the rights and freedoms flowing from the said principles.

As regards the content of this provision, reference is made to the contents of previous articles and more specifically to Italy's compliance with the obligations arising from the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The support of the community and the local administration is still of paramount importance in promoting minority languages. Indeed, the involvement of civil society makes the individual increasingly aware of a common sense of responsibility in promoting one's own linguistic and cultural heritage.