



Strasbourg, 29 January 2014

ACFC/SR/IV(2014)002

**FOURTH REPORT SUBMITTED BY DENMARK
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25, PARAGRAPH 2
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

Received on 29 January 2014



Denmark's fourth report

under the Council of

Europe's Framework

Convention for the Protection of National

Minorities

January 2014



Introduction

Denmark ratified the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on 22 September 1997. The Framework Convention entered into force for Denmark on 1 February 1998. On 6 May 1999, Denmark submitted its first state report under the Framework Convention. The third state report under the Framework Convention followed on March 2010.

As part of the monitoring mechanisms of the Framework Convention, Denmark now submits its fourth state report under the Framework Convention. The Danish government sees the report as an excellent opportunity to maintain the ongoing dialogue with the Council of Europe in the area.

The report has been prepared on the basis of contributions received from a number of ministries and other authorities comprised by the provisions of the Framework Convention. The ministries and authorities include the Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Business and Growth Denmark, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture Denmark, Ministry for Gender Equality and Ecclesiastical Affairs, The Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Integration, The Ministry of Health, The Prime Minister's Office, The Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Interior, The Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Statistics Denmark as well as the municipalities of Tønder, Haderslev, Aabenraa and Sønderborg.

The German minority has had an opportunity to review the report and has assisted in providing factual information. The report specifies where information has been provided by the German minority.

To the extent possible, the report has been prepared in accordance with the outline for state report adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 30 April 2013. The report concentrates on the issues raised in the Committee of Ministers resolution on 13 June 2012 and the Advisory Committee opinion on 31 March 2011. In connection with the submission of Denmark's third state report, the Advisory Committee has not raised any specific questions.

I. Practical arrangement made at the national level for raising awareness of the results of the third monitoring cycle and of the Framework Convention

a. Please indicate what steps have been taken to publicise the results of the third monitoring cycle (Opinion, State comments, Resolution): publication, dissemination, translation of the relevant documents into the official language(s) and the minority languages where appropriate.

In connection with the transfer of responsibility for Minorities on Economic Affairs and the Interior Ministry to the Ministry of Education in 2011, the website of the Ministry of Education set up a separate page with information on the Framework Convention and the monitoring periods. Denmark's state reports, the Advisory Committee's reports and the Committee of Ministers' resolutions for all periods are posted on the website www.uvm.dk.

The documents on the website are available in Danish and English. The Danish language is spoken and understood by the vast majority of the members of the German minority.

The former Ministry of Interior and Health did not consider it necessary in the 3rd reporting to translate the Council of opinion and resolution in German.



On request, the Ministry of Education sends copies of the Danish State Reports, the Advisory Committee's reports and the Committee of Ministers' resolutions.

The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education contains basic information about the Council of Europe Framework Convention and the Language Charter.

b. Please provide information on any follow-up activities organised at national, regional and local levels.

As shown under item c. there have been several meetings in the Contact Committee for the German minority. At these meetings the Framework Convention and its recommendations have been discussed. Apart from these meetings the Ministry of Education regularly meets with representatives of the German minority where these issues are discussed.

During a special joint session between the Danish Contact Committee for the German minority and the Schleswig Holstein Committee for the German minority in North Schleswig, where the president of the Schleswig Holsten Landtag and the Danish Minister of Education both participated, a host of issues concerning the German minority were discussed. Amongst these were the two nations' views on Danish-German cooperation regarding national minorities.

It is also worth mentioning that in August 2013 the Danish Contact Committee for the German minority held its 50th session. This was celebrated with an event held at Christiansborg where the chairman of the Danish Parliament and members of the German minority were among the guests.

In general the relationship between the Danish authorities and the German minority is informal and based on mutual trust.

c. Please provide information on the participation of minority organisations and other nongovernmental organisations in the authorities' implementation and monitoring of the Framework Convention, and indicate the impact of their involvement.

At their meetings the Danish Contact Committee for the German minority, which consists of members from each of the political parties that are represented in the Danish parliament and members of the German minority, have issues regarding the Framework Convention on the agenda at a regular basis.

Thus, at its meeting on April 29th 2011 the Contact Committee had a discussion concerning the results of the 3rd monitoring cycle including the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers after these were made public. The issue of Denmark's compliance with the recommendations regarding the use of media received specific attention.

Furthermore, the issue has been addressed in the special working group that has been established in accordance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The working group is an informal forum with participants from a range of ministries and from the German minority. The working group has been established to facilitate regular discussion and evaluation of the precautions that are mentioned in chapter III of the charter, particularly in regard to education. The working group can also take on other issues, for instance matters concerning the Framework Convention.



Thus, this is a forum which can take on a broad range of issues, and it is entitled to discuss practically all matters concerning the German minority. The latest meeting of the working group was held in December 2011.

Besides the meetings in the above mentioned fora, the Ministry of Education in its capacity as secretariat for the Contact Committee is in a continuous dialogue with the German minority's secretariat in Copenhagen, and regular meetings are held with representatives of the German minority. This ensures a continuous discussion of matters that the German minority deem important, including issues concerning the Framework convention.

d. please provide information on any other measures taken to promote awareness of the Framework Convention.

With reference to paragraph a - c is the Ministry of Education believes that there is a good knowledge of the Framework Convention.

II. Measures taken to address core issues

a. Please provide information on how each of the specific recommendations for immediate action included in the second part of the Committee of Ministers' Resolution has been implemented. Indications on other policies and measures considered relevant in this context should also be provided.

Initially, the Committee of Ministers concludes that several areas have experienced positive development, including the area of antidiscrimination and cooperation with the German minority and the basis of such cooperation. This is followed by a list of areas which give cause for concern. These areas have been included in the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, which is described in the following:

Raise general public awareness of the Act on Ethnic Equal Treatment of 2003 and of the work of the Board for Equal Treatment; ensure that the funding of the Board for Equal Treatment and the Danish Institute for Human Rights is appropriate to their needs

The Board of Equal Treatment

The Board of Equal Treatment was established 1 January 2009. The annual budget of the Board of Equal Treatment is at the moment €250.000.

The Board of Equal Treatment covers all fields of discrimination in the Danish antidiscrimination legislation today. To make complaints to the Board is free of charge, and the secretariat for the Board gladly assists individuals in lodging complaints.

Since 2009 the Board of Equal Treatment has made decisions in 129 cases concerning discrimination on ground of race or ethnic origin in total. In 2009 the Board dealt with 22 cases, in 2010 26 cases, in 2011 43 cases, in 2012 14 cases, and in 2013 (until 1 November) 24 cases.



The Board of Equal Treatment makes a big effort to raise awareness about antidiscrimination in general. It should be noted that the secretariat for The Board of Equal Treatment regularly holds dialogue sessions with stakeholders, particularly organizations that have special insight into equality issues. The purpose of these meetings is to obtain knowledge about how the board can best communicate with the citizens who may need a board. Also the secretariat makes educational presentations for organisations and trade unions.

To inform the public and other interested parties of the work of the Board all decisions are published on the website anonymously, and the secretariat publishes newsletters and press releases on selected individual cases. Finally, the Board has also published a folder on the Board.

Both the media and lawyers with interest in this field follow the work of the Board closely and often quote the decisions taken. The Board also receives a high number of queries by phone or e-mail from individuals, university students, trade unions or others who take an interest in the field of anti-discrimination.

In 2012 the Ministry of Employment made a review of the Act on the Board of Equal Treatment. The review showed that the Board fulfils its objective to be a good alternative to the ordinary courts and that the Board is also broadly respected by citizens, organizations and agencies. Therefore the review only resulted in few changes and clarifications in legislation. The Board's competence to deal with cases of harassment and sexual harassment was clarified. Also the Board's competence to reject complaints that are deemed not to be suitable for board processing was specified.

In spring 2013 the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) launched a website www.sigfranu.dk where discrimination and hate crimes can be registered. DIHR wishes the website to uncover the extent of perceived discrimination in Denmark. SigFraNu is implemented with financial support from the EU.

During September and October the Equality Board secretariat, The Institute for Human Rights and the theater group C:ntact visited a number of schools, technical schools and colleges in went to Middle-, North and West Jutland as well as Bornholm and Lolland-Falster. The goal was to make young people aware of their own prejudices, their rights and remedies. This event was part of the SigFraNu project.

The next step in the project is company visits, where the secretariat in a more traditional way will inform about the Board of Equal Treatment assignments and their practices.

Denmark's National Human Rights Institution

The government refers to Denmark's third state report which accounted for the status of the Danish Centre for International Studies and Human Rights. The government platform "A Denmark that stands together" from October 2011 stipulates that the government wants the Institute for Human Rights to become an independent institute in order to strengthen and clarify the institute's position as Denmark's National Human Rights Institution. Therefore The Danish Institute for Human Rights – Denmark's National Human Rights Institution (DIHR) was established by Act no. 553 of 18 June 2012 as an independent institute (see <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/r0710.aspx?id=142116>).



The act stipulates that the purpose of the DIHR is to facilitate and protect human rights in accordance with the international principles applying to national human rights institutions. DIHR must facilitate and protect human rights in peacetime and during armed conflicts especially by surveillance of and through reports about the human rights situation in Denmark, research in human rights, advice to the Danish Parliament, the government and other public authorities and private operators about human rights, help to promote the coordination between and support to voluntary organizations that works with human rights, help to promote and to implement teaching about human rights, inform about human rights and ensure library facilities regarding human rights and contribute to the implementation of human rights at home and abroad.

Furthermore as the Danish national Equal Treatment Body the DIHR shall help to promote the equal treatment of all people regardless of sex, race or ethnic origin, inter alia by provision of assistance to victims of discrimination with pursuing their complaints about discrimination in consideration of the rights of the victims, the associations, the organizations and other legal persons, launch independent inquiries into discrimination and publish reports and submit recommendations in matters regarding discrimination.

Act no. 553 of 18 June 2012 stipulates that the institute is a self-governing institution within the public administration which means that the institute as an independent and autonomous entity is not subject to government instruction. Likewise no government representative can participate in decisions regarding the work of the institution. Government representatives can only participate through a consulting function.

Furthermore the act stipulates that the state should provide annual financial support to the DIHR. This is conducted in the annual Budget (Financial Act). In the Budget 2011 the annual grant was increased by DKK 9,6 million yearly from 2011. Furthermore the grant was increased by DKK 1,0 million Danish kroner in 2011 and DKK 0,8 million annual from 2012. In the Budget 2012 the annual grant increased by DKK 10,0 million from 2012. This grant was devoted to help promote the institution's general work with human rights. In the Budget 2013 and 2014 this level of support has been sustained.

In the light of the aforementioned, it is the opinion of the Danish Government that through the government's focus on the strengthening and clarification of the status of DIHR as well as the annual financial support it is ensured that the DIHR continually has sufficient resources to conduct their tasks and to ensure growing exposure.

Finally the government notes that the DIHR has adopted a communication strategy for 2013-2016 which can be accessed on their website (see <http://humanrights.dk/home>). The communication strategy stipulates that the DIHR wants to qualify their use of digital media, and that DIHR's communication must be vivid and dialogue-seeking. Among other things the institute wants to use social media actively when relevant, which will give DIHR the possibility to be visible and available in forums and amongst people whom the institute is not normally in contact with.

Adopt the necessary measures in order to ensure that persons belonging to the German minority maintain print media in their own language; in particular, ensure adequate funding of the Gemran-language newspaper



The Danish government can inform that the German newspaper “Der Nordschleswiger” has received subsidies from the Danish Ministry of Culture’s Daily Newspaper Pool since 2007. The pool provides financial support for the distribution of commercially published daily newspapers distributed in Denmark. Subsidies may be applied according to two different schemes; the main scheme as well as a supplementary scheme. The supplementary scheme provides a subsidy for each distributed copy for special newspapers that can promote diversity in the newspaper market, such as newspapers aimed at a national minority in Denmark. “Der Nordschleswiger” has received subsidies from both schemes since the Ministry of Culture established the Pool for subsidies for distribution in 2007.

The subsidy to the different newspapers alters from year to year depending on the total amount at the pool’s disposal, the total amount of newspapers applying for subsidies and the total amount of copies distributed. As for “Der Nordschleswiger” the total subsidy has varied from DKK 1.8 million in 2009 as the lowest and is in 2013 expected to increase to DKK 2.0 million as the highest.

The Danish subsidy scheme to the Medias is under revision and a new subsidy scheme is expected from January 2014, see <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=161108>. It is expected that the grant for "There Nordschleswiger" will increase further, although the newspaper will no longer be covered by the supplementary scheme. Under the current scheme of distribution aid the newspaper only receives aid for the distributed newspaper in Denmark, while under the coming production aid scheme the newspaper will benefit up to 35% of total newspaper's editorial costs.

Adopt additional measures to raise awareness of the Framework Convention and ensure its effective implementation at the local and regional levels in South Jutland

The Danish government supports the principle of a committed and constructive dialogue between relevant authorities and representatives of civil society and ethnic and religious minorities. This dialogue takes place at all levels of the work with Danish integration policy. Reference is made to section I a, article 10 and 15.

III. Further measures taken to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention. Please provide information on an article-by-article basis on measures taken to enhance the implementation of the Framework Convention.

In order to facilitate the reading of the report, the answers to the section follows, to the extent possible, the structure outlined in the report of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee’s comments/recommendations are indicated in italics and are followed by the Danish government’s comments.

a. Measures taken to implement the recommendations included in second part of the Committee of Ministers’ Resolution

Propose additional training for police officers to raise their awareness of the diverse dimensions of racism in order for them to be better able to assess whether or not incidents reported to them are of a racist nature



Reference is made to article 6.

Take additional measures to ensure that the media fully comply with the rules of professional conduct, while respecting media independence, encourage the recruitment of persons of non-Danish ethnic origin into the media in order to promote cultural diversity and encourage the dissemination of a more accurate image of persons belonging to national minorities

The Danish national public service broadcasters DR and TV 2 and the eight regional television public service broadcasters – including TV SYD – all have public service obligations relating to social coverage of Denmark, see <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=158235>

Details of the public service remit of DR and the regional TV 2 television public service broadcasters – including TV SYD – are regulated in public service contracts with the Minister for Culture, whereas the details of the public service remit of TV 2 is regulated in a license for TV 2 to perform public service programme activities. DR and the regional TV 2 television public service broadcasters are financed almost exclusively by license fees, while TV 2 is financed by advertising revenue and subscription payment.

DR is by virtue of its public service contract obliged to provide a broad social coverage of Denmark, thereby reflecting the diversity of culture, philosophy of life and living conditions in different regions of the country. Furthermore DR is obliged to contribute to promoting integration. With regard to news coverage DR is obliged to provide news in the four languages most commonly used by resident immigrants and refugees, which at the time of entering the public service contract were English, Arabic, Turkish and Somali.

DR has adopted ethical guidelines for DR's programmes and employees. The guidelines inter alia contain provisions on integration and minorities. It is inter alia set out in the guidelines that DR will promote integration and thereby counter degrading or biased coverage of gender, age, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, physical disabilities, social status, political opinion etc. During radio and television recordings DR shall show due consideration to special religious matters, cultural and ethnic traditions. This inter alia implies that DR seeks to promote knowledge about inter alia ethnic, religious and sexual minorities' situation and background. This does not imply that DR shall refrain from portraying social problems and conflicts with relation to the minorities in Denmark, and DR does not give positive special treatment to some groups.

DR has, as part of its personnel policies, undertaken to ensure a systematic and strategic recruitment process that supports DR's strategy of diversity, dynamism and innovation. For example, DR aims to reflect the Danish society based on ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability and reduced work.

TV 2 is by virtue of its license to perform public service broadcasting like DR, committed to providing a broad social coverage of Denmark, thereby reflecting the diversity of culture, philosophy of life and living conditions in different regions of the country.

Pursuant to public service contracts the regional TV 2 stations - including TV SYD - is required to emphasizing on regional affiliation by programming. The programming must thus reflect the diver-



sity of culture, philosophy of life and living conditions that are in the region. The programming shall thereby reflect the diversity of culture, philosophy of life and living conditions in the region. TV SYD shall furthermore place emphasis on the conditions in the Danish/German border area, inter alia the Danish minority in Sydslesvig and its conditions.

Der Nordschleswiger receives a subsidy from the Ministry of Culture's part of "udlodningsmidlerne" for cultural purposes. The subsidy is given to producing and buying airtime to broadcasting newsprogrammes in German in the local radio in southern Denmark, Radio Mojn. The aim is to make the German minority able to produce and broadcast news in German in Southern Jutland. The subsidy is around €35.000.

The employment conditions of the media falls within the framework laid out in legislation etc, referring to media competences.

According to the Danish Radio and Television regulation radio and television programs cannot incite to hatred on grounds of race, gender, religion, nationality or sexual orientation. In addition, programs cannot in any way promote terrorism.

The Radio- and Television Board has not dealt with any cases regarding the above mentioned actions since 2010. In 2010 The Board dealt with one case concerning a local radio that allegedly spread hate-speech against Jews in a programme that was a live transmission of public debate with listeners who phoned in and joined the debate. The Board found that some remarks in the debate could be interpreted as discriminating and threatening.

The Board noted that in general it is difficult to intervene in the remarks given by participants in a live transmission of public debate, which might contain illegal remarks and that the programme host dealt with the situation adequately by interrupting the speaker and ending the conversation with said speaker. The Board furthermore took note of the fact that the station afterwards had excluded this said speaker from participation in future transmitted public debates. The Board concluded that the programme did not incite to hatred based on race, religion or nationality.

The Radio- and Television Board will continue to monitor programs regarding the subject. The Board can deal with cases due to complaints, but can also deal with cases on its own account.

The employment conditions of the media falls within the framework laid out in legislation etc, referring to media competences.

Translate informations which is important for persons belonging to the German minority, as well as the Advisory Committee's opinions, into the minority language of this group and ensure that these translations are disseminated in South Jutland

Reference is made to article 10.

Consult the representatives of the German minority with the aim of progressively installing topographical indications and other bilingual signs in South Jutland where appropriate

Since the last public consultation, the Danish Road Directorate has received an application by mail on 5 March 2013 from the German minority regarding a tourist information sign at the motorway indicating Knivsbjerg which is one of the German minority's cultural centres.



This attraction, however, can not apply for a tourist information sign. The attractions shown on the signs are based on recommendations by the Danish Nature Agency, the Danish Agency for Culture and by VisitDenmark. The selections from these agencies are based on an overall assessment analyzing the significance of the attractions for Danish people in general and for foreign tourists.

The basis for the selection of the attractions is as follows:

The attraction must either be a World Heritage Monument, a national park or an attraction with national interest.

Knivsbjerg is not included in any of the three above mentioned categories.

Since the last public consultation, the Danish Road Directorate has not been informed about any other requests regarding bilingual sign boards, which is why the Danish Road Directorate has not yet made decisions regarding such requests.

b. To the extent not already covered under points II and III-a above, measures and policies adopted to implement all the detailed recommendations, various findings and conclusions contained in the Advisory Committee's third opinion

The Framework Convention applies to persons belonging to national minorities outside South Jutland

Initially, it should be noted that Denmark has identified the German minority in South Jutland as a national minority comprised by the Framework Convention. The background for this is that the Danish government is still of the opinion – as specified in Denmark's previous state reports – that a national minority is characterised by being a minority population group which above all has historical, long-term and lasting links to the country in question. Reference is made to the informations provided by Denmark in the third state report and Denmark's comment to 'Third opinion of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities'.

In Denmark, the Roma do not have status of a national minority. The main reason is the lack of continuous historical presence in Denmark of persons with a Roma background. Only temporary habitation can be evidenced in the historical records.

It is important to develop further initiatives aimed at promoting knowledge of the Roma culture and history and at valuing the importance of an intercultural element in education

The Danish primary school has broad goals for what students should learn by teaching, and thus not exhaustive descriptions of the topics to be discussed in class. The current curriculum does not describe any specific topics on Roma culture and history. There is, however, set binding targets for pupils' awareness of culture and stereotypes of various cultural groups, and to participate in a democratic debate on social and cultural problem positions and suggest courses of action in relation to this. In the work with these objectives it is the individual school and teacher who chooses which cultural groups to involve in the teaching, including Roma history and culture prevailing conditions.



Furthermore, the current curriculum also contains a number of targets for students to learn how to relate to culture and cultural meetings and other aspects of intercultural competence. This applies, for example, in language subjects, social studies and Christian studies.

The Danish upper secondary education must have an educational perspective with an emphasis on development of the students' personal authority. Students should therefore learn to relate with reflection and responsibility for their environment. The aim is that the teaching and daily life must be based on intellectual freedom, equality and democracy.

It is stated in the curriculum for the subject social studies at A-and B-level that the core substance on the topic "Sociology" includes "cultural patterns". The Ministry's guidance for teachers states: "The cultural patterns describe values, norms and symbols in different groupings. Concepts such as subculture, ethnicity/nationality and mono-/multicultural community are relevant, and culture and integration (pluralistic integration, assimilation and segregation) should also be included. It may also be appropriate to aggregate different cultures (cultural meeting and cultural conflict). The teaching of social differentiation and cultural patterns should be empirically based. It can be in the form of actual field studies or by the use of surveys".

Normally major ethnic (or national) minorities are included instead of the Roma. Teaching the Roma are however within the curriculum framework

Article 3

By way of introduction, Denmark has identified the German minority in South Jutland as a national minority covered by the personal scope of application of the Framework Convention, and the Danish government is further of the opinion that, in principle, the obligations under international law assumed under the Framework Convention solely relate to the German minority in South Jutland and have no wider application.

Reference is made to Denmark's third state report pages 16 ff.

The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to pursue a dialogue-based approach in their relations with the individuals and groups that might in future be interested in being given the protection provided for by the Framework Convention and to retain the possibility for these persons to come under the protection of the Convention

Denmark has taken the Advisory Committee's comments into account. The Danish government will always be willing to continue the dialogue with stakeholders that may be interested in the Framework Convention.

The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to seek means of obtaining more data on the situation of national minorities in cooperation with the persons concerned, while at the same time fully complying with existing international standards for the protection of personal data



It has not been possible for Statistics Denmark to provide new statistical data on National Minorities. The source of Statistics Denmark's demographic information is the Central Population Register which includes information on the persons place of birth and citizenship, while information on ethnicity, race or religion, in appliance to Act on Processing of Personal Data, can not be registered. None of the existing data can be used for identifying National Minorities.

Article 4

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to step up their efforts to raise public awareness of the 2003 Act on Ethnic Equal Treatment among all ethnic groups and of the work of the Board for Equal Treatment among the population as a whole. Additional human and financial resources should also be allocated to the board for Equal Treatment.

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to pay particular attention to persons most at risk of discrimination so as to enable them to be fully informed about their rights and the remedies available.

The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to ensure that the Danish Institute for Human Rights continues to have sufficient resources at its disposal to carry out its tasks. It also encourages the authorities to ensure increased visibility to the work of the Institute

Denmark attaches great importance to combating discrimination. Denmark has taken and will continuously take a number of measures to protect vulnerable groups in society from discrimination. Among other things, the government has taken the following initiatives:

In 2012 the government funded a series of public meetings aiming to raise awareness of the legal protection from ethnic discrimination. The meetings were carried out by the Council for Ethnic Minorities with participation of the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Board of Equal Treatment. Among other issues, awareness on the law of ethnic equal treatment was raised.

Also, in 2012 -2015 DKK 20 million has been allocated for initiatives promoting civic citizenship and combating ethnic discrimination (inter alia, support for municipalities, NGO's and integration-councils). A grant to support local and national initiatives to combat ethnic discrimination was made public in September 2013.

Finally, in September 2013 the launch of a national antidiscrimination unit was announced by the Minister of Social Affairs, Children and Integration. In the government platform of October 2011 "A Denmark that stands together" (see appendix 1 and 2) it is mentioned, that a unit to combat discrimination is to be launched. The following is stated: "Discrimination and social exclusion of immigrants is unacceptable and create barriers for integration.

Therefore, the government will establish a national anti-discrimination unit. The unit will identify the extent and types of discrimination in the labour market and in society as a whole. The unit will also carry out publicly funded anti-discrimination campaigns, coordinate intermunicipal efforts against discrimination and support private companies that carry out efforts to combat discrimination in workplaces.

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municipal efforts against discrimination and support private companies that carry out efforts to combat discrimination in workplaces.

Reference is made to the comments of the Board for Equal Treatment and the Danish Institute for Human Rights in section II.

Article 6

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to continue the programmes and policies for promoting integration, diversity and tolerance in Danish society and to monitor them on a regular basis.

Prior to the local and regional elections in 2013 the government launched the awareness-campaign: "It is everyone's election". The campaign aims to promote political participation among immigrants and descendants. Among other things, 100 local meetings have been funded, a "democracy board game" has been developed and distributed to civil society while multilingual information materials on how to vote have been distributed nationwide. The campaign has been carried out in close co-operation with civil society. The total budget was approx DKK 4 million.

We Need All Youngsters (WNAY) aims to increase the number of ethnic minority youths to begin and complete an upper secondary education.

Since 2011, the initiative has primarily focused on deprived residential areas with large concentrations of ethnic minority youths from a low-educated background. WNAY has a special focus on the boys as they have a higher dropout rate than the national average.

WNAY approaches this task by gathering local stakeholders that are involved with youngsters on a daily basis. Agreements are made for various projects that each, in their own way, aim to create a positive process of change in the area to make sure more youths starts and finishes an education. Examples of projects include homework cafés located in unconventional settings, e.g. sports clubs, youth to youth projects, role models (parents and young people) and projects supporting cooperation between parents of ethnic minority background and e.g. teachers. WNAY values local ownership and local anchoring. The involved areas will therefore partly finance the projects themselves. This helps to promote the local legacy of the project after WNAY's involvement ends.

By the end of 2014, WNAY will have completed initiatives in 6-8 deprived areas. There is, in each of the years 2011-2014, allocated DKK 6.0 million for WNAY's housing projects.

Furthermore, WNAY has established a team of role models whose personal stories of their challenges towards getting an education and a job has supported, motivated and inspired both ethnic minority youths and parents. WNAY has now divided the central rolemodel team into smaller locally based teams throughout the country.

Additional training should be made available to police officers to raise their awareness of the diverse dimensions and manifestations of racism so as to enable them to assess better whether incidents reported to them are of a racist nature.



Since 2009, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Danish National Police have launched a number of initiatives to combat hate crime.

In a joint letter of 22 September 2011 to all Commissioners of Police and Regional Public Prosecutors, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Danish National Police emphasized the obligation of the police and prosecution service to ensure effective prosecution in hate crime cases. The police and prosecution service were also encouraged to contribute to projects/campaigns concerning hate crime e.g. information campaigns aimed at influencing public opinion on hate crime.

In 2011, the Director of Public Prosecutions also issued new guidelines (No. 2/2011 replacing Instruction No. 9/2006) concerning the investigation and prosecution of cases on violation of Section 266 b of the Criminal Code and the Act on Prohibition of Discrimination based on Race as well as cases in which Section 81, No. 6, of the Criminal Code might apply.

In relation to crimes committed with a racist motive, it should be noted that during 2011 and 2012 seminars on hate crime have been held in all police districts in Denmark. Police officers as well as prosecutors have attended the seminars that were developed by the Danish Security and Intelligence Service and The Danish Institute for Human Rights. The seminars dealt with topics such as international conventions, human rights, identification and registration of hate crimes and the Director of Public Prosecutions' guidelines concerning investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

Furthermore, as of 2013 the Director of Public Prosecutions is offering an annual seminar on hate crimes. Prosecutors, lawyers and judges can participate in the seminar which focuses on the identification and prosecution of hate crimes. Also a human rights perspective on hate crimes will be part of the course.

As of 2014, the topic of hate crimes and the special obligations for the police in this connection will be included in the training of police students at the Danish National Police College.

Finally, it should be noted that hate crime is a special area of focus in the 2012-2015 strategy of the prosecution service, and that the prosecution of hate crimes is a subject that has been and will continue to be discussed in relevant forums within the prosecution service, e.g. in the Committee on offences against the person, where representatives of all police districts and the regional prosecutors' offices participate.

When notifying the Danish Security and Intelligence Service, the police districts should indicate that an act has a possible extremist background, if the criminal act is considered to be motivated by extremist views on political issues or questions concerning race, color, nationality, ethnic origin, belief or sexual orientation.

It is the estimation of the Danish Security and Intelligence Service that the change of the reporting scheme in 2009 results in a fairer picture of the number of acts covered by the scheme.

In addition to this, the Danish Security and Intelligence Service launched a strategic development project in 2010 aimed at sharpening the overall effort of the Danish police to detect, prevent and investigate hate crimes.



The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to pursue their approach of consulting the ethnic and religious groups in order to improve their participation in public affairs that concern them

The Danish government has regular meetings with various stakeholders in the area. Reference is made to the third state report and Denmark's comment to 'Third opinion of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.'

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure that the media fully complies with the rules of professional conduct, while showing full respect for media independence.

The Advisory Committee also calls on the authorities to take more effective measures to encourage the recruitment of persons of non-Danish ethnic origin into the media in order to promote diversity and to further the dissemination of a more accurate image of persons belonging to minority groups.

The Radio and Television Broadcasting Act does not contain rules that prevent minorities the access to radio- and television broadcasting, and the licensing system is based on objective, transparent and non-discriminatory criteria. Furthermore the license system for local radio and television promotes versatility, which makes it possible for a diversity of groups to obtain licenses, including the national minority.

A financial support pool of around €265.000 in 2013 and in 2014 for education connected with local radio and television has just been established. One of the purposes of the support pool is to meet minority groups' need for access to local radio and television by facilitating this access.

Reference is made to section III a.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to ensure that measures aimed at guaranteeing equal access to quality education for Roma children should continue and be the subject of an ongoing dialogue between the representatives of the Roma and the authorities.

It also encourages the authorities to continue to offer specific educational support measures where appropriate and to develop further initiatives aimed at promoting knowledge of the Roma culture and history in schools

The Danish approach to address the Roma and other group's right to education of a high quality is to promote inclusion of Roma children through the use of general actions and policies in the educational system. Efforts to ensure that all students in Denmark will acquire knowledge and skills in their schooling, which enables them to complete their education, get a job and to participate in society as adult, equal citizens, is done without regard to a person's ethnic background.

It is the Danish government's policy that the majority of children should go to regular public school class and that education should be organized in a way that meets the individual student's needs and skills. Children with a Roma background has the same opportunities for education as all other children and young people in Denmark, including to benefit from existing initiatives targeted bilingual students.



The Danish government can inform that the recently implemented reform of the teacher education states that the object of education is inter alia to enable students through training to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be able to act as a professional educational and instructional competent teacher in Danish schools under the public school purposes.

The fields of competence of teachers due professionalism include the following:

1) Pedagogy and teacher professionalism, including Student Learning and Development, Teaching Knowledge, Pedagogy and Education of bilingual students and

2) General Culture: Christian Studies, Life Education for citizenship, including the interpretation of public school purposes for the development of professional ethics and the handling of complex challenges in teachers' work in a global society characterized by cultural, valuebased and religious diversity.

The responsibilities of Courses include the following:

- Social studies: democracy and participation and
- Christianity/Religion: religion enters didactics, teaching the subject of Christianity, teaching the subject of Islam and other religions as well as teaching the subject philosophy, including ethics and not religious creed.

Of the bill on social education programme, which is currently handled by the Parliament, it will be seen that the basic subjects will ensure knowledge of ethics and values, also including language acquisition and stimulation, also in relation to bilingual children in education specializations. When the law is passed by Parliament, the training content will be reflected more accurately in a notice.

Article 8

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue ensuring that the system of funding the Danish National Church does not interfere with the freedom of conscience and religion of persons who do not belong to this church

The Ministry for Gender Equality and Ecclesiastical Affairs can rely on the information given in Denmark's third report under the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, see page 8-9.

Regarding the financial support granted by the government to the Danish national Church, it should be noted that in the latest consolidated statement of the earnings of the church from 2011, this support constitutes approx 10 % of its earnings.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue ensuring that the system of registering names does not interfere with the freedom of conscience and religion of persons who are not members of the Danish National Church

In Denmark civil registration, including the registration of births, deaths and names, is handled by the National Church of Denmark (the church registrar).



It appears from the Danish Act on Names that applications pertaining to the naming of individuals or the changing of names must be submitted to the church registrar.

The Act on Names does not limit a person in taking or changing a name due to their religious belief.

The Ministry for Gender Equality and Ecclesiastical Affairs can rely on the information given in Denmark's third report under the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, see page 9.

Article 9

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to ensure that developments in media digitalisation do not limit the access of persons belonging to the German minority to media in their own language

In the new Danish media subsidy scheme the subsidy is given to production of content independent of platform. New digital media aimed at the German minority as well as the digital version of "Der Nordschleswiger" can receive subsidy on the same condition as the newspaper.

Reference is made to article 6.

The municipalities in South Jutland

Tønder Municipality has informed that a new homepage was launched in 2012. It was a clear strategy that specific parts of the new homepage would be in the German language out of consideration for the German minority. Today, almost all information on the homepage, not only specific parts of it, is found in Danish as well as in German.

From the strategy paper:

'Tønder Municipality is situated in the border region, thus Tønder Municipality has special obligations towards the German minority. Specific parts of the home page, therefore, will be in German. Furthermore, relevant pages will be in English out of consideration for foreign visitors who look for information about Tønder Municipality and this part of Denmark.'

At the same time, an electronic information board which offers information in German was placed at the entrance to the town hall. Likewise, there are signboards in German in the Citizen Service Center.

Haderslev Municipality has made a German part of the homepage of Haderslev Kommune which was done in cooperation with the German minority. The German part of the homepage is developed in an ongoing process and is constantly expanding as the development of the state's web site and on a par with the English website.

Sønderborg Municipality has informed that the municipality has translated certain relevant bits of information into German. For example, information about elections, marriage, options for moving, as well as sections of the municipality's website, are translated into German. The municipality has just launched a new website, however, in which the German sections are still under development. These German sections are expected to be live at the beginning of December 2013. The Citizen Service updates the German information on an ongoing basis.



Aabenraa Municipality translates relevant written information as well as some parts of the website to German. The municipality launches a new website within the next half year and the German part of the website will be updated as part of this.

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to look into the possibility of supporting the development of programmes in German within the Danish broadcasting service in order to respond better to the needs of persons belonging to this minority

Reference is made to section III a.

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to adopt the necessary measures in order to ensure that persons belonging to the German minority maintain the print media in their own language. In particular, it encourages the authorities to ensure adequate funding of the German language newspaper.

Reference is made to section II.

Article 10

The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to translate information that is important for members of the German minority, as well as its opinions into their minority language and to ensure that these translations are disseminated in South Jutland

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue their support for a policy of bilingualism in contacts between persons belonging to the German minority and the administrative authorities in South Jutland.

Basically the description of the healthcare system's offers to the German minority is the same as in the third Danish report, see page 27 – 28, with a few minor initiatives.

The new initiatives are as follows:

In the somatic healthcare system there are new initiatives in relation to the reception on the on-call GP's telephone:

- When contacting the on-call GP's telephone, the initial telephone reception is in Danish, English and German. It is indicated in this initial reception how to act. Besides this there are designed pamphlets in the same languages which is distributed to camping areas, owners of holiday homes etc.

On the webpage of Hospital Sønderjylland additional information is available in German regarding:

- The Danish approval of the Framework convention for the protection of national Minorities and that patients belonging to the German minority, that wish to communicate in German with the Hospital, as far as possible will be accommodated in this.
- Information and contact data regarding emergency care.
- Information on patient's rights.



The cooperation and communication between the State Administration and the German minority is based on custom, but also on an understanding of the minority's interest in preserving their native language, German. The intentions and purpose of The Language Charter and Charter for Regional or Minority Language are seen as an integrated part of the State Administration's work.

In view of the Expert Committee's recommendation, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Integration has raised the Committee's concern in dialogue with KL (the Local Government Association in Denmark). As a result KL has contacted the relevant municipalities. It has also been agreed by the Ministry and KL, that the relevant municipalities will receive a letter from the Ministry informing them about the Expert Committee's routine follow-up in 2011 and specifically the Committee's recommendation about the need to raise awareness about the use of the German language within the social sector, especially when it comes to eldercare.

Since the last report, there has been a restructuring of the state administration. They are pr. 1 July 2013 merged into one authority named 'State Administration' (Statsforvaltningen).

The five regional state administrations have been merged into a single entity called 'State Administration' with a total of nine local branches around the country. State Administration must resolve many of the same tasks as the five regional state administrations have so far solved. However, there are different issues in the future to be carried out by other authorities. In connection with the restructuring, the appeal bodies of the Social Board and the Employment board were closed in order to establish a unified complaints system, the Appeals Board.

State Administration has following the restructuring headquartered in Aabenraa. In addition there are local offices in Aarhus, Ringkøbing, Aalborg, Odense, Nykøbing, Ringsted, Copenhagen and Ronne, where a new infocenter also has been placed.

So far, citizens have generally been forced to turn to the state administration in their own region, where meetings were held. With the establishment of a single State Administration, citizens now have the opportunity to avail of a department of their choice with respect to the matters undertaken locally. By the reconstruction, the State Administration has become more accessible to a number of citizens, such as the use of a department near their work instead of a department near their residence.

All citizens will - unless they signify the wish for another - generally have their case and be invited to meetings in the department closest to their residence. In cases involving multiple parties, the matter will be set up in the area as the existing territorial jurisdiction rules determine. For the sake of sound and efficient processing of cases, cases will generally not be transferred to another location during a pending proceeding. All cases which do not require that citizens show up in State Administration - the so-called written issues - are centralized. The individual fields are distributed between departments. The goal of the centralization of the written proceedings is that it will strengthen the academic quality, while allowing for more efficient workflows.

A central visitation unit for booking meetings and family law triage unit for all written family matters has been established. The unit is placed in the State Administration in Aabenraa.



There are no statistics on the number of inquiries to the State Administration, derived from the German minority. However, it is not a question of daily inquiries.

The State Administration is in its recruitment of employees in the local branch in Aabenraa aware of whether they speak German. There is also always a German-speaking employee, who can attend to personal inquiries. All meetings can be conducted in German by German-speaking staff - all without an interpreter.

The infocenter on the island of Bornholm has in its handbook included a section on the servicing of the German minority, which ensures that you can get in touch with German-speaking employee. In relation to the German minority the State Administration offers translation of correspondence.

The State Administration has also stated that the relevant section of its website will be updated as soon as possible and the possibilities for translation of the website into German will be identified as soon as possible.

The State Administration believes that there is good contact and good cooperation between the German minority and the State Administration in solving the tasks of the State Administration. The State Administration has also stated that the branch office in Aabenraa has signs in German.

Documents in proceedings before the court in Sønderborg are translated without cost to the parties belonging to the German minority in Denmark. The Registration Court translates received documents concerning matters of registration

The municipalities in South Jutland

The municipality of Tønder is situated in the border region, thus Tønder Municipality has special obligations towards the German minority. Specific parts of the homepage, therefore, will be in German. Furthermore, relevant pages will be in English out of consideration for foreign visitors who look for information about Tønder Municipality and this part of Denmark.

Today, almost all information on the homepage, not only specific parts of it, is found in Danish as well as in German.

At the same time, an electronic information board which offers information in German was placed in the entrance to the town hall. Likewise, there are signboards in German in the Citizen Service Center. In the Citizen Service Center the staff understands and speaks German. This is also the case for most part of the administrative staff.

From the information provided by Tønder Municipality to the third State Report it appears that inquiries in German submitted to the municipality will also be replied in German. This means that the German minority can freely use the German language when communicating with the municipality. Likewise, it is possible to have necessary documents translated. These measures are still being preserved.

The municipality of Sønderborg considers it to be a natural service that citizens who present themselves in German are also served in German, both in written and in spoken settings. Within the municipality's Citizen Service, the personnel speak both languages; and if the person dealing with the referral in an additional department is not bilingual, bilingual personnel will be brought in. General-



ly speaking, there are many bilingual workers, of which a growing proportion are German - either Germans who have immigrated to Denmark, or from the German minority.

The municipality have translated certain relevant bits of information into German. For example, information about elections, marriage, options for moving, as well as sections of the municipality's website, are translated into German. The municipality has just launched a new website, however, in which the German sections are still under development. These German sections are expected to be live at the beginning of December 2013.

The Citizen Service updates the German information on an ongoing basis, according to demand. This is an area on which there is considerable focus, since the municipality, in addition to its German minority, also has many visiting German students at the town's university, and would like to provide them with a good experience in Sønderborg.

The municipality of Haderslev has informed that the public servants of Haderslev Kommune can provide services in the German language. Haderslev Kommune has focus on the ability to speak German as a part of our services towards the public. In that regard Haderslev Kommune provide German education for our employees on a regular basis.

The municipality of Aabenraa considers it obvious that citizens inquiring in German are serviced in German. This counts for verbal as well as written inquiries. The staff at the municipality's citizen service is bilingual. Bilingual staff is called upon when needed in other parts of the administration. In general, there are a vast amount of bilingual employees and it is further worth mentioning that the municipality organize internal courses in the German language in order to enhance the language skills among employees.

The municipality translates relevant written information as well as some parts of the website into German. The municipality launches a new website within the next half year and the German part of the website will be updated as part of this.

Article 11

The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to consult the representatives of the German minority with a view to progressively installing topographical indications and other bilingual signs in South Jutland, where appropriate.

The request from the Advisory Committee has been noted. Reference is made to section III a.

The Advisory Committee considers that the authorities should make every effort to improve the visibility of the German minority and its language and history and to promote mutual respect

It may be mentioned that in the context of the public school reform it has been decided to bring forward the start of the German classes from seventh to fifth grade, which is expected to lead to the strengthening of students' mastery of German and knowledge of German culture.

Reference is made to article 9, article 10 and 12.



Furthermore reference is made to the informations from the municipality of Tønder Kommune, see article 15.

Article 12

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to increase measures aimed at promoting interest in the German culture and language within the Danish educational system in order to strengthen the visibility of the German minority

In November 2013 the Danish government has decided to grant an extraordinary grant of dKK 3 million in 2014, which should help to improve building standards of the German minority schools. In 2014 the government will initiate to make recommendations on how the German minority can ensure timely education institutions for the children. This will also help to increase the visibility of minorities in the local area.

In 2013 the German Minister of Education and Research Minister and the Danish Minister of Education signed a joint declaration to facilitate the comparison of qualifications between Germany and Denmark, to increase mobility between countries and to prevent youth unemployment (see <http://uvm.dk/~UVM-DK/Content/News/Int/2013/Nov/~-/media/UVM/Filer/Aktuelt/PDF13/131120%20Joint%20Declaration%20about%20general%20comparability%20of%20VET.ashx>).

In practice, the mobility between the Danish and German border is working well, although the vocational and training education systems are not completely identical. But a mental and linguistic barrier may occur. The area around the border includes, on the German side, residents of Schleswig-Holstein, and, on the Danish side, residents of Jutland and Lolland-Falster.

Therefore, it is important to support mobility. The Joint Declaration is the result of the "Final Report" of February 2006 with the subtitle "The Danish-German working group to improve the cross-border mobility", which was presented to the Danish and the German governments. The report listed six issues that border commuters between Denmark and Germany face, including the need for mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates, etc. In November 2010, the issue was discussed at the regular meeting of Labour Forum between South Region and Schleswig-Holstein.

It is expected that the declaration will further support efforts to improve the crossborder mobility

The municipalities in South Jutland

Tønder Municipality has planned and initiated many initiatives to promote the German language in schools and day care. An example is the mutual activities for children/pupils from institutions and schools from both sides of the border. Furthermore, several schools teach German before the fifth grade, even though the law of public schools prescribes German as from the fifth grade. Also, German at an advanced level is offered in the curricula in primary and secondary schools.

The municipality of Sønderborg also supports the German minority on other areas. For example, the municipality also gives economic support to the minorities' kindergartens and after-school centres (SFOs), so that parents from the minority are on an equal footing to parents from the majority population.



The municipality of Aabenraa supports the German minorities on other areas as well. For example, the municipality grants economic funding to the minorities' kindergartens and school clubs in order for the parents of the German minority to stand on equal terms with parents from the Danish majority.

The municipality of Haderslev has a good and strong relationship with the German-speaking part of the population residing in the municipality, including cooperation with the German school, German kindergarten and the German library, the German rowing club, etc.

The municipality has also stated that there is quite a bit of German students at UC Syddanmark, especially enrolled at the teacher education, and that the students receive Danish language courses at the Language Centre in Haderslev.

Article 14

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to continue the dialogue with all actors involved with a view to finding a financially sustainable solution that enables the German national minority education system in South Jutland to be effectively maintained

Denmark is in a continuous discussion with the German minority about the financing of their schools. As recently as in 2011 Denmark confirmed that it views the minority's school as part of its public schools. In consequence hereof the state subsidies per pupil were increased, so that today they correspond to 100 percent of the average cost per pupil in the Danish public schools.

Article 15

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to continue to support the mechanism for consulting the German minority.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to pursue their dialogue-based approach in order to maintain the effective participation of representatives of the German minority in decision-making concerning matters that affect this minority.

In the 3rd state report the efforts in relation to the new local government reform were explained. There have been no changes in relation to the rules of political participation and representation.

At the municipal election on 19 November 2013 the German minority party, Schleswig Party, grew to 8,620 votes. It was a significant break with previous decades of decline in votes. At the 2009 local elections were the votes 5,249. In the 2013 elections, the party is represented by 1 mandate in Haderslev, 2 mandates in Aabenraa, as well as an increase in Sønderborg from 1 to 3 mandates and an increase in Tønder from 2 to 3 mandates.

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to take action to ensure increased knowledge and visibility of the Framework Convention and its effective implementation at the regional and local levels in South Jutland

Reference is made to article 10.



The municipalities in South Jutland

For the municipality of Tønder the German language is a natural aspect of public service rendered to citizens, trade, tourists etc. The implementation of the Framework Charter is progressing.

The culture and self-knowledge of Tønder Municipality is very much determined by being situated in the border region.

The culture policy of Tønder Municipality states: *“the common history of the minority and the majority populations will be our basis for the development of an extra dimension of cultural plurality – in the local area and by virtue of a cultural cooperation which exceeds imaginative as well as country borders”*.

Tønder Municipality is a member of the Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig together with the other three municipalities of Sønderjylland, Kreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Kreis Nord Friesland, Stadt Flensburg, the German minority in Denmark, and the Danish minority in Germany. This association promotes cross-border cooperation. In 2011, by means of a new charter of cooperation, the two minority populations were given a seat in the executive committee and the sub-committees with the same rights as the municipalities. The only exception to this, is the passing of the yearly budget since the Danish municipalities and the German Kreise are the only financial contributors. Before, the minorities were observers without the right of voting. The purpose of the Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig is to improve economic growth and cultural coherence in the region, a region which is characterized by a lingual and cultural plurality among majority and minority populations.

The Region initiates a number of projects, the most important being the Interreg project *Kultur-Dialog* (cultural dialogue) where associations and artists from the whole region can apply for financial support for micro projects. To obtain support, there must be a project partner from both sides of the Danish-German border, the project/activity must be to the benefit of citizens on both sides of the border, and involvement of the minorities is highly encouraged. In this way, knowledge and understanding about the different cultures is enhanced.

Another important initiative is the creation of the first European cross-border cultural region *“Kulturregion Sønderjylland-Schleswig”* (the Danish-German Cultural region). This cultural cooperation develops, carries out and markets cultural activities and events in the whole border region. Kulturregion Sønderjylland-Schleswig is financed by the participating parties, the Danish Ministry of Culture, and by Bundesland Schleswig-Holstein. By uniting the activities in Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig it is ensured that the minorities have direct influence on the contents and carrying out of activities. All activities are marketed in German and Danish on both sides of the border. The Danish-German cultural region has a yearly budget of DKK 4.5 million.

For the municipality of Sønderborg the implementation of the Framework Convention is an integrated part of the municipality's wish to provide good service to citizens, regardless of whether it is a German or an English-speaking citizen who has referred.

Likewise, the municipality has worked toward the goal of greater collaboration with the German minority within the cultural field - not because it is outlined in a convention, but because the municipality considers it important, enriching and enhancing for the cultural intelligence and community spirit of the border region.



The municipality sees it as an advantage that we have several cultures, and consciously nurtures this through collaborations across the Danish-German national border, where the German minority, and the Frisian and Danish minorities south of the border, are included on terms equal to those of the majority population on both sides of the border. The cultural differences and many minority populations in the border region are enriching, making the area into something totally unique, which the municipality work consciously to develop.

In Sønderborg, a special collaboration agreement has been made with Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN), implementing a series of communal cultural activities. These are typically cultural arrangements which include German artists or a German organization - for example the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival. The concerts have been followed up by masterclasses, with a view to developing the talents of local artists across the border. Sønderborg Municipality and BDN both contribute financially, and Sønderborg Municipality makes available venues (places to perform) and PR. Marketing of the events and arrangements is carried out in both Danish and German, just as the events themselves can be held in both languages. The collaboration has fostered solid, natural relations between the minority and the Danish cultural life, mutually enriching both parties.

Sønderborg Municipality is involved in a partnership with Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig and a range of projects, see above.

It should also be mentioned here that the chairman for Region Sønderjylland-Schleswig's cultural committee is Gary Funck, who is the cultural committee chairman in Kreis Nordfriesland, where he is elected for the Frisian minority. The deputy chairman is Stephan Kleinschmidt, who is chair of the cultural committee in Sønderborg, where he is elected for the German minority in Denmark. The minorities' politicians are thereby well represented in both Sønderborg city council and in the collaborating forums.

For the municipality of Aabenraa the implementation of the framework convention is an integrated part of the municipality's desire to provide each citizen with good service regardless of spoken language.

Furthermore, the municipality has worked determined towards a greater cooperation with the German minority within the cultural sector. A literature festival has been organized by the library for the German minorities as well as the library for the Danish majority. Moreover, the municipality of Aabenraa has received operating subsidies for the German school museum, and the website of Frøsløvejren has been fully translated into German. Finally the flyers "Åbent atelier" ("Open studio") has been translated into German.

The municipality cooperates with the region of Southern Jutland-Schleswig and a range of projects, see above.

For the municipality of Haderslev the implementation of the framework convention is an integrated part of the municipality's desire to provide each citizen with good service regardless of spoken language.

The municipality cooperates with the region of Southern Jutland-Schleswig and a range of projects, see above.



Article 18

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to increase their efforts to ensure more effective transfrontier co-operation with regard to the protection of national minorities in the border region between Denmark and Germany

As part of the Local Government Reform, a new framework was established for regional trade and industry development. The act on trade and industry development implements the Local Government Reform in trade and industry. The central innovation in this setup was the regional growth forums which were to strengthen regional development and growth conditions. The regional growth forums were established on 1 April 2006.

The comments to section 11(3) of the Act on trade and industry development specifies that if one growth forum is established in Region South Denmark, the German minority will be given an observer seat. Region South Denmark has for the 2010-2013 period established one growth forum, and the German minority has an observer seat.

Furthermore, section 8(8) of the Act on trade and industry development stipulates that the Minister for Economy and Business Affairs, now the Minister of Business and Growth, is authorised to grant a request from e.g. the German minority to establish a body to handle cross-national co-operation in the Danish-German border region South Jutland-Schleswig, which must include the German minority as member.

Region South Denmark has entered as partner in the agreement on Region South Jutland-Schleswig together with three German authorities and the four South Jutland local authorities. Additionally, Region South Denmark has made a joint declaration with the state government of Schleswig-Holstein on regional cooperation, the partnership agreement, which updates a previous partnership agreement made between the County of South Jutland and the state government of Schleswig-Holstein.

A regional board has been established under the agreement on Region South Jutland-Schleswig. For the regional assembly established under the agreement on Region South Jutland-Schleswig, the German minority appoints one of the Danish members. The meetings between the parties to the agreement are conducted on an ad hoc basis.

The partnership agreement between Region South Denmark and the state government of Schleswig-Holstein does not establish common Danish-German bodies. Region South Denmark will finance the majority of the Danish part of the organisation's operating expenses.

A central aspect of the strategic master plan for the development of Tønder Municipality is the vicinity to Germany which implicates cross-border cooperation. In 2011 two associations were established with the purpose of promoting cross-border cooperation, one of them with political representation – among others by the mayor of Tønder Municipality. The other forum is administrative. The Kommunaldirektør (town clerk) is a member of both. In both associations the language of oral and written communication is German.



These associations have been the cornerstones of the conference Vestdialog where politicians and businessmen from both sides of the border meet to discuss common challenges and prospects. On this occasion simultaneous translation in both German and Danish was offered. The conference was held in 2012 for the first time, and will be repeated in 2014.

Another strategic choice is the employment of a business adviser who connects businesses from both sides of the border. The mother tongue of the adviser is German and, in addition, she speaks Danish fluently. She is an example of an employee who, being bilingual and bicultural, makes a most valuable contribution to the strengthening of Danish-German cooperation and, thus, the German language in Denmark.

The municipality of Tønder and Haderslev has informed that a collaboration on administrative issues has been set within the frame of German-Danish cooperation in the region of South Jutland and Schleswig. This includes issues on commuting, and a strong collaboration on crossborder culture, namely the Cultural region (Kulturregionen).

Reference is made to article 12.