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

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## **Czech Republic**

**The fourth periodic report on the implementation of the principles laid down in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in accordance with article 25, paragraph 2, of the Convention**

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**THE FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN IN THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE  
25, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE CONVENTION**

**Introduction**

The Czech Republic presents the fourth periodic report (hereinafter referred to as "the Report") on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") in accordance with article 25, paragraph 2, of the Convention. The report follows the outline approved by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers for the fourth monitoring cycle. Part I describes the measures adopted to increase awareness of the results of the third monitoring cycle, as well as of the Convention. Part II describes the measures adopted to address major problems identified by the Committee of Ministers as requiring immediate solutions. Part III describes additional measures adopted to improve the implementation of individual articles of the Convention. The Government's opinion on certain issues was contained in its statement on the Third Opinion of the Advisory Committee, and therefore it does not have to be included in this report.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnm/aktuality/Komentar\\_treti\\_stanovisko.pdf](http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnm/aktuality/Komentar_treti_stanovisko.pdf)

## PART I

### (I) 1. Summary of the measures to enhance awareness of the Convention at the national level in the period 2009-2013

The Third Monitoring Report was discussed by the Government Council for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") at the March 3, 2009 meeting and following that by the Government on April 20, 2009.<sup>2</sup> The document was then passed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for submission to Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. On April 11 - 15, 2011 a visit of the Advisory Committee of the Convention took place. It included a visit to the Moravian-Silesian region, where meetings were held with representatives of local and regional authorities and with representatives of selected minorities. In Prague a four-member delegation met with the representatives of national minorities, public administration and public service media. Among the specific examples of good practices the Advisory Committee appreciated the inclusion of the topic of extremism in Czech Television's sports news, the support for the thematic programmes on national minorities in Czech Radio and the Ministry of the Interior's approach to combating extremism. In 2012 the Comments on the Third Opinion on the Convention of the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe regarding Czech Republic's fulfilment of obligations under the Convention was sent. The Comments were discussed by the Government on March 14, 2012 (resolution No. 163).<sup>3</sup>

The third monitoring cycle of the Convention was concluded with a seminar organized by the Secretariat of the Council and the Secretariat of the Convention on December 9, 2013. It was attended by Council members, i.e. representatives of various national minorities, as well as representatives of public authorities and non-governmental non-profit organizations.

Comprehensive annual, monitoring and evaluation reports on national minorities in the Czech Republic discussed and adopted by the government are made public since 2001. The Prime Minister regularly submitted the reports to the President of the Chamber of Deputies and the President of the Senate of the Czech Parliament, to provide information to the relevant committees of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Since 2012, when a Subcommittee on National Minorities of the Committee on Petitions was not established in the Chamber of Deputies, the Report is no longer sent. Information about the discussion on the Report, as well as the resolution adopted by the Government, is included in the Government Bulletin for regional and municipal authorities. The printed reports are also annually distributed to public authorities, public libraries, non-governmental organizations and interested parties among professional and general public.

All documents related to the monitoring cycles of the Convention are published on the Council's website.<sup>4</sup> The essential documents are published in both Czech and English, Act No. 273/2001 Coll., on the rights of national minorities and amendments of other acts, as amended

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<sup>2</sup>Government resolution of April 20, 2009 no 459  
([http://kormoran.vlada.cz/usneseni/usneseni\\_webtest.nsf/0/51A12FEAEA530235C12575A70024D167/\\$FILE/459%20uv090420.0459.pdf](http://kormoran.vlada.cz/usneseni/usneseni_webtest.nsf/0/51A12FEAEA530235C12575A70024D167/$FILE/459%20uv090420.0459.pdf))

<sup>3</sup>

[http://racek.vlada.cz/usneseni/usneseni\\_webtest.nsf/0/49C08452089264F2C12579C0003FF5FF/\\$FILE/163%20uv120314.0163.pdf](http://racek.vlada.cz/usneseni/usneseni_webtest.nsf/0/49C08452089264F2C12579C0003FF5FF/$FILE/163%20uv120314.0163.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/pracovni-a-poradni-organy-vlady/rnm/dokumenty/mezinarodni-dokumenty/ramcova-umluva-o-ochrane-narodnostnich-mensin-6912/>

by later regulations (hereinafter referred to as the "minority law"), also in the languages of all national minorities, which have their representatives in the Council. To increase the broader public's awareness of the national minority policy the Council also utilizes its webpage that is hosted on the website of the Office of the Government ([www.vlada.cz](http://www.vlada.cz)) since 1998.<sup>5</sup>

Similarly to the Convention, there is a standard monitoring process of the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. All documents related to this area that the Government of the Czech Republic approves are discussed in advance by the Council, with the exception of a situation when the Council is not functional.

## **PART II - Measures adopted with the aim to meet the main recommendations**

### (II) 1. Fight against all forms of intolerance, racism and xenophobia

#### (II) 1. 1. The Amendment of the Act on the Right of Assembly

In 2009 the Council initiated amendment to Act No. 84/1990 Coll. on the Right of Assembly as amended. On September 4, 2009 the law was promulgated under number 294/2009 in the official Collection of Laws. The amendment modified the procedural steps of the administrative authority when deciding on the ban of Assembly. It concerned a modification of time limits for the obligation to notify about the Assembly and the decision on the ban of the Assembly. Until now the wording of the law on the right of Assembly did not provide the administrative authority sufficient time for assessing whether it is a peaceful exercise of the right of Assembly, or in other words it did not enable the administrative authority to respond to circumstances that became known more than three days after the announcement of the Assembly.

#### (II) 1. 2. The Act on Equal Treatment and Protection against Discrimination (Anti-Discrimination Act)

Act No. 198/2009 Coll., on Equal Treatment and Legal Remedies of Protection against Discrimination and on amendments to other acts (the Anti-Discrimination Act) entered into effect on September 1, 2009. Legislation to combat discrimination is based on the constitutional principles of equality in dignity and in rights and non-discrimination for illegitimate reasons.<sup>6</sup> It regulates the rights of persons for equal treatment and protection against discrimination.<sup>7</sup> It prohibits direct and indirect discrimination for reasons of race, ethnic origin, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, faith or belief. The Act considers direct discrimination as such conduct, including omissions, when one person is treated less favorably than another person in a comparable situation. The Act considers indirect discrimination as such conduct, or omission, when on the basis of an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice a person is in fact disadvantaged compared to others for one of the illegitimate reasons. The Act holds liable not only the direct and indirect discrimination, but also harassment, persecution, and instruction and incitement to discrimination.

The Act prohibits discrimination in the areas of the right to employment and access to employment; access to the professions, business and other self-employment; work, service conditions and other dependent activities, including remuneration; membership and activities

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/pracovni-a-poradni-organy-vlady/rnm/historie-a-soucasnost-rady-15074/>

<sup>6</sup>For more details see HRI/CORE/CZE/2010, p. 42, paragraph 145 and following.

<sup>7</sup>Act No. 198/2009 Coll., as amended.

in trade unions, works councils or employers' organizations, including the benefits that these organizations provide to their members; membership and activities in professional chambers, including the benefits that these public corporations provide to their members; social security and social benefits; health care; education; the provision of goods and services, including housing, if they are offered to the public. On the other hand, the Act provides that the measures are not regarded as discrimination, whose aim is to prevent or offset the disadvantages arising from the affiliation of the person to a group of persons defined by one of the above reasons, and to ensure her equal treatment and equal opportunities.<sup>8</sup> The Act, as well as the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms<sup>9</sup> (hereinafter the "Charter"), allows for special support measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of disadvantaged groups (positive discrimination).

Anti-Discrimination Act does not apply to legal relations concerning the regulation of the conditions of entry and stay of third country nationals or stateless persons on the territory of the Czech Republic. Foreigners are endowed with basic rights and freedoms laid down in the Charter<sup>10</sup>, irrespective of the length of their stay on the territory of the Czech Republic or their residence status. With the exception of certain political rights associated with formation of the political will in the State, which can only be borne by the citizens of the State.<sup>11</sup>

### (II) 1. 3. Multicultural Education

The Ministry of education, youth and sports approved the *Framework educational programmes* for all subject fields of secondary education. Since the academic year 2007/2008 secondary schools on their basis prepare *school educational programmes* that elaborate the binding cross-curricular theme *Democratic Citizenship* that strengthens education for democracy and multicultural coexistence in the curriculum and also contributes to the elimination of extremism. It contains such topics as political radicalism and extremism, the current Czech extremist scene and its symbolism, youth and extremism.

All primary schools began teaching in accordance with *the Framework Educational Programme for Basic Education* which defines everything that is common and necessary in compulsory basic education, including curriculum in the corresponding grades of six-year and eight-year secondary schools.

Cross-curricular theme *Multicultural Education* (part of the *Framework Educational Programme for Basic Education*, one of the six cross-curricular themes, along with the Personal and social education, Democratic citizenship, Education towards thinking in European and global contexts, Environmental education and Media education) in basic education enables pupils to get acquainted with the diversity of different cultures, their traditions and values. On the background of this diversity, the pupils can then better realize their own cultural identity, traditions and values.

*Multicultural education* provides knowledge of one's own cultural roots and understanding of different cultures. It develops the sense of justice, solidarity and tolerance, leads to understanding and respect of the ever-increasing socio-cultural diversity. For the minority ethnic group it develops its cultural specifics and at the same time helps to explore the culture of the entire society, it introduces the majority to the basic specific characteristics of other nationalities living in the common state, it helps both groups to find junctures for mutual

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<sup>8</sup>Section 7 paragraph 2 of the Anti-Discrimination Act.

<sup>9</sup> The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms is part of the constitutional order of the Czech Republic.

<sup>10</sup>Article 42 paragraph 2 of the Charter.

<sup>11</sup>For example. the right to vote or the right to associate in political parties and movements.

respect, joint activities and cooperation. It is interwoven in all areas of education. In particular, it has a close link to the educational areas of *Language and communication through language, Humans and Society, Information and Communication Technologies, Arts and culture, Humans and health*, in the area *Humans and nature* it is relevant primarily to the educational field of Geography. Connection to these areas is determined by the particular topics that deal with mutual relationships between members of different nations and ethnic groups.

The curricular reform (represented by, among others, the above-mentioned Framework Educational Programmes) has great impact on the teaching and education of children and pupils also in the area of multicultural (intercultural education), since it completely changes the approach to education - it focuses on the acquisition of key competences and provides schools with greater autonomy. Multicultural education, for example, provides students with basic information on various ethnic and cultural groups living in the Czech Republic, develops the ability to orient oneself in a pluralistic society and to use intercultural contacts to enrich oneself and others, develops the ability to recognize and tolerate the differences of other national, ethnic, religious, and social groups and to work with members of different sociocultural groups, develops the ability to recognize expressions of racial hatred and helps to prevent xenophobia, provides information on basic multicultural terminology: culture, ethnicity, identity, discrimination, xenophobia, racism, nationality, intolerance, etc.

In the curriculum of the educational field of History emphasis is placed on modern history, primarily the 20th century, which includes information on fascism, Nazism, the second world war, Nazi racial and other persecution, resistance against Nazism, the Holocaust and the genocide of the Roma. The curriculum of Democratic Citizenship includes the following terminology: political radicalism and extremism, the current Czech extremism scene and its symbolism, youth and extremism. Schools are also encouraged to include another binding cross-curricular theme of *Multicultural education* in the *school's educational programmes* as adequate. The recommendations published recently in the Collection of pedagogical and organizational information for nursery, primary and secondary schools, conservatories, higher vocational schools (colleges), elementary art schools, language schools authorized to organize state language examinations and school facilities are still valid and updated annually. There are, for example, links to comprehensive information about the Holocaust of the Roma and the Jews, which can be obtained at specialized seminars *How to teach about the Holocaust* or through the documentary project for pupils *Neighbours who disappeared* (organized by the *Educational department of the Terezín Memorial* and the *Education and Culture Centre of the Jewish Museum in Prague*). It is also necessary to accentuate the theme of Czech-German relations in education, including objective information about the expulsion of Sudeten Germans, to explore the culture, language, and daily life of other nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Czech Republic. Students should receive information about the current extremist youth groups (anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, neo-Nazism, right-wing and left-wing extremism). At the same time, however, it is noted that in schools and school facilities, as well as in the leisure activities, education towards multicultural understanding, human rights, nonviolence and tolerance cannot be carried out by simply highlighting the foreign elements with an emphasis on the differences, since such emphasis on differences alone can be counterproductive.

In 2013 the Ministry of education, youth and sports updated its *Recommendation on teaching the history of the 20th century*. The recommendation is based on the special nature of modern and contemporary history that work with live historical memory, with stories of living generations and with the yet unprocessed archival material, which puts extraordinary demands

on the impartiality and balance of the teaching. At the same time it responds to the increase in extremist and undemocratic tendencies, which are actually reflected in our society.

On the issue of political extremism the framework programmes for secondary vocational education state as a compulsory learning outcome the ability of pupils to recognize extremist elements of behaviour, and also require that pupils are able to explain why it is unacceptable to promote movements restricting other people's rights and freedoms (e.g. neo-Nazi, or of other anti-democratic character, etc.).

A series of activities, which also relate to multicultural education, are taking place in support of the curricular reform. It is, for example, a methodology portal, [www.rvp.cz](http://www.rvp.cz), managed by the *National Institute for Education*, an organization directly controlled by the Ministry. The purpose of the methodology portal is to create and update a database of contributions, digital educational materials, examples of good practices and to use these to inspire teachers and enable the sharing of experiences among them, to respond immediately to current needs of the practitioners, and to create a high quality, varied and comprehensive range of methodological materials and teaching aids for educators. There is a series of contributions among those materials that educators can use in the field of education of members of ethnic and national minorities and education of the children of foreigners, for methodological assistance in the multicultural area and for integration of pupils from a disadvantaged sociocultural environment.

Continuous attention is paid to the quality of textbooks. The Ministry grants textbooks, subject to meeting certain conditions, the approval clause and adds them to the list of textbooks with a valid approval clause. For a textbook to receive the clause it must, among other things, respect the Constitution and the legislation in force on the territory of the Czech Republic; in particular it must respect the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed to all people regardless of race, colour, language, faith and religion, affiliation to a national or ethnic minority, and promote equal opportunities for men and women. Each textbook is assessed by at least two independent experts (reviewers) chosen by the Director of the appropriate Department of the Ministry. The Ministry covers the costs of the reviews. For textbooks dealing with spiritual and cultural values and traditions of various nationalities and cultures, the reviews must take these issues into account and provide a commentary on them.

In addition for textbooks containing the above-mentioned texts (in particular, the educational areas of Czech language and literature, Humans and their world, History, Civic education, Geography, Health education), the publisher of the textbooks must obtain assessment on specific topics from specialized institutions (such as the *Museum of Romani Culture* or the *Jewish Community*).

#### (II) 1. 4. Prevention of risk behaviour

The issue of risk behaviour (where it is possible to include issues of xenophobia, racism, intolerance and anti-Semitism) is regulated in the Ministry's documents *the National strategy of primary prevention of risk behaviour of children and youth for 2013-2018* and *the Methodological recommendations for the primary prevention of risk behaviour of children, pupils and students in schools and school facilities*. The issue of primary prevention of risk behaviour is also included in the newly developed *Strategy of risk behaviour prevention for children and youth in the scope of the Ministry of education, youth and sports for 2009 – 2021*.

Schools and school facilities are implementing the so-called *Minimum preventive programme*, which includes activities of risk behaviour prevention. It is implemented primarily by the

school's methods specialist on prevention in collaboration with other educators (education counsellor, classroom teacher, methods specialist on prevention in a pedagogical-psychological counselling centre), or with the non-governmental non-profit sector. As of January 1, 2011 the implementation of the *Minimum preventive programme* is subject to scrutiny by the Czech School Inspectorate.

*The Minimum preventive programme* represents quite a complex and comprehensive intervention. At elementary schools it is a program that begins with the child's entry into school and ends with his departure, and in this sense is continuous across the entire elementary school. It includes both the non-specific parts (such as the safety standard decreasing the potential for formation and development of risk behaviour), as well as a specific part. In addition everything must comply with the school regulations, the Framework Educational Programme and the overall conditions of the school.

The Minimum preventive programme is a comprehensive long-term prevention programme of the school/school facility and is part of the school education programme, which is based on the corresponding *Framework Educational Programme*. Its implementation is based on the premise that the school has at its disposal, of course, only limited time, personnel and financial capabilities and it is therefore necessary to emphasize the most efficient use of the existing resources.

In 2013, the output of project VYNSPI (Creation of a modular system of education in the prevention of socially pathological phenomena for teachers and counsellors of schools and school facilities at the national level) was completed, which defines the content of the *Minimum preventive programme* in schools and provides a recommended structure including the integration of specific topics into the school's life. Racism and xenophobia are generally a set of expressions leading to suppression of the interests and rights of minorities, which for the purposes of school's prevention are included in the above-mentioned document in both categories, i.e. advocating racial inequality in any sense of the word, promoting racial hatred and intolerance against minorities and differences.

The Ministry supports a network of preventive services as part of the system of care for the endangered child (support for the educational care centres, pedagogical and psychological counselling centres, and school counselling offices). In 2013 the pedagogical-psychological counselling centres received support from the Programme for the implementation of activities in the area of prevention of risk behaviour in the jurisdiction of the Ministry. At the same time in 2013 they received a grant of approximately 5 million CZK from funds providing financial support to the methods specialists for prevention at the *pedagogical and psychological counselling centres*.<sup>12</sup>

Educational care centres and the network of preventive services in the system of care for the endangered child were strengthened in the amendment of Act No. 109/2002 Coll. In 2013,

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<sup>12</sup>The Ministry of education, youth and sports annually allocates approximately 20 million CZK in its budget as part of its grant policy intended for drug prevention and prevention of crime and other risky forms of behaviour. For 2013-2018 it published a new Methodology of the Ministry for providing grants from the state budget for the implementation of activities in the area of prevention of risk behaviour in the period 2013-2018. For 2013 the Ministry allocated 18.5 million CZK from its budget. This grant program provided support in particular to long-term programmes of primary prevention of risky forms of behaviour of children and youth, projects evaluating the need, availability and efficiency of services, projects aimed at providing expert and verified information and educating professional or general public. The beneficiaries were schools, school facilities and non-governmental non-profit organizations that work with children and youth.

The internet portal [www.prevence-info.cz](http://www.prevence-info.cz) gathers information in the area of primary prevention of risk behaviour of children and youth. One of the areas that the portal follows is the issue of extremism, racism and xenophobia,

the Ministry of education organized two national expert conferences for regional school prevention coordinators, methods specialists on prevention at *pedagogical-psychological counselling centres*, school's methods specialists on prevention and the staff of the schools' counseling offices.

In 2013 a new system of quality assessment (certification) for providers of programmes of primary prevention of all forms of risk behaviour was launched. The organization of the certification process was entrusted to *the National Institute of education*, where the Certification office was established.

The National Institute of education offers teachers and educators specialized seminars, e.g.:

- Experiential long-term training for management of problem class groups,
- Behavioural disorders – a course for headmasters and teachers of primary schools, school counsellors and teacher assistants,
- Diagnosis and intervention to support school readiness of Roma children,
- Specialized studies for methods specialists on prevention,
- Community principles and efficient team management in reformatories and orphanages *Tandems*,
- Training and supervision program for workplace Boletice (extreme behavioural disorders).

## (II) 1. 5. The contribution of museum institutions to education towards tolerance and combating intolerance

### o The Museum of Romani Culture in Brno

The Museum of Romani Culture was founded in 1991, as of January 1, 2005 it acquired the status of a state-subsidized organization under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. Its scope, focus, and status of an independent organization sets it apart as a unique institution of its kind in Europe. Its mission is collection of evidence and documents that tell us about the material and spiritual culture of the Roma and their coexistence with the majority society. The collection of the museum contains approximately 30,000 items. Since 2011 a unique permanent exhibition the Story of the Roma is open to the public, whose objective is to introduce the culture and history of the Roma from the Indian motherland to the present. The museum also organizes temporary and travelling exhibitions. Other activities include educational and lecturing activities aimed at different age and professional groups or socio-educational activities aimed at residents of all ages of areas nearest to the museum, which is a socially excluded location. The museum annually participates in the celebrations of the International Day of the Roma (April 8), takes part in the Brno Museum night, cooperates with important local, national and foreign cultural and Roma organizations. The museum actively collaborates on the construction of the Holocaust Memorial in Hodonín u Kunštátu, whose main guarantor since 2009 is the National Pedagogical Museum and Library of J. A. Comenius.<sup>13</sup> Near the area of the former so-called Gypsy camp in Hodonín u Kunštátu the Museum of Romani Culture manages the mass cemetery of the victims of the Roma Holocaust, which was declared a cultural monument in 2013. The expositions and exhibitions housed in the museum's building received more than 7,500 visitors in 2012, of which nearly 3,000 were part of school organized groups. In 2012 more than 10 000 people visited the travelling exhibitions of the museum. In the same year more than 30,000 visits to the Web site

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<sup>13</sup>On the basis of the Government resolution dated May 4, 2009 No. 589 on the modification of the places of remembrance at Lety u Písku and in Hodonín u Kunštátu.

of the museum were registered. The museum staff in cooperation with the Office of the Government – the Government Council for Roma Community Affairs are also involved in the development of the Roma integration Strategy until 2020. They also cooperate with the Ministry of education, youth and sports as expert textbooks reviewers (their review is an integral part of the clause necessary for the publication of a textbook), and participate in the development of the Concept of children and youth for 2014-2018.

The Museum of Roma Culture's activities were secured by the approved contribution to the operation of the museum:

Table 1 Financing for the operation of the Museum of Roma Culture during the reporting period

year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
amount (CZK)	9 039 000	9 628 000	8 814 000	9 445 000	9 622 000

○ Monument Lidice

The Lidice Memorial, which is a state-subsidized organization under the auspices of the Ministry of culture, in accordance with the Government resolution dated May 4, 2009 administers the reverent area at Lety u Písku. Its mission is to care about permanent preservation of memories of suffering of Romany people who were interned in the former gypsy camp in Lety u Písku, including care and arrangement of the reverent area.

The Lety Cultural Monument began its fourth visiting season under the management of Lidice Memorial on March 25, 2013.

On May 13, 2013 a memorial service was held for the Roma victims of the Lety camp at the makeshift burial ground in Lety u Písku.

On July 8, 2013, the model of the Lety camp was unveiled here in the presence of Lidice children survivors and representatives of the Lidice Memorial.

In the evening of August 1, 2013 the Lety Cultural Monument hosted a commemorative event called *Honouring the victims of the Roma Holocaust and the remembrance of the opening and closure of the gypsy camp Lety*.

Based on the initiative of the Ministry of education, youth and sports the Lidice Memorial participated in the activities of the *Commission for the construction of a Roma Holocaust memorial in Hodonín u Kunštátu*, where it could present its experience with the management of the Lety Memorial, focused on the history of the Roma Holocaust.

During 2013 the information centre of the Lety Cultural Monument also hosted a series of exhibitions. Specifically, the following exhibitions were organized: *František Kánský, A photo competition of the Lidice Memorial for youth* and exhibition of photographs *Ozvěny (Echoes)*. In 2013 the Lidice Memorial also conducted educational activities (a seminar for teachers entitled *Camps – the tools of persecution*), as well as promotional activities (for example, at the International tourism trade fair in Brno).

The Lidice Memorial's activities were secured by the approved contribution to the operation of the memorial:

Table 2 Financing for the operation of the Lidice Memorial during the reference period

year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
amount (CZK)	18 106 000	18 186 000	19 160 000	20 658 000	19 903 000

○ The Terežín Memorial

The Terezín Memorial systematically promotes the study and educational activities related to the Holocaust. The Roma Holocaust is remembered in the exhibition at the Terezín Memorial, as well as international museum exhibitions in former concentration camps in Auschwitz and Ravensbrück administered by the Terezín Memorial. The Terezín Memorial developed a travelling exhibition "Prisoners from the Czech lands in the Nazi concentration camps" for the Czech Freedom Fighters Union that also contains a section dedicated to the fate of our Roma during the Second World War. This exhibition was presented in a number of schools and museums in the Czech Republic and a number of other cities and institutions requested its loan. The Terezín Memorial also organizes seminars and workshops on this topic for experts and, in cooperation with the Ministry of education, youth and sports, for teachers, pupils and students.

The Terezín Memorial's activities were secured by the approved contribution to the operation of the memorial:

Table 3 Financing for the operation of the Terezín Memorial during the reporting period

<i>year</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
<i>amount (CZK)</i>	27 790 000	28 200 000	25 605 k	25 273 000	25 273 000

## (II) 1. 6. Strengthening the position of the Ombudsman

The Ombudsman is an independent institution for the protection and promotion of human rights, whose primary task is to ensure the State administration's conduct in accordance with the law and with the principles of good administration. The scope and powers of the Ombudsman are governed by a special law. The Ombudsman cannot directly interfere in the activities of administrative bodies or to annul or change their decisions. She may, however, conduct independent investigations and in their conclusions make recommendations to correct the errors and shortcomings and to require their implementation by the authorities. The authorities have the obligation to cooperate with the Ombudsman and to inform her about the measures they adopted to remedy the situation. In the opposite case the Ombudsman informs the superior authorities, the Government or the public through press releases and publication of their recommendations. She also supervises places where the persons restricted in their freedoms are confined under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Ombudsman further plays the role of the authority combating discrimination and monitors expulsion of foreigners for the protection of their rights. The Ombudsman is elected by the Chamber of Deputies for a 5-year term and disposes of her own office, which is financially independent and carries out its statutory tasks. She also regularly provides information on her activities to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament, to which she presents recommendations for amendments to legislation.

In the area of social integration, the Ombudsman has issued a number of recommendations in the context of her activities in protection against discrimination. They are Recommendation on the fulfilment of the right to equal treatment of applicants for the lease of municipal flats (2010), Recommendation for municipalities and cities for preventing the arising and extension of socially excluded sites (2009) and Recommendation regarding the fulfilment of the right of foreigners to equal treatment. The recommendations of the Ombudsman show the correct procedures in the field of social inclusion and in that way contribute to the promotion of examples of good practices. For example, the Recommendation for municipalities and cities for preventing the arising and extension of socially excluded sites was published in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and is distributed among municipalities.

○ The Ombudsman as *the Equality Body*

Since December 2009 the Ombudsman is the national authority for combating discrimination. Her task is to contribute to the promotion of the right to equal treatment, to provide methodological assistance to victims of discrimination in the protection of their rights, to carry out research and issue reports and recommendations on issues of discrimination. The main activities of the Ombudsman are primarily advisory services and the dissemination of information. On its website the Ombudsman provides basic information on the issues of discrimination, suggests ways to defend against it, and publishes recommendations<sup>14</sup> and legal opinions on specific examples of discrimination. The Ombudsman cannot make any binding decisions that would establish, change or annul the rights and obligations of citizens. The complainants who allege unequal treatment are provided with consultations with the Ombudsman<sup>15</sup>, during which she evaluates their situation and, where appropriate, recommends ways to continue to defend themselves against the unequal treatment. The Ombudsman provides methodological guidance and assistance to victims of discrimination in the course of the proceedings, however, she may not intervene in judicial proceedings. Data on the number of complaints concerning discrimination on the grounds of Roma ethnicity are specified as follows:

Table 4 Statistical data of the Ombudsman on complaints relating to discrimination on the grounds of Roma ethnicity in 2010-2012 (Source: The Ombudsman's Office, 2012)

	2010		2011		2012	
	number of complaints	discrimination detected	number of complaints	discrimination detected	number of complaints	discrimination detected
Employment/occupation	2	0	2	0	3	0
Housing	11	2	11	0	9	0
Education	4	1	5	1	2	0
Services	1	0	1	0	1	0
Health care	2	0	0	0	1	1

In order to support the Roma complainants in securing evidence for potential court proceedings in cases of discrimination the Ombudsman cooperated with two non-governmental organizations in 2012<sup>16</sup> on the so-called situational testing of<sup>17</sup> ethnic discrimination in various areas of life (access to services, health care or employment). Until February 2013 two cases of ethnic discrimination (access to rental housing, access to services) have been successfully tested. In the first case an anti-discrimination action was filed, in the second case the Czech Trade Inspection Authority was approached to initiate the proceedings of administrative misconduct. Neither procedure has yet been completed. The impecunious complainants from ethnic minorities can take advantage of the Ombudsman's agreement with the association *Pro Bono Alliance*, which works with lawyers offering their services for free. The Ombudsman provides in particular the substantive evaluation of the discriminatory conduct, including the analysis of national and international case law, as well

<sup>14</sup> Recommendation on the fulfilment of the right to equal treatment of applicants for the lease of municipal flats (2010), Recommendation regarding the requirement of a statement of criminal record as the determining criterion for employment (2011), Recommendation for municipalities and cities for preventing the arising and extension of socially excluded sites (2009) and Recommendation regarding the fulfilment of the right of foreigners to equal treatment (2010).

<sup>15</sup>Phone or email communication is usual. Based on the Ombudsman's decision emphasis is placed on the informality of communication with the complainants in order to speed up the process of assistance. The authorized staff from the Ombudsman's Office often travel to visit the complainant to conduct local investigation, since the Office is located in Brno and does not have any other field offices.

<sup>16</sup> IQ Roma Servis and Counselling Centre for Citizenship, Civil and Human Rights.

<sup>17</sup>General information is available here: <http://www.ochrance.cz/diskriminace/pomoc-obetem-diskriminace/situacni-testovani/>

as their existing positions. So far, however, the association *Pro Bono* did not receive any case related to racial or ethnic discrimination.<sup>18</sup> The Ombudsman also issued an opinion on the procedural aspects of the anti-discrimination law, which (in addition to its publication online) she provided to the presidents of all regional, high and supreme courts. It concerns the jurisdiction of the courts called to tackle the anti-discrimination lawsuits or the mutual relationship between the action for the protection of personality and the action for the protection against discrimination.

In order to determine the extent to which the Czech Republic implemented the requirements arising from the judgment of the ECHR in the case of *D. H. and others* the Ombudsman's Office in 2012 followed progress in the transformation of the former special schools, which in accordance with section 185, paragraph 1. 3 of the Education Act, as of January 1, 2005 became primary schools, practical primary schools and special primary schools. In June 2012 *the Ombudsman's Survey into the ethnic composition of pupils of former special schools was published* with an objective to obtain a relevant estimate of the ethnic composition of pupils of former special schools, nowadays known as the practical primary schools.

The survey approached the situation of Roma children in education from the viewpoint of ensuring equal access to education, which is anchored in the Education Act, as well as in the anti-discrimination law. The survey pointed out that the Roma pupils in former special schools were significantly overrepresented. Through observation the Ombudsman's staff identified<sup>19</sup> a total of 32% of Roma pupils in 67 monitored former special schools. The qualified estimate of teachers was higher – 35% of Roma pupils.

## (II) 1. 7. Functions of the Agency for social inclusion in Roma localities

The integration of the population of socially excluded Roma localities on the local level is facilitated by the Agency for social inclusion. The guarantor of the project is the Government's Office of the Czech Republic, namely, the Department for social inclusion, which was part of the Section for Human Rights of the Government's Office of the Czech Republic in the reference period. The Agency is a tool of the Czech Republic's Government to provide support to municipalities in the process of social inclusion. It supports municipalities and cities to fulfil their function - to provide all citizens with equal access to education, housing, health care, employment, social services and security.

The Agency supports such measures, which will help local governments in the process of social integration of the population at risk of social exclusion and in the development of socially excluded localities in the context and in the interests of the entire municipality/city community and all of its citizens. The Mission of the Agency is to connect local stakeholders, so that they can cooperate in the area of social inclusion. The Agency promotes trans-sectoral approach and linkages of activities of public administration and non-profit sector.

At its inception in 2008 the Agency began its pilot activities in 12 locations in the Czech Republic. In 2010-2012 the Agency implemented a three-year individual project *Support for social inclusion of Roma in the selected Roma localities through the Agency for social inclusion in Roma localities*. During this period it worked in 33 cities, municipalities and micro-regions. From 2013 the implementation of the follow-up project began and the Agency started operating in additional 17 cities, for a detailed breakdown see below. The

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<sup>18</sup>More information in English available at: <http://www.ochrance.cz/en/discrimination/news-from-discrimination/news-from-discrimination-2013/cooperation-of-the-public-defender-of-rights-with-pro-bono-aliance-shows-first-signs-of-success/>

<sup>19</sup> The ethnicity of the pupils was established by two methods of ethnic data collection, method of observation and method of identification on the basis of indirect criteria.

selection of the localities falls under the Monitoring Committee for the activities of the Agency, which works at the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs.

During the three-year period of cooperation with the municipality or city the Agency for social inclusion uses tools such as local partnerships, which is a platform for regular meetings of the representatives of local governments, national government, the non-profit sector and other stakeholders who are or may be involved in the process of social inclusion in the municipality. In addition it prepares Situational analyses, which are detailed surveys summarizing the status of the locality and the needs of its inhabitants in the areas of housing, education, employment, etc. These analyses form a solid foundation for the next stage of work in the locality, which is the preparation of a strategic plan. Strategic plans are binding development documents, whose preparation involves all members of the local partnership. An integral part of the Agency's activities is also project consultancy, which it provides for drawing funds from the European structural funds to all partners in the local partnership.

The Agency's project in the period 2010-2012 was supported by 44 850 000,-CZK. During the project the situation in each of the localities, and the impact of interventions was continuously mapped and evaluated. For the period 2013-2015 the follow-up project will receive support in the amount of 51 368 256,-CZK.

Table 5 A list of locations where the Agency has been active so far (50 municipalities and cities)

2008	2010	2011	2013
Brno	Bílina	Děčín*	Nové Sedlo
Broumov	Bruntál	Duchcov*	Odry
The Jeseníky Region	Haviřov	Hodonín	Osoblaha
Přerov	Chomutov*	Kadaň	Ralsko
Slezská Ostrava	Jáchymov	Cologne	Rumburk/Staré Křečany
Roudnice nad Labem	Jirkov	Krupka	Šternberk
Holešov*	Kutná Hora	Mělník	Velké Hamry
Břeclav**	Obrnice	Sokolov	Žlutice
Cheb**	Toužim – Teplá	Vejprty	Dubí
Most**	Trmice	Větrní	Frýdek-Místek
The Šluknov Region*			Jaroměř
Ústí nad Labem**			Kraslice
Litvínov (beginning 2009)*			Krnov
			Mikulovice
			Moravský Beroun
			Poběžovice
			Štětí

\* Cooperation was terminated before the end of the standard three-year term.

\*\* Cooperation was extended by 1/2 year by the decision of the Monitoring Committee of the Agency.

## (II) 1. 8. Ethnic minorities and internal security

An important document in this area is the current *National strategy of the Police of the CR for work with minorities*, which was approved for the period 2008-2012 and further updated for the period 2013-2014. The strategy's objective is to continue to develop capabilities for adaptation of the Police of the CR in terms of increasing social diversity and to expand the

knowledge and skills of police officers in the different social environments, so they are able to effectively and systematically work with minorities.

- Institutionalization of the liaison officer for minorities, which is newly appointed by the internal management act of the Police President at every regional directorate of the Police of the CR

In 2010 institutionalization of the liaison officer took place by a binding instruction of the Police President, which defines the position of the liaison officer, its obligations and the formation of the working group on minorities at every regional police directorate.

The liaison officer is a specialist on the issue of police work with minorities. He performs the role of mediator between the police and minority communities, offers members of minorities help in resolving specific problems within the legal scope of the Police of the CR. At the same time he acts as a consultant in all matters relating to minorities from the perspective of the police. The liaison officer also continuously monitors the structure of minorities in the locality, and contributes to the prevention and combating of crime. The liaison officers and members of the working groups participate in continuing education on minorities, cooperate with NGOs, as well as national and local governments, and contribute to creating closer links to minorities in their localities.

- Education in departmental educational institutions

The issue of national minorities is included in the curriculum of Elementary professional training courses taught at the police colleges of the Ministry of the Interior. The task of the police training is to equip police officers with the adequate competences to help them navigate the differences of cultural values and patterns of behaviour, streamline their approach to minorities and help the police as a whole to adapt to service in conditions of increasing social diversification. The expected output of the police training in this area is the police officer's awareness of the minorities' specifics, the competence for professional conduct based on mutual trust of the police officer and a member of the minority, and successful import of law and justice into these communities. The police training can be understood as a contribution to integration trends and ways to help ensure safety and reduce crime.

The topic of human rights in police training is incorporated in general, as well as in the form of partial areas focused on national and ethnic minorities, including the Roma, racism, xenophobia, domestic violence, etc. into the Framework Educational Programmes, school educational programmes and curricula of accredited study programmes depending on individual types of police schools. Usually it is included in other topical content, with which it shares a common objective. The fundamental issues of the above topics are built into the profile of the graduate at the initiative of the contracting authority of the educational programme (the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic), another option is to create an individual, specifically targeted educational activity (e.g., a course).

Beside the above-mentioned activities, a systematic training of specialists on minorities in active service in a two-part specific training programme entitled The Course for Liaison officers and members of working groups for minorities I. and II. is in place since 2011. The objective of the course is to provide participants with the basic theoretical background to work with minorities and equip them with the necessary skills for dealing with bearers of cultural, social and other peculiarities.

*The methodology for the assistants' activities in dealing with the police and other authorities,* was developed and published which describes the history of the method, its objectives, basic

procedures and current situation. The methodology is available online on the website of the Ministry. The document is aimed primarily at crime prevention and assistance to victims and witnesses of unlawful conduct in socially excluded localities. Based on the close cooperation between the Ministries of the Interior and Labour and Social Affairs a consensus was reached on the conditions under which it is possible to register this assistance as a service under Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services, as amended, and the related possibility of long-term financing. The methodology also clearly defines the standards, methods of work and coordination of the provided service and at the same time contains important information about the possibilities of its implementation.

During 2011-2012 *the Police College and the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Holešov*, in cooperation with *the Military police vocational school in Vyškov* conducted 11 trainings of police officers from the regional directorates of *the Police of the CR* included in the working groups for work with national minorities entitled *The police officer in a multicultural environment*. The training contained 24 teaching hours. In 2012 the teachers of police schools of the Ministry of Interior and police officers participated in seminars, lectures and methodical work, for example, in the course *The police officer in a multicultural environment II* in Červená nad Vltavou for police specialists on minorities, members of the working groups for minorities and lecturers, or an international seminar designed for police specialists on minorities and teachers, focused on training and application of intercultural competences of the police while working in a multicultural society (in cooperation with the German colleagues). The training of teachers of police schools of the Ministry and the police officers utilizes courses on extremism, human rights etc. offered by the Police Academy.

Experiential training *Minorities in the society: in the scope of work of the Police of the CR* related to minorities two runs of a three-day experiential training for police specialists on minorities were conducted in October 2011 and May 2012. The aim of this innovative project was to reinforce the sensibility of police specialists during their work with the bearers of cultural, religious, and other specifics through intense and captivating experience within the model situations with all the problematic aspects (such as communication / language barrier, discrimination, worsened position in negotiations with power brokers for defending one's rights, distrust, fear, etc.). The stated objectives were achieved through interactive methods, discussions, adventure games, simulations, and activities in nature, based on resolving model situations with subsequent analysis and theoretical generalization as a source of experience and knowledge.

– The Police College and Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Holešov

Since 2010 the Police College and the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Holešov (hereinafter referred to as the "PC and SPS of MI in Holešov") implemented projects *Preparation and selection of students from ethnic minorities for education in PC and SPS of MI in Holešov* and *Education of students of national minorities in PC and SPS of MI in Holešov*. Both projects were co-financed by the European Social Fund through the Operational programme *Education for competitiveness* and the national budget of the Czech Republic. Presently all activities concerning the sustainability of the project are financed from the school's budget.

Implemented activities are aimed at creating equal opportunities for male and female pupils in ninth grades of elementary schools from among national minorities living in the Czech Republic during the admission process and education at the PC and SPS of MI in Holešov, in order to avoid their exclusion from the education mainstream and to ensure their competitiveness in the labour market. Special attention is given to the prevention of racism and xenophobia and the promotion of multicultural education. Considerable care is devoted to

language training. Following the successful completion of their education, it is expected that the graduates will start service in the Police of the CR, or potentially other security forces and in public administration.

In the reference period (2009-2013), there was a total of 86 students at the PC and SPS of MI in Holešov, who represented 15 national minorities.

- Crime prevention

In the context of the Crime Prevention Strategy for 2008 to 2011 (approved by the Government resolution No. 1150/2007) the crime prevention system was divided into three levels - central, regional and municipal. At the regional and municipal levels continued the implementation of crime prevention programmes consisting of partial specific crime prevention projects.

The current fundamental conceptual document is the *Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for 2012-2015*, adopted by the Government's resolution No. 925/2011. The responsibility for developing the concept and coordination of the prevention policy rests with an inter-agency body called *the National Crime Prevention Committee*, which also makes decisions on allocation of funds from the state budget.

One of the fundamental objectives of the current strategy is a comprehensive approach to crime prevention in communities built on a partnership, multidisciplinary approach (cooperation between the municipality, Police of the CR and other stakeholders), often with direct involvement of the target groups (e.g. residents of socially excluded localities, including members of the Roma minority).

- Úsvit (Dawn) - prevention program targeting crime and extremism

Since 2009 the Ministry of the Interior implements the specific *Crime Prevention Program – Úsvit (Dawn)*, whose aim is to enhance public order and to increase safety in socially excluded localities and their surroundings, to reduce the number of committed crimes and offences, to actively involve the inhabitants of the sites (often members of the Roma minority) in preventive activities, to mitigate inter-ethnic tensions between the minority and the majority, which is used by extremist groups to advance their political objectives, and to promote non-repressive policing by the Police of the CR, as well as the Municipal Police corps.

The Program offers a set of proven and methodically designed projects of social and situational prevention, including their partial government financial support offered to local governments by the Ministry. The other partners are public administration authorities, non-governmental organizations and citizens.

The implemented projects of the Úsvit (Dawn) programme:

- Research on the sense of security of the citizens and their views on the improvement of the security situation, including their willingness to engage in such solutions - a poll, survey, round tables.
- Training of police officers of the municipal police and the Police of the CR on the specifics of working in socially unstable environment and in dealings with representatives of minorities.
- Concierge - prevention specialist, a project increasing the safety of inhabitants of the apartment complexes owned by the local governments and combining the maintenance of the complex, maintenance of public order and mediation of problems.

- Roma mentor - a project focused on the prevention of recidivism and on ensuring the exercise of an alternative sentence to imprisonment.
- Teaching assistant in primary schools and special schools, a project that promotes attaining higher education.
- Leisure activities for children and youth from socially non-stimulating environment (clubs, centres, playgrounds, sports areas), which combine tutoring or have an added element of social work. It is also possible to include summer camps and weekend stays, building on the long-term social work performed by the family development specialists.
- Permeable housing that ensures increasing the standard of living for people who perform their duties associated with housing and serves as a motivational element.
- Consultancy on prevention of debt and activities increasing financial literacy for indebted and insolvent persons.
- Projects of situational prevention creating safe zones and increasing citizens' sense of security (CCTV monitoring systems, photo-traps, installation of bars, security doors, lighting, fencing, etc.).
- The Crime prevention assistant - an employee of the Municipal Police corps, who contributes to the protection and safety of persons and property, and supervises the cleanliness of public spaces in the municipality.

The evaluation of the programme shows that, in the locations where the programme is implemented, there is an increase in the citizens' sense of security, an objective reduction of the number of notifications and complaints against certain offences, especially against public order, whose perpetrators were often the members of the Roma minority. There was also an increase in the clear up of various offences on the basis of local and personal knowledge of the crime prevention assistants. The inhabitants of the localities receive the assistants very positively and turn to them with their problems (both members of the Roma minority, as well as members of the majority).

- The Crime Prevention Assistant *Project*

The main partial project within the implementation of *Úsvit (Dawn)* - the Crime prevention programme in the socially excluded localities is the Crime Prevention Assistant implemented throughout the Czech Republic. The project's objective is to reduce crime and misdemeanor (violations of law in general) in socially excluded areas and sites, enforce law, prevent conflicts among neighbors, combat petty and latent crime, which has shown to be a very hard job for the Police of the CR and the Municipal Police in all socially excluded areas and sites, and change the negative majority perception of the socially excluded people (often members of the Roma minority). The assistant is selected from the ranks of the unemployed and hard-to-employ residents of the socially excluded areas and sites (often from the Roma community) who, following the completion of training, is employed by the Municipal Police and contributes to the increase in the standard of safety and compliance with public order. The project *Crime Prevention Assistant* was launched in 2009 and has already been implemented in 46 cities in 2013 (18 cities more than in 2012). There were a total of 140 assistants in these cities (about 50 more than in 2012) employed by the Municipal Police. Each city also creates the position of a mentor – a municipal police officer - who gives tasks to the assistants, monitors their performance, helps the assistants with managing the tasks and overcoming problems. Individual units of the Police of the CR in the relevant locations also contribute to the success of the project. The assistants are selected by the expert commission composed of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the local government, the Municipal Police, the Police of the CR, and often also the Coordinator (Advisor) for Roma Affairs (at the regional,

municipal level) or a representative of major non-governmental non-profit organizations active in the locality. The project is supported from two sources. The first is the state budget, chapter Ministry of the Interior, the state targeted grant for the crime prevention programme (in 2013, a total of 13 407 000 CZK in 35 cities, 90 assistants), the second source is *the European Social Fund*, Operational programme *Human resources and employment*. There are 50 *Crime Prevention Assistants* in 11 localities under the ESF OP HRE project *Crime Prevention Assistant* project registration number: CZ 1.04/3.3.00/61.00003. The payroll cost of the 50 assistants for 2 years (July 2012 - June 2014) are 20 160 000,-CZK.

- National security research, development and innovation

The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for national security research, development and innovation (hereinafter referred to as the "security research"). It performs all tasks of a provider of state support in research and development on the basis of Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on the promotion of research, experimental development and innovation from public funds, as amended.

Security research is carried out on the basis of *the Inter-ministerial concept of security research and development in the Czech Republic until 2015*, which was approved by the Government resolution No. 743 dated June 27, 2008. The concept established 3 main priorities for security research in the Czech Republic – Security of citizens, Security of critical infrastructures, Crisis management and 5 supporting priorities.

Projects related to the issue of national minorities are most often based on the priority of *Security of citizens*, which includes, among others, the thematic areas of *the Protection of citizens against crime, anti-societal conduct and socio-pathological phenomena*, and *Terrorism, organized crime and other forms of serious crime threatening the security of the state* and supporting priorities no.4 *Predictions and scenarios* and no.6 *Identification of people and resources* (annex 1).

## (II) 2. The placement of Roma children in practical schools (former special schools)

In 2007 the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "Grand Chamber") in the case of *D. H. and others against the Czech Republic* when the 18 complainants were placed in special schools, found discrimination in the use of the right to education based on ethnic origin (article 14 of the Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in conjunction with article 2 of Protocol no. 1 to this document). In its opinion indirect discrimination took place, i.e. a situation where an apparently neutral provision (placement of a child to a special school for children with slight mental disabilities) would put members of one group, in this case the Roma pupils, at a particular disadvantage, while this impact could not be explained by the mandatory use of expert testing of children, nor by the condition of the parents' consent. The Grand Chamber also noted that the Roma constitute a disadvantaged and vulnerable group that requires special protection. According to the Grand Chamber the process of admission to special schools was not accompanied by guarantees to ensure that the specific needs of the Roma children arising from their disadvantaged position will be taken into account.

The Czech Republic adopted a number of measures in the reference period to fulfil the judgment. The education of Roma children is perceived by the Government as one of the key points in the solution of social inclusion of the Roma, and it cannot be addressed in isolation. Measures taken in the field of education are implemented in the context of other steps in the area of social work, housing and health care.

In 2012 the *Consolidated action plan for the execution of the judgment of the ECHR in the case of D. H. and others against the Czech Republic* was adopted, which includes a number of measures to resolve the issues of Roma pupils' education in the Czech Republic.

One of the key measures that have been implemented in equal access to education of Roma pupils is the strengthening of the safeguards in the use of diagnostic tools in education, which in the past had been called discriminatory against Roma children. Previously used diagnostic tools did not provide comprehensive information, particularly for pupils with socio-cultural disadvantage. Currently new diagnostic tools are being introduced into practice that guarantee the objectivity of the testing results of all pupils. The goal of these tools is not only to assess the skills, but above all, to more accurately define ways to support them in education, which will allow children to cope easier with the requirements of the majority school. Through its grant programs the Ministry provides the funds for purchase of new diagnostic tools and for training of counseling centres staff on the internationally recognized test to measure intellect and executive functions.

Furthermore, the Ministry focused its attention in 2013 on legislative amendments in the field of delivering consultancy services and education for pupils with special educational needs. Those include a proposal for a decree amending Decree No. 72/2005 Coll., on the delivery of consultancy services in schools and school consulting facilities, as amended by Decree No. 116/2011 Coll., and Decree No. 73/2005 Coll., on the education of children, pupils and students with special educational needs and of extremely gifted children, pupils and students, as amended by Decree No. 147/2011 Coll., which was presented to the regular external commenting procedure in September 2013. The proposal reflects the needs of pupils with disabilities (including the issues of education of pupils with mild mental disorders), respecting the needs of pupils with disabilities. The purpose of the amendment was to prevent unjustified inclusion of pupils in the educational programmes or specific schools and classes, which do not correspond to their educational needs. However, the regulation should not eliminate the current supportive and compensatory measures for pupils with, for example, disabilities, which are allowed under the current regulation and which are rendered to pupils in line with their best interests.

The amendment of the decree on the keeping of documents in schools and school facilities and on the school registers and on the disclosure of data from documents of schools and school facilities and from school registers is another example of a fulfilled measure under the action plan. This regulation proved effective in practice; currently, the Czech Republic has information on the numbers of pupils who are educated according to the annex of the curriculum for primary education, which is designed for children with mild mental disorders.

The *Thematic Report of the Czech School Inspection: Progress of the Transformation of Former Special Schools in the School Year 2011/2012*, published in July 2012, also mapped the ratios of Roma children educated according to the *Framework educational programme for primary education for pupils with mild mental disorders*. The purpose of the examination was to determine the numbers of pupils educated according to the annex of the curriculum for primary education, which regulates conditions of education of pupils with mild mental disorders.

According to qualified estimates of school directors, the ratio of Roma pupils educated according to the aforementioned framework educational programme was 26,4%, which figure was lower by 8.6% compared to the school year 2009/2010. That means a positive trend was reported; compared to the preceding examination, the ratio of Roma pupils in all pupils with mild mental disorders slightly decreased in most regions.

The ratios of Roma pupils educated in the school year 2011/2012 according to the *Framework educational programme for primary education* and according to another educational programme were 5.7% and 10.6%, respectively. On the other hand, when monitoring the total numbers of Roma pupils according to their inclusion in educational programmes in the former special schools, it is still determined that Roma pupils are educated according to the *Framework educational programme for primary education (annex for the pupils with mild mental disorders)* much more frequently rather than the other pupils – the ratio is 78.9% to 43.3%).

The research results corresponded to the results of previous researches in 2009 when the Institute for Information in Education reported in its “*Monitoring of Framework Educational Programmes*” that 27% of Roma pupils, as compared to 2.17% of non-Roma pupils, were educated in practical primary schools according to the educational programme designed for education of children with mild mental disorders. The Inspection’s report *Summary Findings from the Thematic Inspection Activities in Former Special Schools* from 2010 indicated that 35% of Roma pupils were educated according to the annex for the pupils with mild mental disorders.

As already mentioned, the Czech Republic adopted in 2012 the Consolidated action plan for the execution of the judgment in the case of D. H. and others against the Czech Republic, in which the Czech Republic undertook, amongst other, to support a new system of diagnosing the pupils included in the modified educational programmes for pupils with mild mental disorders, prepare amendments to key legal regulations and initiate broader discussions on the issue of inclusive education. The purpose of the Action Plan was also to provide information on the ratios of Roma pupils educated under modified educational programmes.

For that purpose the Czech School Inspection conducted in 2013 a research in primary schools where 5 and more pupils with mild mental disorders were educated in the school year 2012/2013 (the research covered all such types of primary schools, regardless of their denomination). The directors of those schools were asked to fill in questionnaires and determine the numbers of Roma pupils among the children educated according to the modified educational programme for pupils with mild mental disorders (Roma pupils were identified according to the definition of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs confirmed by the Ombudsman).

The research included 483 schools; it indicated that the ratio of Roma pupils in the number of all pupils with mild mental disorders was 28.2%.

A comparison of the ratio of Roma pupils between the school years 2009/2010 through 2013/2014 indicated that the ratio of Roma pupils is significantly lower rather than that mentioned in the judgement. Examination methods in the preceding school years are basically comparable with the method used this year; what is not comparable, however, is the sample of schools both qualitatively and quantitatively. The data for the school year 2013/2014 should be considered as the first fully valid figures to be used as a baseline for further statistical examinations.

The Inspection’s examinations also demonstrated that the numbers of pupils with mild mental disorders, who were educated under individual integration in ordinary classes, increased; the number increased by over 66% from 2009. The numbers of pupils in special classes decreased by more than one fourth. Those data demonstrate that pupils with disability of any kind are continually integrated in ordinary schools and classes in the Czech educational system.

The same matter was examined also by the Ombudsman (see section II.1.6).

Important in pre-school education is the introduction of the compulsory last year in kindergarten, which is being considered; this will make it possible to create necessary prerequisites for children from a different social and cultural environment for their entry to primary education.

An amendment to the School Act was prepared in 2013; it should result in principal changes in the support to education of children with special educational needs. The purpose of the amendment to the School Act is to change the attitude to those children and deliver targeted support stressing individual integration into the educational mainstream.

Crucial priorities of this area:

- Increase the number of pro-inclusive ordinary schools and school facilities towards a higher level of social inclusion.
- Reinforce the competencies of teachers on all levels of ordinary schools in educating children and pupils with special educational needs.
- Increase the number of children attending pre-school education with regard to the children with special educational needs (endangered with school failure, coming from excluded localities, and children from the socially disadvantaged environment) and develop the system of early care for endangered children.
- Create and implement regional strategic educational plans preventing selection in education and educate public administration workers, stressing interventions in socially excluded localities.
- Improve the system of pedagogy-psychology advising to ensure that individual needs of children and pupils (including the talented and gifted ones) are diagnosed and that suitable supportive measures are taken in cooperation with schools, school facilities and other partners (e.g. authorities providing for the social and legal protection of children, non-government non-profit organisations).

The Czech Republic has set up conditions to systematically monitor and follow up the development of education of the Roma people. Not only the achieved results of the measures fulfilled under the action plan, but also other analyses of the situation of the Roma minority in the Czech Republic indicate that the attitudes of both the general and professional public to education of Roma pupils are changing. The long-term support to integration and its actual progress begin to show positive effects.

Under the influence of new approaches in the education policy, due to the introduction of new diagnostics tools, the use of EU structural funds and systematic mapping of the situation, the Czech Republic is undergoing an important transformation in the field of education of children with special educational needs, which also includes education of Roma children.<sup>20</sup>

#### ○ Supporting Roma secondary school students

The Ministry organises a long-term development programme *Support for Roma Secondary School Students*. The programme objective is to support the studies of the Roma students whose families have problems to finance the costs of secondary education. The programme includes all schools registered in the Register of Schools, which deliver secondary education,

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<sup>20</sup> Results of the survey conducted by EU Agency for Fundamental Rights “The Situation of Roma in 11 Member States“(COM(2012) 226 final) show that the Czech Republic had the highest ratio of Roma with completed higher secondary technical education among the countries.

apprenticeship, secondary education with leaving examination, higher technical education and higher technical education in conservatory. The programme can be used by Roma students who regularly attend school (or their absence from school is excused and justified) and do not have serious disciplinary problems.

Grants under the programme are given to legal entities – secondary schools, conservatories or higher secondary schools registered in the Register of Schools according to Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on pre-school, primary, secondary, higher technical and other education (School Act), as amended, to provide for financial and material support for education of Roma pupils and students of secondary schools, higher technical schools or conservatories, providing that they are Czech citizens and their families have problems to finance the costs of secondary education.

The programme cannot be used to pay for education abroad or for re-qualification and language courses for students. Approximately CZK 6 million is used annually. Supported under the programme *Support for Socially Disadvantaged Roma Secondary School and Higher Technical School Students in 2013* were 129 applications in January-June; 540 students were supported with CZK 2,447,000; 160 applications were supported in September-December, the total number of students was 740 and the total amount of support was CZK 3,160,000. The total amount of support in 2013 was CZK 5,607,000.

- Financing teacher's assistants for children, pupils and students with social disadvantage

The programme objective is to provide for equal access to education through granting non-investment funds designed specifically for the financing of salaries of teacher's assistants who help children, pupils and students ("pupils" hereinafter) with social disadvantage. The pupil with social disadvantage is defined in section 16(4) of the School Act and the pupil's statute is regulated by section 1(6) of Decree No. 73/2005 Coll., on the education of children, pupils and students with special educational needs and of extremely gifted children, pupils and students, as amended. The grant can be used only to finance the positions of teacher's assistant staffed with persons with adequate professional qualification, which is stipulated in section 20 of Act No. 563/2004 Coll., on pedagogic workers and on amendments to certain acts, as amended. The grant can be used to finance a teacher's assistant who does not have adequate qualification providing only that the teacher's assistant begins within six months at latest to study to achieve adequate professional qualification.

The grant can be used to finance a teacher's assistant who conducts the activities in accordance with Government Order No. 222/2010 Coll., on the catalogue of works in public services and administration, Profession No. 2.16.05 teacher's assistant. The development programme is not designed to finance the teacher's assistant who would work with the pupils educated according to the *Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education* and its annex regulating education of pupils with mild mental disorders.

The position of teacher's assistant is a system *compensatory measure* with the aim to provide, if necessary, the children, pupils and students with social disadvantage or coming from a different social and cultural environment with efficient and effective assistance to improve their school success in the educational mainstream.

The numbers of new positions of teacher's assistant for pupils with social disadvantage increased in 2012 in some regions; that is why the Ministry was able to subsidise those positions only up to 65% of requirements. The funding in 2013 increased to 88% of requirements, while the remaining 12% had to be funded by regional councils. The total grant in 2012 was CZK 100 million in two stages; at first, CZK 75 million and later CZK 25 million.

Tab. 6 Year-to-year comparison of the numbers of teacher's assistants

	2011	2012	2013
<i>Natural persons</i>	508	547	534
<i>FTEs</i>	approx. 434	approx. 467	approx. 433
<i>Total funding:</i>	approx. CZK 75 mil.	approx. CZK 100 mil.	approx. CZK 95 mil.

- The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports programme to support integration of the Roma minority

Circles of the programme priorities:

- A) Pre-school preparation and early care
- B) Supporting school success of primary and secondary school pupils
- C) Education of and methodological support for teachers, workers in school consultancy facilities and university students of teaching branches
- D) Leisure-time activities and hobbies for Roma children and young people in relation to their social exclusion and cultural difference

The annual allocation to the programme is CZK 11-15 million. 48 projects amounting to CZK 11,753,392 were supported in 2013.

- The development programme to support schools that implement inclusive education of children and pupils with disadvantage

The objective of this development programme is to provide funding for bonuses and incentives paid to the teachers who educate children and pupils with social disadvantage and/or children and pupils with disabilities.

The funds under this programme shall be used by a legal entity registered in the Register of Schools (including the place where education is delivered), conducting school activities ("school" hereinafter), to pay bonuses to the teachers who achieve for a long time good results of their pedagogic work in the field of inclusive education of children and pupils with social disadvantage and/or disabilities, regardless of the number of years of teaching practice. The funds shall not be used at variance with the support of equal opportunities for men and women.

The target groups include kindergartens working with children with social and health disadvantage (at least 5 children or 15% of such children), primary schools educating pupils according to the *Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education* (except for the annex regulating education of pupils with mild mental disorders; at least 10 pupils or 25% of such pupils) and secondary schools educating pupils with social and health disadvantage, which can demonstrate implementation of compensatory measures for those pupils (at least 10 pupils or 15%).

The grant can be given providing that at least one of the following measures is undertaken in the case of kindergartens, three of the following measures in the case of primary schools or two of the following measures in the case of secondary schools:

- a) Preparatory classes are created in the primary school;
- b) The school uses teacher's assistants to educate children or pupils with disabilities and/or social disadvantage who need a higher degree of support in education;
- c) The school creates conditions to educate children or pupils with disabilities and/or social disadvantage who need a higher degree of support in education through establishing necessary methodological or technical background;

- d) School measures are taken to enable socially disadvantaged children and pupils to prepare for classes (individual support by teachers who use school premises for pre-school preparation during outside classes or in cooperation with non-profit organisations, universities, municipalities);
- e) The school “re-integrates” children and pupils from practical primary schools or separately established schools or classes educating according to the annex of the *Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education* (which regulate education of pupils with mild mental disorders);
- f) The school cooperates with at least one non-profit organisation or another entity working with children and pupils from a socially disadvantaging environment.

The school shall use the specific allocated funds to increase bonuses and incentives for teachers (including teacher’s assistants for children or pupils with social disadvantage and disabilities), taking into account the following criteria (without limitation):

- They actively apply the principles of inclusive education;
- They work in preparatory classes;
- They work in primary and secondary school classes with a high (at least 20%) ratio of children and pupils with social disadvantage or they work in kindergartens with a high (at least 15%) ratio of children with social disadvantage, and their work with a given group of children can be assessed as superior;
- They work in kindergartens (at least 5 children), primary schools (at least 10 children) and secondary schools (at least 10 children) educating children or pupils with disabilities who need a higher degree of support in education, and their work with a given group of children and pupils can be assessed as superior;
- They participate in the delivery of individual support to the children and pupils with social disadvantage and/or disabilities, mainly through tutoring or individual consultations.

The annual allocation to the programme is CZK 30 million. 2,912 teachers were supported in 2013 with grants amounting to CZK 29,656,630.

### (II) 3. The training of Romany mediators

One of the training sessions under the international project *Romed* was organised in Prague on 25 to 27 January 2012; it was attended by 16 states. The European training programme for mediators is administrated by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the European Commission. It is one of the programmes focusing on Roma issues across Europe. The project is implemented in the Czech Republic by *Romea* civil association.

The programme objective is to use mediators with Roma roots who can speak, if necessary, the language of the Roma community. Due to that they can establish contacts with both parties involved in any situation and make their mutual communication and cooperation more efficient.

Similarly to other 15 European countries, where the programme is implemented, a working group of 25 mediators has been established in the Czech Republic. The mediators work as regional Roma coordinators and advisors in municipalities, social workers, teacher’s assistants or civil association representatives. They meet on a regular basis at workshops organised by the Council of Europe to learn new information and skills in the methodology of mediator’s work, discuss problems and confront their procedures and efforts in the field of social inclusion of the Roma people with local administration representatives who are also invited to the workshops.

#### (II) 4. Committees for national minorities

The number of Committees in municipalities (e.g. in statutory Town quarters) was increasing continually during the reference period until 2012, when the final census results were published. There were 62 such committees in 2011, and four municipalities, which were not obliged by law to establish their Committees, established Commissions for national minorities. In 2012 their number decreased only by three, and five municipalities established their Commissions.

The situation in statutory towns (Brno, České Budějovice, Děčín, Frýdek-Místek, Havířov, Hradec Králové, Chomutov, Jablonec nad Nisou, Jihlava, Karlovy Vary, Karviná, Kladno, Liberec, Mladá Boleslav, Most, Olomouc, Opava, Ostrava, Pardubice, Plzeň, Prostějov, Přerov, Teplice, Ústí nad Labem, Zlín) is more lucid; three statutory towns (Brno, Chomutov, Karviná) have established their Committees. After the census, the town of Karviná became obliged to meet this obligation. The Committees are still functional in the remaining towns, although their establishment does not arise from law. Four more towns have established their Commissions (because they do not meet the statutory conditions to establish their Committees: Liberec, Mladá Boleslav, Most).

Three of fourteen regions have established Committees (Karlovy Vary, Moravia-Silesia, and Ústí nad Labem), although the Region of Karlovy Vary is the only region obliged to do so by virtue of law. Two more regions (South Moravia, City of Prague) have established their Commissions or panels named differently. Eight regions appoint coordinators for national minorities in addition to Committees.

Confusion in municipalities is caused mainly by imperfect formulation of the respective text of the applicable Municipal Establishment Act. According to the Act, the condition of at least 10% of inhabitants of a municipality declaring national minorities for the municipality to be obliged to establish the Committee is met, if the respective number of persons declares the selected nationalities in the census.

The Ministry of the Interior presented in 2012 a bill amending the Municipalities Act, Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions (regional establishment), as amended, Act No. 131/2000 Coll., on the City of Prague, as amended, and other related acts.

With regard to the Government Resolution No. 845 of 29 June 2009 to the Report on the situation of national minorities in 2008, the aforementioned bill proposed the following changes pertaining to the issue of national minorities:

1) Considering practical experience, the conditions for the names of municipality, streets and other public spaces and for the names of buildings of state authorities and territorial administration units in the language of a national minority are modified. The current rule is that the municipality is obliged to state names in the language of national minority only in case *the Committee for national minorities decides so* (the text of the law is “*recommends*”) *at request of representatives of the respective national minority*. The new regulation is that the municipality is obliged to do so at written request of *an association representing the interests of the respective national minority, which has been active within the territory of the municipality for at least 5 years as of the request date*. The basic condition of at least 10% of inhabitants of the municipality declaring the nationality is maintained in both cases.

2) The mechanism of establishing municipal council’s committees (in the regions and in the City of Prague) for national minorities is regulated in a new way. Above all, the Act stipulates that the Committee must be established in case more than 10% of inhabitants of the municipality declared in the last census a different than Czech nationality (it is not necessary that a single minority represents over 10%; the condition is met in case all minorities in the municipality account for at

least 10%) and in case establishment of the Committee is requested by an association representing the interests of the national minority (a 5% limit is stipulated for the regions and City of Prague). The change results from practical needs, because the census is usually organised in ten-year intervals; that is why presence of national minorities in a municipality can change, while the municipality's obligation to establish the Committee would still exist. In practice there were situations that a national minority fully "disappeared" after the last census, but the municipality was still obliged to establish a Committee. Such situations should be prevented by law, because an initiative is assumed for the Committee to be established; i.e. there should be an interest expressed by the national minority. The amendment maintains the condition that the Committee should include national minority members; however, the requirement that those persons should be delegated by a union established according to a special act was removed. Besides, such structure was problematic also as regards Committee membership for the other national minority members that were not organised in any union. On the other hand, the text of the Act is explicitly supplemented with a regulation of the situations that the conditions for the Committee establishment are met (existence of national minorities and written request of an organisation), but there is no interest in membership in the municipality. In that case the obligation to establish a Committee shall not expire, but it is not necessary that at least a half of its membership be national minority members.

The Government approved this bill by its Resolution No. 1 of 9 January 2013. Its discussion within the first reading in the Czech Parliament began in January 2013. Because, however, the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament was dissolved, the bill was not discussed. The bill is expected to be presented to the new Chamber of Deputies.

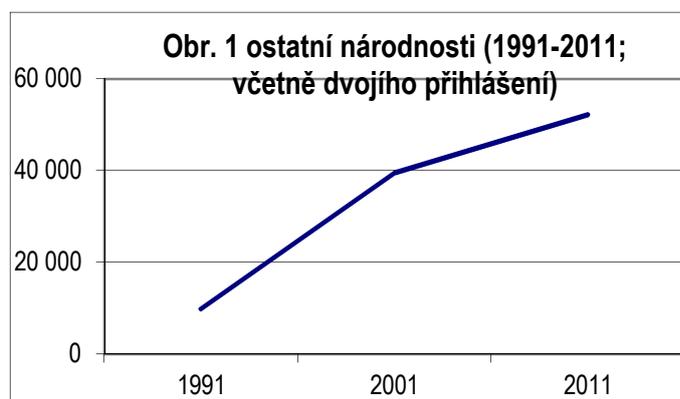
### PART III Additional measures adopted to improve the implementation of the Convention

The commentary to the following articles relates to Parts I and II of the Convention, in particular to the articles to which the Advisory Committee for the Convention for the Third periodic report of the Czech Republic presented its motions or comments.

#### Article 3

- Nationalities claimed – a comparison of the census results in 1991, 2001 and 2011

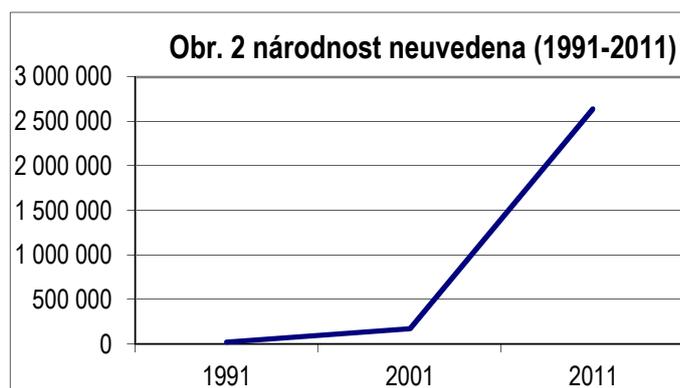
It is difficult to assess the census results in 1991, 2001 and 2011, because the 2011 census was more affected by the options not to claim any nationality or claim two nationalities. This fact can be documented on the Roma minority members. Taking into account the numbers of persons who claimed only one nationality, there would be a decrease (to 46.7%) in the number of the Roma nationality members as compared to the 2001 census; if, however, two claimed nationalities are taken into account, the number increased up to 109.4%. German nationality reports 52.3% in 2011 as compared to 2001, or 64.5% with double nationality; Polish nationality in 2011 accounts for 75.2%, adding Polish nationality as a second one - 83.6%; Slovak nationality (76.2%, 86.5% with double nationality); and by two fifths in the case of



Hungarian nationality (60.8% in 2001; 63.9% with double nationality). No other nationalities reported double nationality. However, Greek nationality decreased to 63.5%; Ruthenian nationality by one third; Croatian nationality by about one fourth; and Serbian nationality by almost 5%. By contrast, the number of the Ukrainian nationality members increased by 140.8%; Russian by 44.9%; and Bulgarian by 14.5% (only one claimed

nationality was considered). It is true, however, that according to the Czech Statistical Office data, for example, only 869 persons claiming Bulgarian nationality had the Czech citizenship; in the case of Slovak nationality, only 92,103 persons had the statute of Czech citizens; and in the case of Ukrainian nationality, only 2,954 persons were Czech citizens. That means the increase is due to the current migration, while the numbers of “traditional” nationalities keep decreasing.

Fig. 1 Other nationalities (1991-2011; including double claimed nationality)



Given below for illustration are the census results from 1991, 2001 and 2011. The data indicate a significant increase in “other” minority communities – more than five times. It is due to the increasing ratios of immigrants and increasing diversity of Czech society.

Fig. 2 Nationality not stated (1991-2011)

What is the most important, however, is an increase in the number of persons who did not claim any nationality. While there were only 22,017 persons (0.21%) who did not declare any nationality in 1991, almost 173,000 (1.7%) and over 2.6 mil. persons (almost one fourth of all inhabitants of the Czech Republic) did not claim any nationality in 2001 and 2011, respectively. This fact was critically commented by some national minority members who had required that the field “nationality” be compulsory in the 2011 census.

Tab. 7 Czech inhabitants by exclusive nationality (Population and housing census; Czech Statistical office, 1992, 2002, 2012)

		Total in 1991		Total in 2001		Total in 2011	
		Absolute number	In %	Absolute number	In %	Absolute number	In %
<i>Total number of inhabitants</i>		10 302 215	100.0	10 230 060	100.0	10 436 560	100.0
<i>Including nationality</i>	<i>Czech</i>	8 363 768	81.18	9 249 777	90.42	6 711 624	64.31
	<i>Moravian</i>	1 362 313	13.22	380 474	3.72	521 801	5.00
	<i>Silesian</i>	44 446	0.43	10 878	0.11	12 214	0.12
	<i>Slovak</i>	314 877	3.06	193 190	1.89	147 152	1.41
	<i>Polish</i>	59 383	0.57	51 968	0.51	39 096	0.37
	<i>German</i>	48 556	0.47	39 106	0.38	18 658	0.18
	<i>Ukrainian</i>	8 220	0.07	22 112	0.22	53 253	0.51
	<i>Hungarian</i>	19 932	0.19	14 672	0.14	8 920	0.08
	<i>Russian</i>	5 062	0.05	12 369	0.12	17 872	0.17
	<i>Roma</i>	32 903	0.32	11 746	0.11	5 135	0.05
	<i>Bulgarian</i>	3 487	0.03	4 363	0.04	4 999	0.05
	<i>Greek</i>	3 379	0.03	3 219	0.03	2 043	0.02
	<i>Serbian</i>	<i>not determ.</i>	---	1 801	0.02	1 717	0.02
	<i>Croatian</i>	<i>not determ.</i>	---	1 585	0.02	1 125	0.01
	<i>Ruthenian</i>	1 926	0.02	1 106	0.01	739	0.01
	<i>Other (including double nationality)</i>	9 860	0.10	39 477	0.39	52 225	0.5
	<i>Not determined, nationality not stated</i>	22 017	0.21	172 827	1.67	2 642 666	25.32

Added to the data on national minorities represented in the Council in 2012 are the figures on Belarusian and Vietnamese nationalities. The representatives of Belarusian and Vietnamese nationalities became regular members of the Government Council for National Minorities in July 2013.

Tab. 8 Numbers of Belarusian and Vietnamese nationalities claimed (Population and housing census; Czech Statistical office, 1992, 2002, 2012)

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Total in 1991</i>		<i>Total in 2001</i>		<i>Total in 2011</i>	
	<i>Absolute number</i>	<i>In %</i>	<i>Absolute number</i>	<i>In %</i>	<i>Absolute number</i>	<i>In %</i>
<i>Belarusian</i>	<i>not determ.</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>not determ.</i>	<i>---</i>	2 013	0.02
<i>Vietnamese</i>	421	0.004	17 462	0.2	29 660	0.28

There is an evident increase by 69.9% in the case of the Vietnamese nationality members. Again, those are mainly immigrants, because there are just 824 persons who are Czech citizens.

As regards the nationalities under monitoring, 163,648 claimed double nationality in 2011 in the Czech Republic:

Tab. 9 Double nationality claimed (2011 Population and housing census; Czech Statistical office)

	<i>Total inhabitants</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
<i>Persons claiming two nationalities</i>	163 648	82 903	80 745
<i>Including:</i>			
Czech and Moravian	99 028	48 996	50 032
Czech and German	6 158	3 564	2 594
Czech and Polish	2 804	1 231	1 573
Czech and Roma	7 026	3 505	3 521
Czech and Silesian	4 361	2 477	1 884
Czech and Slovak	17 666	8 200	9 466
Czech and Jewish	278	173	105
Moravian and German	292	197	95
Moravian and Polish	152	79	73
Moravian and Roma	113	80	33
Moravian and Silesian	4 567	2 653	1 914
Moravian and Slovak	1 650	865	785
Moravian and Jewish	10	7	3
Silesian and German	113	94	19
Silesian and Polish	250	148	102
Silesian and Roma	5	3	2
Silesian and Slovak	43	24	19
Silesian and Jewish	3	3	-
Slovak and Hungarian	445	253	192
Slovak and Roma	573	278	295

○ 2011 Census and national minorities

Belarusian nationality

The number of persons who claimed Belarusian nationality in 2011 was 2,013; almost 40% of them are reported in Prague. The number of persons who claimed Belarusian nationality as second nationality was 59. This nationality was not reported before the 2011 Census.

Bulgarian nationality

The number of persons claiming Bulgarian nationality in combination with Czech, Moravian or Czechoslovak nationality was 261. The total number of persons who claimed this nationality only in in 2011 indicated an increase from 4,363 in the 2001 Census to 4,999 in 2011. The highest ratio in the number of inhabitants in 2001 was 4.27% (33 persons; Cerekvice nad Bystřicí, district of Jičín); nobody claimed this nationality in this municipality in 2011. The highest percentage of Bulgarian nationality in the 2011 Census, newly at Žernov (district of Semily) is about 7%; at Klíčany (district of Prague-east) it is 3%. The highest numbers of Bulgarians are clearly concentrated in cities (Prague, Brno, Plzeň, Ostrava).

Croatian nationality

The number of persons with Croatian nationality in combination with Czech and Moravian nationality was 311. In the 1991 Census Croatian nationality was not reported. It was claimed by 1,585 persons in 2001, while only 1,125 declared exclusively this nationality in 2011. The highest ratio of Croatians in 2001 lived at Huzová (district of Bruntál), over 1,5%, which accounts for 10 persons (1 person only in 2011); in 2011 they lived at Brod nad Dyjí and Jevišovka (district of Břeclav), approx. 0.8% (4 and 5 persons, respectively) or at Uničov (10 persons). The figures still show the effect of their forced displacement from the traditional locality in the South Moravian Region in 1948. Most Croatians live in Prague and Brno.

### Hungarian nationality

The total number of persons who claimed Hungarian nationality in 2011 was 10,513; Hungarian nationality only was declared by 8,920 persons in 2011 and by 14,672 in 2001. The decrease is significant. The highest ratio of this national minority members live at Horky nad Jizerou (district of Mladá Boleslav) 1,6%; Skalsko 1% (district of Mladá Boleslav); Mirkovice (district of Český Krumlov) 1.1%; Střítež (district of Český Krumlov) 1.1%; Staré Křečany (district of Děčín) 1.4%; Nové Dvory (district of Litoměřice) 1.3 %; Dobřenice (district of Hradec Králové) 1.1 %. Teplička (district of Karlovy Vary, 8 persons) was the only municipality where the Hungarian national minority members accounted for 10%; only 2 persons declared this nationality in the 2011 Census. Most Hungarian nationality members live in Prague, Brno and Ostrava.

### German nationality

German nationality was claimed in the 2011 Census in the Czech Republic by 25,431 persons (18,658 persons claimed it as exclusive nationality). As compared to the data from 2001, the numbers decreased significantly, by more than a half. Whereas the ratios of this minority exceeded 10% in 18 municipalities in 2001 and it was included in the 10%+ limit necessary for the Committee establishment, persons claiming German nationality do not achieve 10% of all local population in any municipality. Those municipalities include, e.g. Abertamy 7.42 %; Nejdek 2.04% (both municipalities in the district of Karlovy Vary); Březová 4.08%; Habartov 2.90%; and Kraslice 2.26% (all municipalities in the district of Sokolov). The cities include in particular Prague, Karlovy Vary, Most, Chomutov, and Jablonec nad Nisou.

### Polish nationality

Polish nationality was claimed in 2011 by 42,463 persons (39,096 persons claimed it as exclusive nationality, 3,367 persons as second nationality). Again, as compared to the previous censuses, a decrease is reported; almost 60,000 in 1991 and 52,000 in 2001. Most municipalities (30; less by one as compared to the 2001 Census) with over 10% of inhabitants declaring Polish nationality are still concentrated in the Moravian-Silesian Region, in the districts of Frýdek-Místek and Karviná. Those municipalities have the highest numbers of Polish nationality members – over 30% of inhabitants (a list of municipalities is attached in Annex 3). This is the only national minority in the Czech Republic, which is territorially defined. The highest values of Polish minority members exceed 30% (see Annex 1). The cities of Karviná, Havířov and Prague significantly dominate among statutory towns.

### Roma nationality

Almost 33,000 persons claimed this nationality in 1991; 11,764 persons in 2001. In the 2011 Census exclusive Roma nationality was declared by 5,135 persons, but 7,818 persons claimed Roma as double nationality, which is more than in 2001 (12,530 persons). The numbers of this nationality did not exceed 10% in any municipality, and the numbers of Roma are not significant anywhere except for towns (only at Hvožd'any, district of Domažlice, the number of Roma is 6.3%, as two persons of 33 local inhabitants declared Roma nationality; however, this phenomenon is rather marginal, it does not feature any general context). According to the census, the highest numbers of Roma in absolute terms live in Prague and Most.

### Ruthenian nationality

The number of persons claiming Ruthenian nationality keeps decreasing; of almost 22,000 in 1991 to 1,063 persons in the 2011 Census (exclusive nationality declared by 739 persons; double nationality by 234 persons). The numbers of Ruthenian nationality members did not achieve 10% in any municipality in the 2001 Census or 2011 Census; the highest ratio in 2011 was 5.83% at Dašice (district of Pardubice), while this ratio was not reflected in the preceding censuses. Most Ruthenians are concentrated in Prague and, in addition to Dašice, in Brno.

### Russian nationality

Unlike most minority communities, the numbers of persons belonging to this community keeps increasing in the censuses. Russian nationality was declared by approx. 5,000 persons in the 1991 Census; by 12,369 persons in the 2001 Census; and by 18,774 persons in the 2011 Census (this nationality was exclusively declared by 17,872 persons; double nationality was declared by 902 persons). This is one of two nationalities, which recorded increases when comparing the two censuses; this fact demonstrates a growing ratio of immigrants. Nevertheless, the ratio of this nationality does not account for 10% anywhere. The percentage ratio in municipal population is several percent (the highest ratio is at Trnová – 8.5%); however, the highest numbers of Russian nationality members live directly in towns (Prague, Karlovy Vary, Brno, Teplice).

### Greek nationality

Greek nationality was claimed in 2011 by 2,596 persons (2,043 persons claimed Greek as exclusive nationality; 533 persons as double nationality). In the 1991 Census and 2001 Census Greek nationality was declared by over 3,000 persons, while a decrease by about one third (to 2,596 persons) was seen in 2011. The ratio of the Greek nationality members does not achieve 10% anywhere; the highest number was at Zlaté Hory (district of Jeseník), 2.32%. Most Greek nationality members live in towns. The highest numbers can be seen in Prague, Brno, and Ostrava.

### Slovak nationality

167,930 persons claimed Slovak nationality in 2011 (including 147,152 persons who claimed exclusively Slovak nationality and 20,778 persons who claimed it as double nationality). In 1991 and 2001 the numbers of persons who declared exclusively Slovak nationality was 314,877 and 193,190, respectively. In spite of the remarkable decrease, Slovak nationality is still the most populous national minority in the Czech Republic. Of almost fifty municipalities where the ratios of Slovak nationality members exceeded 10%, only two municipalities with over 200 inhabitants remain today (see Annex 3). The ratio in the other municipalities, which reported more than 10% of Slovak nationality in the previous census, is between 1% and 8%. Similarly to the other cases, the highest numbers of Slovaks live in Prague, Brno, and Ostrava.

### Serbian nationality

Serbian nationality was not reported in the 1991 Census; this nationality was reported for the first time in 2001, by 1,801 persons. Exclusive Serbian nationality was claimed in 2011 by 1,717 persons and double nationality by 219 persons. The results indicate an insignificant decrease in the number of persons who declared this national minority. The 2011 Census indicate that this nationality does not achieve 10% anywhere. The highest ratio achieved is 0.26% of inhabitants (Neratovice). The Serbians live in cities, in particular in Prague (1,121 persons, which accounts for 60% of this minority).

### Ukrainian nationality

Ukrainian nationality is the third group with a growing ratio of its members in the total number of inhabitants of the Czech Republic; their percentage increase is the highest (53,253 persons who claimed exclusively Ukrainian nationality; 1,254 persons who declared this nationality as double nationality). However, Ukrainian nationality exceeds 10% only at Třebčice (district of Plzeň-south) (20.9%). Traditionally, this community lives in cities where, however, their numbers do not achieve respective values; the numbers of the Ukrainians newly increase near large industrial agglomerations. Examples include Zápy (district of Prague-east, 5.28%), Trhový Štěpánov (district of Benešov, 3.49%), or Mochov (district of Prague-east, 5.36%). Most Ukrainians live in Prague

(40% of the total number of persons belonging to the Ukrainian minority) and in Brno, Plzeň, and Liberec.

#### Vietnamese nationality

There are 29,660 persons who claimed exclusively Vietnamese nationality in 2011 (and 280 persons claimed it as double nationality); almost one fourth of them live in Prague. Vietnamese nationality is mostly declared in Cheb, Plzeň, Ostrava, and Brno, and in all border localities.

Tab. 10 Declared nationality in statutory towns (source: CSO 2011)<sup>21</sup>

Statutory town	Number of inhabitants	National minority agenda	Nationalities <sup>22</sup>	% of members <sup>23</sup>	2001
Brno	385 913	Committee	Slovak, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Bulgarian, German, Greek, Roma, Vietnamese, Belarusian	3.02	2.64
České Budějovice	93 715	Coordinator	Slovak, Ukrainian, Russian, Vietnamese	2.05	2.15
Děčín	49 106	---	Slovak, Ukrainian, Polish, German, Vietnamese	2.09	3.50
Frydek-Místek	56 356	Advisor	Slovak, Polish, Hungarian	3.96	5.73
Haviřov	76 694	Advisor	Slovak, Polish, Hungarian	6.42	9.77
Hradec Králové	94 314	Coordinator	Slovak, Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, Vietnamese	2.27	2.42
Chomutov	48 328	Committee	Slovak, German, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Roma, Vietnamese	3.66	6.65
Jablonec nad Nisou	44 567	Social worker	Slovak, Ukrainian, German, Polish, Roma, Vietnamese	3.98	5.12
Jihlava	50 075	---	Slovak, Ukrainian	1.73	1.87
Karlovy Vary	48 639	Advisor	Slovak, Russian, Ukrainian, German, Hungarian	5.61	6.74
Karviná	56 897	Committee	Polish, Slovak, Hungarian	11.85	18.02
Kladno	68 103	---	Slovak, Ukrainian, Russian, Vietnamese	3.26	3.73
Liberec	102 754	Council for National Minorities	Slovak, Ukrainian, Polish, German, Russian, Hungarian, Vietnamese	3.81	4.32
Mladá Boleslav	44 303	Commission for the Integration of Ethnic and National Minorities	Slovak, Polish, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Vietnamese	6.43	4.69
Most	65 193	Council for National Minorities	Slovak, Roma, German, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Vietnamese	3.75	5.56
Olomouc	101 003	Advisor	Slovak, Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, Vietnamese	2.16	2.79
Opava	58 351	Roma advisor	Slovak, German, Vietnamese	1.59	3.00
Ostrava	296 224	Social worker	Slovak, Polish, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Roma, Russian, German, Greek, Bulgarian, Vietnamese	3.09	5.04
Pardubice	90 767	Working group	Slovak, Ukrainian, Polish, Vietnamese	2.64	2.41
Plzeň	170 322	Commission for the Integration of Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners	Slovak, Ukrainian, Polish, Bulgarian, German, Hungarian, Russian, Vietnamese	3.11	2.06
Prostějov	44 857	Working group	Slovak, Ukrainian	1.67	2.45

<sup>21</sup> Data on „second nationality“ claimed were not available for municipalities, statutory towns and regions; therefore, the data on exclusive nationality claimed are used.

<sup>22</sup> Over 100 members.

<sup>23</sup> Exclusive nationality declared.

Přerov	44 361	Advisor	Slovak, Vietnamese	1.81	2.74
Teplice	49 640	---	Slovak, Russian, German, Ukrainian, Vietnamese	3.85	5.64
Ústí nad Labem	93 000	Coordinator	Slovak, Ukrainian, Russian, German, Polish, Roma, Vietnamese	2.85	4.39
Zlín	75 318	---	Slovak	1.34	1.87

Tab. 11 Declared nationality by regions (source: CSO 2011)

Region	Nationality																			Total number of inhabitants	
	Czech	Moravian	Silesian	Bulgarian	Croatian	Hungarian	German	Polish	Roma	Ruthenian	Russian	Greek	Slovak	Serbian	Ukrainian	Belarusian	Vietnamese	Double nationality	Other		Not determined
South Bohemia	454 738	1 297	38	223	33	347	700	358	269	16	412	20	6 602	34	2 150	104	1 441	2 800	1 624	155 130	628 336
%	72.37	0.21	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.11	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.07	0.00	1.05	0.01	0.34	0.02	0.23	0.45	0.26	24.69	100.00
South Moravia	558 041	254 380	235	453	132	695	453	772	309	67	886	243	14 106	150	4 989	177	2 401	44 579	5 089	275 351	1 163 508
%	47.96	21.86	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.07	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.02	1.21	0.01	0.43	0.02	0.21	3.83	0.44	23.67	100.00
Karlovy Vary	190 285	341	20	148	56	763	4 431	253	213	37	1 112	23	7 217	50	1 376	85	3 597	2 498	1 313	81 777	295 595
%	64.37	0.12	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.26	1.50	0.09	0.07	0.01	0.38	0.01	2.44	0.02	0.47	0.03	1.22	0.85	0.44	27.67	100.00
Hradec Králové	389 201	700	34	118	27	359	1 269	1 260	337	27	291	131	5 638	25	2 078	86	893	2 695	1 736	141 011	547 916
%	71.03	0.13	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.23	0.23	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.02	1.03	0.00	0.38	0.02	0.16	0.49	0.32	25.74	100.00
Liberec	300 472	473	23	157	16	430	1 774	1 363	295	30	411	50	6 053	24	2 567	60	1 108	2 415	1 861	112 857	432 439
%	69.48	0.11	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.10	0.41	0.32	0.07	0.01	0.10	0.01	1.40	0.01	0.59	0.01	0.26	0.56	0.43	26.10	100.00
Moravia-Silesia	766 300	46 270	11 050	306	85	1 371	1 155	28 138	691	35	484	759	26 068	55	673	47	1 900	31 182	3 308	285 957	1 205 834
%	63.55	3.84	0.92	0.03	0.01	0.11	0.10	2.33	0.06	0.00	0.04	0.06	2.16	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.16	2.59	0.27	23.71	100.00
Olomouc	365 091	76 280	247	92	79	293	865	587	363	22	257	287	7 306	22	961	43	588	18 510	1 764	154 770	628 427
%	58.10	12.14	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.14	0.09	0.06	0.00	0.04	0.05	1.16	0.00	0.15	0.01	0.09	2.95	0.28	24.63	100.00
Pardubice	362 436	4 514	42	109	32	257	288	621	175	151	212	32	4 789	11	1 621	81	819	2 957	1 334	131 146	511 627
%	70.84	0.88	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.94	0.00	0.32	0.02	0.16	0.58	0.26	25.63	100.00
Plzeň	399 897	507	16	344	46	430	1 096	511	216	38	297	23	7 982	19	3 460	108	2 676	2 194	2 045	148 496	570 401
%	70.11	0.09	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.08	0.19	0.09	0.04	0.01	0.05	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.61	0.02	0.47	0.38	0.36	26.03	100.00
City of Prague	821 688	3 754	246	1 732	423	1 419	1 264	1 721	368	167	9 413	290	23 089	1 028	21 316	795	6 313	11 005	19 653	343 112	1 268 796
%	64.76	0.30	0.02	0.14	0.03	0.11	0.10	0.14	0.03	0.01	0.74	0.02	1.82	0.08	1.68	0.06	0.50	0.87	1.55	27.04	100.00
Central Bohemia	901 438	1 789	133	830	82	1 251	822	1 898	388	81	2 434	91	17 474	207	7 512	214	2 693	5 875	5 718	338 281	1 289 211
%	69.92	0.14	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.10	0.06	0.15	0.03	0.01	0.19	0.01	1.36	0.02	0.58	0.02	0.21	0.46	0.44	26.24	100.00
Ústí nad Labem	553 008	692	32	334	73	973	4 203	1 100	1 247	42	1 301	35	12 033	64	2 882	80	4 194	5 235	2 844	218 589	808 961
%	68.36	0.09	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.12	0.52	0.14	0.15	0.01	0.16	0.00	1.49	0.01	0.36	0.01	0.51	0.65	0.35	27.02	100.00
Vysočina	330 890	35 512	30	81	10	162	204	194	131	14	160	18	2 989	8	1 103	49	547	8 055	1 250	124 158	505 565
%	65.45	7.02	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.22	0.01	0.11	1.59	0.25	24.56	100.00
Zlín	318 139	95 292	68	72	31	170	134	320	133	12	202	41	5 806	20	565	84	490	23 648	2 686	132 031	579 944
%	54.86	16.43	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.01	1.00	0.00	0.10	0.01	0.08	4.08	0.46	22.77	100.00

## Article 4

Act No. 198/2009 Coll., on the equal treatment and on legal means of protection against discrimination and on amendments to certain acts (Antidiscrimination Act), came into effect on 1 September 2009. It is mentioned above in section II.1.2.

### ○ Legal and institutional protection against discrimination

The Ministry of Justice adopted in the reference period the following reinforcing measures:

#### - Insurance

Section 2769 (pertaining to insurance) of Act No. 89/2012 Coll., Civil Code (i.e. Act of 3 February, effective from 1 January 2014): “Section 2769 Equal Treatment – *If the insurer uses nationality, race or ethnic origin or another criterion, which is at variance with the principle of equal treatment according to another law, to determine the amount of the insurance premium or calculate the insurance benefit, neither the increase of the insurance premium, nor the decrease of the insurance benefit based on such criteria shall be taken into account. This applies also in case pregnancy or maternity are used as criteria to determine the amount of the insurance premium or calculate the insurance benefit.*”

### ○ Criminal law

In the field of criminal law the Ministry of Justice focused, similarly to the preceding years, on the improvement of the position of victims in criminal proceedings (national minority members can also become crime victims).

Enactment of the Crime Victims Act in 2013 was the most valuable contribution to the victims' rights.<sup>24</sup> The purpose of this law is to reinforce the victim's rights and assistance rendered to the crime victim. The rights under the Crime Victims Act are enjoyed by the victim regardless of his/her race, ethnic origin, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, belief or creed. The right to information is one of very important rights awarded by the Crime Victims Act; that is why the law stipulates the information obligation for the Czech Police, police authorities, public prosecutors, subjects of assistance registered in the registry of providers rendering assistance to victims, certain other public authorities and, in some cases, also for health care providers. It is important for the victim – a national minority member that the law also stipulates the rules how the victim who does not master the Czech language is to be informed, in particular that the victim should be provided with information in the language he/she understands (section 12).

Section 2(4) of the Crime Victims Act also defines the category of especially vulnerable victims. Vulnerability can arise either from the victim's personal characteristics, or from the nature or type of crime, etc. Relevant for the protection of national minorities is section 2(4)d), which stipulates: “*For the purposes of this Act, if the conditions under paragraph 2 or 3 are met, the victim of a crime against human decency in the sexual area, or of a crime that include violence or threat of violence, shall be considered especially vulnerable victim providing that secondary detriment is imminent in the particular case with regard to the victim's age, gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, disability, mental maturity, ability to express oneself, life situation of the victim, or with regard to the victim's relation to or dependence on the person suspected of the crime.*” That means it depends on every particular case whether a national minority member is

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<sup>24</sup> Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on crime victims and on amendments to certain acts (Crime Victims Act), effective from 1 August 2013.

considered especially vulnerable victim. The category of especially vulnerable victims relates to some of their rights or extent of their rights; for example, the right to free assistance, measures to prevent secondary detriment. It should be stressed that the category of especially vulnerable victims is defined only for the purposes of this Act and that accredited entities may render their free professional assistance beyond requirements of the law also to the persons who are not considered especially vulnerable victims according to the law, but who can be considered especially vulnerable from the victimology point of view, considering specific circumstances of the case.

Because the Act came into effect in the second half of 2013, practical effects of this Act for the legal position of national minorities cannot be assessed sooner than in 2014.

- Employment and labour market

No statistics pertaining to national minorities living within the territory of the Czech Republic exist in the areas of employment and labour market.

Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on employment, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the “Employment Act”) stipulates in its section 4 the equal treatment and non-discrimination in the application of the right to employment, referring to the Antidiscrimination Act. If a natural person, legal entity or natural person – entrepreneur breaches the prohibition of discrimination or fails to provide for the equal treatment according to the Employment Act, such person/entity commits an administrative delict and can be imposed a fine up to CZK 1,000,000 (sections 139 and 140 of the Employment Act). This field is controlled by the State Inspection of Labour or regional inspectorates (section 141 of the Employment Act). Motions to examine administrative delicts can arise from activities of the State Inspection of Labour or on a proposal of natural persons or legal entities.

## Article 5

- Supporting cultural activities of national minority members

The task to implement annually subsidy schemes to support cultural activities of national minority members living in the Czech Republic and under the programme Integration of Roma Minority Members arises from the *State Cultural policy of the Czech Republic 2009-2014*.

Listed below are the basic documents relating the utilisation of movable cultural heritage for education towards tolerance and respecting of human rights with the aim to eliminate negative social phenomena:

- Government Resolution No. 797 of 28 July, which orders the Minister of Culture to provide for the support for Holocaust studies and educational activities;
- Government Resolution No. 345 of 3 April 2002 to the proposal for the Czech Republic’s accession to the International Coordination Committee for Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research;
- Government Resolution No. 862 of 1 December 2010, by which the Government acknowledged the Concept of the More Efficient Care for Movable Cultural Heritage in the Czech Republic for 2010-2014 (The Concept of Museum Development).

Furthermore, the legislation (Act No. 483/2004 Coll., amending Act No.122/2000 Coll., on the protection of collections of the museum character and on amendments to certain other acts, as amended by Act No. 186/2004 Coll.), which provides for the legal access to learning and using movable cultural heritage, is still applicable.

The subsidy scheme of the Ministry of Culture to support cultural activities of national minority members was reduced in the reference period, in particular in the past two years, which was due to the general savings to reduce deficits of public budgets:

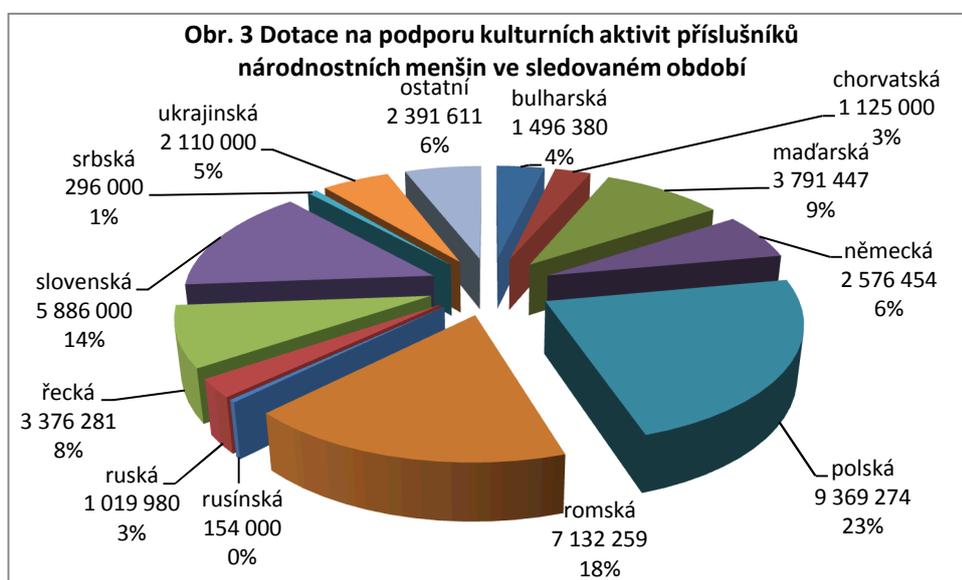
Tab. 12 Grants under the programme of support for cultural activities of national minority members in the reference period

Year	Total Grant
2009	CZK 10,006,153
2010	CZK 8,584,281
2011	CZK 8,541,906
2012	CZK 7,296,611
2013	CZK 6,295,735

The diagram below shows grants by minority communities:

Fig. 3 Grants to support cultural activities of national minority members in the reference period

- Other
- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Hungarian
- German
- Polish
- Roma
- Ruthanian
- Russian
- Greek
- Slovak
- Serbian
- Ukrainian



## Article 6

- Criminal Code (Act No. 40/2009 Sb., as amended by Act No. 306/2009 Coll.) – sanctioning extremism and protecting national minorities; amended and new legislative measures

In relation to the protection of national minorities, the new Criminal Code introduced new crimes and added conditions for applying a higher punishment for certain crimes, in particular where a crime is committed on a person for his/her actual or presumed race, ethnic origin, nationality, political opinion, creed or because he/she is actually or presumably non-religious. This especially aggravating circumstance, which had been included in the Criminal Act of 1961 in eight crimes, was expanded in the new Criminal Code, and it is currently contained in 19 crimes. It was also clarified to enable sanctioning also for presumable race or ethnic origin.

This stricter regulation was adopted because there are relatively frequent attacks motivated by race, ethnic origin, nationality or other similar characteristic, which is presumed by offenders based on the colour or other appearance features of the attacked person, not knowing the actual race, ethnic origin, nationality or other similar characteristic.<sup>25</sup>

Crimes according to section 355 “Defamation of a nation, race, ethnic origin or another group of people”, which are committed through print, film, radio, television, public computer network or other similarly effective way are punished using higher punishment.

As compared to the previous regulation, the crime of genocide (section 400 of the Criminal Code) was supplemented with committing the crime on a “class or similar group of people”. As regards severity of this crime as compared to other crimes, the upper limit of punishment for genocide increased up to twenty years of imprisonment.

In accordance with international conventions pertaining to the crimes against humanity, the Criminal Code defines new factual elements of attack against humanity (section 401). The factual elements are formulated to meet the requirements of Art. 6(2)c) of the Statute of the International Criminal Code (No. 164/1947 Coll.), Art. 7(1) of the Statute of the International Criminal Code, Art. 5 of the Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and Art. 3 of the Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, because the preceding regulations were not consistent as regards the acts, which were considered crimes against humanity according to the international law. Some acts could have been sanctioned as a crime of torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment, while others as the crimes of abuse of public power, murder, restraint, rape; and still others, only during war, as a crime of persecution of inhabitants. To differentiate the acts to be qualified according to those factual elements and in accordance with requirements of the statutes of the aforementioned criminal courts and tribunals, the definition of a new crime “attack against humanity” stresses the sign “committing the act within an extensive or systematic attack directed against civil inhabitants”.

Attack against humanity includes the usual crimes according to the international law, in particular murders, torture, genocide of people, enslavement, deportations or enforced relocation of a group of inhabitants, rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, enforced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation or other similar forms of sexual violence, persecution of a group of inhabitants, apartheid or another similar segregation or discrimination, or another inhuman act of a similar nature, including the newly codified enforced disappearance of persons, which means arresting, detention or secret abduction of persons by a state or political organization or by a third party with the authorization, support, or acquiescence of a state or

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<sup>25</sup> This is stipulated as a circumstance preconditioning the application of higher punishment for the following crimes listed in the Criminal Code where a crime is committed on a person for his/her actual or presumed race, ethnic origin, nationality, political opinion, creed or because he/she is actually or presumably non-religious: murder, severe battery, battery, torture and other inhuman and cruel treatment, illegal restraint, abduction, blackmail, breach of confidentiality of deeds and other private documents, damage caused to non-own thing, abuse of public power, violence towards a group of people and towards individuals, defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons, instigating hatred towards a group of persons or restraining their rights and freedoms, insults between soldiers, insults between soldiers by violence or threat of violence, insult of soldier of the same rank or threat of violence, breach of rights and protected interests of soldiers of the same rank, breach of rights and protected interests of subordinated soldiers or lower-ranking soldiers.

political organization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge imprisonment or inform about the person's fate and whereabouts, with the intent of placing the persons outside the protection of the law.

Punishment for the crime of attack against humanity is also unified; it was determined with regard to the extreme gravity of this crime and it should be sufficiently broad to allow courts to take into account specific circumstances of the committed act and the person of offender. Exceptional punishment can be imposed because of the nature and gravity of this crime.

In accordance with the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid of 30 November 1973 (No. 116/1976 Coll.), the Criminal Code also regulates new factual elements of apartheid and discrimination of a group of people (section 402). Punishment for this crime against humanity was set up with regard to its gravity and, simultaneously, sufficiently broad to allow courts to take into account specific circumstances of the committed act and the person of offender (up to 20 years of imprisonment). Regulation of this crime is necessary, because the aforementioned Convention does not relate the possibility of punishing this crime against humanity to the requirement that the act be committed within an extensive or systematic attack directed against civilian inhabitants, although this would usually be the case. If it happens, the act will be punished in a stricter way as attack against humanity (section 401).

Factual elements of the crimes “establishing, supporting and promoting movement directed to suppress the man’s rights and freedoms”, “expression of affinity to movement directed to suppress the man’s rights and freedoms”, and “negating, questioning, approving and justifying genocide” are taken over in sections 403 through 405 from the previous regulation with partial clarification of the text of the provisions. Added to the crime of “establishing, supporting and promoting movement directed to suppress the man’s rights and freedoms” is the circumstance, which precondition higher punishment for the crime committed using a public computer network (e.g. the Internet), so that the definition of this especially aggravating circumstance corresponds to the other crimes. In the case of the crime “negating, questioning, approving and justifying genocide”, the protection was extended also to negating, approving or justifying of other than Nazi or communistic genocides.

## Article 7

The current practice and legal regulation of the national minority members’ rights in the area of their right of assembly is in accordance with the Constitution and with the Czech Republic’s international commitments as arising from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 27), Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms (Art. 14) and, above all, from the Convention.

### ○ Civil associations<sup>26</sup>

The Ministry of the Interior registered in 2013 eleven new national minority associations, including seven Roma associations (their total number is 566), one Polish association (their total number is 29), one Russian association (their total number is 12), and two Vietnamese associations (their total number is 28). Together with ten Belarusian associations, twelve Bulgarian associations, four Croatian associations, three Hungarian associations, fifty-four German associations, five Ruthenian associations, four Greek associations, twenty-nine Slovak

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<sup>26</sup> Act No. 89/2012, Commercial Code, came into effect on 1 January 2014. According to the Commercial Code, the civil association is now “association”.

associations, three Serbian associations and twenty-one Ukrainian associations, the Ministry's records included 771 national minority associations in 2013.

The Ministry of the Interior has registered 804 civil associations "with participation of national minority members" (regardless of those represented in the Council). For example, seven associations of the Chinese, Vietnamese, Nigerian, South Korean and Syrian communities were registered in 2012.

- Political parties and movements

*Political movement Coexistentia–Soužití (Co-existence)*; this movement has been active for a long-time in the districts of Frýdek-Místek and Karviná where it holds forty mandates in seventeen municipal councils (including nine municipalities where the movement is in a coalition with *Nezávislí (The Independent)*).<sup>27</sup>

*Strana rovných příležitostí (The Party of Equal Opportunities)*, which was established by Roma in January 2012 as a response to the unrest in the Šluknov locality. The party ran for the 2013 elections together with the Green Party (a total of five candidates). Immediately before the Parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic in the fall of 2013, the *Roma Democratic Party* was founded and registered by the Ministry of the Interior. The party ran its candidates in the regions of Central Bohemia and Liberec (a total of five candidates). It was not successful in the elections. Twenty Roma candidates ran in the 2013 elections (for the parties *LEV 21*- two candidates, *Czech Pirate Party* – one candidate, *SPOZ* – one candidate, *ČSSD (Social Democracy)* – one candidate, Political movement *Změna (Change)* – one candidate, *Roma Democratic Party* – five candidates, *The Party of Equal Opportunities* – seven candidates along with the *Green Party*; besides, the *Green Party* had two candidates in its list); however, Roma did not win any mandate.

## Article 9

- Access of National Minorities to Media

Regulation within the Ministry of Culture area of competence relating to national minorities represents primarily Act No. 231/2001 Coll., on Radio and Television Broadcasting Operation and on Amendments to Other Acts ("Broadcasting Act"). Section 17 of this Broadcasting Act stipulates that the process of granting licenses to broadcast takes into consideration, among other, the applicant's contribution to the development of culture of national and ethnic minorities in the Czech Republic. The Broadcasting Act further stipulates, in its Section 32 paragraph 1, that broadcasters shall be obliged to refrain from broadcasting such programmes that may strengthen stereotypical prejudices relating to ethnic, religious or racial minorities. Broadcaster shall also refrain from broadcasting such programmes and commercial communication, which contains discrimination on the basis of sex, race, colour of skin, language, faith and religion, political and other persuasion, national or social origin, membership in a national or ethnic minority, property, kinship or other status. Supervision over compliance with these obligation is carried out by the Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting (RRTV) of the Czech Republic, which has the power to penalize offenders. An Act No. 132 was adopted in 2010, defining fundamental obligations for provision of audio-visual media services upon request. Providers of these services are obliged to ensure, pursuant

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<sup>27</sup> Albrechtice (2), Bukovec (3), Dolní Lomná (1), Dolní Lutyně (1 with The Independent), Hrádek (4), Chotěbuz (2), Jablunkov (1), Košariska (1), Milíkov (5), Návsi (2), Nýdek (2), Písek (1), Ropice (2), Těrlicko (1 with The Independent), Třanovice (2), Třinec (4 with The Independent), Vendryně (6).

to Act No. 132 Section 6 paragraph 2, that the audio-visual media services provided upon request do not incite hatred on the basis of sex, race, colour of skin, language, faith and religion, political and other persuasion, national or social origin, membership in a national or ethnic minority, property, kinship or other status. In 2011, the Broadcasting Act and Act No. 132 were amended, adding a prohibition on inciting hatred due to health handicap, age and sexual orientation.

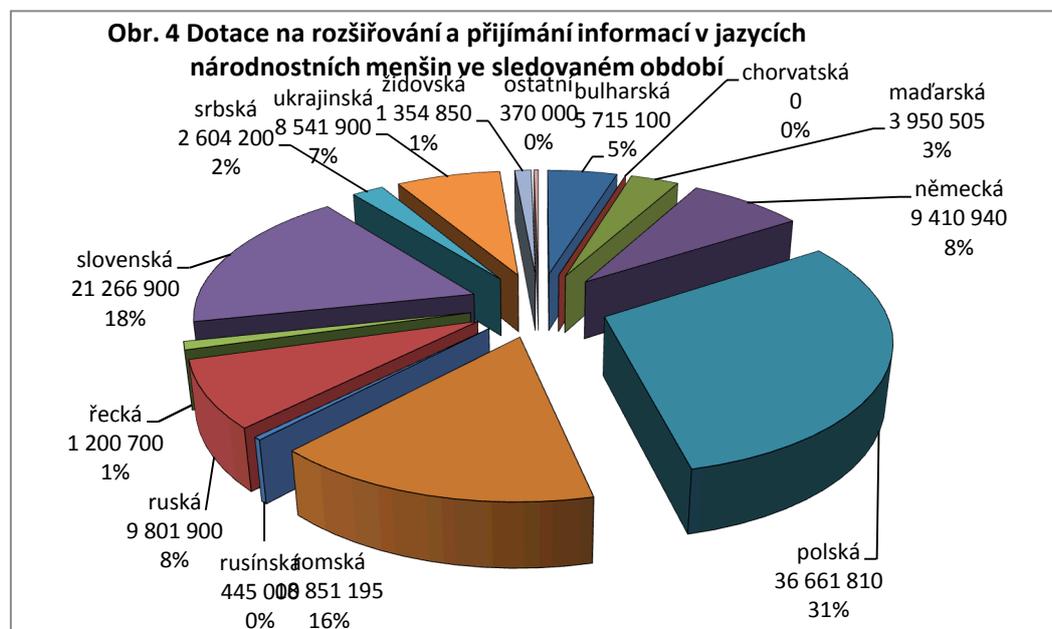
Specific obligations are imposed on the public broadcasting service providers, i.e. Czech Television, on the basis of Act No. 483/1991 Coll., and Czech Radio on the basis of Act No. 484/1991 Coll. These public institutions are not only prohibited from breaching the above defined general provision, but are obliged to create and disseminate programmes and provide balanced programme structure for all population groups in view of their freedom of religion and beliefs, culture, ethnic and national origin, national identity, social origins, age or sex, to that the offered programmes and shows reflect the plurality of opinion in politics, religion, philosophy and art, aiming to strengthen mutual understanding and toleration and supporting social cohesion in plurality society. The public broadcasters are further obliged to develop cultural identity of the Czech Republic population including all members of national or ethnic minorities.

The rights to disseminate and receive information in the mother tongue are exercised by all member of national minorities without limitation, pursuant to Act on the rights and obligations relating to publication of periodicals. National minority organizations publish a number of non-periodic and periodic papers in their respective minority languages. Own periodically printed paper represents one of the priorities within the activities of various national minorities. These activities are supported by the Ministry of Culture in form of aid from the state budget within the framework of an aid scheme focusing on dissemination and reception of information in national minority languages or in the majority of these languages. Due to the financial crisis and austerity measures, there has been a certain drop in funding in recent years; prior to the crisis the Ministry distributed approximately 30 000 000 CZK annually for these ends.

Table 13 Aid scheme volume supporting dissemination and reception of information in national minority languages during the monitored period

Year	Total aid available
2009	30 134 000 CZK
2010	23 847 000 CZK
2011	28 571 000 CZK
2012	21 929 000 CZK
2013	15 694 000 CZK

Overview of aid granted to individual minority groups:



**Legend:**

Figure 4 Aid supporting dissemination and reception of information in national minority languages during the monitored period

bulharská – Bulgarian

chorvatská – Croatian

maďarská – Hungarian

německá – German

polská – Polish

romská – Roma

rusínská – Ruthenian

ruská – Russian

řecká – Greek

slovenská – Slovak

srbská – Serbian

ukrajinská – Ukrainian

židovská – Jewish

ostatní – other.

Access of national minorities to media is provided using public broadcasting services.

- The public radio broadcaster – Czech Radio – broadcasts the following programmes:

- in Slovak:

STRETNUTIE (A meeting)	News / journalism / culture – social magazine
number of shows:	2 x each week, Monday and Wednesday; 15 minutes on all regional services; 1 x each week Sunday; 55 minutes on Radiožurnál /Radio-journal/ (national broadcast)

- in Polish:

KWADRANS (QUARTER)	News / journalism / culture – social magazine in Polish
number of shows:	5 x each week 25 minutes Monday through to Friday on regional service Ostrava

- in German:

SOUSEDÉ (NEIGHBOURS)	News / journalism / culture – social magazine in German
number of shows:	1 x each week Friday 15 minutes (national broadcast)

- in Roma:

O ROMA VAKEREN	News / journalism / culture – social magazine for Roma minority, broadcasted partially in Roma, the remainder of the time in Czech
number of shows:	2 x each week Tuesday and Thursday, 15 minutes (national broadcast); 1 x each week on Saturday, 55 minutes on Radiožurnál (national broadcast)

- Czech Television programmes (minority languages protected in a special regime under the Chart)
- Roma
- 
- Programme cycles:

ROMAŇI LUMA	Roma world; magazine on the life in Czech Republic through the eyes of Roma reporters
Broadcasted:	Once a week in 2011 and 2012; footage 5 minutes

PTÁČATA (Little Birds)	Sixteen-part document on children from the margins of society through their own eyes
Broadcasted:	Once a week in 2012

ROMOVÉ V EVROPĚ (Roma in Europe)	Nine-art cycle of European televisions uncovering the contrasts between the Roma in various locations across the Old Continent
Broadcasted:	Reruns 2x each week in 2011

KHAMORO	Footage of the concluding concerts at the World Roma Festival
Broadcasted:	Annual programme, in 2011 a premiere and three reruns were broadcasted, in 2012 a premiere and one rerun was broadcasted.

DĚTI OKAMŽIKU (Children of the Moment)	A cycle of cameos of notable Roma
Broadcasted:	2x each week, 5 parts , 20 minutes; 2013

MIRE BALA KALE HIN	Roma fairy-tales
Broadcasted:	4x 10 minutes, 2012

#### Individual programmes:

ROM_ID	Comparing the fate of three young people living in three different European countries; Czech document
Broadcasted:	footage 60 min., broadcast 5x in 2011 and 2012

GIPSY SPIRIT	document
Broadcasted:	52 minutes, 2013

- in Slovak

Slovak programmes in original language, such as films (Sedím na konáři a je mi dobře (Sitting on a Branch, Enjoying Myself)), TV series (Nesmrtelní (Immortal), Straty a nálezy (Lost and Found), Alžbetin dvor (Elizabeth's Court), Sváko Ragan) or talk shows (Ktosi je za dverami (Somebody's behind the door)).

Programmes produced by the Czech Television, which feature notable Slovak guests (Před půlnocí (Before Midnight, Hyde Park, Studio 6, Studio).

- In German

Some of the foreign documents, music shows and films are provide with open subtitles and broadcast in original language (in German for instance film Adamova jablka (Adams Äpfel) - 2013, operas La Traviata, Bludný Holanďan (Der Fliegende Holländer), - 2013, documents V Berlíně (In Berlin) or Den, kdy byl zavražděn Theo van Gogh (The Day when van Gogh was murdered ) – 2011 or Bílá vrána (Der Weisse Rabe - Max Mannheimer) - 2013).

Since 2013, viewers may choose German language within the framework of the dual language broadcasts – for instance in the documents: Disco a atomová válka (Disco and Atomic War), Káva, mléko a cukr (Coffee, Milk and Sugar), Modrý zázrak v souostroví Raja Ampat (The Blue Wonder, the Island World of Raja Ampat), Bikini - ráj v zakázané oblasti (Bikini - Paradise Island in the Restricted Zone, Edward a George - dva bratři, jeden trůn (Edward And George - Two Brothers, One Throne) or Medvíďata sama v lese (Bärenkinder allein im Wald); and in the American documentary series American National Parks, in the children's TV series Dům plný zvířátek (Tiere bis unters Dach), in films Polda a vesničkanka (Der Bulle und das Landei) or Plamen a citron (Tage des Zorns).

- In Polish

Until spring 2012 there has been a once a week broadcast of Czech-Polish magazine HRANICE DOKOŘÁN [Borders wide open] - ROZMÓWKI POLSKO-CZESKIE – involving Czech-Polish border area, footage 25 minutes.

Until September 2013, there were new in Polish, each Friday, as a five-minute addendum to Událostí v regionech (Regional News round). Due to a re-design and unification of the programme in all studios this Polish news (in Polish language) was transferred to the ZAJÍMAVOSTI Z REGIONU (Interesting News from the Region), which is broadcast on Sunday at 6:00 and available on the Czech Television website<sup>28</sup>.

There is one show each week with 5 to 7 minutes footage.

Czech Television broadcasts or broadcasted other programme cycles relating to ethnic and national minority, partially in those minorities' respective languages (i.e. with subtitles or selective commentary in the Czech language), which address in individual episodes or report the issues affecting these minorities, whether dedicated to one minority or their combinations:

BABYLON	Long-running Czech TV cycle – shown in 2011, 2012 and 2013
Broadcasted:	Weekly or each several days, footage 15 to 25 minutes
DOMOV VE STŘEDU EVROPY (Home in the Middle of Europe)	
Broadcasted:	13 episodes, 2012, once a week, 8 minutes
SETKÁVÁNÍ (Encounters)	
Broadcasted:	Bi-weekly in 2011, once a week in 2012, footage 10 minutes
CITY FOLK	
Broadcasted:	Several days a week in 2011 and 2012, footage 25 minutes
CIZINCI U NÁS (Foreigners in Our Country)	
Broadcasted:	Six-part TV document, 3x a week in 2011, footage 30 minutes
CIZINEC JE NAŠINEC (Foreigners is a fellow countryman)	
Broadcasted:	Bi-weekly, 2013, footage 25 minutes
HRANICE BEZ HRANIC	
Broadcasted:	Once a week, 2012 and 2013, footage 25 minutes
NÁRODNOST V PUBERTĚ (Nationality Coming of Age)	
Broadcasted:	Three-part series, broadcasted 16 times, footage 25 minutes; in 2012
KOSMOPOLIS (Cosmopolis)	

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ivysilani/10000000043-wiadosci-w-jezyku-polskim/>

## Article 10

- Using minority languages in relations with administrative authorities, in criminal proceedings

Members belonging to national minorities, living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic, are entitled to use minority languages with administrative authorities and in proceedings before courts. Relevant for both the civil court proceedings and civil administrative proceedings is the provision of section 18 of Act No. 99/1963 Coll., Civil Procedure Code, according to which parties are entitled to use their mother tongue before courts. The court is obliged to provide them with equal opportunities to exercise their rights. The court appoints an interpreter for the party whose mother tongue differs from the Czech language as soon as this need is determined during the proceedings. This right fully applies also in administrative justice, in accordance with section 64 of Act No. 150/2002 Coll., Code of Administrative Justice, according to which the provisions of the first and third parts of the Civil Procedure Code shall be applied accordingly in administrative justice proceedings. The Civil Procedure Code clearly mentions the Czech language regardless of whether a foreign national or a Czech national belonging to a national minority is concerned. Thus, the rights are fully covered through this legal regulation. As regards criminal proceedings, it is also stated that the provisions of section 2(14) and section 28 of the Criminal Procedure Code fully cover this issue. No practical experience indicates that any amendment to or modification of those provisions regulating rights of persons, who do not master the Czech language, would be needed.

Administrative procedures are regulated sufficiently by Act No. 500/2004 Coll., Administrative Procedure Code.

- Using minority languages in election-related matters

Legal regulation of rights of national minority members in the area of their right to vote is in accordance with the Constitution, as well as with the Czech Republic's international commitments as arising from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 27), from the Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms (Art. 14) and, especially, from the Convention.

According to section 10 of the Minority Act, under conditions determined by special legal regulations (i.e. election regulations) members of national minorities living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic have the right to publicise the notice of the term and place of elections and other information for voters in the language of national minorities.

In relation to the aforementioned provision of the Minority Act, all election regulations include conditions under which the chief magistrate must publicise the notice of the term and place of elections in the municipality in the language of the respective national minority and the information for voters that they are obliged to demonstrate their identity and nationality and other data necessary for a smooth process of elections [section 15(4) of Act No. 247/1995 Coll., on elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic and amending and supplementing certain other acts, section 27(3) of Act No. 130/2000 Coll., on regional government elections and on amendments to certain acts, section 29(3) of Act No. 491/2001 Coll., on elections to municipal councils and on amendments to certain acts, as amended, section 32(4) of Act No. 62/2003 Coll., on elections to the European Parliament and on amendments to certain acts, as amended, and

section 34(3) of Act No. 275/2012 Coll., on the election of the president of the republic and on amendments to certain acts (President Election Act)].

Because section 10 of the Minority Act stipulates that under conditions determined by special legal regulations (i.e. election regulations) members of national minorities living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic have not only the right that the notice of the term and place of elections be publicised in the language of national minorities, but also the right to receive other information for voters in the language of national minorities, before every elections the Ministry of the Interior distributes, in excess of its duties as stipulated by election regulations, the *Information on the Way of Voting* in the languages of respective national minorities to all municipalities where citizens declaring other than Czech nationality account for at least 10% of municipal inhabitants (committees for national minorities are established in those municipalities). The *Information on the Way of Voting* in the languages of national minorities is publicised in respective municipalities in a usual way, i.e. typically by posting on municipal council notice boards and in the election room on the territory of the municipality.

A similar principle of informing national minority members as that for elections is applied also to local and regional referendums. According to section 31(2) of Act No. 22/2004 Coll., on the local referendum and on amendments to certain acts, as amended, and according to section 32(3) of Act No. 118/2010 Coll., on the regional referendum and on amendments to certain acts, in the municipality where a committee for national minorities is established, the notice of the term and place of the local or regional referendum and the information for voters that they are obliged to demonstrate their identity and nationality shall be publicised in the language of the respective national minority, providing that at least 10% of municipal inhabitants declared the nationality during the most recent census.

In 2013 early parliamentary elections and new municipal elections took place in the Czech Republic. Simultaneously, preparations for the organisation of and technical arrangements for the by-elections to the Czech Republic's Senate in the electoral district No. 80 at Zlín were in progress. The aforementioned provisions of election regulations were applied to all those elections, and national minority members living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic were informed about the term and place of elections in those municipalities in the way described above. In accordance with the Government Resolution No. 530 of 3 July 2013, the *Information on the Way of Voting* for the elections in 2013 was printed also in the language of the Belarusian minority (for 5 municipalities) and in the language of the Vietnamese minority (for 35 municipalities).

## Article 11

### ○ First names and surnames in minority languages

According to section 7 of the Minority Act, members of national minorities have the right to use their names and surnames in the language of their national minority under conditions determined by a special legal regulation (i.e. Act No. 301/2000 Coll., on birth registers, first name and surname and on amendments to certain related acts; "Registers Act" hereinafter). The amendment implemented by Act No. 312/2013 Coll., which related to the enactment of the new Civil Code, resulted, amongst other, in the following changes: as regards section 26(3) of the Act, this provision (with regard to Art. 11 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities) was clarified in its formulation to the effect that the option to enter in the register document the form according to the language of the national minority now explicitly covers the surnames in addition to the first names. The text was clarified only; the current practice is not different.

According to section 69 of the Registers Act, female surnames are created in line with the Czech grammar rules. When registering marriage, the woman who got married can ask for her surname to be registered in the male form, providing that the woman is a Czech citizen of non-Czech nationality. In connection with the repeal of part of Act No. 115/2006 Coll., on the registered partnership, as amended, regulating the registry issues (by the aforementioned amendment), that provision applies both to marriage and registered partnership. The current provision under section 28(2) of the Registered Partnership Act was reassumed.

Parents can also ask for the surname of their female child to be registered in the male form, providing that the child is a Czech citizen of non-Czech nationality.

Furthermore, according to Art. II paragraphs 2 through 7 of Act No. 165/2004 Coll., which amends the Registers Act, the woman whose surname is entered in the register in accordance with the Czech grammar rules can ask for her surname to be registered in the male form, providing that she is a Czech citizen of non-Czech nationality.

Parents can ask for the surname of their female child to be registered in the male form, if the child's surname is entered in the register in accordance with the Czech grammar rules, providing that the child is a Czech citizen of non-Czech nationality. If the child is older than 15 years, her consent should be attached to the application; otherwise, the child's surname cannot be changed.

The application for the use of surname in the male form can be filed with any registry office or embassy of the Czech Republic. There is no time limitation for filing the application.

On 1 July 2008 Act No. 239/2008 Coll., which amends certain acts pertaining to registered partnership, came into effect. Its part seven amends the Registers Act. A new paragraph 3 was added to section 26, which stipulates that a Czech citizen, who is a member of a national minority and whose name or names are entered in the register in the Czech language or a non-Czech language, can ask for his or her name or names to be entered in the register in the minority language using the transcription, which is used in public administration information systems. An entry is made in the register that a register document stating the name or names in a minority language was issued. Further register documents are issued using the name or names in that form. (The Registers Act refers to Art. 11 of the Convention and section 7 of the Minority Act).

- Bilingual inscriptions and place names – a subsidy scheme to implement the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The Czech Republic declared at ratification that the following minority languages would be covered by Part III of the Charter:

- The Polish language (in the districts of Frýdek-Místek and Karviná, Moravian-Silesian Region);
- The German, Roma, Slovak languages (throughout the Czech Republic, where appropriate with regard to the numbers of speakers).

The other minority languages in the Czech Republic, i.e. the Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, Ruthanian, Russian, Greek, Serbian and Ukrainian languages, are protected under the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; however, those languages do not meet certain criteria to be covered by the Charter. The Council did not yet discuss the issues of Belarusian and Vietnamese languages, which are used by speakers of new communities included in the Council. In December 2013 the Council discussed inclusion of the Croatian language to the languages supported through specific subsidies of the Office of the Government.

The expenditures on bilingual Czech-Polish inscriptions, which are incurred by municipalities, are funded from the state budget, which includes – commencing from 2007 – an item in the chapter for the Office of the Government designed for subsidies to selected municipalities for the costs of the Charter implementation, amounting originally to CZK 5 million. This amount had been transferred to the budget of the Moravian-Silesian Region, which administrated financial settlements to municipalities until 2009. In 2010 the subsidy significantly changed; it was transformed to a subsidy scheme to support the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which is administered by the Human Rights Section of the Office of the Government.

Applicants for subsidy can submit their projects in the following thematic circles:

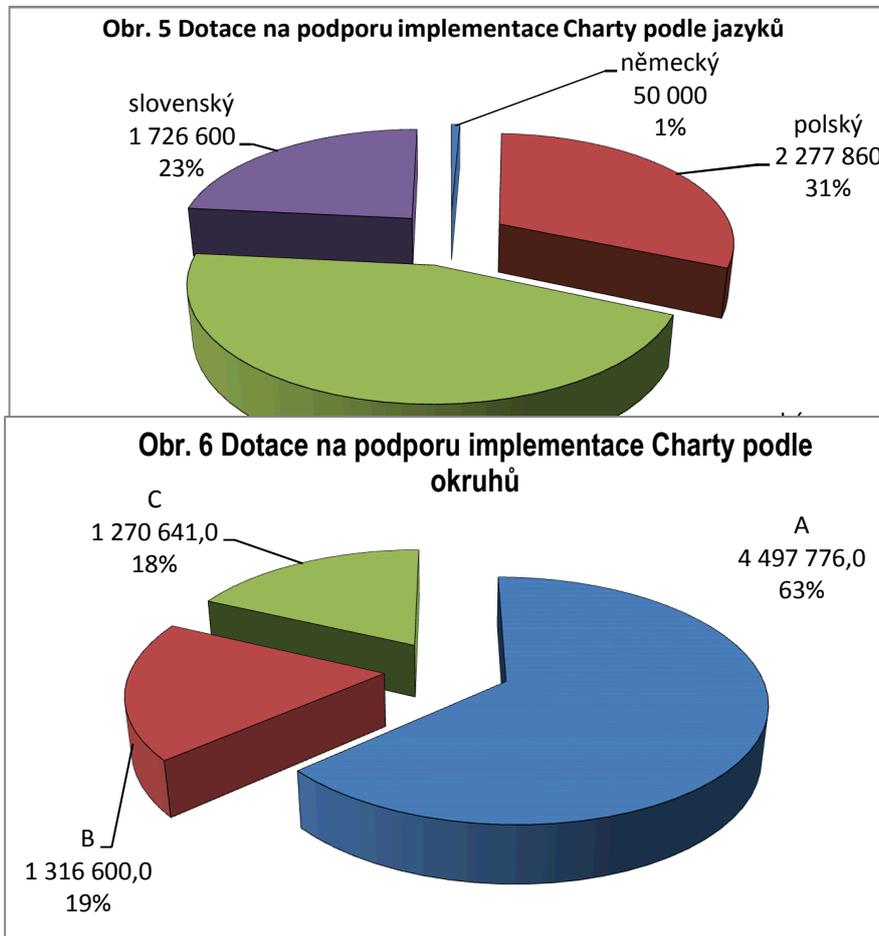
- A. Educational activities on all education levels in excess of standard schooling, which focus on the teaching of a minority language or which are taught in a minority language.
- B. Quantitative and qualitative analyses focusing on the research of the use of minority languages, the indication of areas of aid and proposals for the forms of such aid.
- C. Support to the use of traditional and correct forms of place names in minority languages.

Tab. 14 Comparison of expenditures incurred from the beginning of the programme of the Charter implementation (subsidy scheme from 2010)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Budget Allocation</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>Number of Awarded Projects</i>
2013	CZK 1,850,000	CZK 1,376,000	10
2012	CZK 1,850,000	CZK 1,720,000	17
2011	CZK 1,850,000	CZK 1,849,914	12
2010	CZK 2,500,000	CZK 2,241,517	17
2009	CZK 2,000,000	CZK 263,754	1 (Moravian-Silesian Region)
2008	CZK 5,000,000	CZK 751,125	1 (Moravian-Silesian Region)
2007	CZK 5,000,000	CZK 680,227	1 (Moravian-Silesian Region)
<b>Total</b>	<b>CZK 20,050,000</b>	<b>CZK 8,882, 537</b>	

Fig. 5 Subsidy to support the Charter implementation by language  
 Slovak language  
 German language  
 Polish language

Fig. 6 Subsidy to support the Charter implementation by circle



Thematic circle A included the projects focusing on school children and young people, publishing non-periodicals, electronic media with records of spoken texts, radio broadcasting, lectures for seniors, literature competitions, creation of didactic tools for teachers, similar creation for children (comics), language courses and various media activities on the web. This circle is the most diverse one; it accounts for more than a half of funding annually.

Thematic circle B projects, which account for almost a half of the subsidy, represent the most valuable results of

the subsidy scheme.

Thematic circle C fulfils step by step its purpose; more than two thirds of municipalities, in which members of the Polish minority account for over 10%, received grants for indications of various place names, street and other public space names and institution names. This circle will certainly be maintained in the subsidy scheme to support the Charter implementation, but its significance will gradually decrease.

It can be stated that the extended subsidy to bilingual inscriptions demonstrated its sense during existence of the subsidy scheme, and the subsidy scheme – though a modest one – is an important evidence how the central administration supports specific activities on the local level to support minority languages.

Tab. 15 Subsidies from the Charter implementation programme for the installation of bilingual place names (by municipality)

Municipality	2007 (CZK)	2008 (CZK)	2009 (CZK)	2010 (CZK)	2011 (CZK)	2012 (CZK)	2013 (CZK)	Total (CZK)
Albrechtice	80,845.8	0.0	8,284.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	89,130.30
Bocanovice	14,113.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14,113.00
Bukovec	59,331.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	59,331.00
Bystrice	0.0	25,756.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25,756.40

Český Těšín	212,227.5	543,188.0	4,268.5	0.0	0.0	272,000	192,000	1,223,684
Dolní Lomná	35,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35,000.00
Hnojník	0.0	17,612.0	0.0	0.0	15,914	21,000*	0.0	54,526.00
Horní Suchá	127,098.2	0.0	14,027.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	141,126.00
Hrádek	21,455.7	6,835.4	10,568.0	0.0	0.0	22,000	0.0	60,859.10
Chotěbuz	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	61,000	61,000
Jablunkov	0.0	0.0	24,276.0	0.0	0.0	138,000	0.0	24,276.00
Komorní Lhotka	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	76,000	0.0	76,000
Milíkov	0.0	38,746.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8000	46,746.30
Mosty u Jablunkova	0.0	0.0	16,200.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16,200.70
Nýdek	16,779.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16,779.00
Smilovice	4,545.8	0.0	0.0	9,727	0.0	0.0	0.0	14,272.80
Stonava	10,805.9	0.0	36,828.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	47,634.10
Střítež	0.0	13,447.0	22,543.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35,990.40
Těrlicko	0.0	18,171.3	32,418.0	0.0	0.0	107,000	0.0	157,589.30
Třanovice	11,662.0	0.0	0.0	157,000	0.0	0.0	0.0	168,662.00
Třinec	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	191,000	0.0	191000
Vendryně	57,528.1	0.0	24,717.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	82,245.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>651,392.00</b>	<b>663,756.40</b>	<b>194,132.60</b>	<b>166,727.00</b>	<b>15,914.00</b>	<b>806,000.00</b>	<b>261,000.00</b>	<b>2,641,922.00</b>

\*Including CZK 10,000 for the labelling of the building of Jan Kubisz Primary School and Kindergarten at Hnojník.

As regards the languages supported under the programme, typically, the highest aid is granted every year to the Romany language. The most expensive projects were always submitted by Charles University; the projects pertained to a linguistic study programme conducted by the Roma Studies Seminar at the Faculty of Arts (the project results are posted at <http://www.romistika.eu/>). Another group of projects focusing on the Romany language includes various activities for children and young people, which deal with the language, history and culture.

The subsidy scheme is irreplaceable in the case of the Polish language; here, the supported activities focus on all generations. Awarded projects include on a regular basis educational institutions (kindergartens and primary schools with the Polish language of instruction, secondary schools with the Polish language of instruction, universities and associations organising universities for seniors, touristic activities, etc.). Bilingual inscriptions installed by municipal councils play exceptional role.

Slovak projects are dominated by media projects, fairy tales published in the form of books or in the electronic form, and activities focusing on children and young people. The demand for such projects can be an issue.

The Government Council for National Minorities decided at its most recent meeting in December 2013 to consider inclusion of the Croatian language to the group of four supported languages. Projects of oral history of the last speakers, preparation of electronic dictionaries, e-learning courses, etc. could be supported.

## Articles 12 and 14

### ○ Education in minority languages

Education of members of national minorities is supported on a permanent basis by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in all areas. In the case of the Czech Republic this issue includes, above all, education of the Polish minority. From the legislative point of view

(determined mainly by Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on preschool, primary, secondary, higher vocational and other education (School Act), as amended), the situation did not change compared to the previous Report.

The right to education in minority languages in the Czech Republic is ensured in the municipalities where committees for national minorities were established according to the special regulation (section 2(2) of the Minority Act) and where the following conditions as stipulated by the School Act are met.

Both classes and schools with a minority language of instruction can be established for children and pupils belonging to national minorities.

Classes in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools with a minority language of instruction can be established also in case the number of children and pupils is considerably lower rather than in the schools with the Czech language of instruction. If the minimum number of pupils is not achieved, the school director – with the consent of the school founder - may determine the subjects or their parts to be taught bilingually, both in the Czech language and in the minority language.

In addition to the rules for establishing schools with a minority language of instruction, the School Act offers the option to support the interests of national minority members, namely that the school director – with the consent of the school founder - may determine the subjects or their parts to be taught bilingually, also in the minority language. It is also stipulated that school certificates, certificates of apprenticeship and diplomas in the schools with a minority language of instruction are issued bilingually, i.e. both in the Czech language and in the minority language.

In accordance with the new model of the secondary-school leaving examination, which has been established commencing from the school year 2010/2011, the School Act guarantees that students in the schools and classes with a minority language of instruction may pass both the common part and profiled part of their leaving examinations either in the Czech language or in a minority language (in Polish), except for the exam from the Czech language and literature.

The Czech language is the language of instruction in the primary and secondary schools included in the Register of Schools and School Facilities. The Ministry can allow a foreign language of instruction for some subjects. That is the case of, for example, bilingual grammar schools, which were established based on intergovernmental agreements and arrangements. Selected subjects are taught in such schools mostly in a foreign language.

Most intergovernmental agreements with the countries, from which national minorities in the Czech Republic come, include provisions for scholarships for summer language courses. Further scholarships are used by philologists/translators (both students and teachers) or by students of the branches, which include language courses (territorial studies, international relations, etc.). Thus, bilateral agreements support directly and indirectly teaching of languages.

- Subsidy scheme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to support the instruction in minority languages and multicultural education

The scheme is declared annually based on a Government order. It is divided into two modules:

*Module 1 - Supporting education in minority languages*

*Module 2 – Supporting multicultural education*

Approximately CZK 15 million is allocated annually; the allocation gradually decreased because of the financial crisis.

Tab. 16 Subsidy under the programme of education in minority languages in the reference period

Year	Total Subsidy
2009	18,556,573
2010	17,601,243
2011	15,598,000
2012	15,659,400
2013	15,024,000

The diagram below shows grants by minority communities:

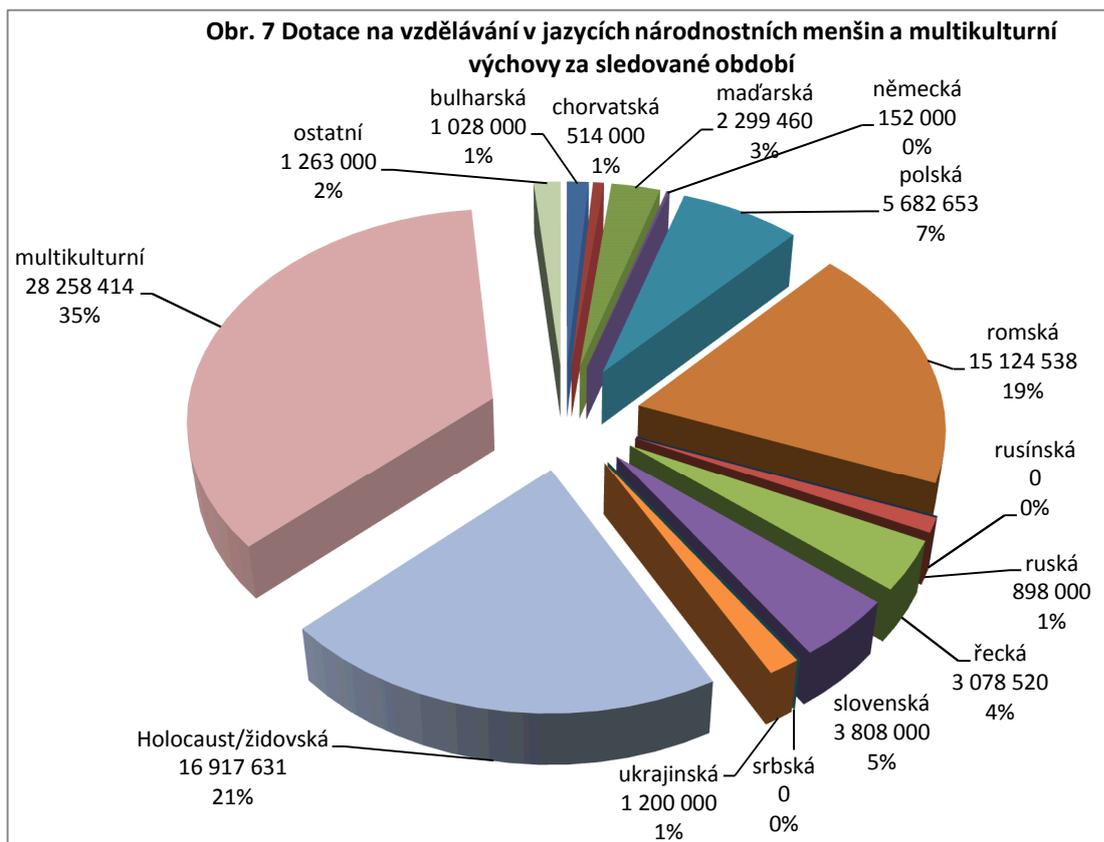


Fig. 7 Grants to support the instruction in minority languages and multicultural education

Multicultural  
Other  
Bulgarian  
Croatian  
Hungarian  
German  
Polish  
Roma  
Ruthanian  
Russian  
Greek  
Slovak  
Serbian  
Ukrainian  
Holocaust/Jewish

○ Polish Minority Schooling

The area of the Polish minority schooling is one of the priorities of the Moravia-Silesian Region; it is traditionally mentioned in the long-term regional educational plans.

Education in kindergartens and classes with the Polish language of instruction continued in 2012. 829 children attend 33 kindergartens with the Polish language of instruction. Compared to the years 2011 and 2009, the number of children increased by 95 and 112, respectively.

Primary schools with the Polish language of instruction educated in 2012 1,660 pupils in 112 classes in 25 schools (some schools are fully organised; others have the first level only). Compared to the year 2011, the numbers of children and the numbers of classes were on the same level; compared to the year 2009, the number of children increased by 40.

All schools with the Polish language of instruction in the Moravian-Silesian Region are located in the districts of Frýdek-Místek and Karviná where the concentration of inhabitants of Polish nationality is the highest. All schools are included in the Ministry's Register of Schools. Their task is to educate Czech citizens of Polish nationality in accordance with the respective framework educational programme, but in their mother tongue.

The grammar school with the Polish language of instruction in the town of Český Těšín educated 328 students in 12 classes (as compared to the year 2011 the number of students is lower by 7; every grade has three classes). Fifty-four students attended a secondary school – Business Academy – at Český Těšín (the number of students decreased by 23). Those secondary schools are located also in the Moravian-Silesian Region.

*Pedagogical Centre for Polish Nationality Schooling Český Těšín* is an organisation managed and funded directly by the Ministry. Its main activity is stipulated in the Deed of Establishment of the Pedagogical Centre for Polish Nationality Schooling Český Těšín; it arises from the Ministry's tasks and long-term programmes. The activities of the Centre in 2012 were in line with the statute of a contributory organisation and in line with the founder's tasks.

The Deed of Establishment of the *Pedagogical Centre for Polish Nationality Schooling Český Těšín* was amended in January 2011 by the Ministry's measure in accordance with section 169b(1) of the School Act, which issued Amendment No. 2 to the Deed of Establishment of the *Pedagogical Centre for Polish Nationality Schooling Český Těšín*. In addition to technical measures, this amendment both updated the pedagogical terminology used in the Deed of

Establishment and provided for certain activities contributing to the Charter implementation to be stipulated directly in the Deed of Establishment; the Centre had performed those activities without explicit reference to the Deed of Establishment. Those activities included, in particular, the possibility to educate within lifelong learning also teachers from the schools, which are not included in the Polish minority schooling, and from the schools with integrated Polish classes. The option of cross-border education in the form of exchanges was also explicitly included in the Deed of Establishment.

The Centre's long-term activities include:

Supporting minority schools – providing for the needs of schools and school facilities with the Polish language of instruction, including the support to students with special educational needs, creating and translating methodological materials and teaching aids, publishing and distributing methodological aids – the magazines *Jutrzenka* for the first level and *Ogniwo* for the second level of primary schools. It is noted that the magazine *Jutrzenka* as a methodological aid for younger pupils celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the magazine *Ogniwo* its 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary thanks to the Ministry's support. The Centre also cooperated in the efforts to secure and print Polish versions of school certificates, report books and other documents and it rendered consulting services and services of pedagogical and multimedia library.

Further education of teachers – organised in cooperation with pedagogical associations and societies with active cooperation with institutions both from the Czech Republic and Poland. It also included professional activities of methodologists for education, which helped, for example, in the orientation of teachers in the latest pedagogical trends and innovations, and consultations with methodologists of cooperating institutions. The preparation of model classes and international methodical meetings were also inspiring.

- German language

The German language can be offered to primary school pupils as a compulsory first foreign language from the third grade at latest, although the English language is the priority first foreign language, which is taught. The German language can also be learnt as a second compulsory language from the eighth grade of primary schools at latest. The offer of the second foreign languages usually includes the English, German and French, or the Russian, Spanish and Italian.

There were five secondary schools with the German language of instruction in the Czech Republic in 2012. The Ministry supports language activities of grammar schools that offer teaching of the German language leading to the award of the German Language Diploma. Students with the diploma can study at German universities without any further language exam. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports recently allowed the German language of instruction for some subjects in several primary schools.

The Czech-German activities are extensive also in the extracurricular activities for young people; for example, the activities of the *TANDEM Coordination Centre of Czech-German Exchanges of the Youth* supported, amongst other, from the Ministry's funds. The Centre's activities include exchanges of Czech and German young people, consultancy services and support to the institutions and organisations that provide for the Czech-German exchanges of young people, instigate exchange projects and assist the involved institutions (schools, associations, youth initiatives or other organisations) in deepening and mediating contacts. The *Tandem* creates a database of exemplary Czech-German projects at its website and it prepares discussions on topics, such as the environment, history, arts and culture, health, tourism.

- Romany language

As of 30 September 2013, the following secondary schools reported the Romany language as a taught language:

- Professor Zdeněk Matějček Secondary School, Ostrava-Poruba (in the branches Social Care – Social Activities for Ethnic Groups, and in the last year also in Pedagogy for Assistants in Schools)<sup>29</sup>
- Management and Law Secondary School (in the branches Social Care – Social Activities for Ethnic Groups, and State aid Activities);<sup>30</sup> this school has six further places of education in the Czech Republic registered in the Register of Schools (Prague, Jihlava, Brno, Karviná, Rumburk, and Hradec Králové)
- Medical Secondary School and Training Centre, Český Krumlov (in the branch Social Activities)<sup>31</sup>

One more secondary school reported the Romany language as a taught subject in 2012 (however, it is not reported any more in 2013): Evangelic Academy – Higher School of Social Works and Secondary School (in the branch *Social activities in the environment of ethnic minorities*).<sup>32</sup>

The Roma Studies Seminar at the Institute of South and Central Asia, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague is the centre of university teaching of the Romany language. It is a unique project of global importance, which exists from 1990.<sup>33</sup>

## Article 15

Participation of national minority members in the decision-making process

- Government Council for National Minorities

Existence of this Government advisory body is stipulated in the Minority Act from 2001. It fulfils the role of a permanent advisory and initiative Government body for national minority members and issues and for the protection of minority languages. According to its statute, the Council is headed by a minister, usually the vice-premier.

The Council was headed in the reference period (2009 and 2010) by the minister for human rights and minorities and in 2010 by the prime minister. After the parliamentary elections in 2010 the Government appointed the first vice-premier and minister of foreign affairs to be the chairman of the Council. This position was entrusted to the minister of foreign affairs also after the early parliamentary elections in the autumn of 2013.<sup>34</sup>

Two additions of new members can certainly be considered as important changes in the Council's activities. The first addition occurred in 2011, in relation to ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, when a representative of the regions with numerous Polish minorities and a representative of the professional linguistic public were invited to the Council. The second addition occurred in July 2013; added to the Council were representatives of the Belarusian and Vietnamese minorities. This step was a result of the

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<sup>29</sup> <http://www.skolspec.cz>

<sup>30</sup> [www.sosmap.cz](http://www.sosmap.cz)

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.zdravkack.cz>

<sup>32</sup> [www.eapraha.cz](http://www.eapraha.cz)

<sup>33</sup> <http://romistika.ff.cuni.cz/>

<sup>34</sup> The minister for human rights, equal opportunities and legislation was appointed the Council chairman on 19 February 2014, Resolution No. 104.

Council's discussions, which had begun in 2007. A team of experts from the Faculty of Law at Charles University in Prague, with whom the Council secretariat cooperates on a long-term basis, contributed significantly to clarification of all consequences of this step.<sup>35</sup> The representatives of national minorities in the Council supported the additions during those discussions and the changes were approved by the Government resolution.

The Council also submits to the Government on an annual basis a Report on the situation of national minorities in the Czech Republic; in 2009 the Government approved by its resolution a task for the minister of the interior to propose in amendments to the laws regulating territorial administration units the modifications of the provisions on committees for national minorities and bilingual names.<sup>36</sup> The Government also approved in 2009 a special-purpose subsidy for two municipalities where the Moravian Croats had historically lived until the post-war era; the subsidy was designed to build and maintain reverent memorials reminding of their forced displacement in 1948.<sup>37</sup>

In 2009 the Council initiated an amendment to Act 84/1990 Coll., on the right of assembly, as amended. The Government presented a respective bill on 4 May 2009 to the Parliament of the Czech Republic, and it was approved by the Chamber of Deputies on 12 June, by the Senate on 22 July and signed by the president on 18 August. The act was declared in the Collection of Acts on 4 September under No. 294/2009.

The Council discussed and presented to the Czech Government every monitoring document for the Council of Europe pertaining to the Framework Convention and European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The Information Centre at the Office of the Government organised in the autumn of 2009 a series of lectures on human rights for primary and secondary school students; the Council Secretariat workers were given an opportunity to present there the topic of national minorities.

The Council Secretariat published in October 2009 a special publication entitled *Committees for National Minorities in the Context of Current Needs. Information and Methodological Guide*. The document was distributed to chief magistrates of the municipalities that have considerable ratios of national minority members and it served as an inspiration for the municipalities, which did not establish committees or did establish formal committees only.

- Committees for national minorities on the local and regional levels

The Committees are mentioned in section II.3 of the present report (see above) and described in detail in the Reports on the situation of national minorities, which are submitted to the Government on an annual basis.

- Government Council for the Roma Minority Issues

The Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for the Roma Minority Issues (hereinafter referred to as the "Roma Council") is an interdepartmental body; its mission is to unify integration efforts of ministries, state institutions, regions and other public agencies in relation to the Roma people. For this purpose it initiates system changes and removing obstacles, which prevent the Roma people from living full and decent lives in Czech society. The Council concentrates, discusses and presents to the Government information, data and proposals for the creation and implementation of Roma-related politics. Amongst other, the Council approves proposals for grants

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<sup>35</sup> The Office of the Government, along with a team from the Faculty of Law at Charles University in Prague, organised on 24 February a workshop *Minorities in Europe – Europe of Minorities*; this Report was presented during the workshop, and representatives of minorities were asked for their comments.

<sup>36</sup> Government Resolution No. 845 of 29 June 2009.

<sup>37</sup> Government Resolution No. 590 of 4 May 2009.

under the programmes Support to the Field Work, Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Works, Support for Coordinators for Roma Issues. According to its statute the Council is headed by the prime minister.

Members include ministers of the sectors, which are important for integration of the Roma people (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Culture, Ministry for Regional Development, Minister for Human Rights); other important ministries are represented by their deputy ministers (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance). The representative for human rights, director of the Agency for Social Inclusion and chairpersons of the Association of Regions of the Czech Republic and Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic are also members of the Roma Council. This arrangement resulted in stronger participation of regions and municipalities at the creation and implementation of the policy of the Roma people integration on the regional level. Fifteen representatives in the positions of regional coordinators for Roma issues and representatives of civil society play an important role in the Roma Council and work proactively to improve the situation of the Roma people in the Czech Republic.

The Government approved by its Resolution No. 254 of 29 March 2010 a principal change of the Council's statute, which also included a change of the name of this advisory body; now, it is the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for the Roma Minority Issues (the original name was the Government Council for the Roma Community Issues). The objective of the change of the statute was to reinforce the membership and improve its chances to influence considerably the implementation of the Concept of the Roma Integration and general perception of the Roma people as part of the Government policy. In line with the statute, the Czech prime minister was appointed chairman of the Roma Council, and the council's membership includes ministers of the sectors, which are crucial to improve the situation of the Roma people; other important ministries are represented by their deputy ministers.

## Article 18

National minority members and their organisations can freely develop foreign contacts and cross-border cultural cooperation in the Czech Republic. The Slovak and Polish minorities are very active in this area.

In line with bilateral agreements, representatives of ministries meet on a regular basis and assess the cooperation in this field, including the cross-border cooperation, and plan joint projects for the next period. The Czech-Bavarian or Czech-Saxony joint commissions are a good example. Representatives of ministries and local administration bodies also meet regularly in the Czech-Polish joint commission for the cross-border cooperation.

Tens of cultural events visited by many members of the Slovak minority in the Czech Republic take place within the annually organised *Month of Czech and Slovak Cultural Reciprocity*. Similarly, Days of Bulgarian, German, Russian, Greek, Serbian and Ukrainian Culture are organised.

**List of projects implemented under the programme *Security Research for the Government Needs in 2010 through 2015***

<i>Project Code</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Beneficiary</i>	<i>Annotation</i>	<i>Total Aid ('000 CZK)</i>
VF20102010002	Mapping the attitudes of the public in the Czech Republic to the right-wing extremism, racism and xenophobia ideas and their distributors with regard to the integration of minorities and foreigners	STEM, s.r.o.	The purpose is to statistically express the numbers of sympathisers of the right-wing extremist entities and potential participants (the people who wish to become members of and proactively support a right-wing extremist group) in Czech society and analyse the reasons for their behaviour.	1,000
VF20102014003	An analysis of the natural language on the Internet	Masaryk University in Brno	The purpose is to develop and implement techniques to process the natural language, which make it possible to analyse language expressions on the Internet falling within the sphere of competence of the Czech security bodies (neo-Nazism, anarchism, racism, terrorism), stressing the determination of probability of text authorship. All web contents produced by national and international groups or individuals of interest will be analysed.	7,481
VF20102015005	Methods of prediction of the long-term geopolitical development in Central Europe – Part 1 – Development of the prediction methodology of the long-term geopolitical development in Central Europe	Masaryk University in Brno	Development, testing and application of a methodology of security prediction through testing the prediction methodology and its application in the prediction of geopolitical development in Central Europe until 2025.	5,200

**Total aid to the projects ('000 CZK) 13,681**

**List of projects implemented under the programme *Security Research in the Czech Republic in 2010 through 2015***

<i>Project Code</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Beneficiary</i>	<i>Annotation</i>	<i>Total Aid ('000 CZK)</i>
VG20102012012	Current situation in the field of extremist movements in the Czech Republic, stressing their potential support among the young people and dissemination of extremist ideological contents on the Internet.	Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention	The proposed project is of the criminology character. Its purpose is to study and describe the attitudes of young people, which could mean a support to one of the extremist political movements – either an active support (in the form of direct participation in the movement's activities), or a passive support (in the form of election support to one of the extremist political entities). The gathered information will be used to create adequate preventive tools. Furthermore, the area of extremist oriented websites for the Czech audience will be mapped.	966

VG20132015113	Islam in the Czech Republic. Establishment of Muslims in the public space	SocioFactor s.r.o.	The project deals with Muslims establishing themselves in the public space. The Muslim "community" is quite heterogeneous, interactive and ethically diverse. Their establishment in the public is associated with attempts to achieve a public character and influence, which can result in many social conflicts. The project monitors how Islam is establishing itself in Czech society and consequences of its establishment. It is based on an analysis of how important players act – the public, media, authorities, Muslims, convertists.	966
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**Total aid to the projects ('000 CZK) 1,932**