

Strasbourg, 28 February 2007

DH-MIN(2007)001

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE  
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES  
(DH-MIN)**

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE ACCESS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES  
TO THE NEW MEDIA<sup>1</sup> IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY**

---

<sup>1</sup> Analogue (old) new media: cable and satellite television, the VCR (Video Cassette Recording); digital (new) new media: DVB (digital video broadcasting), interactive broadcasting, the Internet, mobile telephony, etc.)

### General

1. Describe what regulatory and other measures have been taken with regard to the new media and new communication services in order to promote the fundamental values of pluralism and diversity, respect for human rights and non-discriminatory access?
2. Has a code of ethics/professional code of conduct been adopted by the service providers? Does it address the questions of non-discriminatory access and hate speech or other illegal content?

### Access to analogue and digital new media

3. What instruments have been developed to promote the passive and active access of national minorities to the new media?
4. What regulatory and other measures have been taken to promote cultural and linguistic diversity in the new media? Are there any specific legal provisions regulating the use of minority languages?
5. How has the development of new media affected the number and availability of the services in minority languages? Are the services on demand available in national minority languages? Are electronic programme guides available in national minority languages?
6. What is the number of households with access to satellite digital television? Do the regions with compact minority populations differ from the average in terms of such access?
7. What is the number of households with access to cable TV? Are any channels/programmes in languages spoken by persons belonging to national minorities transmitted via the cable network?
8. Do the “new media” initiatives on the part of the authorities involve transfrontier access of national minorities to the media, including in respect of “kin-state”? Have new media initiatives (e.g., digital television ) had any negative effects on access of national minorities to the media caused by the disappearance of old media?"
9. What is the status of possible plans as regards digitalisation of public service media and are there any specific concerns related to minorities and their access to digital media? Are there, for example, gaps in the coverage of the digital television network that particularly affect areas with compact minority population?

### Information and communication technologies (ICT)

10. What instruments have been developed to promote the active use of new communication technologies by minorities?
11. What policy measures have been taken (if any) with regard to ensuring the digital inclusion and the effective and affordable access to the Internet and other ICTs for minority populations?

To what extent are such policy measures based on (public) consultation exercises or other research aimed at ascertaining the needs and concerns of persons belonging to national minorities in the context of digital technologies?

12. Are there any differences detected as regards access to broadband by persons belonging to national minorities compared to the majority population?
13. Describe what legal and other measures have been taken (if any) to effectively counter/combat “hate speech” or other illegal content which affects national minorities in ICTs.
14. Describe what measures have been taken (if any) by public authorities when developing on-line public services (use of the Internet to facilitate participation in public affairs and democratic processes (e-democracy) at national as well as local and regional levels) to enable effective participation by persons belonging to national minorities?
15. Describe what measures (if any) have been taken to enable media professionals (including trainees/students) from national minorities to acquire the necessary skills for maximising their exploitation of new technologies, e.g. accessing government-held information online, use of technological innovations for various stages of content-production and distribution, etc.?
16. To what extent do strategies for the promotion of media literacy take the needs, interests and concerns of persons belonging to national minorities into account?
17. Please give a short description of a project or activity already running in your country that might be considered as good practice in the field of new media and new ICTs with relevance for national or ethnic minorities.