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**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
(CDDH)**

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

**Information provided by the DH-MIN Members on the
Questionnaire on the “distribution of public financial support (subsidies) for projects
concerning persons belonging to national minorities and their associations (organisations)”**

**Informations fournies par les membres du DH-MIN concernant le
Questionnaire sur la «distribution de l’aide financière publique (subventions)
accordée aux projets concernant les personnes appartenant aux minorités nationales
et leurs associations (organisations)»**

Original versions / Versions originales

This document contains replies to the questionnaire on the questionnaire on the „distribution of public financial support (subsidies) for national minority associations” (DH-MIN(2009)004), as they were submitted to the secretariat by the DH-MIN members.

Ce document inclut les réponses au questionnaire sur la « distribution de l’aide financière publique (subventions) accordée aux associations de minorités nationales » (DH-MIN(2009)004), telles qu’elles ont été soumises au secrétariat par les membres du DH-MIN.

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QUESTIONNAIRE IN ENGLISH

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:
 - description/name and size of the national minority;
 - number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).
2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?
3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)¹?
4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?
5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?
6. Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?
7. Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?
8. Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?
9. How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.
10. Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?
11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?
12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

¹ Please specify only the organ responsible for determining the amount of the subsidies, and the procedure followed. Do not indicate the amount of the subsidies. Please do not include information on the financing of the education system for minorities.

QUESTIONNAIRE EN FRANÇAIS

1. Merci de préciser les informations suivantes pour chaque minorité nationale :
 - description/nom et taille de la minorité nationale ;
 - nombre moyen d'associations de minorités bénéficiant chaque année d'une subvention (y compris les groupements d'associations);
2. Attribuez-vous des subventions publiques aux associations des minorités nationales ? Quel budget (national, régional, local) est utilisé à cet effet?
3. Qui fixe le montant total des subventions mentionnées ci-dessus (Parlement, administration publique)²?
4. Quels critères sont appliqués pour fixer le montant de la subvention accordée à une minorité nationale donnée ? Le nombre de membres de la minorité en question fait-il partie de ces critères ?
5. Qui décide à quelle association d'une minorité nationale la subvention doit être versée ? Existents-ils des critères, des priorités, des lignes directrices ou des organes consultatifs en la matière ?
6. Les subventions sont-elles distribuées par l'administration publique, par des institutions externes ou par les associations des minorités ? Quels avantages et désavantages présente votre système national ; quelle est votre expérience en la matière et que faudrait-il éviter ?
7. Ces subventions sont-elles distribuées en vertu d'un contrat ou d'une décision officielle d'une autorité ?
8. Merci d'indiquer la vocation des subventions. Quels objectifs/priorités sont privilégiés pour l'attribution des subventions ? Des lignes directrices sont-elles en place pour les associations de minorités nationales et/ou l'administration publique ou les institutions qui accordent des subventions en vertu d'un contrat ou d'une décision ?
9. A quel point le sujet/l'objet de la demande d'aide financière doit-il être concret ? Une distinction est-elle faite entre les subventions de base et les subventions par projet ? Si oui, merci de préciser.
10. Les associations de minorités sont-elles tenues d'établir des comptes financiers correspondants ? A quel moment, à l'intention de quelle autorité et de quelle manière (présentation de factures ou simplement de rapport écrits, ou les deux) ? Les informations soumises sont-elles contrôlées par la même autorité ou institution que celle qui est responsable du contrat ou de la décision concernant la subvention ?
11. Le caractère durable des résultats et de l'efficacité de la subvention accordée aux associations de minorités est-il évalué ?
12. L'administration publique ou les institutions chargées des contrats ou décisions concernant les subventions sont-elles auditées ? Doivent-elles rendre compte des actions concrètement menées (par exemple au Parlement, au bureau d'audit ou au département interne de vérification) ?

² Merci de ne spécifier que l'organe responsable pour déterminer le montant des subventions ainsi que la procédure à suivre. N'indiquez pas le montant des subventions. N'incluez pas d'informations sur le financement du système d'enseignement pour les minorités.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY ARMENIA

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- description/name and size of the national minority;
- number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).

• There are 11 national minorities in the Republic of Armenia: Russians, Assyrians, Yezidis, Kurds, Greeks, Ukrainians, Belorussians, Germans, Polish, Jews and Georgians, which comprise 2.2% of the whole population of Armenia according to 2001 census. The number of people representing each national minority according to 2001 census is as follows:

Russians	Yezidis	Assyrians	Kurds	Greeks	Ukrainians	other*	total
14660	40620	3409	1519	1176	1633	4640	67657

* In 2001 census those nationalities having 1000 and more population were counted in a separate column, while those having population less than 1000 were included in the “other” column.

• There are more than 35 national minority NGOs in Armenia. One to two NGOs per national minority are contracted to receive subsidies. These NGOs receive the subsidy and then distribute it among all other NGOs representing the same national minority. This way, in fact, all national minority organizations receive grants. For example, in 2009 the subsidy for the Russian community was granted to the “Fund for Help and Assistance to Russian Compatriots of the Republic of Armenia” NGO and then it was distributed among all 9 Russian NGOs. The same mechanism was used for the Assyrians, Kurds and Greeks. Jewish and Yezidi organizations receive subsidies separately. In 2009, 14 national minority NGOs have been contracted to receive subsidies.

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities’ associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

Since 2000 subsidies from the state budget have been granted to national minority NGOs in the total amount of 10 million drams (about 30000 USD) per year for cultural and educational needs.

In addition, various educational, cultural and social programs of national minorities are financed also by state bodies such as Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, and others.

Starting from 2003, within the scope of the “State Assistance to the Non-State Press” program, the press in national minority languages has been subsidized by the Ministry of Culture. The Ministry of Culture also finances many other national minority programs, such as musical festivals, exhibitions, publishing of literature, film making, restoration and preservation of monuments, etc.

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities’ associations (parliament, public administration)?

The amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minority organisations is determined by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.

4. Which criteria are used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

There is no criterion used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority organisation. The 10 million drams subsidy granted from the state budget is equally distributed among the 11 national minority communities, and the number of persons affiliated with a national minority is not considered in the distribution process.

The distribution of the state subsidy is being done through the Coordinating Council of National Minorities (established on 15 June 2000 by the decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia), which consists of two representatives of each of the 11 national minorities. The procedure of distribution of the subsidy and the selection of the programs to be financed is determined by the representatives of the national minorities in the Coordinating Council.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

The allocation of the subsidy within a national minority is decided by the chairs of the national minority NGOs.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

The main issue in the process of distribution of the subsidies is that there is no criterion to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority organisation. The Government has proposed to the Coordinating Council to consider other mechanisms and criteria for distribution of the state subsidy, such as financing of more targeted programs or solving general issues of all national minorities, or distributing the subsidy based on the number of persons affiliated with a national minority. However, all these proposals have been rejected by the Coordinating Council.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

Since 2005, the distribution of the subsidies has been made by contracts with national minority NGOs.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

Main purpose of the state subsidies is the assistance to culture, education and protection of ethnic origin of the national minorities, as well as promotion of the multiculturalism and awareness raising about national minorities in Armenia.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

Basic state budget financial support request includes the list of the activities/events with approximate timetable.

Requests for project subsidies include more detailed information on the project, its purposes, timetable, budget estimate, etc.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

National minority organisations have their corresponding financial accounts. After completing the program, in the period of 30 days, each organisation submits written report to the Government with invoices and lists of expenditure.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

The efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations is considered and evaluated by the Coordinating Council.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

Body responsible for the subsidies is being audited annually. Four times a year it submits reports to the Ministry of Finance.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY AZERBAIJAN

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- description/name and size of the national minority;
- number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).

Name and size of national minorities living in the Republic of Azerbaijan according to the census of 1999:

Lezgins	178021
Russians	141687
Armenians	120745
Talyshs	76841
Avars	50871
Turks	43454
Tatars	30011
Ukrainians	28984
Sakhurs	15877
Georgians	14877
Kurds	13075
Tats	10922
Jews	8916
Udins	4152

and other ethnic groups

Within the financial support competition held for 2009, the Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CSSN) allocated financial support to the following non-governmental organizations representing national minorities:

- "Rohani" – Public Association of Kurdish Cultural Center
- "Vatan" – Association of Mehsetian (Ahiska) Turks

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

Officially registered national minorities' associations functioning in the Republic of Azerbaijan may submit their projects to the financial support competitions and be provided with financial support. These projects are financed within the State budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)

The CSSN determines the total amount of the subsidies to be allocated to national minorities' associations.

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

The CSSN uses special criteria that are equally applied to all NGOs in financing their projects. There are no other criteria to determine the amount of subsidy to national minorities' associations. The amount of allocation depends on the project proposed by the association. The number of persons affiliated with a national minority is not a criterion.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

The CSSN allocates subsidies within the announced competition for NGOs. The national minorities' associations can also be among these NGOs. Financial support is allocated according to the competition regulations approved by the CSSN: www.cssn.gov.as.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

The distribution of subsidies is made only by the CSSN. Equal conditions are provided for all NGOs in competitions held for this purpose. The projects submitted for the competition are examined by 3 independent experts and the NGOs whose projects are not financed are entitled to lodge an appeal. This is an advantage provided by the national system.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

The distribution of these subsidies is made according to the decision of the CSSN. Individual contract is signed with every NGO to be allocated with financial support.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

The purpose of the subsidies is to finance projects and programs submitted by NGOs in order to help them in solving different problems. The priorities of NGO-related activities are enumerated in the "Concept of State Support of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Non-governmental Organizations" approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 27 July 2009. There are CSSN regulations on the rules of receipt and use of subsidies: www.cssn.gov.az.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

Special application and project proposal forms for receiving financial support were approved by the CSSN. The CSSN provides subsidies only in accordance with that application form and attached documents: www.cssn.gov.az.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

The CSSN supports only the national minorities' associations which are officially registered and enjoy the legal entity status. Therefore a national minority association receiving the CSSN subsidies should have a bank account as a legal entity.

Each NGO granted with financial support have to submit financial statement of its project in accordance with the financial statement regulations approved by the CSSN. The latter examines the submitted reports.

In accordance with the relevant law, NGOs have to submit financial statements at the end of every quarter to taxation authorities, social protection and statistics agencies.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

Projects of national minorities' associations implemented with the allocated subsidies have been successful. The CSSN finances those projects that are topical, efficient and have lasting results. The efficiency and lasting results of the projects are determined by the conducted monitoring.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

The CSSN is audited in accordance with the relevant law of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It is directly accountable to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In regards of your email that you forwarded to us on 10th June 2009, and in regard of your Questioner about "Distribution of government financial subventions for minority's organizations ", Ministry for human rights and refugees of Bosnia & Herzegovina (B&H) addressed the letter to authorized ministries on all levels of government in Bosnia & Herzegovina, and to all organizations of national minorities on the territory of B&H, in order to get right answers on your Questioner. After collection of sufficient info that we got from relevant institutions and non-governmental section on all levels of governance in B&H that is concerned on specific questions such are: distribution of governmental financial support (subventions) for minority organizations, numbers of organizations that get annual subventions, criteria's and method of distribution, aims of subventions, and control and rating efficiently of given subventions, submitting reports, governmental or institutional control of reports and other, I am giving you available information as follows:

Protection of rights for members of national minorities law: ("Official journal B&H, no.12/03) from 2003., that recognizes **17 minority groups (Albanians, Montenegro's, Czechs, Italians, Jews, Hungarians, Macedonians, Germans, Polish's , Roma, Romanians, Russians, Russianians, Slovaks, Slovenians, Turks and Ukrainians)**, and it represents crucial document that makes a base for position of national minorities in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

National minority as written in this law, is a part of population-citizens of B&H who do not belong to any of three constitutional nations, and it is made out of people of same or similar ethnical origin, same or similar tradition, commons, beliefs, language, culture, spirituality, and close and relative history and uniqueness.

The law for protection of members of national minorities, defines rights and obligations for national minority populations in B&H, and obligations of governmental institutions of B&H to respect, protect, and support development of ethnical, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of each member of national minority groups that is a citizen of B&H.

B&H allows and financially supports keeping and developing of special relations between national minorities in Bosnia & Herzegovina with the members of same national minority in other countries and with people in there country of origin.

B&H, entities, cantons, cities and municipalities in B&H are obliged in the frame of their budget to provide finance for fulfilment of rights that minorities have under this law.

By reviewing Law on ministries and other institutions of governance of Bosnia & Herzegovina ("Official journal B&H" no. 5/03, 42/03, 26/04, 42/04, 45/06, 88/07, 35/09 and 59/09) article 13. clause 1. point 9. Ministry of justice of B&H specifies questions for citizens groups, keeping records of citizens and non-governmental organizations that operate on the territory of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Laws on organizations and foundations on the entity level arranges the formation, registrations of organization, internal structure and termination of work of organizations and foundations.

Organizations and foundations are registered in the registry in the court that operates in the same region in which certain organization or foundations has its head office.

Authorized ministries specify "**Rules for giving financial support**", which determines conditions and process for giving financial support to individuals, organizations and foundations.

Organizations and foundations are obliged to, besides written demand for financial support, to submit evidence of fulfilling of all conditions for getting those financial supports: certain program, project and other relevant documentation.

Each year with planning of the entity budget, there should be certain specified amount for this purpose.

But looking at this, there is no approved budget subventions that could be purposely used for financing minority organizations, but they have same rights like any other organization and foundation to get financial support under the "Rules for getting subventions for organizations and foundations ".

Distribution of those subventions is decided by The expert council of the authorized entity ministry. Decision for subventions distribution gets approved by minister of the entity ministry.

Law for execution of the entity budget 2009 specifies that beneficiary of the grants and subventions of the budget reserves are obliged to submit report on purposely spent money after fiscal year is over. .

Local municipalities independently in there budget are planning finances for support of organizations and foundations.

We got the information from Ministry of governance and local self-governance of Republic of Serpska to be entered in the common register, up to today exactly **36 organizations of national minorities in Republic of Serpska** and each year certain number of organizations, gets from this ministry certain financial support, and in 2008., **6 organizations in Republic of Serpska got this financial support.**

We had same question for **Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina**, but we got only exact information from **Federal ministry of culture and sport**. This ministry each year is planning on sub-financing of programs and projects in field of culture and sport of those organizations. Based on recourses, and previously set criteria's for awarding financial support and public invites for program and project candidacy, ministry gives financial support to numerous organizations, and that includes organizations of national minorities registered in Federation of B&H. A record of this ministry shows not really good response on those calls from national minority organizations that operates on the territory of Federation of B&H. Other ministries of Federation of B&H, didn't gave us the necessary information, but as far as we know other ministries in Federation of B&H each year give some money for the same purpose.

We didn't get the answer on your questioner from organization of national minorities, especially Roma organization and their head organizations.

I would like to highlight that officials of B&H government are aware that in comparison with other 16 national minority groups **Roma group in B&H is in very difficult situation**, but they think that with realization and implementation of national document "Strategy of Bosnia & Herzegovina for solving Roma issues" and adopted "Action plan of Bosnia & Herzegovina for solving Roma issues in employment, housing and health care", there will be significant improvement for Roma's in Bosnia & Herzegovina, in all segments of their lives and in lessening of social gap of Roma community.

In a sense of decreasing of the social separation and poverty of Roma community, **Council of Ministers of B&H, on the state level, has annual financial resources for support and financing Roma minority group in B&H, through their organizations and associations. In 2009 was approved subvention in the amount of 3.000.000,00 KM (convertible marks) (about 1.500.000,00 €)** for implementation of adopted Action plans of B&H government for solving Roma problems in employment, housing and health care. Those subventions are distributed based on Decision of Council of Ministers of B&H. There is also a grant in the amount of **30.000,00 KM (about 15.000,00€)** for support of Roma organizations and associations and their head organizations, such are: Roma Council of Federation of B&H, and Association of Roma of Republic of Serpska. Those subventions get

distributed based on Decision of Ministry for human rights and refugees of B&H, as a ministry in charge of dealing with problems of national minorities in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Assumption is that they are about **45** registered Roma organizations in B&H.

For other national minorities in B&H, there are also some **financial subventions** for support and financing of their work and activities, or functioning of their organizations and associations on the **entity, cantonal, city and municipality level in B&H in accordance with there finance available for that year**. It is important to highlight that most of those organizations get significant financial, technical, cultural and other help from their country of origin.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY BULGARIA

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- description/name and size of the national minority;
- number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations)

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria the concept of a “nation” is perceived as a “civil nation” whereas the national community is regarded as consisting of the citizens of the State. At the same time, the Constitution recognises the existence of religious, linguistic and ethnic distinctions and, respectively of exponents of such distinctions.

In the Republic of Bulgaria, every person belonging to an ethnic, religious or linguistic minority is free to choose whether to be treated or not to be treated as member of a specific minority, without incurring any adverse consequences whatsoever as a result of this choice.

In the population, housing and farm censuses in the Republic of Bulgaria, everyone can voluntarily opt to declare or not to declare their ethnicity, mother tongue and religion.

The 2001 population census produced the following data:

Total	Ethnic group													Not self-identified	Undeclared
	Bulgarian	Turkish	Roma (Gypsy)	Russian	Armenian	Vlach	Macedonian	Greek	Ukrainian	Jewish	Romanian	Other			
7,928,901	6,655,210	746,664	370,908	15,595	10,832	10,566	5,071	3,408	2,489	1,363	1,088	18,792	62,108	24,807	

The National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues (NCCEDI) is the advisory and coordination body assisting the Bulgarian Government in shaping and implementing the State policy on ethnic and demographic issues. The Council members include representatives of ministries at the deputy minister level, heads of other government departments, representatives of research institutes, as well as representatives of non-governmental organisations, including representatives of organisations of Bulgarian citizens belonging to various ethnic groups. Organisations of members of the Roma, Turkish, Aromanian, Armenian, Vlach, Jewish, Karakachan and Tatar ethnic communities are members of the NCCEDI for 2009.

In accordance with the adopted cycle of three-year budget programming, the NCCEDI Secretariat drafts a proposal for the resources needed for implementation of the State policy on ethnic and demographic issues. Among other things, this policy prioritises support for the activity of non-governmental organisations of members of ethnic minorities and such working on these issues: mainly celebration of traditional feasts, ethno-cultural festivals, research activities, publishing activities, including media etc.

Between the second half of 2005 and the middle of 2009, 393 NGO's projects were supported under this priority (an average 100 projects annually), either individually or in partnership with other organisations and institutions. An organisation is eligible for financial support for a single project per calendar year. Nationally important initiatives of organisations that have established themselves in the public life, which are taking place annually, receive support from the NCCEDI every year. Support is also provided to initiatives which are assessed by the commissions as well conceived and justified, and whose organisers are encouraged by the support to enhance and carry on their activity.

Financial support is not granted to applicant organisations for:

- political, trade-union and religious activities;
- projects providing social assistance or employment;
- projects for professional qualification and retraining or for literacy and numeracy training;
- professional fees and business travel expenses related to the administrative management of the project;

- repair, purchase of office equipment and office maintenance (electricity, telephone, Internet bills and other utility costs);
- cocktail parties, formal breakfasts, luncheons and dinners and other business entertainment events.

- 2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?**
- 3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?**

Resources for implementation of the policy on ethnic and demographic issues are allocated annually from the Council of Ministers' budget and are made available to the NCCEDI. The NCCEDI budget is part of the Council of Ministers' budget and is drafted and implemented applying the provisions of the State Budget Procedures Act, the relevant annual State Budget Act and the Council of Ministers' decree on implementation of the State budget for the relevant year.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria or an official designated thereby is vested with spending authority in respect of the NCCEDI budget resources.

The NCCEDI Chairperson is competent to make reasoned proposals for spending the NCCEDI budget resources.

Approximately two-thirds to one-half of these resources go for support of NGO' initiatives. The NGOs must apply for support by means of submission of a developed project. Municipal and regional administrations and other NGOs are eligible to participate as partners of the applicant NGOs. Rules establishing the terms and conditions for applying through projects financed by NCCEDI budget resources were approved in 2007.

- 4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?**

It is an established practice to allocate an amount for support of the NGOs activities for preservation of the culture of ethnic groups depending on the size of the group, the variety of events, as well as the national coverage. Projects intended to promote inter-ethnic co-operation receive ever larger support.

- 5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?**

The project proposals submitted are evaluated and proposed for financing by commissions approved by the Chairperson of the NCCEDI. The commissions may include staff members of the NCCEDI Secretariat and external experts who are not members of the Council. The compositions of three commissions have been designated so far:

- working commission for evaluation of projects for preservation and development of the cultural identity of the Roma ethnic community;
- working commission for evaluation of projects for preservation and development of the cultural identity of the Turkish ethnic community;
- working commission for evaluation of projects of national and regional importance in the sphere of demographic development, inter-ethnic co-operation, preservation and development of the cultural identity of small ethnic communities.

- 6. Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations?**

The funds allocated from the Council of Ministers' budget for the activities of the NCCEDI are provided to the applicant organisation which has submitted a project or to a partner if the organisation has specified this when applying.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

After examining the projects submitted, the commission formalizes its proposals in a memorandum. For his part, the Chairperson of the NCCEDI presents a reasoning of the proposals for spending the NCCEDI budget resources to the Chief Secretary of the Council of Ministers, who is designated by the Prime Minister as the official vested with spending authority in respect of the Council of Ministers Administration budget resources, including the resources allocated to the NCCEDI.

The Chief Secretary clears the NCCEDI Chairperson's proposal with the Director of the Council of Ministers' Budget and Administrative Activities Directorate, who attests that the requested resources are available within the limits of the resources allocated to the NCCEDI from the Council of Ministers' budget for the respective year.

On the basis of the Chief Secretary's endorsement, the resources are provided to the NGO by bank transfer.

In specific cases, when NCCEDI budget resources are allocated for co-financing of projects which source their financing in other budget programmes or programmes financed by EU funds (European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, European Year of Intercultural Dialogue), the requirements of the respective programme are complied with, including the conclusion of civil-law contracts or contracts for service provision.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

The areas of support are specified in the Rules. Financial support is provided to projects targeting the preservation and development of the cultural identity of the ethnic minorities:

1. Festivals (seasons, competitions, days etc.) of arts: poetry, song, dance and theatre; concerts, exhibitions: visual arts, applied arts, crafts etc.
2. Support for creative pursuits: theatres, choirs, dance companies, art schools, *Chitalishtes*, sports teams etc. in settlements and neighbourhoods with predominant minority population;
3. Celebration of traditional calendar and historical observances;
4. Organising conferences, workshops, roundtables etc.;
5. Organising and maintaining various extra-curricular forms of cultural and educational training of children and pupils: familiarisation with the traditions of the communities resident in the respective territory or in another part of the country (including through the arrangement of school trips), studying their history, studying mother tongue etc.
6. Organising sports festivals and competitions, organising folk fairs of regional and national importance;
7. Support for the publication of :
 - (a) Collections of poetry, collections of folk tales, folk songs, sayings and proverbs and other publications targeting familiarisation with, preservation and development of, the originality of the ethnic minority;
 - (b) Audio and video products;
 - (c) Periodical print and electronic publications, as well as multi-ethnic publications;
8. Research activity commenced and completed within the year of financing.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

To be considered for financing, the applicant NGOs must submit projects compliant with the requirements of the Rules. Applicants must submit the following set of documents:

1. Cover letter addressed to the Chairperson of the NCCEDI;
2. Application form for support of projects, addressed to the NCCEDI (the standard form is available on the Internet as well) which contains:
 - (a) project description: summary, objective and tasks, target group, territorial scope, description of project activities, time schedule of activities, duration, team: allocation of responsibilities for project implementation, expected outcomes and impact on target group and the general public;
 - (b) concise information on the applicant organisation: structure, objects, previous activities of the organisation (over the last two years);
3. Copies of the registration documents authenticated as “True Copy”:
 - (a) court certificate on the current status of the applicant organisation;
 - (b) certificate of entry into the Central Register of the Ministry of Justice: applicable to organisations referred to in Article 9 (2);
4. Written confirmation by other organisations which have undertaken to provide the rest of the financing;
5. Letters of support from other organisations and/or public institutions in connection with the implementation of the project;
6. *Curricula vitae* of the persons directly involved in the implementation of the project, especially when this requires special knowledge or skills: singing, dancing etc.;
7. Attachment of three offers for performance of activities beyond the particular scope of operation of the organisation: publishing services, software maintenance etc.;
8. Declaration by the applicant, attesting that the data submitted are true, that the applicant is familiar with the conditions for applying and with the reporting requirements – an attachment to the application form, also accessible online.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

The set of accounting documents is submitted to the NCCEDI Secretariat (the Ethnic and Demographic Issues Directorate of the Council of Ministers) and includes: a detailed narrative report, a copy of the financial reporting documents, and materials demonstrating that the project activities have been performed and the project outcomes have been achieved, including audio, photographic and/or video material.

Reports on the financed projects must be submitted within one month after completion of the projects. Organisations which fail to report on their supported projects within this time limit are excluded from consideration in evaluation procedures in the succeeding year.

11. *Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?*

The outcomes of supported projects are analysed periodically on the basis of the reports submitted, as well as on the basis of visits paid by staff members of the Ethnic and Demographic Issues Directorates while the implementation of a particular project is in progress. On the basis of these analyses, proposals are made to the Chairperson of the NCCEDI for possible changes to optimise the process of project evaluation, provision of financial support and achieving greater effectiveness of this support.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament Audit Office or internal revision department)?

The Ethnic and Demographic Issues Directorate periodically produces reference briefs informing the Chairperson of the NCCEDI of the projects' number and the amount of support provided.

The provision of financial support has been audited by the Bulgarian National Audit Office both as part of the activity of the Council of Ministers' Administration and as part of the activity of the NCCEDI.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY CROATIA

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- description/name and size of the national minority;
- number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).

There are 22 national minorities in the Republic of Croatia. The following figures are taken from the last census (2001):

Albanian NM- 15.082
 Austrian NM - 247
 Bosniak NM - 20.755
 Bulgarian NM – 331
 Montenegrin NM - 4.926
 Czech NM - 10.510
 Hungarian NM - 16.595
 Macedonian NM - 4.270
 German NM - 2.902
 Polish NM – 567
 Roma NM - 9.463
 Romanian NM – 475
 Russian NM– 906
 Ruthenian NM - 2.337
 Slovak NM - 4.712
 Slovenian NM - 13.173
 Serbian NM - 201.631
 Italian NM - 19.636
 Turkish NM – 300
 Ukrainian NM - 1.977
 Vlach NM – 12
 Jewish NM - 576

- Financial support (distributed on the state level) is provided to at least 94 NM associations, including roof organisations (out of 350 totally registered associations).

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

Financial support provided by the central authorities to minority associations and institutions is determined in the Republic of Croatia State budget. In addition, regional (counties), and local self-governments (cities and municipalities) are determining in their respective budgets support to be provided to regional/local NM associations.

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?

The total amount of financial support provided to NM associations is determined in the state budget of the Republic of Croatia. This is decided upon by the Croatian Parliament, on the basis of the Government proposal.

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

General criteria are determined by the Council for National Minorities, an autonomous body established in order to improve participation of national minorities in public life in the Republic of Croatia, and particularly for consideration and proposal making in relation to the realisation and protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities. Members of the Council are themselves members of various national minorities. Therefore, the majority of funds for national minorities are distributed by minorities themselves. General criteria used are the following: encouragement and financial support to realisation of cultural and information and publishing programs of associations and institutions, which are articulating the majority of activities of minority communities, and expressing the need to preserve the ethnic, cultural and language identity, and at the same time are contributing to the cultural, social and economic development of Republic of Croatia, and to their integration into Croatian society; preserving and raising the achieved level of realisation of ethnic rights which are important for the members of national minorities; paying special attention to the cultural amateurism and cultural institutions, due to their importance for preservation of ethnic identities; supporting programs contributing to the improvement of tolerance and establishment of interethnic trust; implementation of contracts and agreements to which the Republic of Croatia is a party, on protection of national minority.

- Among special criteria for providing financial support we may note that it can be only provided to associations and institutions which have been registered and active in RoC at least 18 months before submitting the request for financial support, and having at least 20 members.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

On the state level, decisions are made by the Council for National Minorities, according to the criteria for providing financial support to NM associations and institutions. Criteria determine rules and conditions which NM associations and institutions should meet in order to qualify for financial support for programs realising cultural autonomy of NMs.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

Funds intended for NM associations for their activities in the area of preservation of tradition, culture and language are distributed by the Council for National Minorities. The Council is an autonomous body established pursuant to the Constitutional Law on Rights of National Minorities, brought by the Croatian Parliament on December, 13 2002. (OG 155/2002. god). The goal is the most efficient participation of NM in the public life of RoC, particularly in the area of consideration and proposal making related to the realisation of rights and freedoms of national minorities. As stated above, other Ministries and Government Offices are also providing support to the NM associations for their projects within their respective domains.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

Distribution of subsidies is done through contracts between the Council and the minority association/institution, upon formal decisions made by the Council for National Minorities.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

Subsidies meant for preservation of minority language, culture, and tradition are distributed by the Council for National Minorities and they are provided for: information and publishing, cultural amateurism, cultural events, programs resulting from bilateral agreements, programs creating conditions for realisation of cultural autonomy of national minorities. Their priorities are the following:

- Financial support is determined on the basis of programs of associations and institutions, in proportion to the number of members, length of active existence, and number of branches/branch offices on the local level.
- Programs are analyzed and estimated on the basis of the total results achieved in the past, qualifications relevant for the realisation of the program, conditions created for realisation of the program and importance of the program for the members of national minorities in a certain area.
- Priority is given to the associations and institutions gathering larger number of national minority members, i.e. those achieving in a longer period significant results in preservation of ethnic and cultural identity.
- Additional important factors are the quality of the program and the sustainability.

- Guidelines for national minority associations and institutions are contained in criteria for distribution of financial support to the associations and institutions as well as by the methodology for following up a the realisation of programs.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

Requests for financial support have to be very detailed, documented, argued, and verifiable. Normally only projects are financed (i.e. it is not that a minority is financed but a minority project), and running costs cannot exceed 20 % of the total amount of the project.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

Associations and institutions of national minorities are requested to set up appropriate financial accounts. They are obliged to provide both financial and narrative reports, including copies of all relevant bills and payments, justifying the total amount received. Reports are duly checked by the authority providing financial support.

11. *Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?*

Council for National Minorities is obliged to report to the Croatian Parliament, and to the Parliamentary Commission in charge of rights of national minorities a semi-annual report on Council's activities, and quarterly reports on funds provided to the national minorities through the state budget. This is the basis for the evaluation of programs/projects of national minority associations and institutions.

12. *Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?*

Yes, public bodies providing financial support to NM associations are subject to audits by the Audit Office and their respective internal revision departments. All government bodies and the Councils for national minorities providing financial support are regularly reporting to the Government of Republic of Croatia and/or the Parliament. Further financing is immediately stopped in case any violation of the contract is found out.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- *description/name and size of the national minority;*
- *number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).*

Bulgarian national minority

According to the final results of the 2001 population and housing census, 4363 people were declared to be of Bulgarian nationality. Bulgarians are spread throughout the Czech Republic geographically, but are mainly concentrated in the larger towns, in Prague, Brno, Ostrava and so on.

The activities of Bulgarian organisations are aimed at preserving Bulgarian identity, maintaining Bulgarian traditions, language and the popularisation of Bulgarian culture through a wide variety of cultural and social events - concerts, exhibitions, lectures, courses, and so on. Almost all these associations organise celebrations of the traditional Bulgarian holidays: 1st March ("Baba Marta"), 3rd March (State Day of Bulgaria), Orthodox Easter ("Velik Den"), 24th May (Day of the Slavonic Apostles), Orthodox Christmas (Koleda) etc. There are 8 civil associations for this. These also publish two magazines for the Bulgarian minority, Roden Glas and Vazražďane.

Croatian national minority

According to the most recent census in 2001, 1585 people declared themselves to be of Croatian nationality within the Czech Republic. The history of the settlement of Croats in the Czech Lands dates from as early as the end of the 16th century, when Croats fleeing from the Balkan before the expansion of the Ottoman Empire came to the Czech Lands.

The activities of the community are arranged by the Association of Citizens of Croat Nationality in the Czech Republic, which organises an annual Day of Croatian Culture. The association, in conjunction with the Regional Museum in Mikulov, set up a museum exhibition on the history and life of Croats in Southern Moravia in the former village school building in Jevišovka. Because of a change of ownership of the building the exhibition was closed down and moved to the Regional Museum in Mikulov.

Hungarian national minority

According to the most recent census in 2001 14672 people were declared to be of Hungarian nationality in the Czech Republic; this minority's own estimate of its numbers is however higher (approx. 19-20 thousands). A major wave of Hungarian immigration into the Czech Lands took place after the 2nd World War as part of the so-called exchange of population (involuntary resettlement into the Czech border region), but also through voluntary migration (largely into the larger towns, for the purposes of education and for employment). Members of the Hungarian minority are scattered across the whole of the Czech Republic, but are most numerous in the North Bohemia and the Moravia-Silesia regions, in Prague, followed by the Plzeň, East Bohemia, South Moravia and South Bohemia regions.

The activities of members of the Hungarian minority are organised by the umbrella civic association, the Union of Hungarians Living in the Czech Lands. The most important project of this organisation is the annual Day of Hungarian Culture, where Hungarian culture is presented in several Czech towns in the form of a variety of cultural events. The Association of Hungarians is also the publisher of the Prágai Tükör (Prague Mirror) magazine, which has been published five times a year since 1993.

The Hungarian Reformed Church has a long tradition in the Czech Republic; at present its Hungarian parish is located in Prague. Hungarian Catholics also have services in Hungarian.

German national minority

According to the 2001 census 39106 people are declared as belonging to the German minority. Some 8500 people are registered in two umbrella organisations of the minority, just under a quarter of the total number.

The German minority organisations work for preservation of their cultural heritage, their mother tongue and opportunities for self-fulfilment of their members. The main activities include cultural events on the occasion of various holiday celebrations (Lent, Easter, Mothers' Day, Advent and Christmas), song and dance clubs, exhibitions, German language courses, seminars for the young and old on various subjects, and so on. In cooperation with Czechs and their fellow countrymen they work on the restoration of churches, monuments and on social support for weaker and infirm members of the community. The minority publishes the bi-weekly *Landes-Zeitung* and up to 2005 published the *Prager-VolksZeitung*. In the Cheb area *Eghalând Bladl* is also published.

Polish national minority

According to the most recent census in 2001, 52095 people were declared to be of Polish nationality within the Czech Republic. Most of them, some 80%, live in Těšín Silesia, with a large number in Prague also. In addition some 20000 Polish citizens live in the Czech Republic. According to their own estimate, which also includes Polish citizens with permanent residence in the Czech Republic and some of the Czech citizens declared to be of Silesian nationality, the number of members of the Polish nationality is perhaps 70000 people.

The activities of members of the Polish national minority in the Czech Republic are organised mainly by two civic associations, the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic and the Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic (PZKO) and by 28 other civic associations. In addition to a rich association activity, the Polish minority publishes periodicals, bi-daily *Głos Ludu*, the bi-weekly for children and young people *Nasza Gazeta*, the monthly *Zwrot* and up to 2005 the monthly *Kurier Praski*.

Education for the nationality in Těšín Silesia is covered by schools with Polish as the teaching language, which are part of the state education system. All of these schools are located in the districts of Frýdek-Místek and Karviná. In the school year 2007/2008 there were 1739 pupils in elementary schools with Polish as the teaching language, and 623 pupils in secondary schools. In 2008/2009 there were 1661 pupils in the elementary schools and 562 pupils in secondary education. To provide support and help in the further education of teachers and assistants in schools with Polish as the teaching language and as additional support for these schools, the Český Těšín Teaching Centre for Polish Nationality Teaching was set up as an organisation directly controlled by the Ministry of Education.

The Polish minority maintains a very rich and various cultural programmes. Much of this in the cultural area is done by the PZKO. Of particular interest and great value are the Bajka puppet theatre and the Polish theatres within the Těšín Theatre.

The general priorities of the Polish minority are to preserve the ethnic identity and cultural heritage of Poles living in the Poland, in widest sense of those expressions (culture, art, traditions, public awareness, youth education, education in general), to present a joint face in dealing with Polish and Czech officialdom and to make the Zaolzie region a "cultural bridge" between Poland and the Czech Republic.

Roma national minority

A total of 11746 people were declared to belong to the Roma national minority at the 2001 census. According to expert estimates the number of members of Roma communities in the Czech Republic varies between 150 and 300 thousand people. Location: in particular Northern Moravia (especially Ostrava, Karviná), Northern Bohemia (Děčín, Ústí nad Labem), the major cities (Prague, Brno) and other locations in the Czech Republic.

The most notable activities of the minority include the media (publication of periodicals, operation of internet portals), education (leisure time activities and general primary prevention, cooperation with schools the Department of Roma Studies at the Faculty of Arts at Charles University Prague may be considered unique). The minority also publishes the *Romano Hangos* newspaper, the *Romano Vod'i*

and Kereka magazines and the Romano Džaniben almanach. There is also widespread cultural activity, a significant element of which is the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno and the KHAMORO world Roma festival. Other activities include clubs, musical productions, dance, literary works, and the graphic arts. Great attention is paid to support for the education (both in schools and as part of leisure-time activities) of Roma children and pupils, from pre-school age onwards; a comprehensive system of early care is also being prepared. An interesting specific is football (there are some ten active clubs in the Czech Republic). The popularity of the International Roma Day (8th April) is gradually growing; most of the active associations devote time to commemorating it.

Ruthenian national minority

According to the 2001 census 1109 people declaring themselves of Ruthenian nationality live in the Czech Republic. According to expert estimates their number is much higher (approx. 10 thousand people). Within the Czech Republic Ruthenians are present in a number of regions; most of them are in Prague, in Northern Bohemia and in Northern Moravia, but they are also to be found in Central and Southern Moravia.

The minority focuses primarily on the renewal and development of the Ruthenian identity, support for Ruthenian activities both at home and abroad, research and study of the history and current issues of the Ruthenians, particularly in present-day Transcarpathian Ruthenia; the Society of Friends of Transcarpathian Ruthenia organises cultural, educational and editorial work, supports learning and tourist trips to areas inhabited by Ruthenians, works actively with organisations of Ruthenian national minorities in Slovakia, Hungary, in the Ukraine, in Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, and in the USA and Canada. It gathers together documentation, photographs and other artefacts from the history of the Ruthenians. It also publishes a quarterly entitled Podkarpatská Rus (Transcarpathian Ruthenia) - the magazine of the Society of Friends of Transcarpathian Ruthenia.

Russian national minority

According to the 2001 population and housing census there are 12369 people of Russian nationality living in the Czech Republic. Representatives of the Russian minority estimate the number at 16-20 thousand people. Their geographical spread is country-side, with the greatest concentration in Prague, Carlsbad, Brno and other larger towns.

Russians came in large numbers to the territory of the present Czech Republic in the 1920s, as a consequence of the Communist putsch in Russia. 150 thousand people went into exile from the Crimea alone. A second wave of migration came just a few years later, made up for the most part of the wives of Czech students. The most recent immigration wave, and the largest so far, appeared following the collapse of the USSR. Today the Russian-speaking minority is significantly fragmented, individual groups have little mutual trust, differ in their attitudes, experience and political orientation.

Its activities include social gatherings on the occasion of major holidays, cultural programmes (classical music concerts, readings by writers, poetry evenings, art exhibitions etc.), the publishing of Russian language periodicals, the publishing of local authors writing in Russian. These publishing activities also include the printing of the Russian Word, Artek and Afiša magazines.

Greek national minority

According to the 2001 population and housing census there are 3219 people of Greek nationality living in the Czech Republic. By the minority's own estimate however there are as many as 7000. The Greek community is located in the following towns: Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Jeseník, Krnov, Třinec, Karviná, Šumperk, Vrbno pod Pradědem, Havířov a Bohumín. Significant smaller Greek communities live in other towns: Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Hradec Králové, Jihlava, Vyškov, Olomouc, Strážnice, Znojmo, Mikulov.

The cultural activities of the Greek minority are very rich and are shared by all organisations designated as "Greek communities" and the Greek Lyceum association. The most important cultural festivals now include the traditional Greek festival in Krnov and the Greek Days in Brno. All the Greek communities prepare a cultural and social programme for the Greek state holidays of 25th March and 28th October,

ending with traditional Greek popular entertainment with music and dancing. The Greek Culture, Education and Social Centre in Brno is both a current and also a very important long-term project. The publication of the Kalimera magazine is an important activity of the minority.

Slovak national minority

According to the final results of the census as at 1st March 2001 there were 193190 members of the Slovak minority living in the Czech Republic. In the census of 1991 (at the time of the ČSFR federal state) it was 314 thousand. Most Slovaks live in the Moravia-Silesia region (42357), the Ústí region (21172), the South Moravia region (15452), the Central Bohemian region (14191), the Carlsbad region (13655), and in Prague (17406). In all the areas mentioned, these are Slovaks, and their descendants, who took up residence in the border territories after 1945, as reemigrants from Romania, Hungary and Transcarpathian Ukraine. Waves of Slovak migration came to Ostrava, Karviná, Prague and other Czech towns for construction work; then mainly in the 1960s and 1970s there was a wave of "bureaucrat migration" - party officials, the military and so on. Civic associations represent the values of Slovak culture and the emancipation of the Slovak minority, strive for the maintenance of Slovak culture and language within the majority nation. All organisations subscribe to a greater or lesser extent to the development of mutual cooperation between Slovaks and Czechs.

In addition to editorial activities including the publication of periodicals, the following are organised: Slovak-Czech cultural festivals (Days of Slovak Culture in various Czech towns), international folklore festivals (Praha – srdce národov, Jánošíkov dukát etc.), theatre reviews (the Slovak Theatre in Prague, The Best Humour from Slovak Theatres, etc.), puppet theatre, dramatised readings from folk tales, short theatre shows for children in Czech and Slovak, film evenings, balls (the Slovak Ball in Prague, the Czech-Slovak Ball in České Budějovice), Student rag days, sporting contests, sport and geography outings for children, seminars, special publishing initiatives by various associations, recognition of those well-known for their work in developing good relations between Slovaks and Czechs (the Matej Hrebenda prize), exhibitions (e.g. the Slovak Arts Summer), discussion groups (Kluby Slovenských dotykov, Kluby Koreňov, Podvečery nielen pre ženy, and so on). Currently the Slovak minority publishes the Korene, Listy a Slovenské dotyky magazines.

Serbian national minority

According to the 2001 census 1801 Czech citizens are registered as being from the Serbian national minority in the Czech Republic. By their own estimate there are some 10 to 12 thousand Serbs living in the Czech Republic. Members of the Serbian minority are spread across the whole of the Czech Republic, with most being in major towns such as Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Liberec, Most and others.

Serbs living in the Czech Republic come not only from the state which is recognised by the UN, Serbia and Montenegro, but from all the historical territories in which Serbs lived before the conflict in the Balkans and which now belong to other states, such as Srbska Krajina, Srem, Banat and Bačka in Croatia, and areas in Bosnia and Hercegovina and present-day Macedonia.

Serbian associations are developing their cultural traditions and are reviving the folklore of the Serbian ethnic minority in the Czech Republic. The magazine Srbské Slova was established recently.

Ukrainian national minority

According to the 2001 population and housing census there are 22112 people of Ukrainian nationality living in the Czech Republic. According to the minority's own estimates the number is higher, the so-called historic part making up about 10 thousand people, the new wave of immigration about 15 to 20 thousand people (the number of foreign workers is estimated at about 50 thousand people). The main locations are Prague, Carlsbad, Děčín, Brno, Přerov and Ostrava.

Organisations strive for the maintenance and development of Ukrainian culture, Ukrainian-Czech mutual cooperation, majority awareness of the Ukrainian minority in the Czech Republic and in the Ukraine, the suppression of xenophobic tendencies and help with integration. These are the Ukrainian Initiative (UIČR), The Association of Ukrainian Women in the Czech Republic (SUČR), the Association of Ukrainians and friends of the Ukraine (SUPU), which arrange for Ukrainian society

cultural events linked to the Ukrainian church and cultural calendar. In particular these are the Old and New Year celebrations, Easter, Jan Kupal (June), the St Nicholas celebrations. Of the cultural events these are mainly the New Year Ukrainian Ball "Malanka" (UIČR), "The Taras Ševčenko Days" (UIČR, SUČR, SUPU), the Ukrainian Independence Holiday, holiday gatherings and programmes (UIČR, SUPU, SUČR), the memorial event for the Ukrainian Famine (SUČR, UIČR). In addition there are annual multi-cultural events in cooperation with other national minorities in Prague (the "Prague - Heart of the Nations" festival, "Meeting of Cultures" - (UIČR). The UIČR arranges the publication of magazines for Ukrainians, Porohy, www.ukrajinci.cz, the magazine *Ukrainsky Žurnal* is published by the RUTA association.

Others - the Jewish community³

Within the numerous smaller minorities a special place belongs to the Jewish community, whose members in the Czech Republic do not define themselves as a national minority, but as a religious and cultural community. Nevertheless liberally oriented civic associations of members of the Jewish community also participate in support programmes of activities of members of national minorities, specifically the Bejt Simcha Jewish congregation as an affiliate member of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, as part of a support programme to publish periodicals (the *Hatikva* monthly, published in 2001 and *Maskil*, published since 2003), and particularly in the area of multi-cultural education. Within the grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture the activities of the Jewish community are supported by the Department of Museums and Galleries, as well as by the Dept of Regional and National Cultures.

Numbers of organisations assessed - see answer to Question No. 2

2. *Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?*

In the Czech Republic all three levels are applied. When setting their budgets, village and regional representations in regions with national minorities (in particular where the number of their members exceeds 10%) take into account organisations of members of national minorities. Similarly, state policy on members of national minorities has its rules. These are based on:

1. Act No 1/1993 Coll., the Constitution of the Czech Republic and the Charter of Basic Rights and Freedoms (Act No. 2/1993 Coll. on the declaration of the Charter of Basic Rights and Freedoms as part of the constitutional framework of the Czech Republic), deals with the general treatment of rights and equality of rights.
2. Act No 273/2001 Coll., on the rights of members of national minorities and on changes to certain laws, as subsequently amended (for the wording of this Act - see Annex No. 1)
3. Government Decree No. 98/2002 Coll. which sets out the conditions and method for providing grants from the state budget for the activities of members of national minorities and to support the integration of the Roma community, as later amended (for the wording of this Decree - see Annex No. 2)

A comparison of the financial support for individual minorities from public administration in 2008 is given in Annex No. 3

The main financial support from the state is provided through three grant programmes directed specifically at national minorities.

³ Members of the Jewish community for the most part declare their affiliation to religious societies and to national minorities only in areas where they declare an interest. For this reason they have permanent guest status in the Government Council for National Minorities.

Ministry of Culture		Ministry of Education
Support programme for cultural activities	Support for spreading and receiving information in national minority languages	Programme to support education in national minority languages
Long-term support from the state budget: 10 million CZK	Long-term support from the state budget: 30 million CZK	Long-term support from the state budget: 19 million CZK

In part this also includes the Ministry of Education Grant Programmes to support integration of the Roma community (15 million CZK annually) and to support Roma secondary school pupils (10 million CZK annually). A programme of the Ministry of Education to support integration of the Roma community is also administered by the Ministry of Culture (2 million CZK annually). These are not included in these tables and graphs, since they largely fall outside the issue of national minorities.

The programmes are based explicitly on Government Decree No. 98/2002 Coll. which sets out the conditions and method for providing grants from the state budget for the activities of members of national minorities and to support the integration of the Roma community.

The Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Russian, Greek and Slovak minorities draw on the programme to support education in national minority languages. The grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture are used by all minorities.

State grant programmes - overview of the number of organisations of members of national minorities, their projects and value of grant (2008: in CZK)

minority	No of organisations:		Grant Programme					
			Ministry of Culture				Ministry of Education	
	Total	Assessed	Support for cultural activities		Support for spreading and receiving information in national minority languages		Support for education in national minority languages	
			No.*	Support	No.*	Support	No.*	Support
Bulgarian	8	6	6/8	400 989	2/2	1 180 000	3/3	230 000
Croatian	3	1	1/1	70 000		0	-	0
Hungarian	3	2	1/3	720 000	1/1	1 000 000	1/1	300 000
German	52	8	7/11	551 594	2/2	1 915 000	1/1	70 000
Polish	27	16	9/13	1 415 708	3/3	7 910 000	7/7	1 008 000
Roma	470	6	4/5	2 350 000	4/4	4 330 000	6/7	2 799 000
Ruthenian	4	1	1/1	29 000	1/1	86 000	-	0
Russian	10	2	2/2	253 000	2/3	2 200 000	1/2	280 000
Greek	4	2	2/3	1 124 738	1/1	339 000	2/2	950 000
Slovak	19	9	9/20	1 885 000	4/4	7 068 000	4/6	1 175 000
Serbian	2	1	1/3	180 000	1/1	878 000	1/1	150 000
Ukrainian	16	3	3/7	605 000	2/2	2 402 000	1/1	250 000
Other	n/a	28	8/9	328 000	1/1	466 000	29/30	8 561 331

*organisations / projects

Communities generally provide grants as part of grant programmes, which are not earmarked especially for national minorities (for example, in the programmes to support cultural activities and education. They may also decide to provide financial support on an *ad hoc* basis. In chartered towns (cities) the situation is similar, in some places (e.g. in Brno and in Karviná) grant programmes have been established specifically for national minorities. In addition the South Moravian and Moravia-Silesia regions and Prague regularly announce a support programme for national minorities in addition to other grants.

3. *Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?*

At the community (village) level this is decided by the local authority - the local council of the village (or chartered town), and this also applies in the regions. For the most part grant programmes are set up (for example, Prague has three programmes directed at national minorities organisations, but support can be provided in other grant programmes as well, just as, for example, support for cultural activities in general), or support can be also arranged *ad hoc*. Decisions are generally taken in the form of a ruling by the local council.

At national level the mechanism for approving financial support for grant programmes is as follows:

<i>Draft budget chapter in which the grant programme must be included</i>	<i>Draft Act on State Budget - compilation of department proposals</i>	<i>Approval of the draft Act on State Budget</i>	<i>Act on State Budget - Debate and Approval</i>	<i>Final form of the Act</i>
Relevant Ministries (see above)	Ministry of Finance	Czech Government (following inter-departmental commentaries)	Czech Chamber of Deputies	Signature by the Czech President

In the case of individual projects the government may express its political decisions and support a specific project, for which a government decree is needed (majority vote) and the finances are to be made available generally by the relevant minister from his budget, or by the Minister of Finance (for example, from the government reserve in the state budget)

4. *Which criteria are used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?*

At state level these are generally expressed in the legislation (see above) and the formulation of the announcement of the public grant procedure, which must meet the conditions for public tenders. Otherwise the first consideration is the quality of the submitted project, when a decision is made a certain part may be played by the importance of the project from a particular viewpoint. At regional and local level, local councils may set up selection commissions, but the law does not insist on this, the burden of decision-making rests with the local council.

The results of the census do not play any part in the distribution of grants. One exception is the situation whereby under Act No. 128/2000 Coll., on communities (villages), where the number of members of a national minority is greater than 10% of the population, there is a requirement to provide bilingual signs for communities, streets and public buildings. This is taken on by the state which provides the necessary finances through the region.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

The grant system is set by a public competition of projects from organisations, for minority organisations the statutory body/representative is key; this in addition to the project deliverer in respect of the grant provider acts as the body to whom the grant provider addresses itself. This body also submits the project formally. As a rule the conditions of the grant programme and the quality of the project serve as criteria. From the information available to us no formal methodological instructions or advisory bodies are used.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

At the ministries this process is determined by the legislation (budget rules, grant provision rule etc.) and is performed under Grant Tenders and their Commissions. In the case of the aforementioned grant procedures, committees (Grant Tender Commissions) are set up, where representatives of national minorities are in the majority, nominated by each minority at a session of the Government Council for National Minorities. Representatives of public administration are in the minority here, but the Commission has the status of an advisory body to the relevant Deputy Minister, who may in cases worthy of note make changes to the Commission's proposals, the final proposal is approved by the Minister. A Commission has its Statutes and Rules of Procedure. The results of projects from earlier years (including their accounts) may serve as a reference measure. These are the Ministries of Culture and the Ministry of Education. No other external institution is involved in the process.

At local authority level decisions are made in accordance with the relevant generally binding regulations, for the selection itself, which Commissions will decide is not defined. In the case of some communities the Committees for National Minorities (set up under Act No.128/2000 Coll., on communities (villages) (as later amended), can be of assistance.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

The allocation of a grant is done in the form of a Decision on Provision of a Non-investment Grant from the Czech State Budget, from a statutory representative of the relevant Ministry (as a rule this is the Deputy Minister). The position at local authority level is similar, only in some places is the form of an institutional gift, or contract, used.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

The government announces annually the main areas for grant policy - the Main Long-Term Areas of State Grant Policy with respect to Non-Government Non-Profit Organisations (for 2010 it has approved a total of 15 of these and by Decree No. 885 dated 13th July 2009, national minorities were established as priority 5, the Roma community as priority 6). In addition to these annually updated priority areas specific legislation is applied, Act No. 273/2001 Coll., the Act on Minorities and Government Decree No. 98/2002 Coll. (see Annexes 1 and 2) These also govern a local authority which has the option, in line with local requirements, to support the activity of national minority organisations with its own funds.

Part of the announcement of Public Grant Competition for the relevant grant programme is also an announcement of the conditions for a successful project submission. In some cases Ministries limit the number of projects accepted from one organisation.

In the autumn of 2007 the Ministry of Culture organised a seminar for members of national minorities on grant programmes, the conditions for provision of grants and the submission of projects.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

The system of providing grants in the Czech Republic is founded on announcements of grant programmes, which is a grant linked to a specific purpose. In exceptional circumstances a project is supported *ad hoc*, usually as an expression of political interest from the government (for example, one-off financial support for a project to build a monument to Greek immigrants, one-off support to repair sacred memorials for Moravian Croats, financial support for reconstruction of the building which would later house the National Minorities House in Prague).

The application for provision of a grant is always in the form of a project, whose form normally contains the conditions for the project (timetable), budget, information on the organisation and other information. The form normally has about 15 pages.

10. Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?

Yes. These reports are always required by the grant provider. The latter may require initial accounting documentation. Its partner in this is the statutory body of the organisation. For a number of reasons, the local relevant tax office, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Finance, may be asked to perform an audit. In 2003 and 2004 the Supreme Audit Office also undertook a campaign to check organisations of members of national minorities. For this campaign it issued so-called Audit Findings which it submitted to the government, with the audited organisations and relevant departments having the right to submit their views.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

Each year the secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities prepares for the Council, and then for the government an extensive document, the Report on the Position of National Minorities in the Czech Republic for the preceding year. It does so on the basis of § 12 of Government Decree No. 98/2002 Coll. (see Annex No. 2) Inter alia, the Report contains a chapter on grant policy, part of which is also an assessment of projects. The Prime Minister distributes the document for the information of the relevant parliamentary committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Czech Parliament.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

This function is performed first by the Ministry of Finance, under the Supreme Audit Office, an institution which as part of its audit activities can focus both on public administration bodies and on the non-governmental sector (see Question 10). As part of their "audit" activity both Chambers of the Czech Parliament may also apply their activity of these parties to the provision of grants to organisations of members of national minorities.

Annex 1

**Act N. 273 Coll.
on rights of members of national minorities and amendment of some acts**

(Collection of Laws Czech Republic – Act from 10 July 2001, Distributed on 2 August 2001.)
Amendment: Act N. 320/2002 Coll. (Valid since January 1, 2003, see § 6 and 13a)

P R E A M B L E

The Parliament of the Czech Republic as the parliament of a democratic and legal state
considering the right of national and ethnic identity as a part of human rights;
respecting the identity of members of national minorities as individuals and a group representing itself especially by its own culture, traditions and language;
considering the creation of a multicultural society and attempting to facilitate the harmonious coexistence of national minorities with the majority population;
guaranteeing members of national minorities the right of their active participation in cultural, social and economic life and public affairs, especially those which concern national minorities;
protecting rights of members of national minorities in accordance with international conventions on human rights and fundamental freedoms by which the Czech Republic is bound, with the Constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms
decided by resolution on this Act of the Czech Republic:

**P A R T 1
RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

**C H A P T E R I
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS**

§ 1

Subject of amendment

(1) This act regulates rights of members of national minorities and responsibilities of ministries, other administrative authorities and bodies of regional self-government units (thereafter „public administration bodies“) in relation to them.

(2) The provisions of special legal regulations which regulate rights of members of national minorities are not prejudiced by this act.

§ 2

Definition of basic concepts

(1) A national minority is a community of citizens of the Czech Republic who live on the territory of the present Czech Republic and as a rule differ from other citizens by their common ethnic origin, language, culture and traditions; they represent a minority of citizens and at the same time they show their will to be considered a national minority for the purpose of common efforts to preserve and develop their own identity, language and culture and at the same time express and preserve interests of their community which has been formed during history.

(2) The member of a national minority is a citizen of the Czech Republic who professes other than Czech ethnic origin and wishes to be considered a member of a national minority in common with the others who profess the same ethnic origin.

CHAPTER II RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

§ 3

Exercise of rights of members of national minorities

(1) Members of national minorities individually or in common with other members of a national minority are guaranteed to be able to exercise their rights determined by this act, special legal regulations or international conventions on human rights and fundamental freedoms by which the Czech Republic is bound.

(2) Exercise of rights of national minorities must not be restricted or ruled out.

§ 4

Free choice of membership of a national minority

(1) The membership of a national minority must not cause loss to anyone.

(2) The public administration bodies do not keep records of members of national minorities. Procuring, processing and using personal data concerning the membership of a national minority comply with provisions of special legal regulations.⁴⁾ The data on professing ethnic origin procured by these bodies during the census or according to another special act that enables the determination of the membership of a national minority must not be used for any other purpose than that for which they have been collected and stored and after statistical processing they must be destroyed.

§ 5

Right of association of members of a national minority

Members of a national minority can associate in national associations and political parties and movements under conditions and in a way determined by special legal regulations.⁵⁾

§ 6

Right of participation in dealing with matters concerning a national minority

(1) Members of a national minority have the right to their active participation in cultural, social and economic life and public affairs, especially those concerning national minorities whose members they are, and this at the level of community, region and state as a whole.

(2) Members of a national minority exercise their right according to paragraph 1 especially by means of committees for national minorities established according to special legal regulations⁶⁾ and the government's Council for National Minorities (thereafter "the Council").

(3) The government establishes the Council as its consultative and initiative body for matters concerning national minorities and their members. At the head of it is a member of the government.

(4) Members of the Council are representatives of national minorities and public authorities; at least half of them must be representatives of national minorities nominated by associations of members of national minorities.

(5) The Council is competent to

⁴⁾ Act N. 101/2000 Coll. on protection of personal data and amendment of some acts, as amended.

⁵⁾ Act N. 83/1990 Coll. on association of citizens, as amended.

Act N. 424/1991 Coll. on association in political parties and movements, as amended.

Act N. 220/1999 Coll. on the course of national or compensatory military service, military training and legal position of reservists.

Act N. 221/1999 Coll. on regular soldiers, as amended by the Act N. 155/2000 Coll.

⁶⁾ Act N. 128/2000 Coll. on communities (local government), as amended by the Act N. 273/2001 Coll.

Act N. 129/2000 Coll. on regions (regional government), as amended by the Act N. 273/2001 Coll.

Act N. 131/2000 Coll. on capital Prague, as amended.

- a) arrange for the preparation of governmental measures concerning the rights of members of national minorities in the Czech Republic;
- b) express opinions on motions for bills, governmental regulations and measures concerning the rights of members of national minorities before their submission to the government;
- c) prepare for the government overall reports on the situation of national minorities on the territory of the Czech Republic;
- d) prepare for the government, ministries or other administrative authorities recommendations for satisfying the needs of members of national minorities especially in the field of the education system, culture and media, using their mother tongue, and social and cultural life;
- e) co-operate with local self-government bodies in the practical application of state policy relating to national minorities;
- f) propose the distribution of finances expended from the Budget for the support of activities of members of national minorities.

(6) Details concerning the composition of the Council and the way of nomination of its members and its activities are determined in rules of the Council sanctioned by the government.

(7) A regional authority directs and co-ordinates with extended competence within its administrative region the fulfilment of tasks in the field of state policy assisting in the exercise of rights of members of the Roma community and the integration of members of the Roma community into the society.

(8) A local authority of a community fulfils with extended competence within its administrative region the tasks assisting in the exercise of rights of members of the Roma community and the integration of members of the Roma community into the society.

§ 7

Right of using name and surname in the language of a national minority

Members of national minorities have the right to use their name and surname in the language of their national minority under conditions determined by a special legal regulation.⁷⁾

§ 8

Right of multilingual names and denominations

(1) Members of national minorities living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic have the right to have the name of a community in which they live, the names of its parts, streets and public places as well as the functions of buildings of public authorities and electoral rooms posted in the language of the national minority as well as in the Czech language.

(2) Conditions for exercise of this right according to paragraph 1 and the way of denomination of multilingual names are determined in a special legal regulation.⁸⁾

§ 9

Right of using the language of a national minority in official documentation and discourse and hearing before a court

Members of national minorities living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic have right to use the language of a national minority in official documentation and discourse and hearing before a court. Conditions for exercise of this right are determined in special legal regulations.⁹⁾

⁷⁾ Act N. 301/2000 Coll. on registers, name and surname and amendment of some related acts.

⁸⁾ Act N. 128/2000 Coll. as amended by the Act N. 273/2001 Coll.

⁹⁾ § 18 of the Act N. 99/1963 Coll. on the Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended by the Act N. 30/2000 Coll.

§ 7 of the Act N. 335/1991 Coll. on courts and judges.

§ 2 of the Act N. 141/1961 Coll. on judicial criminal proceedings (Rules of Criminal Procedure), as amended.

§ 33 of the Act N. 182/1993 Coll. on the Constitutional Court.

§ 12 of the Act N. 563/1991 Coll. on accounting.

§ 46a of the Act N. 202/1990 Coll. on lotteries and similar games, as amended by the Act N. 149/1998 Coll.

§ 3 of the Act N. 337/1992 Coll. on administration of taxes and charges, as amended by the Act N. 35/1993 Coll. and the Act N. 255/1994 Coll.

§ 10

Right of using the language of a national minority during elections

Under conditions determined by special legal regulations¹⁰⁾ 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.

§ 11

Right of education in the language of a national minority

(1) Members of national minorities living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic have the right of upbringing and education in their mother tongue at schools, pre-school and school institutions under conditions determined by special legal regulations.¹¹⁾

(2) Members of national minorities according to paragraph 1 are allowed under conditions determined by special legal regulations⁸⁾ to establish

- a) private schools using the language of a national minority as the teaching language or teaching the language of a national minority as a school subject;
- b) private pre-school and school institutions.

§ 12

Right of the development of culture of members of national minorities

(1) Members of national minorities have the right to maintain and develop their language, culture and traditions and the right to respect for them.

(2) The state creates preconditions for maintaining and developing culture, traditions and languages of members of national minorities living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic; it supports especially such programmes which are specialised in theatres, museums, galleries, libraries, documentation and other activities of members of national minorities. For this purpose it provides grants from the Budget; conditions and the way of providing grants are determined in a government decree.

§ 13

Right of spreading and receiving information in the language of a national minority

(1) Members of national minorities have the right to spread and receive information in their language.

(2) For the purpose of maintaining and developing culture, traditions and languages the state supports publishing periodical and non-periodical printed matter and radio and television broadcasting in the languages of national minorities living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic. For this purpose it provides grants from the Budget; conditions and the way of providing grants are determined by a government decree.

(3) Creating and disseminating radio and television broadcasting related to members of national minorities and implemented by legitimate operators are determined by special legal regulations.¹²⁾

„13a

The competencies awarded to a regional authority or the local authority of a community with extended competence according to this Act are the exercise of delegated competence“.

¹⁰⁾ Act N. 152/1994 Coll. on elections to community councils and amendment of some other acts, as amended.
Act N. 130/2000 Coll. on elections to regional councils and amendment of some acts, as amended by the Act 273/2001 Coll.
Act N. 247/1995 Coll. on elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic, as amended.

¹¹⁾ Act N. 76/1978 Coll. on school institutions, as amended.
Act N. 29/1984 Coll. on the system of primary schools, secondary schools and secondary modern schools (Education Act), as amended.
Act N. 564/1990 Coll. on state administration and self-administration in educational system, as amended.

¹²⁾ Act N. 483/1991 Coll. on Czech Television, as amended.
Act N. 484/1991 Coll. on Czech Radio, as amended.

PART II**The amendment of the Act on Misdemeanours****§ 14**

The Act N. 200/1990 Coll. on misdemeanours as amended by the Act N. 337/1992 Coll., the Act N. 344/1992 Coll., the Act 359/1992 Coll., the Act N. 67/1993 Coll., the Act N. 290/1993 Coll., the Act N.134/1994 Coll., the Act N. 82/1995 Coll., the Act N. 237/1995 Coll., the Act N. 279/1995 Coll., the Act N. 289/1995 Coll., the Act N. 112/1998 Coll., the Act N. 168/1999 Coll., the Act N. 360/1999 Coll., the Act 29/2000 Coll., the Act N. 121/2000 Coll., the Act N. 132/2000 Coll., the Act N. 151/2000 Coll., the Act 258/2000 Coll., the Act N. 361/2000 Coll., the Act 370/2000 Coll., the Judgement of the Constitutional Court N. 52/2001 Coll., the Act N. 164/2001 Coll., the Act N. 254/2001 Coll., the Act N. 265/2001 Coll. and the Act N. 274/2001 Coll. is amended as follows:

1. In § 49 at the end of paragraph 1 the full stop is replaced by a comma and the subparagraphs d) and e) are amended; their wording is as follows:

- "d) restricts or precludes a member of a national minority from the exercise of rights of members of national minorities;
- e) causes loss to another person for his membership of a national minority or ethnic origin, race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other views, membership or activity in political parties or movements, trade unions or other associations, social origin, property, birth, health condition, marriage or family status."

2. In § 49 paragraph 2 after words „1 000 crowns“ the conjunction „and“ is replaced by a comma and at the end of the text the words „and for a misdemeanours according to the paragraph 1 d) and e) the penalty to the level of 5 000 crowns“ are added.

PART III**The amendment of the Act on Communities****§ 15**

The Act N. 128/2000 Coll. on communities (local government) is amended as follows:

1. In § 29 paragraph 2 the figure „20“ is replaced by the figure „10“ and the figure „50“ is replaced by the figure „40“.

2. In § 117 paragraph 3 in the first sentence the figure „15“ is replaced by the figure „10“; at the end of the second sentence the full stop is replaced by a semicolon and the text „but members of national minorities must always represent at least the half of all members of the committee“ is added.

PART IV**The amendment of the Act on Regions****§ 16**

In § 72 paragraph 2 of the Act N. 129/2000 Coll. on regions (regional government) the figure „10“ is replaced by the figure „5“ and the words „the same ethnic origin other than Czech“ are replaced by the words „the ethnic origin other than Czech“; at the end of the second sentence the full stop is replaced by a semicolon and the text „but members of national minorities must always represent at least the half of all members of the committee“ is added.

PART V**The amendment of the Act on Capital Prague****§ 17**

In § 78 paragraph 2 of the Act N. 131/2000 Coll. on capital Prague in the first sentence the figure „15“ is replaced by the figure „5“; at the end of the second sentence the full stop is replaced by a semicolon and the text „but members of national minorities must always represent at least the half of all members of the committee“ is added.

PART VI

The amendment of the Act on Elections to Community Councils

§ 18

In § 31 of the Act N. 152/1994 Coll. on elections to community councils and amendment of some other acts paragraph 3 is amended; its wording including footnote N. 10a) is as follows:

”(3) In a community where the committee for national minorities is being established according to a special act 10a), the by-law according to paragraphs 1 and 2 will be issued also in the language of respective national minority.

^{10a)} § 117 paragraph 3 of the Act N. 128/2000 Coll. on communities (local government), as amended by the Act N. 273/2001 Coll. ”.

PART VII

The amendment of the Act on Elections to Regional Councils

§ 19

In § 27 of the Act N. 130/200 Coll. on elections to regional councils and amendment of some acts paragraph 3 is amended; its wording including footnote N.18a is as follows:

”(3) In a region where the committee for national minorities is being established according to a special act 18a), the notice according to paragraphs 1 and 2 will be issued also in the language of respective national minority.

^{18a)} § 78 paragraph 2 of the Act N. 129/2000 Coll. on regions (regional government), as amended by the Act N. 273/2001 Coll. ”.

PART VIII

COMING INTO EFFECT

§ 20

This act comes into effect on the date of its promulgation.

Klaus, in his own hand
Havel, in his own hand
PP Špidla, in his own hand

Annex 2**Collection of Laws N. 98/2002****G o v e r n m e n t D e c r e e**

dated on February 20, 2002

**which determines the conditions and way of providing grants
from the State Budget for the activities of members of national minorities
and the support of integration of members of the Roma community**

The Government orders according to § 12/2 and § 13/2 of Act N. 273/2001 Coll. on the rights of members of national minorities and the amendment of some acts and for the completion of Act N. 218/2000 on budgetary rules and the amendment of some relating acts (budgetary rules), as amended by Act N. 493/2000 Coll. Act N. 187/2001 Coll., Act N. 320/2001 Coll. and Act N. 450/2001 Coll.

P A R T O N E**GENERAL PART****§ 1****THE SUBJECT OF LEGISLATION**

(1) This Decree amends the conditions and way of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of members of national minorities, preservation and development of culture, traditions and languages of members of national minorities, dissemination and acceptance of information in languages of members of national minorities that have been living on the territory of the Czech Republic as well as their education and the support of integration of members of the Roma community (hereinafter "grants").

(2) Grants for activities mentioned in Clause 1 are provided to natural or legal persons in accordance with a special legislation regulation.¹³⁾

§ 2**THE DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS**

For the purposes of this Decree

- a) a provider is a state administration authority that announces and implements a competitive grant procedure and decides grants provided to members of national minorities for a certain purpose or activity for the benefit of members of national minorities,
- b) an applicant is a person who applies for a grant by the submission of a project;
- c) an acceptor is an applicant for whose benefit a provider decides to provide a grant and who implements a project;
- d) a project is the description of activity aimed at the activities of members of national minorities or activities for the benefit of members of national minorities in the field of
 - 1. the preservation, development and presentation of cultures of national minorities,
 - 2. the dissemination and acceptance of information in languages of national minorities or largely in languages of national minorities or information on national minorities in society,
 - 3. education in languages of national minorities and multicultural upbringing, or
 - 4. the support of integration of members of the Roma population,
- e) competitive granting procedures including the announcement of a competitive granting procedure, acceptance of applications for grants and offers of projects, evaluation of projects, proposals of amounts for their implementation and issuance of decisions on grants.¹⁴⁾

¹³⁾ Act N. 218/2000 Coll. on budgetary rules and the amendment of some acts (budgetary rules), as amended by following regulations.

§ 3

MEASURES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF STATE FINANCIAL INTEREST

(1) After discussion with the Government Council for National Minorities (hereinafter “Council“) a provider proposes in its chapter of the State Budget a specific binding index for activities of members of national minorities for every budget year or activities for the benefit of national minorities including a specific binding index for the support of integration of members of the Roma population, especially

- a) the Ministry of Culture for respective fields according to § 2d) 1 and 2
- b) the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for respective fields according to § 2d) 2 and 4 and
- c) the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for a respective field according to § 2d) 4.

(2) Before discussion with a provider the chairman of the Council discusses the proposal of a specific binding index for the support of integration of members of the Roma community with the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for the affairs of the Roma community (hereinafter “integration authority“).

§ 4

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A COMPETITIVE GRANTING PROCEDURE

(1) Before the announcement of a competitive granting procedure a provider discusses with the Council its proposal concerning the main fields of distribution of financial means from the State Budget in respective fields according to § 2) d. As for a proposal concerning the support of integration of members of the Roma community, he will discuss it in advance with the integration authority.

(2) In the term determined in co-operation with the Council a provider announces every year competitive granting procedures concerning projects for the support of activities of members of national minorities and by means of the Council and in co-operation with the integration authority it announces competitive granting procedures concerning projects for the support of integration of members of the Roma community. Then he announces the conditions of a competitive granting procedure by means of mass media and within an accessible information system.

(3) A provider determines criteria for the evaluation of projects in co-operation with the Council; as for the projects concerning the integration of members of the Roma community, the Council also co-operates with the integration authority.

§ 5

THE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS AND PROJECTS

(1) An applicant submits to a provider three copies of an application for a grant with a project plus annexes in writing.

(2) If an application is submitted by a legal person, she must add to her project the copy of the legal personality record; in addition, both legal and natural persons must add the copy of the document of a company registration number and the affirmation that on the day of submitting the application she has no financial obligations to the State Budget, state fund, health insurance company or the budget of a territorial self-government unit¹⁵⁾ and the affirmation that she agrees with the disclosure of identification data and the amount of a grant in an accessible information system of providers.

§ 6

THE PROJECT

(1) Any project must be elaborated according to conditions determined by a provider and submitted on a prescribed form. A provider publishes the conditions of elaboration of a project and the standard form of a form in an accessible information system.

(2) An integral part of a project must be the budget for its implementation.

¹⁴⁾ § 14/3 of Act N. 218/2000 Coll.

¹⁵⁾ Act N. 250/2000 Coll. on budgetary rules of regional budgets, as amended by following regulations.

(3) A project must be implemented within its respective calendar year; if the implementation of a project lasts more than one year, it is necessary to submit the whole project including budgets for individual years and enumerate exactly which part is implemented in each respective calendar year.

(4) According to § 2) d one applicant can submit at most 3 projects in each field for each respective calendar year.

§ 7

THE EVALUATION OF PROJECTS

(1) Projects are evaluated within the competitive granting procedures of a provider. For these purposes a provider establishes a competitive grant procedures committee. During the nomination of members of a competitive grant procedures committee a provider takes account of the Council's proposals. The members of the Council or other representatives of members of national minorities nominated by the Council must be represented in every competitive grant procedures committee which evaluates projects aimed at the activities of members of national minorities or activities for the benefit of members of national minorities.

(2) A provider's competitive grant procedures committee for the evaluation of projects in the field of integration of members of the Roma community must include representatives of the integration authority.

(3) A provider informs the Council about the results of a competitive granting procedure immediately. The same practice is applied in case of projects aimed at the integration of members of the Roma community in regard to the integration authority.

§ 8

CONDITIONS FOR PROVIDING A GRANT AND ITS USE

(1) It is possible to provide a grant only for a purpose mentioned in a provider's decision. A provider of a grant can make modifications during a budget year on the basis of a written application of an acceptor by means of the issuance of a new decision.

(2) It is possible to provide a grant to applicants who can prove that they have acted for the benefit of members of national minorities for at least 1 year.

(3) There is no legal claim to a grant.¹⁶⁾ It is possible to provide a grant only to those applicants who have no financial obligations according to § 5/2.

(4) It is possible to provide a grant which equals 70% of budgetary expenses on an approved project. In cases with special circumstances a provider can increase this percentage.

(5) During the assessment of a grant according to Clause 4 it is necessary to take account of expenses relating to wages at the level comparable with adequate pay for similar activities within the budget according to a special legislation regulation.¹⁷⁾

(6) A grant for the implementation of a project can be used for the coverage of expenses on business trips on the territory of the Czech Republic at the level determined by a special legislation regulation for employees in employment.¹⁸⁾ The financial means of a grant can be used for the coverage of travelling expenses only if a business trip is an integral part of a project.

(7) A grant is not an investment. A grant for the procurement or improvement upon tangible and intangible property can be provided according to a special legislation regulation.¹⁹⁾

(8) It is not possible to use a grant for the coverage of expenses for treats and gifts for authorised representatives of legal persons.

(9) An acceptor can use a grant only in accordance with an approved budget for the implementation of a project and the conditions for the use of a grant in accordance with the decision on providing a grant.

¹⁶⁾ § 14/1 of Act N. 218/2000 Coll.

¹⁷⁾ Act N. 143/1992 Coll. on wages and compensations for being on duty in budgetary and some other organisations and authorities, as amended by following regulations.
Government Decree N. 251/1992 Coll. on wages of employees of budgetary or some other organisations, as amended by following regulations.

¹⁸⁾ Act N. 119/1992 Coll. on the coverage of travelling expenses, as amended by following regulations.

¹⁹⁾ § 12 and 13 of Act N. 218/2000 Coll.

§ 9

THE ISSUANCE OF A DECISION

- (1) A grant is provided on the basis of a provider 's decision on providing a grant from the State Budget.²⁰⁾
- (2) In his decision a provider determines the conditions of use of a grant from the State Budget.

§ 10

THE ACCEPTOR

- (1) If the details of an acceptor mentioned in the decision on providing a grant are changed, he is obliged to inform a provider immediately and in writing about this change.
- (2) If a project is not implemented, an acceptor is obliged to pay the finances back to the account from which a grant for this project has been provided within the same year.
- (3) If a project terminates prematurely during the year, an acceptor is obliged to submit data on the financial settlement of a grant within 30 days of the termination of the project and pay the finances back to the account from which they have been drawn (if possible before 31 December of the respective year) or to the deposit account of a provider.²¹⁾

§ 11

CONTROL AND FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

- (1) The control of complying with conditions of drawing the grant in accordance with this Decree and sanctions for the infringement use or detention of financial means conform to special legislation regulation.²²⁾
- (2) An acceptor is responsible both for the economical use of finances in accordance with purposes for which they have been provided and the settlement of a grant.
- (3) An acceptor who receives a grant from the State Budget is obliged to submit information on the financial settlement of the grant to the provider before 15 February of the next calendar year.⁹⁾
- (4) If an acceptor does not carry out the financial settlement of a grant before the determined date, he will get no further grant in the year in which he is obliged to settle the grant.
- (5) A provider terminates the financial settlement of grants for the activities of members of national minorities carried out in the previous year before 1 March of the next year; he then notifies the Council of the results of control of the financial settlement of grants before 31 March; if projects are aimed at the integration of members of the Roma community, he notifies the integration authority. This is without prejudice to a provider 's obligation to act in accordance with principles and terms of the financial settlement of obligations to the State Budget.²³⁾
- (6) A provider controls the implementation of selected projects aimed at the activities of members of national minorities in co-operation with the Council; if projects are aimed at the support of integration of members of the Roma community, he acts in co-operation with the integration authority.

²⁰⁾ § 14/3 of Act N. 218/2000 Coll.

²¹⁾ Decree N. 12/2001 Coll. which determines the principles and terms of the financial settlement of obligations to the State Budget.

²²⁾ For example Act N. 320/2001 Coll. on financial control in state administration and the amendment of some acts (Financial Control Act); § 44 of Act N. 218/2000 Coll., as amended by Act N. 187/2001 Coll. and Act N. 320/2001 Coll.

²³⁾ § 2/4 b) of Decree N. 12/2001 Coll. which determines the principles and terms of the financial settlement of obligations to the State Budget.

§ 12

REPORTS ON THE USE OF GRANTS

In co-operation with the chairman of the integration authority and providers who provide from the chapters of their budgets respective grants for the activities of members of national minorities the chairman of the Council submits to the government annual summarising reports on the situation of nationalities on the territory of the Czech Republic including the evaluation of the use of grants provided during the last calendar year in accordance with this Decree.

§ 13

THE PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION AND THE REGISTRY OF GRANTS

(1) All data on competitive granting procedures, their results and the level of grants are published in an accessible information system of providers.

(2) In co-operation with providers the Council publishes an aggregate table of approved grants for the activities of members of national minorities on its page in an accessible information system of the Office of the Government. The integration authority publishes in the same way an aggregate table of approved grants for projects aimed at the support of integration of members of the Roma community.

(3) Every calendar year providers register data on non-governmental non-profit organisations which received a grant from the State Budget for the activities of members of national minorities or activities for the benefit of national minorities and the support of integration of members of the Roma community into an accessible information system within the central registry of grants provided from the budget of the Ministry of Finance.

P A R T T W O**SPECIAL PART****The support of preservation, development and presentation
of cultures of national minorities**

§ 14

(1) The aim of the support is to preserve and develop the cultures of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic as well as to study, analyse and demonstrate national cultures and folk traditions of minorities by documentation, understanding and tolerance in society, knowledge of history, traditions and culture of various ethnic groups and improvement of communication between the majority and minorities. A provider of grants for these activities is the Ministry of Culture.

(2) The Ministry of Culture proposes financial means for the support of activities mentioned in Clause 1 as a specific binding index 'The Support of Cultural Activities of National Minorities' within its chapter of the State Budget for every budget year.

§ 15

It is possible to provide grants for projects concerning

- a) theatres,
- b) museums,
- c) galleries,
- d) libraries,
- e) documentation,
- f) issuance of non-periodical publications,
- g) issuance of periodical publications out of the grants according to § 17.
- h) other activities of members of national minorities, especially artistic, cultural and educational ones, study, analyses and documentation of national cultures and folk traditions of national minorities, publications and multi-ethnic activities.

The support of dissemination and acceptance of information in languages of national minorities

§ 16

(1) The support from the State Budget is aimed at creating conditions for the dissemination and acceptance of information in languages of national minorities or largely in languages of national minorities and information on national minorities in the society. The provider of grants for this purpose is the Ministry of Culture.

(2) The Ministry of Culture proposes financial means for the support of activities mentioned in Clause 1 as a specific binding index 'The Support of Dissemination and Acceptance of Information in Languages of National Minorities' in its chapter of the State Budget for every budget year.

§ 17

The support of projects aimed at the dissemination and acceptance of information relates to

- a) periodical publications issued in languages of national minorities or largely in languages of national minorities or information on national minorities in society,
- b) radio or television broadcasting in languages of national minorities or largely in languages of national minorities or information on national minorities in society.

§ 18

(1) An applicant can apply for a grant for the support of a project according to § 17a) only if he submits a project concerning the issuance of printed matter which complies with conditions of a special legislation regulation.²⁴⁾

(2) A competitive granting procedure relates to the publishers of periodical publications of national minorities which are not profitable or distributed on the basis of a contract to distributors not on the territory of the Czech Republic. A periodical publication must be accessible to the citizens of the Czech Republic, members of national minorities and the majority.

(3) Both legal and natural persons whose activity is focused on activities of national minorities can take part in a competitive granting procedure concerning the publishing of periodical publications of national minorities.

(4) An applicant for a grant for the issuance of periodical publications of national minorities justifies an application for a grant and fills in the form including the preliminary calculation of expenses in a prescribed table, total budget of financial expenses, presupposed income, information on the purpose of a publication, way of distribution and other data, if a provider asks for them.

(5) A grant for the issuance of periodical publications of national minorities can be provided only for provable material, production and overhead expenses on the publishing and distribution of printed matters of national minorities after the abatement of presupposed income from the sale of a publication with regard to usual market prices.

(6) An operator of radio or television broadcasting can apply for a grant for the support of radio or television broadcasting in languages of national minorities. Projects can be aimed at the production of individual programmes or series in languages of national minorities or largely in languages of national minorities or programmes on national minorities or multicultural programmes.

The support of education in languages of national minorities and multicultural upbringing

§ 19

(1) The aim of the support is to create conditions for the realisation of state policy in the field of education in languages of national minorities and multicultural upbringing. The support of projects focused on the multicultural upbringing of children and young people is aimed at strengthening the awareness of human solidarity, upbringing to democratic citizenship, knowledge of history and culture of other nations, mutual tolerance and the fight against racism and xenophobia. The provider of grants for these activities from the State Budget is the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

²⁴⁾ Act N. 46/2000 Coll. on rights and duties relating to the issuance of periodical publications and the amendment of some other acts (Press Act).

(2) The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports proposes financial means for the support of activities mentioned in Clause 1 as a special binding index 'The Support of Education in Languages of National Minorities and Multicultural Upbringing' in its chapter of the State Budget for every budget year.

§ 20

The support of projects aimed at education in languages of national minorities, out-of-school and leisure activities of children and young people from members of national minorities and projects aimed at multicultural upbringing relates to

- a) language courses for children and young people from members of national minorities,
- b) sociocultural, sportive and other educational activities of children and young people from members of national minorities,
- c) documentation, analyses, research and elaboration of educational programmes in the field of education of national minorities.

The support of projects aimed at the integration of members of the Roma community

§ 21

(1) The aim of the support is to create equal conditions for members of the Roma community, especially in the field of education and welfare laying stress on prevention of the social discrimination of members of the Roma community, situation of Roma women, assurance of the participation of members of the Roma community in the application of integration programmes, atmosphere of trust, understanding and tolerance in society, knowledge of history and traditions of the Roma population, improvement of communication between the Roma community and the majority. Providers of grants for projects aimed at the integration of members of the Roma population are the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

(2) Respective ministries propose financial means for the support of activities mentioned in Clause 1 as a specific binding index 'The Support of Projects for the Integration of Members of the Roma Community' in their chapters of the State Budget for every budget year.

§ 22

Grants for the support of projects aimed at the integration of members of the Roma community are provided to legal persons.

§ 23

The support of projects in the field of the integration of members of the Roma community relates to the support of

- a) integration of members of the Roma community, especially in the field of social and cultural activities and education,
- b) education of Roma pupils and students,
- c) development of providing special social services.

P A R T T H R E E

FINAL PROVISION

§ 24

The effect of the Decree

This Decree comes into effect on 15 April, 2002.

Prime Minister:
Ing. Zeman

Deputy Prime Minister:
JUDr. Rychetský

Annex 3

Support for the activities of members of national minorities is one of the main long-term areas of state grant policy with respect to non-government non-profit organisations. It is achieved through grant programmes funded from the state budget and by subject is divided into the following programmes:

- a) Support for the maintenance, development and presentation of national minority cultures
- b) Support for spreading and receiving information in national minority languages
- c) Support for education in the national minority languages and multicultural training.
- d) Support for projects integrating members of the Roma community

Support for projects of activities of national minorities is dependent mainly on grants from the state budget. An overview of this is given in the following table, which documents expenditure paid by the state for activities of national minorities in 2008:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Specification</i>	<i>Grant provider (kind of grant)</i>	<i>Grant value (CZK)</i>
a)	Cultural activities of members of national minorities	Ministry of Culture (Dept. of regional and nationalities culture - grant programme)	9 913 029.-
	The Khamoro world Roma festival in Prague	Ministry of Culture (Government Decree No. 347/2003)	2 000 000.-
	Operation of the Museum of Roma culture in Brno.	Ministry of Culture (Dept of Protection for movable cultural heritage, museums, galleries)	8 133 000.-
	Operation of the Terezín Memorial		25 776 000.-
	The Vagón project (Slovak-Czech Club)	Ministry of Culture (foreign Dept)	200 000.-
	Grants for activities of members of national minorities	Ministry of Culture, Dept of Arts and Libraries (grant programme)	3 470 000.-
	Grant for Library of the 21st Century		142 000.-
b)	Support for spreading and receiving information in national minority languages	Ministry of Culture (grant programme)	28 767 000.-
c)	Education in the national minority languages and multicultural training.	Ministry of Education (grant programme)	15 901 331.-
d) ²⁵	Integration of members of the Roma community	Ministry of Culture (grant programme)	1 991 482.-
	Support for education of socially disadvantaged children, pupils and students	Ministry of Education (grant programme)	14 319 000.-
	Integration of members of the Roma community-support for Roma pupils in secondary schools		10 000 000.-
	Programme to prevent social exclusion in Roma communities ²⁶	Czech Office of the Government (grant programme)	19 998 600.-
	Coordinators for Roma advisors in regional government offices ³²		4 217 730.-
	Support for field social work		9 700 000.-
<i>au hoc proje</i>	Implementation of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages	Czech Office of the Government (Government Decree No. 637 dated 11th June 2005, GTA Chapter	751 125.40

Total: 155 280 297.40 CZK

²⁵ The Programme for Integration of Members of the Roma Community (under OP RLZ) administered by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, for grant projects with a total allocation of 477 474 000,- CZK, for individual projects in the regions to an overall value of 95 500 000,- CZK and for the Czech Office of the Government to the value of 100 million CZK on the *Roma Localities Agency* project, is not included here.

²⁶ On the basis of Government Decree No. 841 dated 25th July 2007 on the Control Conclusions of the Supreme Audit Office on Control No. 06/04: State Budget Funds included in the General Treasury Administration Chapter, items dealing with support for the activities of members of national minorities and the integration of the Roma community were transferred from 2008 from the GTA Chapter to the budget of the Office of the Government.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY DENMARK

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- description/name and size of the national minority;

Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger - German Minority. Due to the Bonn-Copenhagen Declaration it is not allowed to count the members of the minorities in the German Danish border Region. The German Minority estimates themselves that they have 15.000-20.000 members.

- number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).

The German Minority is organized with one umbrella organization - Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (Federation of German North Schleswigers) (BDN). All organizations of the German Minority are represented through this main body. Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger is responsible for the finances of the German Minority.

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

The Danish government subsidizes:

- Private schools - through the Danish law on private school.
- German Newspaper for Radio Broadcast
- The German Minority's Secretariat in Copenhagen - in 1983 a special secretariat to the German minority was set up in Copenhagen. The secretariat, established in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office, handles some of the tasks that used to be handled by the Liaison Committee. The German Minority's Secretariat in Copenhagen is engaged in close co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior's Secretariat to the Liaison Committee concerning the German Minority.
- The German minority library system - to promote effective equality in the library field the Act regarding library services § 17 provides subsidy for the German minority's library system. The German minority's library system has a central library, four municipal libraries and two mobile libraries. The collection comprises some 230,000 books from German literature.
- Social work - the German minority has established the association Sozialdienst Nordschleswig with a view to promoting social work for the minority. The association, which undertakes a broad spectrum of social tasks, primarily based on voluntary labour, has for some years received an annual grant from the Danish Ministry of Interior and Social Affairs' pool for the support of voluntary social work.
- General cultural purposes in a broad perspective.

The Danish regional government / municipalities also provide financial supports for the Kindergartens and support for the social work (Sozialdienst), libraries and smaller project funds.

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?

Subsidies for the German Minority are not determined as a total amount. Each subsidy is granted by the relevant body/authority.

- Private school – subsidies are granted by the Danish Ministry of Education (law nr. 705 of 03/07/2009, art. 10 and 11, no. 3, <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=125969>).
- German Newspaper for Radio Broadcast – decision is made by the Danish Ministry of Culture.
- The German Minority's Secretariat in Copenhagen - The Ministry of Interior and Social affairs contributes an annual grant to the operating expenses of the German Minority's Secretariat in Copenhagen. Formal decision is made by the Danish Parliament when passing the financial budget. (art. 15.11.17. <http://www.oes-cs.dk/bevillingslove/fl09x15.pdf>).
- German minority library system - The Ministry of Culture contributes an annual grant. Formal decision is made by the Danish Parliament when passing the financial budget (art. 21.31.04 <http://www.oes-cs.dk/bevillingslove/fl09x21.pdf>).
- Social work - pool for the support of voluntary social work - decision on whether to subsidize the social work or not is made by the Danish Ministry of Interior and Social Affairs. Subsidies deriving from the pool are normally granted on a yearly basis due to a financial support request.
- Kindergartens - decision on whether to subsidize a kindergarten or not and the specific amount is made by the regional government in the municipality in which the kindergarten is situated (statutory of order nr. 1233 of 11/12/2008, art. 13, <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=122586>)
- General cultural purposes - decision is made by the Danish Ministry of Culture.

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

The number of persons affiliated with the German minority is not a criteria when deciding on whether or not to grant the above mentioned subsidies.

- Subsidies for private schools are mandatory when meeting the criteria in the law on private schools. Every private school is entitled to a certain subsidy determined by the number of children taken in.
- German Newspaper for Radio Broadcast and general cultural purposes – Every year the Ministry of Culture gets to decide on distributing a certain amount of money between different general cultural purposes. There are not laid down any general criteria on how to qualify for subsidies off the funds towards general cultural purposes. The general guidelines on distribution of these funds are approved by the finance committee of parliament.
- German minority library system – the Act regarding library services states that the Danish government subsidizes the German minority library system (law nr. 914 of 20/08/2008, art. 17, <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=120665>). There are not laid down any specific criteria on how to qualify for subsidies.
- Social work - Every year the Ministry of Interior and Social Affairs gets to decide on distributing a certain amount of money between different projects dealing with voluntary work towards preventing and relieving social issues.
- Kindergarten – The statutory order on day care states that each kindergarten within the German minority is entitled to a certain subsidy determined by the number of children taken in. Subsidies for are mandatory when meeting the criteria in the statutory order.

5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?

Every subsidy is assigned to a particular purpose or unit.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

The distribution of subsidies is in general made by the public administration. Some specific subsidies for the private schools of the German minority are distributed by the German minority School Association (law on private schools art. 11, section 4).

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

The distribution of subsidies is made by a formal decision of an authority.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

The answer is in reference to the answer of question number four.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

- Subsidies towards the German minority library system and the German Minority's Secretariat in Copenhagen are not granted in consequence of a specific financial support request from the German minority.
- Subsidies for private schools and subsidies for kindergartens - the financial support request must contain sufficient information in order to enable the authority to come to a decision as to whether the criteria in the law on private schools or the statutory order on day care are met.
- German Newspaper for Radio Broadcast and general cultural purposes – there are no specific terms on how concrete a financial support request should be.
- Social work – the financial support request should reflect that the project meets the purpose of the pool - voluntary work towards preventing and relieving social issues.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

- Subsidies for private schools – the law on private schools art. 24, section 4, lays down general conditions on how to work out accounts and on auditing by an accountant.
- Subsidies towards the German Minority's Secretariat in Copenhagen – the Ministry of Interior and Social Affairs has laid down general conditions on how to work out accounts and on auditing by an accountant.
- German minority library system – the minority is obliged to set up annual financial accounts according to the Danish financial statements act (law nr. 395 of 25/05/2009, <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=125071>) The reporting is controlled by the same authority which is responsible for granting the subsidy (the Danish Agency for Libraries and Media).
- German Newspaper for Radio Broadcast and general cultural purposes – the Ministry of Culture has laid down general conditions on how to work out accounts and on auditing by an accountant (statutory order nr. 924 of 28/09/2009, <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=11971>) .
- Kindergartens – there are no general conditions in this respect.
- Social work – specific conditions on how to work out accounts are laid down (http://www.ism.dk/Puljer/sociale-omraader/frivillig/soc_arb_truede_mennesker/soeg-midler/Documents/PUF-vej1-2010.pdf).

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

The Liaison Committee concerning the German Minority was set up as an advisory committee in 1965. The tasks of the Committee, in accordance with clause I of its rules of procedure, are to assure the German minority contact with the Danish Government and Parliament and to negotiate domestic policy affairs of interest to the minority. Meetings are held as required, but at least once in every parliamentary session and, in addition, at the request of three members.

The Minister of the Interior chairs the Committee. The Minister of Education is Deputy Chairman. Furthermore, the Committee is made up of a representative of every party represented in Parliament and three representatives of the German minority who are appointed on the recommendation of the minority's political organisation, "Bund deutscher Nordschleswiger" (Federation of German North Schleswigers). Finally, the head of the German Minority's Secretariat in Copenhagen is a member, whereas the Secretary General of the German minority attends the meetings without being a member.

Examples of issues that have been considered by the Liaison Committee within the past few years include various **subsidy** schemes of relevance to the minority.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

- The Danish Constitution states that parliament elects a number of auditors. These auditors examine the annual public accounts to ensure that all State revenues have been entered and that there has been no expenditure that has not been authorised by the Finance Act or another appropriation Act. The auditors can demand all of the necessary information and documents. The detailed rules for the number of auditors and their activities are established by an Act (law nr. 169 of 05/06/1953, art. 47, section 2, <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=45902>).
- The act on local government states, that any local government shall have professional auditors who must be approved by the supervisory authority. Dismissal by the local council of the auditors shall require the consent of the supervisory authority (law nr. 581 of 24/06/2009, art. 42, <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=124591>).

The audit shall comprise all accounts under the local council. The audit shall verify the correctness of the accounts and whether the transactions reported in the accounts are in accordance with the appropriated grants, other decisions of the local council, laws and other regulations and with negotiated contracts and common practice. Furthermore, the carrying into effect of the decisions of the local council and the committees as well as the administration of local government affairs shall be assessed with a view to the relevance of their financial application.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY ESTONIA

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- description/name and size of the national minority;
- number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).

The biggest ethnic minorities are Russians (25.7% - about 350000), Ukrainians (2.1% - about 29000), Belarusians (1.2% - about 17000) and Finns (0.8% - about 11000). More than 120 nationalities are represented in Estonia. 67.2% of permanent residents consider Estonian as their native language. This means that both according to nationality and native language, non-Estonians form one-third of the population of Estonia. Most of the national minority groups are small, comprising few persons. New overall data will be collected in 2011/2012, when the new population census will be carried out.

All national minority associations whose primary activity is preserving their national culture in Estonia can apply for funding from the state. Funding is divided into base-line and project funding. The first one is intended to cover practical costs of organizations for one year and the second one aims at supporting cultural work. There is also funding on the basis of cultural autonomies²⁷.

All umbrella organizations that have passed attestation (17 organizations under which over 200 different collectives and groups have gathered) receive base-line funding²⁸. However, project-based funding is available for all collectives or groups and it provides a wider scope of support for actions that the associations consider important.

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

Yes, Estonia distributes public subsidies to national minorities' associations. Both the state budget and local budgets are used for this.

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?

The state budget is prepared by the Government and adopted by the Parliament. Local governments prepare local budgets.

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

In order to get base-line funding applicants have to meet the following conditions:

- be legal persons registered in Estonia as a non-profit association or foundation whose statutory activities include the promotion of the language, culture, and education of a national minority;
- act as an umbrella organization, i.e. have specific national culture societies and art collectives as their members and coordinate the overall operations and financial activities of the members;
- organizations must describe their activities in the field of national culture;
- in order to get base-line funding, associations must be members of an umbrella organization;
- associations that have not joined umbrella organizations can apply for project-based activity support from various funds and in various application rounds.

²⁷ It is based on the national minorities cultural autonomy act.

²⁸ More information about national minority associations is available at: <http://www.rvke.ee/index.php?lang=en>

The amount of money received by the umbrella organizations varies from organization to organization. It is necessary to differentiate as the costs are different. The size of the organization (number of member organizations) is also one of the criteria. This implicitly reflects also the number of persons affiliated with a national minority but it is not in itself a criterion.

Cultural autonomies get funding in the form of direct support from the state budget and the amount of support depends on the size of the nation group.

In the case of project competitions, an independent evaluation committee makes the financing proposal. Applications are evaluated solely on the basis of evaluation criteria of the particular application round, which have also been explained to the applicants in the instructions. One criterion is also the number of beneficiaries of project actions.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

The state funds cultural autonomies according to the size of the nation group involved in this self-governing model. The amount of funding is based on the action plan of the cultural autonomy and prior negotiations with the Ministry.

Base-line funding (as of 2009) is based on the following scheme:

A maximum amount of support that the umbrella organization and its members can apply for is set. Based on this amount, the umbrella organization submits its application, indicating the distribution of support among its member organizations as well as the administration costs of the umbrella organization. The decision on allocation of support for umbrella organizations is made by the head of the funding organization, who is guided by a proposal by an evaluation committee.

In the case of project competitions, the decision is made by the head of the organization, who is guided by a proposal by an independent evaluation committee made up of specialists, target group representatives and officials.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

Subsidies are distributed by public administration via the Integration Foundation, which was established on 31 March 1998 by the Estonian Government with the aim of initiating, supporting and coordinating projects designed to promote integration in Estonian society.

The system of base-line funding was changed in 2008 after several national minority organizations had proposed this.

One of the strengths of the new system is that the umbrella organization becomes a stronger partner for the state and the member associations can concentrate on their cultural work. The task of compiling applications and reports remains with the umbrella organization.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

In the Integration Foundation the financing proposal is made by an independent evaluation committee and the subsidies are distributed on the basis of contracts.

8. Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?

The overall purpose is the achievement of at least one of the following objectives:

1. expanding knowledge on the cultures of national minorities and informing Estonian society of the activities of the cultural societies of national minorities;
2. acknowledging the multicultural nature of Estonia, introducing the aspects of the cultures of national minorities to Estonian society via cultural projects aimed at the public (public events, lectures, exhibitions, seminars, TV and radio programmes, leaflets, etc.);
3. developing cooperation between cultural societies of national minorities.

Base-line funding, however, is specifically targeted at reimbursing the overhead expenses of umbrella organizations. It is necessary so that organizations have practical matters covered and that they can then actively promote their cultural activities.

9. How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.

There is a distinction between base-line funding and project funding as has been explained above. In the case of base-line funding, subsidies are applied for mainly for covering administration costs, while in the case of project funding direct activity costs are funded. In both cases, the applications must include explanations of the use of funds and indicate the budgetary breakdown by expenses. It is possible to make changes to the budget in terms of expenses in the course of implementing the actions.

10. Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?

Both performance and financial reports have to be drawn up concerning the distributed project and base-line funding. The reports are checked in terms of content by the responsible department and in terms of the financial aspect by the Department of Budget and Economic Analysis of the Ministry of Culture. Financial reporting is based on national accounting requirements and also includes submitting documents supporting the expenses made. The reports are finally approved by the responsible department, who is familiar with the content and results of each project.

The State Audit Office is a constitutional institution that has the right to carry out both financial and performance audits in accordance with valid legislation. The State Audit Office also carries out need-based independent audits of institutions distributing subsidies, with the aim of making independent expert assessments of the purposeful use of appropriations from the state budget.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

This evaluation is carried out as part of the evaluation of project results. The results of using state funds are evaluated on the basis of indicators featured in the operational programme of the Estonian Integration Strategy 2008–2013. The results and efficiency of subsidies are also evaluated at meetings with cultural societies of national minorities, at trainings and based on the data and assessments of surveys.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

The Ministry of Culture distributes state budget subsidies to non-profit associations and other national minority and foreign Estonian cultural societies who are entitled to these subsidies according to the valid procedure for the allocation of subsidies. While these associations are relieved of auditing duty, they are required to report, in accordance with internationally accepted accounting principles and valid auditing standards, to the institutions that have been assigned the auditing duty by legislation. The fact that the beneficiary has submitted an official report confirmed by the beneficiary's signature means that the beneficiary has also assumed the responsibility of providing truthful information and is aware of the sanctions imposed for spreading false information – this is also noted in the appropriations contract. The distributor of subsidies may take relevant measures and reclaim state funds that have not been used according to initial purpose and the content of the project in question. The distributor of subsidies has a duty to the State Audit Office to give information concerning the purposeful use of state budget appropriations.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY FINLAND

1. *Please give the following information for each national minority:*

- *description/name and size of the national minority;*
- *number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).*

At the turn of the year 2009, 1,778 persons in Finland spoke the Sámi language as their mother tongue. The percentage of the Sámi-speakers of the whole population in Finland was at 0.03 %. The Sámi Parliament collected information on the number of the Sámi people in Finland when organising the Sámi Parliament election in 2007. According to the information, there appeared to be 8706 Sámi people in Finland in 2007. Those with Swedish as mother tongue amounted to 289,951 people at the turn of the year 2009 and the percentage of the Swedish-speakers of the whole population was at 5.44 %. Russian-speakers accounted for approximately 0.92 % of the population. Furthermore, approximately 10 000 Roma people are evaluated to live in Finland. The Jewish community has about 1,600 members and the number of the Tatar population is evaluated to be at 800 people. The Tatars constitute the oldest Islamic minority in Finland and are descendants of the Tatars who moved to Finland from Russian Tatar villages at the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century.

Domestic legislation does not acknowledge the status of a national minority. In Finland, no statistics are compiled on ethnic groups, as the personal data protection legislation prohibits the processing of sensitive data relating e.g. to race or ethnic origin. According to Chapter 17 of the Constitution of Finland (731/1999), nevertheless, the national languages of Finland are Finnish and Swedish. Furthermore, the Sámi, as an indigenous people, as well as the Roma and other groups, are guaranteed to have the right to maintain and develop their own language and culture.

As will appear from below, no official information is collected on the number of minority associations receiving state subsidies per year.

2. *Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?*

The Ministry of Education allocates state subsidies to minority associations. In 2008, the Department of Culture, Sports and Youth Policy at the Ministry of Education distributed subsidies to associations representing the Sámi people, the Roma and the Russian-speaking minority of Finland. The number of the above associations can however not be indicated, as ethnicity is not a ground for classification of the associations, to which subsidies are allocated.

The following table demonstrates the overall number of associations, which received state subsidies in 2008 on certain fields of activity of the Department of Culture, Sports and Youth Policy of the Ministry of Education:

SUBSIDY	NUMBER OF SUPPORTED ASSOCIATIONS
Subsidies in support of multiculturalism and work against racism	13
Subsidies for the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse	2
Annual subsidies for national youth organisations and youth service organisations and other associations active in youth work	1
Subsidies for the development of youth work (primarily nationwide projects)	9
TOTAL	25

The above state subsidies are allocated to minority associations according to the criteria applicable with regard to any type of associations. Minority associations receive support both from the Government and locally from regional bodies. Also municipalities appear to distribute subsidies to minority associations.

At Employment and Economic Development Offices, unemployed job-seekers are not registered on basis of their ethnicity or language, either. Information on a customer's mother tongue and the languages he or she uses may, however, be retrieved from the client service system of the data-base of the Employment and Economic Development Offices.

The Ministry of the Interior does not distribute state subsidies to minority associations but regularly co-operates with umbrella associations established by persons that may be exposed to discrimination on different grounds (such as ethnic origin, religion, disability, age and sexual orientation) for the promotion of diversity and combating of discrimination. The relevant co-operation partners involve umbrella associations (immigrants), dialogue promotion bodies (the Roma) and cultural self-governance bodies (the Sámi Parliament) as well as national, regional and local NGOs. Many of these partnerships are established for the implementation of antidiscrimination activities co-financed by the European Union.

3. *Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?*

Requests made by minority associations to the Ministry of Education for state subsidies are individually decided upon and dealt with in an identical manner with requests made by associations that do not represent minorities. Primarily no special state subsidies exist for minority associations only. State subsidies distributed in support of multiculturalism and work against racism, as well as those in particular for Sámi organisations constitute an exception, nevertheless. The latter categories of state subsidies purport to ensure that individuals belonging to these minorities are supported in their activities on an equal footing with the rest of the population.

4. *Which criteria are used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?*

Subsidies in support of multiculturalism and work against racism; criteria of distribution:

The Ministry of Education distributes both general state subsidies (functional subsidies) and project subsidies. Within its field of activity, the following factors are taken into consideration when evaluating the expediency and profitability of a possible *general state subsidy*:

- The nature of the activities in support of which the subsidy is requested; whether the relevant activities either purport to support multiculturalism or to prevent racism and xenophobia;
- The scope of the relevant activities when evaluated in the light of the number of members of the applicant association and the amount of members taking part to the activity;
- The size of a national minority group;
- The significance of the applicant association's activity for supporting multiculturalism or preventing racism and xenophobia;
- Whether the relevant activity is evaluated to be feasible;
- Whether the relevant activity purports to enhance equality between the sexes;
- Whether the relevant activity purports to enhance good ethnic relations between the representatives of the majority population and minority culture;
- Whether the relevant activity is evaluated to be cost-effective;

- Whether any independent initiative, including outside funding and volunteer work, is taken by the applicant association in support of the relevant activity; and
- Whether any other type of public support is received in support of the relevant activities that would affect the financial standing of the association and the need of the requested state subsidy.

The feasibility of the relevant activity is evaluated on the basis of activity plans and budget calculations that are to be annexed by applicant associations to a state subsidy request. The financial standing and cost-efficiency of applicant association's activities are evaluated mainly in the light of activity reports, profit and loss accounts and asset and liability statements.

With regard to *special state subsidies (project subsidies)*, such factors as the following are taken into consideration as selection criteria of the eligible associations:

- The nature of the activities in support of which the subsidy is requested; whether the activities either purport to support multiculturalism or to prevent racism and xenophobia;
- Whether the relevant activity purports to develop new models of supporting multiculturalism or preventing racism and xenophobia;
- Whether the relevant activity is estimated as effective and cost-effective;
- Whether the relevant activity is estimated to have sustainable effects;
- Whether independent initiative, including any outside funding is attained by the applicant, and whether this is deemed impossible due to factors that inevitably relate to the realisation of the activity.

Subsidies for youth work; criteria of distribution:

The criteria applied in the distribution of state subsidies related to youth work of minority associations apply equally to any other type of applicant groups. Nevertheless, when deciding on the nature of the supported activities, positive discrimination may be used with regard to minority associations. For example, the budgetary appropriation reserved for the implementation of the Development Programme for Children and Youth Policy (2007-2011) has multicultural youth work as one of its priority areas of the year 2009.

When distributing subsidies in support of multiculturalism and work against racism, as well as on youth work the number of the applicant association's members and that of members taking part in the supported activity are among the criteria of distribution of a *general state subsidy*.

Financial aid within the employment sector; criteria of distribution:

Within the Ministry of Employment and the Economy's branch of administration, both private people and employers are eligible for various forms of financial aid and grants. Their main purpose is to promote employment and the functioning of the labour market.

No special requirements exist with regard to minority associations' right to apply for financial aid on the field of employment. Nor is there a special category of subsidies for this type of associations.

Migration organisations have received financial aid on the field of employment policy for the implementation of employment creation schemes. However, no register is kept on employment policy-related financial aid, which is why statistical information cannot be submitted on projects aimed at promoting employment within minority associations. Financial aid within such projects is distributed by local Employment and Economic Development Offices. For example, 7 of the total 72 employment projects organized by the Uudenmaa Employment and Economic Development Office have been administered by an immigrant association.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

The distribution of subsidies to associations takes place as ordinary administrative decision-making. The official body in charge of the allocation of the state subsidy in question is chosen in accordance with the relevant state subsidy's allocation in the state budget. As indicated above, the applicant minority association also has to meet the above selection criteria of the relevant type of state subsidy.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

Allocation of state subsidies is made by the public administration. The advantage of this is that the Government is able to maintain a concise overall picture of the concrete work done in support of national minority associations. Abuse of state subsidies has remained rare.

The activities of certain minority associations may nevertheless be unstable and not always continuous. Therefore information regarding their activities may be fragmented and available only after inquiries.

With regard to state subsidies allocated to the Sámi people, a sum is allocated to the Sámi Parliament in the state Budget. The Sámi Parliament is in charge of the further distribution of the subsidy.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

Please see the answer to question no. 4 above.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

The Ministry of Education requires that the applicant associations enclose a detailed activity plan and an economic assessment of the activity to any application for a state subsidy. As described above, the Ministry of Education distributes *general state subsidies* (functional subsidies) and *special subsidies* (project subsidies).

The employment administration does not distribute general subsidies but a subsidy is always related to employment-promoting projects.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

The Ministry of Education requires that a detailed clarification on the use of the subsidy is submitted to it by recipient associations. The Ministry surveys the clarifications and has, according to *Act on Discretionary Government Transfers* (688/2001), a right to audit a recipient association's finances and operations.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

The profitability of state subsidies is evaluated by authorities as required by the provisions of the *Act on Discretionary Government Transfers* (688/2001).

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

The State Auditor's Office, accountants and independent internal inspection committee of the Ministry of Education review the Ministry of Education's distribution of state subsidies.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY GEORGIA

1. Please give the following information for each national minority: description/name and size of the national minority;

The results of 2002 general population census (which embraces results of the census conducted on the territory under effective control of the Georgian Government, excluding Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and South Ossetia) are as follows:

National minorities	2002	
	Total	%
Azerbaijani	284,761	6.1
Armenian	248,929	5.7
Russian	67,671	1.5
Ossetian	38,028	0.9
Yezid*	18,329	0.4
Greek	15,166	0.3
Kist**	7,110	0.2
Ukrainian	7,039	0.2
Jew	3,772	0.1
Abkhaz	3,527	0.1
Assyrian	3,299	0.1
Kurd	2,514	0.1
Chechen	1,271	0.0
Other	8,946	0.1

* After the population Census in 1939, Yezids have been counted together with the Kurds. During the 2002 Census, this group has been separated at the request of the Centre for Yezid Traditions “Ra Zibun”.

** Before the 2002 Census, Kists were not separated from the category of other “ethnicities”.

- **number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).**

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities’ associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

The Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sports of Georgia (hereinafter the Ministry of Culture) provides subsidies to the following cultural centres of national minorities:

- Davit Baazov Historic and Ethnographic Museum of Georgian Jews;
- Centre for Cultural Relations “Caucasian House”;
- Mirza-Fathali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture;
- Heidar Aliev Tbilisi State Azerbaijani Drama theatre;
- Centre of the Russian Culture in Georgia;
- Alexanrd Griboedov Russian Drama Theatre;
- Petros Adamian Tbilisi State Armenian Drama Theatre.

The Ministry of Culture is also providing financial support to the following national minority newspapers:

- Azerbaijani language newspaper “Gurjistan”;
- Armenian language newspaper “Vrastan”.

From 2010, the Ministry of Culture is launching the new enhanced target program of “Supporting National Minority Cultures”. The state funding will be provided to projects selected by the expert panel composed of *inter alia* national minorities and via open competition.

The subsidies are distributed from the central (national) budget of Georgia.

3. *Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?*

The amount of subsidies is determined by the Ministry of Culture within its annual budget. Every year, the Ministry of Culture submits to the Ministry of Finance the draft budget, *inter alia*, on the provision of financial support to national minority associations. The agreed draft budget is then submitted by the Government to the Parliament for approval.

4. *Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?*

The amount of subsidies is determined based on requests for funding submitted by national minority associations and approved by the Ministry of Culture. The capacity of each national minority association to meet the program/project goals and their success in implementing previous activities are the main criteria.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

The state subsidies within the national minority associations are allocated by the governing bodies of these associations and in accordance with the budget approved by the Ministry of Culture. No additional criteria, priorities or guidelines apply.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

The distribution of subsidies is made by the Ministry of Culture.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

The distribution of subsidies is made by the contract concluded between the Ministry of Culture and a national minority association, which sets mutual obligations and must be fulfilled within the next fiscal year.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

The financial support provided by the Ministry of Culture to national minority associations aims to assist national minorities in preservation, development and popularization of their cultures and further integration into the larger Georgian cultural sphere. The Ministry of Culture is acting in accordance with its internal policies and guidelines on concluding contracts and granting subsidies.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

The request for financial support must be submitted to the Ministry of Culture in accordance with the form developed by the Ministry. In particular, it must provide the relevance and objectives of the program/project, ways of implementation, detailed schedule of activities, monitoring tools, expected results and the budget.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

The national minority organizations funded by the Ministry of Culture must submit quarterly financial accounts, both written reports and invoices, to the Ministry. The financial reporting process is supervised by the Ministry of Culture.

11. *Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?*

The success of awarded subsidies is evaluated based on performance indicators set to measure the quality of outcomes and outputs, including number of persons participating or attending program/project activities and etc.

12. *Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?*

National minority associations funded by the Ministry of Culture are audited by the independent auditor hired by the Ministry in accordance with the law.

The Georgian Chamber of Control audits the lawfulness, efficacy and reasonableness of expenses of the Ministry of Culture and evaluates conformity of its financial accounts with the relevant standards established by the law.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY GERMANY

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- description/name and size of the national minority;
- number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).

Description/name and size:

(The numbers of persons belonging to the various minorities are rough estimates only.)

- The **Danish** minority in Germany: approximately 50,000.
- The **Frisian** ethnic group in Schleswig-Holstein: approximately 10,000.
- German **Sinti and Roma**: approximately 70,000.
- **Sorbs**: approximately 60,000.

Number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year:

- Südschleswigscher Verein/Sydslesvigs Forening (SSF) e.V. – South Schleswig Association
- Frische Rådj (Friesenrat, Sektion Nord e.V.) – Frisian Council Section North, as an umbrella organization
- Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma - Central Council of German Sinti and Roma - and Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma e.V. – Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma
- Stiftung für das sorbische Volk – Foundation for the Sorbian People (subsidized by the Free State of Saxony and the Land of Brandenburg)

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

National level: The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) subsidizes cultural activities of national minorities as follows:

- **Danes**: € 183,000 per year - in support of investment measures carried out by the SSF (South Schleswig Association)
- **Frisians**: € 280,000 per year - project assistance
- **Sinti and Roma**: € 485,000 per year
- **Sorbs**: € 8,200,000 per year

Regional and local levels: In addition, these national minorities are supported by the Länder [federal states] and by municipalities and other local authorities.

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?

For **all** national minorities, the respective amounts are determined by parliament, i.e.: the German Bundestag, as regards allocation of federal funds, the respective Landtag of those Länder that subsidize national minorities.

4. Which criteria are used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

- **Danes**: The number of persons belonging to the given minority is not a criterion. The SSF (South Schleswig Association) submits proposals for subsidizing investment projects (e.g.

[municipal] cultural centres) where it is hoped that their realization will give a positive impulse to the minority's cultural life. The amount of the subsidy will be determined on the basis of an evaluation of the factors "total costs", "the minority's own contribution" and "public budget capacity [availability of public funds]" (BKM budget), and will be submitted for decision to the budget legislator [i.e. the Bundestag].

- **Frisians:** The number of persons belonging to the given minority is not a criterion. The Frisian Council submits proposals for the funding of its own projects and of projects of its affiliated associations in the fields of culture, language and education. The funding requirements will be determined on the basis of an evaluation of the factors "total costs", "the minority's own contribution" and "public budget capacity [availability of public funds]" (BKM budget), and will be submitted for decision to the budget legislator [i.e. the Bundestag].
- **Sinti and Roma:** The number of persons belonging to the given minority is not a criterion. The two institutions [Central Council, Documentation Centre] state their funding requirements for personnel costs and material expenses (technical/ specialist tasks) in draft financial estimates [so-called "economic plans"] which are reviewed, in terms of form and substance, by the BKM and approved by the Federal Ministry of Finance. The budget legislator (German Bundestag) determines the total amount of the subsidy.
- **Sorbs:** The number of persons belonging to the given minority is not a criterion. The Foundation for the Sorbian People is subsidized on the basis of a Financing Agreement concluded by the Bund (Federation) with Brandenburg Land and the Free State of Saxony. Under this Agreement, annual funding by the Federation amounts to 8.2 million €, while the Free State of Saxony and Brandenburg Land provide 5.85 million € and 2.77 million € per year, respectively. The term of the Agreement extends from 1 January 2009 until 31 December 2013.

5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority, and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?

- **Danes:** Not applicable.
- **Frisians:** In those cases where the Frisian Council does not implement the relevant projects within its own competence, it will pass the funds on to the implementing organizations.
- **Sinti and Roma:** The financial estimate ["economic plan"] is implemented on the institutions' own responsibility. In this respect, they must comply with the budgetary regulations of the respective funding agency [granting body].
- **Sorbs:** Subsidies are allocated by the Foundation for the Sorbian People on the basis of the Foundation's budget as adopted by its Foundation Board and approved by the Saxon State Ministry of Science and the Arts. The Foundation Board is composed of representatives of the Sorbian people, of the regional/ local authorities concerned and of the funding agencies [granting bodies].

6. Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?

- **Danes / Frisians:** Federal funds are allotted to the SSF [South Schleswig Association] and to the Frisian Council, respectively, by the Administration of Schleswig-Holstein Land.
- **Sinti and Roma / Sorbs:** Federal funds are allotted to the institutions by the Federal Administration (Bundesverwaltungsamt, BVA – Federal Office of Administration).

7. Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?

- **Danes / Frisians:** Federal funds are allocated, as project subsidies, to the Frisian Council through the Land of Schleswig-Holstein by a written grant award notification (administrative act granting a benefit).
- **Sinti and Roma:** Federal funds are allocated, as institutional [basic] subsidies, to the institutions on the basis of the adopted federal budget and the approved financial estimate ["economic plan"] by a written grant award notification (administrative act granting a benefit).
- **Sorben:** Federal funds are allocated, as project subsidies, to the Foundation for the Sorbian People by a written grant award notification (administrative act granting a benefit).

8. Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?

- **Danes:** The BKM supports this national minority in their efforts to preserve and promote their own language and culture in Germany and to provide the structural prerequisites required for this purpose.
- **Frisians:** Subsidies are granted for activities/projects related to culture, language and education. Funds are allocated, inter alia, for qualified projects aimed at language promotion and linguistic research; encouraging the use of new media and of computer-based applications (ADP, IT); and encouraging investment measures. Examples are: Frisian linguistic studies; cross-generation activities regarding the Frisian language and culture; Frisian videos; use of new media; measures helping to define ethnic/cultural identity; development of children's language skills in the language acquisition phase.
- **Sinti and Roma:** The BKM subsidizes the following priority activities of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma: representing the interests of the national minority as regards their equality in politics and society – this also includes, for example, legislative proposals and political initiatives regarding protection against violent offences committed by far-rightists; enforcement of the rights of ethnic minorities and asserting victims' claims for compensation; commemoration of the victims of the genocide; and supporting criminal prosecution of Nazi crimes at both the national and international levels.
The BKM subsidizes the following priority activities of the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma: documentation and academic work on the history, culture and present-day life of this national minority; cultural work, education and further training; social work and counselling; and public information activities with the aim of integrating German Sinti and Roma in the country's society while preserving their cultural identity.
- **Sorbs:** The BKM supports the Foundation (for the Sorbian People) in its commitment to preserve and promote the Sorbian language and culture as an expression of the Sorbian people's identity.

9. How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.

- **Danes:** The federal funds are allocated for specific and delimited projects. There is no institution-based support (basic funding of institutions) in the sense that the overall expenditure of the SSF (South Schleswig Association) or non-delimited portions of the SSF's expenditure would be subsidized on a "lump-sum" basis.
- **Frisians:** The federal funds are allocated for specific and delimited projects. There is no institution-based support (basic funding of institutions) in the sense that the overall expenditure of the Frisian Council would be subsidized on a lump-sum basis.

- **Sinti and Roma:** There is no institution-based support (basic funding of institutions) in the sense that the total expenditure of the institutions on personnel costs and material expenses (technical/specialist tasks) would be subsidized. On a case-by-case basis, additional project funding is provided for individual activities, the scope of which can be specified.
- **Sorbs:** The BKM, on the basis of a promotional concept designed in line with a modern policy on minorities, grants project subsidies for activities undertaken by the Foundation for the Sorbian People. In this respect, particular mention should be made of the following activities: preservation and promotion of the minority language; presentation of the cultural heritage; participation in decision-making processes in the fields of politics, legislation and administration; and supporting projects that serve to enhance the minority's community cohesion and international contacts.

10. Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?

- **All** grant recipients must provide the grant-awarding agency with documentary proof (including itemization of the respective amounts and a factual report) regarding the use of the funds received.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

- In addition to submitting the statement on the employment of funds to the grant-awarding authority, **all** recipients of funding must provide the BKM with a report, on the basis of which achievement of the intended objectives of the given measure can be verified (results monitoring).

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions, audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

- **Danes:** As part of the accounting process, the Federation's annual budgetary and economic management is reviewed by the Auditing Committee of the [Budget Committee of the] German Bundestag [Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee]. The Bundesrechnungshof (German SAI – Supreme Audit Institution) has extensive auditing powers vis-à-vis the BKM [i.e. the grant-awarding agency] and the SSF (South Schleswig Association) qua recipient of the grant. Since the federal funds are allotted by means of a grant award notification issued by Schleswig-Holstein Land, the related auditing power is invested in Schleswig-Holstein's Landesrechnungshof (Land Audit Office). The public authorities concerned have their own internal audit units and have designated contact persons for the prevention of corruption.
- **Frisians:** As part of the accounting process, the Federation's annual budgetary and economic management is reviewed by the Auditing Committee of the German Bundestag. The Bundesrechnungshof has extensive auditing powers vis-à-vis the BKM and the SSF qua recipient of the grant. Since the funds are allotted by Schleswig-Holstein Land, the related auditing power is invested in Schleswig-Holstein's Landesrechnungshof (Land Audit Office). There are internal audit units and contact persons for the prevention of corruption.
- **Sinti und Roma:** As part of the accounting process, the annual budgetary and economic management of the Bund (Federation) is reviewed by the Auditing Committee of the German Bundestag. The Bundesrechnungshof has extensive auditing powers vis-à-vis the

BKM and the institutions. There are internal audit units and contact persons for the prevention of corruption.

- **Sorbs:** As part of the accounting process, the annual budgetary and economic management of the Bund (Federation) is reviewed by the Auditing Committee of the German Bundestag. The Bundesrechnungshof has extensive auditing powers vis-à-vis the BKM and the Foundation for the Sorbian People and the relevant institutions. The same applies to the Landesrechnungshof (Land Audit Office) of Brandenburg Land and Saxony, respectively. There are internal audit units and contact persons for the prevention of corruption.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY HUNGARY

Preliminary remarks

Hungary has a differentiated, multichannel system for providing subsidies for the purpose of maintaining and developing the culture, language and traditions of national minorities, as well for other minority-related purposes. The elaborate and expanding system of minority self-governments (on the local, regional and national level) is the major recipient of public financial support, however, the subsidies provided for these minority public bodies is not a matter to be considered in the present questionnaire as its scope of interest is limited to national minority associations. Information on the many aspects of the activities of these self-governments (in education, culture, etc.) funded by public money will not therefore be included here.

Funds dedicated for, *inter alia*, the support of national minorities is channelled through different organisations: besides special funds and public foundations, Parliament, local and regional self-governments as well as several ministries provide subsidies for national minorities from their budgets. Although the two major state funds relevant for our purposes, the National Cultural Fund established in 1993 as an independent institution to provide support for cultural activities, and the National Civil Fund set up in 2003 with the aim to provide funding for civil society, do provide subsidies for national minority associations, they do not collect aggregate data on the number, proportion and objectives of these organisations and their subsidised programmes. The central government neither has data on the exact amount and specifics of the support given for minority purposes by local and regional self-governments.

Moreover, some providers of public financial support, such as ministries, regional and local self-governments, seldom sort out their decisions on the basis of the subsidies' recipients (whether minority public bodies or territorial self-governments), so no enumeration of minority associations is available at present.

The present answer to the questionnaire will therefore be tentative and will concentrate only on three providers of financial support for minority associations: the Parliamentary Committee on Minority Affairs as well as the two specialised public foundations, the Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary and the Public Foundation for Gypsies in Hungary.

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- *description/name and size of the national minority;*

Data of the 2001 census pertaining to minorities		
	Nationality	Mother tongue
Armenian	620	294
Bulgarian	1,358	1,299
Croatian	15,620	14,345
German	62,233	33,792
Gipsy/Roma	190,046	48,685
Greek	2,509	1,921
Polish	2,962	2,580
Romanian	7,995	8,482
Ruthenian	1,098	1,113
Serbian	3,816	3,388
Slovak	17,693	11,817
Slovene	3,040	3,187
Ukrainian	5,070	4,885
Total	314,060	135,788

Source: Central Statistical Office

- *number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations)*

The number of national minorities' associations receiving public subsidies is several hundred every year. The Minority Affairs Committee of the Parliament and the Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary provides support, respectively, to some 350 and 650 associations.

2. *Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?*

The Republic of Hungary makes available public funds in a number of ways for national minorities' associations. The national state budget adopted by Parliament as well as the budgets of local and regional self-governments serve this purpose.

The amount of support allocated by the Minority Affairs Committee of the Parliament, the Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary and the Public Foundation for Gypsies in Hungary is determined by Parliament in the law on the state budget.

3. *Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?*

As already referred to, the system for supporting minority associations in Hungary is not a centralised one. Therefore the term 'total amount' cannot be defined in this respect. The general framework is laid down by the law on the state budget adopted by Parliament.

4. *Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?*

The bodies entrusted with the task of determining the amount of the subsidy take into account the following criteria:

- the total number of applications from minority associations,
- the importance, value, and feasibility of the programs proposed by the minority associations,
- formalities: e.g. the association has been functioning for some years, no public dues when applying for support, the utilization of former subsidies were duly reported on.

The Public Foundation for Gypsies in Hungary has the sole purpose of supporting the Roma/Gypsy minority. The Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary makes no quotas for the different minorities when allocating the subsidies. The Parliamentary Committee for Minority Affairs follows a balanced approach taking into account, among others, the number of persons affiliated with a national minority, but neither has a quota system.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

The decision of the Minority Affairs Committee is prepared by a working group of MPs who consult with the presidents of the national minority self-governments as well as the officials in the Department of National and Ethnic Minorities of the Prime Minister's Office. In the case of the two public foundations their boards make the decisions on the subsidies. The board of the Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary is made up of the representatives of the national minority self-governments, the parliamentary parties, the ministries and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

- 6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?***
-

- 7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?***

In the case of the two public foundations a contract between the association and the public foundation is concluded following the decisions of the foundations' boards, whereas in the case of the Minority Affairs Committee no contract is made, but the formal decision of the Committee serves as the basis for the transferral of the subsidy.

- 8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?***

The subsidies distributed by the Parliamentary Committee can only be used to cover the operational costs of minority associations. The purposes of the subsidies provided by the public foundations is diverse: promoting minority education, culture, media, research, arts, as well as the contacts between the minorities and their kin-States.

- 9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.***

The request should be concrete: in the case of the Parliamentary Committee it should contain the budget of the association whereas in the case of project subsidies provided by the foundations it should elaborate the exact financial plan of the proposed project. Basic subsidies serve to cover the costs related to staff and material expenditures (heating, phone/fax/internet, rental fees, etc.). The Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary gives only project subsidies to cover the costs related to a concrete project.

- 10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?***

The national minority associations should submit a written report, supported by invoices, on the utilization of the funds provided to them. The reports should be addressed to the same body that provided the subsidies in the first case.

- 11. *Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?***

A random sample of the projects supported by the public foundations are followed up on the spot, however, no systematic monitoring and analysis of the results and efficiency of the subsidies are conducted.

The Parliamentary Committee on Minority Affairs makes an evaluation of the utilization of the subsidies in the following year when a new application is handed in for support.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

The books of the public foundations are audited. Their general activities are overseen by the supervisory boards. They also have a general reporting duty to the competent authority designated in their charters. The State Audit Office regularly monitors the activities of these public foundations.

Budapest, 05 November 2009

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY LATVIA

On December 27, 2002, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia adopted Regulation No 612 establishing the Secretariat of the Special Assignments Minister for Social Integration (hereinafter - Secretariat).²⁹ One of Secretariat's tasks was to provide support for the work and activities of national minority organizations in Latvia from the state budget. The Ministry of Culture grants the subsidy from the state budget to the national minorities' umbrella association. The information below reflects the state of affairs in terms of the support for national minority organizations from the state budget in a form of subsidies in years 2003 – 2008.

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- description/name and size of the national minority

Current statistics for the national minorities reflected in Table 1 (data at **01.07.2009.**)³⁰

Ethnic belonging	Number of population	%
Latvian	1 340 767	59,3
Russian	626 136	27,7
Belarussian	81 348	3,6
Ukrainian	56 331	2,5
Poles	52 855	2,3
Lithuanian	30 257	1,3
Jews	9 889	0,4
Roma	8582	0,4
German	4530	0,2
Tatar	2791	0,1
Armenian	2715	0,1
Estonian	2463	0,1
Other	43 088	1,9
Total	2 261 752	100,0

- number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).

Subsidies were available to individual national minority and interethnic organizations, which were registered within the Secretariat and which have defined the following goals in their statutes:

- defending the rights of national minorities;
- preserving and developing the ethnic identity and cultural heritage of national minorities in Latvia;
- promoting intercultural dialogue.

²⁹ from July 1, 2009 the Secretariat's functions and obligations have been transferred to the Ministry of Justice.

³⁰ Data of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, available at http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/statistika/dokuments/ISVN_Latvija_pec_TTB_VPD.pdf

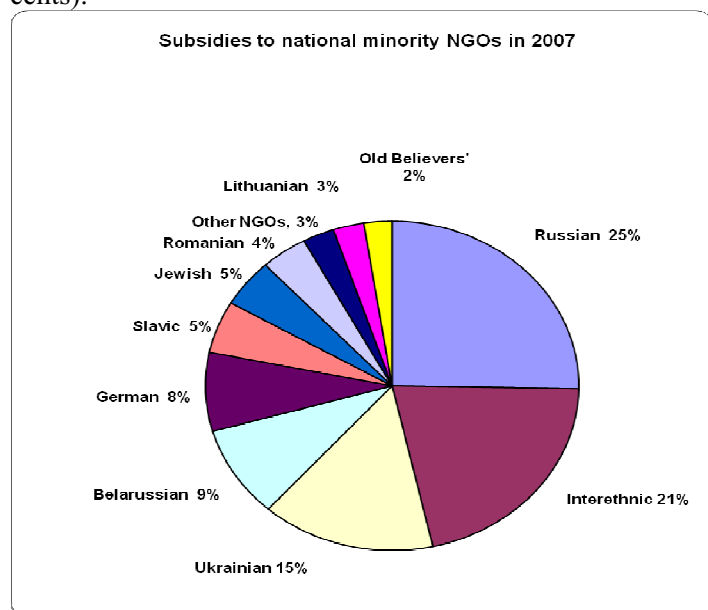
Table 2 reflects the information on subsidies allocated by Secretariat in 2003 - 2008.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Subsidies (LVL)	39 371	102 701	98 694	145 146	152 822	91 520
Number of subsidies	142	236	243	336	316	98
Number of national minority organizations supported	76	63	73	99	96	74
Number of ethnic groups supported	20	17	18	17	17	17

In year 2002 – 2008 subsidies were allocated by Secretariat to minority non-governmental organizations representing 22 ethnic groups: Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Estonian, African, Jews, Polish, Romanian, Armenian, Arab, Azerbaijani, Georgian, German, Old Believer, Livs, Moldavian, Latgalian, Hungarian, Uzbek, Yakut, Gypsy (Roma).

It should be mentioned that the approximate proportional number of subsidies allocated to different ethnic groups and the proportional division of subsidies according to the aims of the projects were similar in years 2003 – 2007. As an example year 2007 is chosen in order to show the distribution of subsidies to different ethnic groups and the aims of the projects in graphical way.

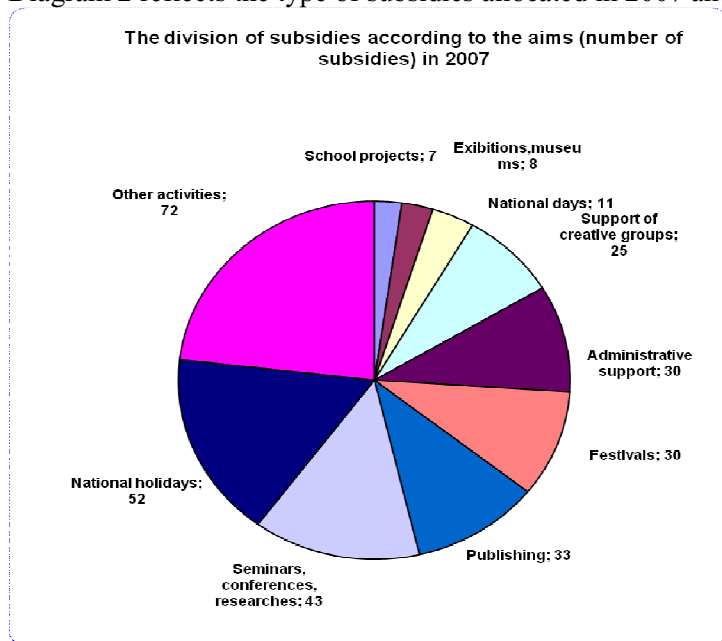
Diagram 1 reflects the total number of subsidies allocated to different ethnic groups in 2007 (in per cents):



The subsidies allowed national minority organisations to implement various educational projects, to publish informative materials about the activities of national minorities in Latvia, as well as to organise events, which promote participation of national minorities in public life.

The following types of projects were supported: school projects, exhibitions, national and traditional holidays, support for creative groups, festivals, publishing of books and other materials, seminars and conferences, teaching activities, administrative support and other activities.

Diagram 2 reflects the type of subsidies allocated in 2007 and their number.



In order to support the efforts of Gypsy (Roma) non-governmental organizations to preserve the identity of Gypsy (Roma) community in Latvia, to promote intercultural dialogue and participation of Gypsy (Roma) representatives in public life, in 2006 – 2008 the subsidies for Gypsy (Roma) organizations and other non-governmental organizations working with Gypsy (Roma) were allocated. It should be noted that subsidies in 2007 and 2008 were allocated within the “National Action Plan “Gypsy (Roma) in Latvia” 2007. – 2009.” which was approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 802 in 2006.

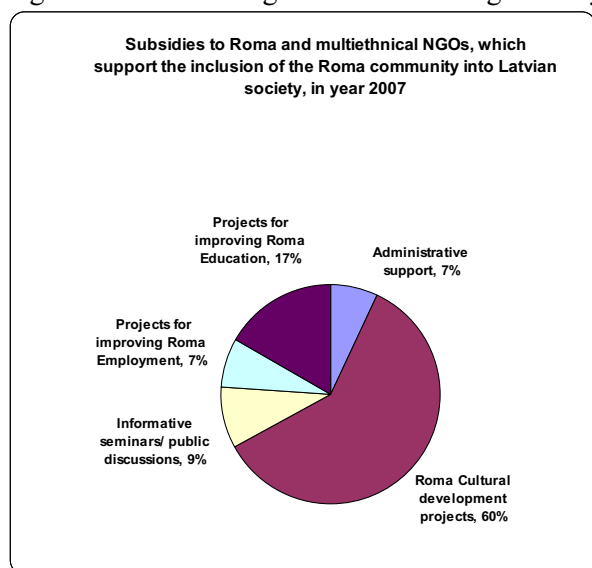
Table 3 reflects the information on subsidies allocated by Secretariat in 2006 – 2008 for Gypsy (Roma) organizations and other organizations working with Gypsy (Roma):

Year	2006	2007	2008
Amount of subsidy (LVL)	30000,00	18320,67	19999,12
Number of subsidies	18	36	21
Number of organisations	7	11	13
Number of activities	18	36	27

Table 4 reflects the type of the activity within subsidies for Gypsy (Roma) organizations other organizations working with Gypsy (Roma):

Type of activity	2006	2007	2008
Administrative support	9	4	6
Publishing of books	1	-	-
Informative seminars	2	3	7
Cultural events	5	21	13
Activities promoting education of Gypsy (Roma)	1	6	2
Activities promoting employment of Gypsy (Roma)	-	2	1

Diagram 3 reflects the type of subsidies allocated in 2007 and their number for Gypsy (Roma) organizations other organizations working with Gypsy (Roma).



According to Prime Minister's resolution of 8th August 2003 and the Amendments to the Regulations of the Ministry of Culture of 19th August 2003, the Ministry of Culture grants the state subsidy for national minorities' culture societies that are members of Ita Kozakevica's National Cultural Societies' Association of Latvia (Association). The Association consolidates 21 different societies and unions of national minorities.

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

Yes. Public subsidies are granted from the state budget.

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?

The total amount of subsidies for non – governmental organizations (e.g. national minority organizations) is indicated in the Law on State Budget in which a special budget line is allocated for subsidies. The distribution of subsidies for certain beneficiary groups is done within relevant state institution.

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

In 2003 Secretariat has worked out special Regulations for the allocating of state budget subsidies and controlling their utilization (hereinafter – Regulations for subsidies) for the organizations of national minorities. Since 2003 the Regulations have been altered several times.

Applications for funding could be submitted to Secretariat every month in 2003 – 2005, four times per year in 2006 - 2007 and in year 2008 three calls for proposals were launched – one call for proposals for the applications for subsidies for the support of the administrative activities of national minority organizations and in two calls for proposals for the applications for subsidies for the preservation of ethnic identity of national minorities and the promotion of interethnic dialogue.

The following components were taken into account in the process of allocation of subsidies for national minority organizations: the total amount of the budget available for subsidies, the relevance of the application to the priorities of the Secretariat, the quality of the submitted application, the relevance of the expenditures to the aims of the application, previous experience of the organization in administrating the projects and if organization has submitted the reports for the implementation of the

previous projects. The number of members of national minority was not the criteria determining the number of subsidy for the corresponding national minority.

One of the criteria for obtaining subsidies for non – governmental organizations in the field of support of Gypsy (Roma) was the previous experience of the applicant organizations in Gypsy (Roma) issues.

In case of Ita Kozakevica's National Cultural Societies' Association (umbrella association) the basis for granting the subsidy is the *Law on Transferring the Real Estate in Riga, 37 Slokas street, to Ita Kozakevica's National Cultural Societies' Association*. A part of the subsidy is allocated for the maintenance of the house and the rest, divided among the minorities' culture societies, is used for cultural activities.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

National minority organizations themselves decide upon the submission of the application for the subsidy from state budget and the mechanism for the decision for application for subsidy has always been of the internal nature and it was different in each organisation. The priorities for the application were determined by the concrete needs of the organization (e.g. administrative support for the maintaining of the accountant, national holidays of a particular ethnic group, etc.).

The State Cultural Policy Guidelines (2006-2015) declare that cultural diversity is one of the prerequisites for sustainable and balanced development of the country. Cultural diversity means various manners how social groups and communities manifest their culture. Also cultural pluralism that allows harmonious interaction between different people and different ethnic groups plays a significant role in achieving the diversity in Latvia's culture. According to the available budget, the Ministry of Culture decides on the allocation of the subsidy.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

It should be pointed out that there are no unified regulations for allocation of subsidies from state budget for all public administration institutions. The distribution of subsidies for national minority organizations was made by public administration institution – Secretariat which has worked out Regulation for subsidies, based on which the subsidies to the organizations of national minorities are allocated.

It should be noted that organizations of national minorities in Latvia have limited experience in attracting financial support from the financial institutions from abroad and due to the low capacity level only some of the organizations were able to receive grants from the Society Integration Foundation in Latvia. Thus, Secretariat remained the only source for obtaining financial support for the activities of some organizations of national minorities in Latvia.

The amount of subsidies for the organizations of national minorities granted by Secretariat was ranging from LVL 50 till LVL 5000 that allowed both small and big national minority organizations to apply for financial support and administer it. One of the biggest advantages is that no co-financement was required in order to apply for the subsidy from the state budget.

One of the biggest disadvantages is that the financial resources allocated for national minority organizations from the state budget fluctuate every year. The other disadvantage already mentioned before – low capacity level of the organizations of national minorities, for example, insufficient knowledge of the state language, inability to find co-financement for big projects and lack of skills in administration of the projects, require extra support activities for organizations of national minorities, for example, seminars on accounting and project writing, that would allow them to increase their capacity and apply, administer and report about the finances received.

The subsidy granted by the Ministry of Culture to Ita Kozakevica's National Cultural Societies' Association is distributed by the Board of the Association.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

The distribution of the subsidies for national minority organizations was regulated by the contract between the relevant national minority organization and the Secretariat (or the Ministry of Culture in the case of Ita Kozakevica's National Cultural Societies' Association). The contracts between the Secretariat and national minority organizations were signed after the project proposals were evaluated and approved by special commission within the Secretariat.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

The purpose of the subsidies was to provide support for the work and activities of national minority organizations from the state budget. Regulations for subsidies mentioned before served as the guidelines for national minority organizations in the process of application, administration and final report preparation for the subsidy allocated. The Secretariat provides counselling service in preparation of project proposal and help is given in preparation of the final reports.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

The subject of the financial request had to be concrete and the objectives of the application had to be clearly stated. Before 2008, national minority organizations could submit their applications both for the activities aimed at preservation of ethnic identity and cultural events alongside with the applications aimed at the support for the administrative activities of national minority organizations. However, in 2008 three calls for proposals were launched – one call for proposals for the applications for subsidies for the support of the administrative activities of national minority organizations and two calls for proposals for the applications for subsidies for the preservation of ethnic identity of national minorities and the promotion of interethnic dialogue.

In terms of organizations working with Gypsy (Roma) issues, the calls for proposals for the applications for subsidies were launched once in year 2006 and 2007 and in year 2008 two calls for proposals were launched – the call for proposals for the applications for subsidies for the support of the administrative activities of Gypsy (Roma) organizations and the call for proposals for the applications for subsidies for the preservation of identity of Gypsy (Roma) and the strengthening of civil society.

The Ministry of Culture allocates the subsidy to Ita Kozakevica's National Cultural Societies' Association as a basic subsidy by means of the contract with the Association, according to the *Law on Transferring the Real Estate in Riga, 37 Slokas street, to Ita Kozakevica's National Cultural Societies' Association*.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

Both Regulations for subsidies and contract signed between national minority organizations and the Secretariat regulate the procedure of the submission of the reports after the implementation of the projects. National minority organizations were obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts. Both technical implementation report and financial reports containing also the certified copies of the financial documents justifying the expenses occurred during the implementation of the project had to be submitted to the same institution which was responsible for the subsidy contract.

In case of Ita Kozakevica's National Cultural Societies' Association, the financial report (invoices and a written report) for the Association is mandatory. The reporting is controlled by the same institution which allocates the subsidy, namely, the Ministry of Culture.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

The efficiency of the subsidy is taken into account while evaluating both the technical implementation report and financial reports. After the initial check of the both parts of the report, national minority organizations might be asked to clarify some parts of the technical implementation report or financial report.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

Every public administration institution in Latvia is responsible for the efficient utilization of state resources. The internal regulations of each institution serve as a basis for the mechanism of the allocation and utilization of state funding. For example, in the case of the Secretariat, Regulations for subsidies served for such purpose. The correspondence to principles of these regulations has been regularly checked by the State Control of the Republic of Latvia and the recommendations of the State Control have been taken into account while improving the Regulations for subsidies. Also the Ministry of Culture submits annual reports to the State Control of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Finance.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY MONTENEGRO

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- ***description/name and size of the national minority;***
- ***number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).***

According to the last census (2003), in Montenegro there are the following national minorities: Albanians (31.163 inhabitants or 5, 03%), Bosniaks (48.184 inhabitants or 7, 77%), Croats (6.811 inhabitants or 1, 10%), Muslims (24.625 inhabitants or 3, 97%), RAE (2.601 inhabitants or 0, 42%), and Serbs (198.414 inhabitants or 31, 99%).

There are six Councils of national minorities, as within year 2009 each minority has established its council, according to the Constitution of Montenegro and the Law on Minorities' Rights and Freedoms. Apart of them, there are many NGOs with minority background and they all are eligible to apply for the support by the Fund for minorities or by the administrative bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro.

In 2009 there were 87 minority associations receiving subsidies, and 17 individuals who had applied and got financial support from public Fund in the name of project for preserving national minority culture. All in all, 104 grants were distributed as the public financial support by Montenegro, in 2009.

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

Public subsidies to national minorities' associations are distributed at national and local level.

At national level, according to the Law on Budget, subsidies are distributed as follows:

- by the Ministry for human and minority rights subsidies are distributed to the Councils of national minorities (equal amount for each of six councils, defined by the national budget),
- by the Fund for Minorities, established by the Law on Minorities' Rights and Freedoms, subsidies are distributed to the Councils and other associations of national minorities (including NGOs) in the name of projects dedicated to minorities' culture, participation and identity,
- By the Parliament of Montenegro bodies (Parliamentary Commission for allocation of financial support to the NGOs and Parliamentary Commission for the sharing money gained from the lottery) financial support are distributed to the minorities' associations, as well.

At local level, subsidies are distributed by the municipalities and in accordance with the local priorities and the quality of project proposal submitted by the minority association. The distributions of the means, as well as criteria for applying, are differently set out at each municipality (there are 21 municipalities).

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?

At national level, the Parliament of Montenegro determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national level, which is previously proposed by the Ministry for human and minority rights.

At local level, municipal parliaments, as the main bodies of local self-governance, determine the amount for the subsidies to be distributed at local level.

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

Concerning the subsidies dedicated to the Councils of minorities, each of six councils receives the same amount of the subsidy.

Concerning the subsidies distributed through the Fund for minorities, as well as the distribution at local level, there are two main criteria for the distribution: number of persons affiliated with a national minority (according to the last census, 2003) and quality of the projects.

5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?

Allocation of subsidies dedicated to the Councils of minorities is decided by the Ministry for human and minority rights. Allocations of subsidies to other national minorities association are decided by the Steering Council of the Fund for Minorities, which has 15 members including representatives of the Councils for national minorities (one from each council), and above mentioned parliamentary commissions, in accordance with above mentioned criteria.

6. Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?

Distribution of subsidies is made by public administration and through a/m commissions.

Advantages of the system of allocation of subsidies concern equal opportunities of all six Councils of national minorities, as well as equal opportunities of associations of all national minorities to apply for the means distributed by the Fund and a/m parliamentary commissions with quality projects.

Disadvantages are connected with one of two a/m criteria concerning the allocation of means according the number of persons affiliated with a national minority, which does not provide equal opportunity to all association of national minorities in the way that sometimes quality programs of smaller national minorities cannot be financially supported as the means allocated to their minority group are not enough.

7. Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?

The distribution of these subsidies is made by formal decision of relevant bodies (For example: on behalf of the Fund for minorities, its Steering Council makes formal decisions concerned).

8. Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?

The purposes for subsidies are focused on the contribution to the preserving and developing of national, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic identity. Priorities that are favoured are connected to the operational costs of the councils of minorities and quality projects that are in accordance with the goals promoted by the Government of Montenegro.

Guidelines for national minorities associations are given together with the public call for applying for financial support by above mentioned institutions.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

Subject of such a request has to be concrete and clear. Concerning basic subsidies they are distributed to each council of national minority at equal basis, according to the national legal system. Concerning project subsidies all national minorities associations can apply to the Fund for minorities and a/m parliamentary commissions and the winners are those who can contribute best to the goal of preserving and development of national minority identity.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

Minority associations are obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts. They are supposed to submit written reports together with invoices. The reporting is controlled by the same authority which is responsible for the subsidy decision. The Steering Council of the Fund for minorities is the body which makes decision concerned, but also the one that monitors the reports and fulfilment of the obligations undertaken by the national minorities associations in the framework of contract.

11. *Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?*

The lasting results, success and efficiency of subsidy awarded to national minority associations are not evaluated.

12. *Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?*

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, which is responsible for allocation of subsidies to the Councils of National Minorities, is double audited – by the internal revision service and State Auditors Institution.

The Fund for minorities, as the institutions responsible for the subsidy contract and decisions concerning project subsidies is audited by the State Auditors Institution. In addition, The Fund is obliged to submit the annual activity and financial report to the Parliament of Montenegro.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY POLAND

1. Do you have public subsidies for national minorities? Please give the following information for each national minority:

- * description/name and size of the national minority;
- * amount of the subsidy for the corresponding national minority;
- * number of subsidized minority associations per year on average;
- * indicate the reason for which each subsidy was granted

Pursuant to Article 2 of the Act of January 6 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and the regional language (Journal of Laws No. 17, item 141, as amended), the following national minorities are recognized in Poland: Belarusian, Czech, Lithuanian, German, Armenian, Russian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Jewish. The following ethnic minorities are also recognized: Karaim, Roma, Lemko and Tartar. According to the 2002 national census, the size of the respective minority was as follows:

Name of minority	Number of members
German	147,094
Belarusian	47,640
Ukrainian	27,172
Roma	12,731
Lemko	5,850
Lithuanian	5,639
Russian	3,244
Slovak	1,710
Jewish	1,055
Tartar	447
Czech	386
Armenian	262
Karaim	43

Moreover, in the course of the national census 52,665 persons declared the use in family contacts of the Kashube language, which, in accordance with the cited act, has the status of a regional language in Poland.

The budget of the Minister of Interior and Administration annually provides financial support to some ninety entities - mostly minority associations - dedicated to the development of the cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities and the preservation of the regional language.

The following table provides data on the numbers of subsidized minority associations:

Name of minority	Average number of subsidized associations ³¹
German	23
Belarusian	20
Ukrainian	5
Roma	9
Lemko	8
Lithuanian	5
Russian	3
Slovak	1
Jewish	8
Tartar	3
Czech	1
Armenian	5
Karaim	1

2. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies mentioned above (parliament, public administration)?

The Minister of Interior and Administration, as the minister competent in matters of religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities, pursuant to procedures laid down in the Act on national and ethnic minorities and the regional language, annually grants subsidies for the maintenance and development of the cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities and the preservation of the regional language. Minority associations are the main beneficiaries of these subsidies.

3. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for the corresponding national minority? Is the number of members of a national minority one of the criteria?

The amount of the funds at the disposal of the Minister of Interior and Administration for subsidies is determined each year in the budget act, adopted by parliament.

4. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?

The funds at the disposal of the Minister of Interior and Administration are allocated for the implementation of specific tasks. The allocation of funds is determined by the degree to which a given project is expected to help maintain and develop the cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities and preserve the regional language. The Minister annually published the *Information on procedures for the allocation of subsidies for the implementation of tasks designed to protect, maintain and develop the cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities and preserve and develop the regional language*, containing the criteria used in the allocation of the subsidies. Before signing, the Information is subject to consultations with the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities. The Ministry does not determine the amount of subsidy allocated to each minority and the size of the respective minorities is not a criterion. The following criteria are used:

- 1) scope of the project (the number of minority members or persons using the regional language who will be covered by the project),
- 2) impact of the project on minority members or persons using the regional language in maintaining their cultural identity,

³¹ The table contains the average numbers of associations receiving subsidies of the Minister of Interior and Administration for the purpose of supporting the cultural identity of the respective minorities. The numbers have been calculated on the basis of the years 2008-2009.

- 3) expected effectiveness of the task relative to the planned expenditures,
- 4) experience of the applicants in implementing similar projects,
- 5) cooperation of the applicants in implementing the project with other partners and the amount of funds obtained from non-state sources (e.g. territorial self government bodies, individuals and companies),
- 6) long-term effects of the implemented tasks (in the case of continuous projects).

5. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

As noted above, subsidies in Poland are not allocated to the respective minorities and then further divided within the minorities between specific projects and the organizations implementing them. The Minister of Interior and Administration has invited members of the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities to rank project subsidy applications for 2010. The ranking list thus compiled and accepted by all the interested organizations will be used as auxiliary material by the Commission evaluating the subsidy applications.

6. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

The distribution of the subsidies allocated for projects designed to maintain and develop the cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities and preserve the regional language is the task of the Minister of Interior and Administration, as the minister competent in matters relating to religious denominations and national and ethnic minorities.

The rules and criteria of subsidy allocations are subject to consultations each year with the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities.

7. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies? Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

A commission for the evaluation of project subsidy applications is convened each year at the Ministry of Interior and Administration. The outcome of its works is then approved by the Minister. The associations awarded project subsidies out of the Ministry budget conclude contracts with the Ministry for their implementation.

8. *Which obligations and duties are combined with a subsidy contract or subsidy decision? Which responsibilities apply to both sides?*

Pursuant to Article 18 of the Act on national and ethnic minorities and the regional language, subsidies may be allocated for the following purposes:

- 1) activity of cultural institutions, minority artistic movement and artistic events of substantial significance to minority culture,
- 2) investment projects designed to enhance minority cultural identity,
- 3) publication of books, magazines, periodicals and leaflets in minority languages or the Polish language, in print or other forms of reproduction of sound and image,
- 4) support for minority-produced television and radio programs,
- 5) protection of minority cultural sites,
- 6) community center activity,
- 7) minority libraries and documentation of minority cultural life,
- 8) different forms of education for children and young people,
- 9) dissemination of knowledge about minorities,
- 10) other projects implementing the objectives referred to in point 1 or enhancing minority civic integration.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

National and ethnic minorities in Poland are not allocated “basic” subsidies for their activities. Associations receive subsidies for the implementation of specific projects designed to maintain and develop the cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities and to preserve and develop the regional language. Project goals have to be detailed in the subsidy applications. Under the Act on national and ethnic minorities and the regional language, subsidies may also be granted to associations to cover their overhead costs such as accounting, legal services and office rent. Such subsidies may be granted to associations which implement at least one of the following tasks:

- 1) activity of cultural institutions, minority artistic movement and artistic events of substantial significance to minority culture,
- 2) publication of books, magazines, periodicals and leaflets in minority languages or the Polish language, in print or other forms of reproduction of sound and image,
- 3) support for minority-produced television and radio programs,
- 4) community center activity,
- 5) minority libraries and documentation of minority cultural life or the regional language,
- 6) different forms of education for children and young people.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

Subsidy recipients are obligated to keep accounts pertaining to their subsidies, in a way allowing control of the relevant expenditures. Upon the completion of a project, subsidy recipients are obligated to submit reports on the subsidized project to the Ministry of Interior and Administration.

11. *Is the lasting result, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?*

The effects of subsidized projects are evaluated in each instance by staff of the Ministry’s Department of Religious Denominations and National and Ethnic Minorities. The financial aspect of the project reports is checked by the Ministry’s Budget Department. Furthermore, pursuant to the terms of the project contracts, proper project implementation may be controlled at any time by the Ministry’s Department of Controls, Complaints and Motions.

12. *Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?*

The activity of the Ministry of Interior and Administration aimed at maintenance and development of the cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities and preservation and development of the regional language is subject to audit by internal control bodies (Department of Controls, Complaints and Motions) and external bodies (Supreme Chamber of Control). The rules and criteria of subsidy distribution are also regularly monitored by the Joint Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities and the Commission for National and Ethnic Minorities of the Sejm.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY ROMANIA

1. Name and size of the national minority

The figures included in the table below are from the last national census in 2002.

No.	Name of the national minority	Number	% from the total population
1.	Hungarian	1 434 377	6.6
2.	Roma	535 250	2.5
3.	Ukrainian	61 091	0.3
4.	German	60 088	0.3
5.	Lippovan Russian	36 397	0,2
6.	Turk	32 296	0,2
7.	Tartar	24 137	0,1
8.	Serb	22 518	0,1
9.	Slovak	17 199	0,1
10.	Bulgarian	8 092	< 0,1
11.	Croat	6 786	< 0,1
12.	Greek	6 513	< 0,1
13.	Jewish	5 870	< 0,1
14.	Czech	3 938	< 0,1
15.	Polish	3 671	< 0,1
16.	Italian	3 331	< 0,1
17.	Armenian	1 780	< 0,1
18.	Macedonian	731	< 0,1
19.	Albanian	520	< 0,1
20.	Rutenian	262	< 0,1

Number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations)

There are nineteen minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations). The associations represented in the National Minorities' Council (CMN) receive these subsidies. These subsidies are defined as "allocated funds".

As defined by the Governmental Decision 589/2001, the National Minorities' Council is an advisory body of the Government. It does not have a legal entity status and its purpose is to maintain the relations with the legally constituted organizations of the citizens belonging to national minorities. The main partner of CMN is the Department for Interethnic Relations (DRI), which is the governmental institution specialized in the field of national minority protection in Romania. DRI activity is coordinated by the General Secretariat of the Government and is subordinated to the Prime Minister of Romania.

2 *Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?*

The 19 national minorities' associations receive yearly funds from the national budget, through DRI.

There may be other associations belonging to national minorities and also representing their interests, which are not represented in the Parliament and in CMN which may receive grants for programs from the central and local budgets, defined as non-refundable subsidies.

On the other hand, the 19 national minorities' organizations, CMN members, may receive financial support for projects from the state budget or from the local budgets, as non-refundable subsidies, others than the yearly funds. They have the right to compete with projects at the yearly projects' competition organized by the central and local public institutions. According to the legal provisions, national minorities' organizations may receive non-refundable subsidies either from the central budget or from the local one, but not from both budgets for the same project.

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?

The steps for determining the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations are:

- The Government elaborates the state budget draft bill for the following year. The subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations are included in this bill, based on the proposal made by CMN. This budget is included as a lump sum into the SGG-DRI budget.
- The Parliament debates the bill, introduces amendments and approves it. The budget law represents the legal framework for the yearly funds' allocation to the national minorities' organizations.
- From the moment the budget law is ratified as the State Budget Law, the Government distributes the lump sum, based on a complex consultation process between the organizations member of CMN.

4. Which criteria are used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

There is no set of criteria established by law, used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority. There are some other elements, determining differences based on the direct proportionality between the number of persons belonging to a national minority and the amount of the subsidy received by the representative organization of the respective national minority. Below is a table sorting the national minorities in decreasing sequence, on a column based on their number and on the other based on the amount of the yearly subsidies from the state budget.

No.	National minorities sorted descendent based on members' number	National minorities sorted descendent based on the amount of yearly subsidies
1.	Hungarian	Hungarian
2.	Roma	Roma
3.	Ukrainian	Ukrainian
4.	German	German
5.	Lippovan Russian	Lippovan Russian
6.	Turk	Armenian
7.	Tatar	Tatar
8.	Serb	Serb
9.	Slovak	Greek
10.	Bulgarian	Turk
11.	Croat	Bulgarian
12.	Greek	Czech and Slovak
13.	Jewish	Jewish
14.	Czech	Polish
15.	Polish	Croat
16.	Italian	Macedonian
17.	Armenian	Italian
18.	Macedonian	Albanian
19.	Albanian	Rutenian
20.	Rutenian	

As one can see from the table above, there are slight differences between the two columns. One of the reasons is that the Slovaks and Czechs are represented by the same association (the Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania). Another reason is that the population of some minorities, as for example the Armenians, is not concentrated on a small territory, but is rather spread all over the country. Because of this, they have branches in several regions of Romania and the amount of the subsidy they receive takes into account their necessity of maintaining these branches.

In 2008 the Resource Center for Ethno-Cultural Diversity and the Institute for the Research of National Minorities' Issues published the study *National Minorities' Integration Policies in Romania*. The study analyzes the funds allocated in time to the national minorities' organizations. One of the conclusions was that some small numbered minorities received more consistent funds than minorities with a larger number of members. This reality may be interpreted as a support policy for the small numbered minorities that are more vulnerable.

As regards the **criteria** for allocating the yearly funds from the state budget to national minorities' organizations, the issue is still debated by the Commission for Financial Issues of the CMN. The minority representatives agree in general that a mechanical allocation, based just on the number of members criterion, would not be satisfactory and that the numerically reduced minorities may benefit of more consistent funds than those calculated based on the proportionality criterion.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

According to the law, the national minorities' organizations that win in the parliamentary elections a seat in the Chamber of Representatives, become CMN members and are entitled to receive yearly funds from the state budget.

In Romania there are some national minorities who have several associations, organizations, platforms with a predominant cultural role, which might have also a political role during the electoral campaigns. The organization receiving in the elections the number of valid votes in order to be represented in the Chamber of Representatives – number equal with at least 10% with the national average number of valid votes for a representative – is entitled to receive yearly funds from the state budget.

Due to a system based on the political criterion, there is a competition between groups inside a minority in order to gain the necessary votes as mentioned above. This fact is viewed as having both positive and negative effects.

The system of funds allocation from the state budget to the national minorities' associations is established by law, as follows:

- The yearly budgetary laws;
- The yearly governmental decision, establishing the funds' repartition and method of use for the national minorities' organizations;
- According to art. 2 of the Governmental Decision 589/2001 regarding the constituency of the National Minorities' Council, this consultative body is composed of three members from each national minorities' organizations represented in the Parliament;
- The Law 35/2008 for the election of the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate, establishes the categories of national minorities' organizations that can participate with candidates at the parliamentary elections as follows:
 - a. National minorities' organizations that are already represented in the Parliament.
 - b. Other national minorities' organizations that are not represented in the Parliament but fulfil the following conditions:
 - Have a public utility status.

- Present to the Central Electoral Bureau a list of members whose number should be at least equal with 15% of the total number of persons belonging to the respective national minority, according to the last national census.

The right of the national minorities' organizations to receive yearly funds from the state budget is conditioned by their capacity of winning a place in the Chamber of Representatives.

The previous years' practice proved certain continuity in receiving these yearly funds from the state budget, because the same national minorities' organizations won places in the Chamber of Representatives.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

The allocation of funds from the state budget is made by the General Secretariat of the Government (central public administration) through DRI, which initiates at the beginning of each year a draft governmental decision specifying the allocation of funds for each organization and the modalities of use, based on a consultation process with the member organizations of CMN. The proposals forwarded by the CMN member organizations are adopted after they are unanimously accepted.

Advantages:

- It is a unitary system, by which the Romanian authorities show their consistent and permanent commitment towards the national minorities;
- Establishes equal treatment and status toward all the minorities, regardless of the number of their members;
- Don't change according to the local authorities' possibilities, which eventually might take over this responsibility;
- This system is established at the highest national level, it can be improved in time, it prevents abuses and frauds, it can be easily supervised and controlled by the entitled state institutions.

Disadvantages:

- It is a restrictive system: a national minorities' organization represented in the Parliament and implicitly in CMN receives yearly funds from the state budget in the name of the national minority as a whole;
- The system is based of prolonging a right gained by organizations already for a long time in the system, new national minorities' organizations having very reduced opportunities to accede into this system;
- Doesn't encourage internal democracy inside the minorities, doesn't encourage the formation of umbrella associations that could eventually better represent the interests of the whole community;
- Malfunctions or exaggerations in using these funds may occur, generating tensions between the center and branches of the organization, between organizations of the same minority, or even between majority and minorities (minorities' "privileges" as this funds' allocation might be viewed by the majority, versus the "chronic funds' scarcity" compared with the problems to be solved, as it is often invoked by the minorities' organizations);
- The excessive political character of the CMN member organizations' activity (in the benefit of the leaders), as it was noticed during the last opinion of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

The allocation of funds is made through a governmental decision, specifying the amounts to be allocated to each minority's organization through the specialized department (DRI).

After the governmental decision is approved, DRI and the beneficiary organizations agree upon a protocol, establishing the responsibilities of both parties regarding the amounts' use.

8. *Please indicate the purpose (s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

The Governmental Decision allocating the yearly funds to national minorities' organizations specifies the categories of expenses that can be covered from these funds as follows:

- Expenses for organizations' quarters and branches: utilities, maintenance, rent, etc.
- Personnel/staff expenses (salaries, fees, etc.)
- Expenses for publications: newspapers, magazines, books, manuals;
- Expenses for organizing activities/programs: cultural, scientific, symposiums, members' meetings according to the statute and other similar activities in the country or abroad;
- Investments for mobile goods and buildings, necessary for organization's activity.

The general objectives for which the subsidies are allocated to the national minorities' organizations are:

- Promoting and organizing programs for guaranteeing, preserving, expressing, and developing minority's ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity;
- Encouraging the majority-minority dialogue, for improving interethnic relations;
- Promoting common values, combating discrimination and prejudices, by promoting cultural, linguistic and confessional diversity;

There are no other specific guidelines stipulated by the Government when allocating the subsidies to national minorities' organizations.

The Department for Interethnic Relations has also the attribution of monitoring if the purposes for which the subsidies are distributed are fulfilled.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

After all the steps mentioned in the answer for the third question are made and the yearly funds for each national minority's associations are allocated, the next stages are as follows:

- The national minorities' associations send to DRI monthly requests for financial support. These requests estimate the monthly budget needed by each association for: staff expenses (salaries, per diem, fees); utilities' and maintenance expenses for quarters; office supplies; investments; renovations; publications; programs/activities.
- DRI verifies and centralizes these requests and forwards the centralized subsidies' request to the General Secretariat of the Government.
- Based on this centralized subsidies' request, the General Secretariat of the Government wires the monthly requested subsidies to each national minorities' organization.

For each budgetary item the associations have to specify the details:

- For investments or renovations: necessity and estimated budgets.
- For programs/activities: estimated budgets specifying objectives, place, period of time, number of participants, types of expenses (accommodation, meals, per diem, transportation, etc.)
- For publications: estimated budgets specifying all the publication's details (format, number of pages, colours, covers, etc.)

The national minorities' associations include the programs' amounts in the monthly general funds' request, a separate request is not necessary.

The Government, through the Department for Interethnic Relations, distributes also grants for programs with objectives related to minorities and interethnic relations, to other non-governmental organizations, which may or may not be minorities' associations, others than those which are members of the CMN.

These grants are distributed following another procedure: competition of projects and programs applications based on a methodology elaborated by DRI. In this case, there is a certain set of criteria based on which, an expert commission analyzes all the applications and approves the grants to the best applications. Also, in this case the organizations are obliged to contribute with 10% matching funds and the funds are distributed on contractual base. For each of the programs accepted to be financed by SGG-DRI, a financing contract is signed between SGG-DRI and the beneficiary of the grant. According to the law, by the end of the fiscal year, the list of financing contracts and their beneficiaries is published in the Official Gazette (Monitor).

10. Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?

The minority associations are obliged, as any legal body in Romania, to keep the accounting for the expenses made from the public funds, according to the Romanian fiscal legislation. The minorities' associations are responsible by law for the way the allocated funds are used. The authority empowered to control the way the allocated funds are used is the Romanian Accounts' Court.

According to the law, DRI monitors the way the allocated funds are used by the minorities' associations. DRI, which is also responsible for verifying, centralizing and forwarding to SGG the monthly funds' allocation request, monitors the way the allocated funds are used, as follows:

- By the end of each month, the national minorities' associations forward to the Department for Interethnic Relations, expenses' written justifications/reports for the subsidies received in the respective month. They don't have to submit the invoices/ receipts for the respective expenses.
- The Department for Interethnic Relations verifies if these justifications are in accordance with the monthly funds' requests and if necessary asks the associations for further details.

As mentioned above, the reporting is not controlled by the same institution, which is responsible for the funds' allocation: the Romanian Court of Auditors controls the reporting; SGG-DRI is responsible for the funds' allocation decision.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

The lasting results, success and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority association are not evaluated by the end of the year, they are just monthly monitored as mentioned above.

This lack of the system is due to the unusual support mechanism established in Romania in 1993, when the National Minorities' Council was set up. The paradox is that despite the fact that the national minorities' organizations receive support from public funds, because they cannot finance themselves, they spend the public funds according to the legal provisions for non-governmental organizations, and not to those for public institutions financed from public funds.

12. Is public administration or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

The public institution which is responsible by law for the funds' allocation decision is the General Secretariat of the Government – Department for Interethnic Relations (SGG-DRI). The General Secretariat of the Government is audited on regular bases by the Audit Office (named in Romania "Court of Auditors") as public external control institution and by its own internal audit department.

Before wiring the monthly budgetary funds to the national minorities' organizations the internal audit department of the General Secretariat of the Government revises the centralized funds' request forwarded by the Department for Interethnic Relations.

There are no other reporting duties for the General Secretariat of the Government, which is responsible for distributing the public subsidies to the national minorities' associations, except the legal provisions valid for any institution of the public administration empowered to distribute/administrate public funds.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- ***description/name and size of the national minority;***
- ***number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).***

The applicable Russian legislation gives the definition of the “indigenous minorities”. In accordance with the Article 1 of the Federal Law No. 82-Φ3, dd. April 30, 1999 “On Guarantee of Rights of Indigenous Minorities of the Russian Federation”, the indigenous minorities shall be deemed to be the ethnic groups residing within their hereditary displacement who preserve their traditional way of life, husbandry, economic environment as well as their traditional crafts, considering themselves as constituting the independent ethnic communities with their population numbering less than 50 thousand.

According to the Unified List of the native minorities of the Russian Federation No. 255 dated March 24, 2000 (as amended by the Russian Federation Government Ordinance No. 760 dated October 13, 2008) approved by the Government of the Russian Federation, the number of the native minorities reaches 46 with their general population of 280 thousand people.

Ser. No	Name	Population according to the Census of population files of 2002, people
1	The Abasins	37942
2	The Aleuts	540
3	The Alyutors	1000 *
4	The Besermyans	3122
5	The Veps	8280
6	The Votes	703
7	The Dolgans	7261
8	The Izhors	327
9	The Itelmens	3180
10	The Kamchadals	2293
11	The Kereks	8
12	The Kets	1494
13	The Koryaks	8743
14	The Kumandins	3114
15	The Mansi	11432
16	The Nagaibaks	9600
17	The Nanais	12160
18	The Nganasans	834
19	The Negidals	567
20	The Nenets	41302
21	The Nivkhs	5162
22	The Orochis	686
23	The Saams	1991
24	The Selkups	4249
25	The Soyots	2769
26	The Tazs	276
27	The Telengits	2399
28	The Teleuts	2650
29	The Tofalars	837
30	The Tubalars	1565
31	The Tuvins-Todzhins	4442

Ser. No	Name	Population according to the Census of population files of 2002, people
32	The Udegeis	1657
33	The Ulta (The Orokis)	346
34	The Ulchis	2913
35	The Khanty	28678
36	The Chelkans	855
37	The Chuvans	1087
38	The Chukchi	15767
39	The Chulyms	656
40	The Shapsugs	3231
41	The Shors	13975
42	The Evenks	35527
43	The Evens	19071
44	The Ens	237
45	The Eskimos	1750
46	The Yukagirs	1509

* Estimated data

The term “ethnic minorities” designates the peoples or their part inhabiting the territory of the Russian Federation that have neither their own national-state nor national-territorial entities within the Russian Federation and does not refer to the indigenous minorities.

According to the existing terminology and by reference to the Census of 2002, the most numerous (more than 100 thousand people) ethnic communities, regarded as ethnic minorities, in Russia are: Ukrainians (2,94 mn people), Armenians (1,13 mn people), Kazakhs (654 thousand people), Azerbaijanians (621,6 thousand people), Germans (597,2 thousand people), Jews (229,9 thousand people), Georgians (197,9 thousand people), Gypsy (182,8 thousand people), Moldovians (172,3 thousand people), Koreans (148,6 thousand people), Uzbeks (122,9 thousand people), Tajiks (120,1 thousand people).

In 2009 when implementing the state national policy the federal financial support of the ethnic and indigenous minorities public associations of the Russian Federation was rendered by:

- granting subsidies from the Federal Budget resources to the budgets of the Russian Federation Subjects densely inhabited by the North, Siberia and Far East indigenous minorities of the Russian Federation, in order to support the economical and social development of the said ethnic groups (federally granted subsidies were distributed to the budgets of the 18 subjects of the Russian Federation, the relevant subsidies distribution by the executives authorities procedure was approved by the North, Siberia and Far East Indigenous Minorities Regional Associations therefore the support in form of subsidies may be deemed to be received by the 18 regional Associations with the representatives of all North indigenous minorities of the abovementioned subjects of the Russian Federation been subsidized)
- arranging the ethnocultural activities related to the interethnic relations development (63 events focused on contribution to the Russian ethnic groups ethnocultural development were scheduled by the Russian Ministry of Regional Development in 2009, appointed under the government contracts the executives in charge of the said arrangements were 18 Associations of the Ethnic Groups and North Indigenous Minorities Representatives);
- arranging of 39 ethnocultural activities related to the interethnic relations development as part of the Federal Target Program for “Social and Economical Ethnocultural Development of the Russian Germans for the period from 2008 through 2012” implementation (appointed under the

government contracts the executives in charge of the said events, arranged as a part of the Federal Target Program, were 15 Russian Germans Associations) including subsidizing, within the said Federal Target Program, of the investment projects oriented on capital construction and social infrastructure development in the areas densely inhabited by the Russian Germans.

2. *Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?*

In accordance with the Federal Law No. 11-Φ3, dated February 9, 2009 “On Amending the Article 16 of the Federal Law “On the National Cultural Autonomy” the federal executive authorities may render the financial support from the Federal Budget resources to the federal national cultural autonomies (NCA), in respect of the regional budget resources the relevant support shall be rendered by the executive authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation to the regional and local NCA, local government authorities are entitled to render such support to the local NCA from the local budget resources.

In accordance with the Federal Law No. 204-Φ3, dated November 24, 2008 “On Federal Budget for 2009 and planning period of 2010 and 2011” the financial support to the public associations of the ethnic and indigenous minorities from the federal budget resources shall be rendered under the “State National Policy Implementation Arrangements ” and “Support To the Economic and Social Development of the North, Siberia and Far East Indigenous Minorities of the Russian Federation ” special-purpose budget items as well as Federal Target Program for “Social and Economical Ethnocultural Development of the Russian Germans for the period from 2008 through 2012”.

The regional and departmental target programs for the North minorities and ethnic groups social economic and ethnocultural development are implemented out of the regional budget funds.

The regional target programs below may serve as an example: district programs “Social and Economic Development of the North Indigenous Minorities in the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous District – Yugra For the Period from 2008 through 2012 ” and “Culture, Language, Traditional Way of Life of the Indigenous Minorities of the Yamalo-Nenetsk Autonomous District for the period from 2008 through 2011”; regional programs “Social and Economic Development of the Nations and Ethnic Groups in Kemerovo Region For the Period from 2008 through 2010”, “Economic and Social Development of the Indigenous Minorities in Irkutsk Region up to 2011”, “Key Social and Economic Trends of the Amur Region Indigenous Minorities Development For the Period From 2004 Through 2013”, “Social and Economic Development of the Sakhalin Indigenous Minorities For the Period From 2007 Through 2011”; republic- wide target program “Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Indigenous Minorities For the Period from 2006 through 2011”, territorial target program “Indigenous Minorities of North (for the period from 2009 through 2011) in Krasnoyarsk Territory” etc.

3. *Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?*

In the Russian Federation, the amount of finance required for the state national policy implementation and economic and social development of the North, Siberia and Far East Indigenous Minorities support has been planned within the limits of the federal budget to be prepared by the Government of the Russian Federation with the approval of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly and to be adopted by the applicable Federal Law on a federal budget for a three year period (budget for the period from 2009 through 2011 was prepared pursuant to the Federal Law No. 204-Φ3, dated November 24, 2008 “On the Federal Budget for 2009 and Planning Period of 2010 and 2011”).

The amount of finance required, starting from 2009, for the economic and social development of the North, Siberia and Far East Indigenous Minorities support shall be granted and distributed to the budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation from the federal budget resources by means of

subsidies. Budgetary-funded subsidies distribution and granting to the budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation Rules has been adopted by the Russian Federation Government Ordinance No. 217, dated March 10, 2009.

In accordance with the Clause 5 of the Rules, adopted by the above mentioned Russian Federation Government Ordinance, the amount of the subsidies to be distributed to the subjects of the Russian Federation shall be approved by the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation within the budget appropriations provided for these purposes by the federal law on the federal budget for the ensuing financial year and planning period (the Minister of the Regional Development of the Russian Federation Order No. 236 dated June 26, 2009 “On approval distribution of the subsidies to the budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation in 2009 for the purpose of the North, Siberia and Far East Indigenous Minorities of the Russian Federation economic and social development support”).

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

In accordance with the Russian Federation Government Ordinance No. 217 dated March 10, 2009 the amount of the subsidies to be granted to the subject of the Russian Federation for the purpose of rendering support to the economic and social development of the North Indigenous Minorities shall be defined depending on:

- the population of the North Indigenous Minorities inhabiting these subject of the Russian Federation
- estimated fiscal capacity value of the subject of the Russian Federation on completion of distribution of the subsidies granted for the purposes of the fiscal capacity of the subjects of the Russian Federation equalization

5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?

Guidelines for the target budgetary granting and distribution of subsidies to the budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation are defined according to the Russian Federation Government Ordinance No. 392 dated May 26, 2008 “On Subsidies Budgetary Formation, Granting and Distribution to the Budgets of the Subjects of the Russian Federation”.

In compliance with the above mentioned Russian Federation Government Ordinance listed below are the requirements of the Rules of granting and distribution of subsidies from the federal budget resources to the budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation:

- a) purpose of the subsidies
- b) conditions of the subsidies granting and using including the requirements for the relevant transformations programs (plans) provided one of such conditions specifies the need of the said transformations.
- c) subjects of the Russian Federation selection criteria for the purpose of subsidies distribution
- d) subsidies distribution to the subjects of the Russian Federation method
- e) method of estimating the commitments federal budget co-financing level in respect of the each subject of the Russian Federation
- f) procedure of the subsidies use efficiency evaluation
- g) terms and procedure of submitting reports on compliance with the conditions on which the subsidies were granted
- h) reasons for, procedure and limits of reduction and redistribution of the subsidies in the event of failure to comply with the subsidies granting conditions.

The subsidies granted to and received by the budget of a subject of the Russian Federation, particularly for the North Indigenous Minorities economic and social development support or the Russian Germans social economic and ethnocultural development shall be distributed by the supreme executive authority of the subject of the Russian Federation on the basis of the activities scheduled by the executive authorities of the subject of the Russian Federation and local government authorities.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

The subsidies for the purpose of North Indigenous Minorities and Ethnic Minorities (Russian Germans) support shall be distributed by the Federal Executive Authorities and Executive Authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation as agreed upon with the Indigenous Minorities and Ethnic Minorities Public Associations.

Such method, taken as anti-recessionary remedy to harmonize the interethnic relations and stabilize the social and economic situation in the subjects of the Russian Federation which are densely inhabited by the North Indigenous Minorities and Russian Germans, permits one to timely take the interests of the respective ethnic groups into consideration.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

The subsidies for the purpose of North Indigenous Minorities support shall be distributed under the existing special-purpose item of the federal budget in accordance with the Rules of the Subsidies Granting and Distribution, approved by the Russian Federation Government Ordinance No. 217 dated March 10, 2009.

For the purpose of the Federal Target Program “Social and Economical Ethnocultural Development of the Russian Germans for the period from 2008 through 2012” adopted by the Russian Federation Government Ordinance No. 142 dated March 5, 2008, the subsidies shall be granted in order to support the social and economic development of the Russian Germans.

The said subsidies shall be granted to the subjects of the Russian Federation in conformity with the following provisions of the agreement:

- a) information on the rate of the subsidy to be granted to the subject of the Russian Federation
- b) list of projects to be subsidized
- c) funds budgeted by the subject of the Russian Federation for the projects implementation
- d) target value of the efficient use of the subsidies, estimated with reference to the level of the social and economic development of the subject of the Russian Federation
- e) agreement obligations performance monitoring
- f) terms and procedure of submitting reports on the subject of the Russian Federation budgetary funds, provided by means of subsidizing, disbursing
- g) liability of the parties in the event of the agreement conditions violation.

Form of subsidizing the subject of the Russian Federation out of the Federal Budget resources for the purpose of the subject of the Russian Federation (municipalities) commitments to support the North, Siberia and Far East Indigenous Minorities economic and social development co-financing Agreement has been approved by the Ministry of Regional Development Order No. 237 dated June 26, 2009.

Under the federal budget special-purpose item “State National Policy Implementation Arrangements” provided according to the Federal Law on the Federal budget, the funds are allocated for the implementation of the projects to facilitate the ethnocultural development of the ethnic groups of Russia, particularly Indigenous and Ethnic Minorities.

The project selection is carried out by the Ministry of Regional Development of Russia Committee on the State National Policy Implementation Projects Selection on the basis of the applications made by the subjects of the Russian Federation, municipalities, legal entities. Out of the projects selected the State National Policy Implementation Arrangements List shall be made. The List has to be approved by the Minister of Regional Development of the Russian Federation Order.

In accordance with the Federal Law No. 94 –ΦЗ dated July 21, 2005 “On Placing of Orders for Supplies of Goods, Performance of Works and Rendering of Services for State and Municipal Requirements” after the technical assignments to carry out the arrangements mentioned in the List have been prepared, orders for their execution shall be posted on the special site. According to the results of the competition, auction and quotation procedures the government contract between Ministry of Regional Development of Russia (Employer) and the winner organization (Executor) shall be awarded.

Similarly the ethnoculture-oriented projects within the Federal Target Program for “Social and Economical Ethnocultural Development of the Russian Germans for the period from 2008 through 2012” (pursuant to Ministry of Regional Development of Russia Ordinance No. 53 dated March 12, 2009 “On the Procedure Of the Projects Facilitating the Russia Germans Ethnocultural Potential Development Selection Within the Implementation Of the Federal Target Program for “Social and Economical Ethnocultural Development Of the Russian Germans for the period from 2008 through 2012” in 2009”.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

The subsidies shall be granted to co-finance the North Indigenous Minorities economic and social development promotion arrangements to be made within the areas (territory of the 28 subjects of the Russian Federation) of the North Indigenous Minorities traditional inhabitation, husbandry and also to co-finance the capital construction, engineering and social infrastructure development in the regions densely inhabited by the Russian Germans (within the territory of the 4 subjects of the Russian Federation)

The subsidies granted to co-finance the Indigenous Minorities economic and social development promotion arrangements shall be directed at:

- a) creating conditions for sustainable development of the Indigenous Minorities husbandry branches in the territories of their traditional inhabitation and husbandry;
- b) development of education, culture, medical services of the Indigenous Minorities, including ethnocultural arrangements
- c) development and modernization of the infrastructure within the territory of the Indigenous Minorities traditional inhabitation and husbandry.

The subsidies granted to co-finance the Russian Germans social and economic development promotion arrangements, may be used in the areas densely inhabited by the Russian Germans for:

- a) housing construction
- b) engineering infrastructure development
- c) social infrastructure development

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

The Federal Budget subsidies are granted for the particular purposes in order to improve the Indigenous Minorities and Ethnic Groups standards of living.

Under the federal budget special-purpose item “State National Policy Implementation Arrangements” the funds shall be allocated for the relevant, practically important arrangements concerning international affairs.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

The subsidies from the federal budget are transferred to the budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation, according to the established procedure hereof, to the accounts of the Federal Treasury territorial bodies opened for receiving of payments and their distribution to the budgets of the budget system of the Russian Federation for their subsequent transfer to the budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

The budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall be subsidized on a quarterly basis upon submitting by the executive bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation the reports evidencing compliance with the subsidy granting conditions with reference to the amount of funds allocated from the subject of the Russian Federation consolidated budget for the arrangements implementation.

In the event of failure of the subject of the Russian Federation to comply with the subsidy granting conditions the Ministry of Finance shall suspend the transfer of the subsidies according to the established procedure.

In the event when the subject of the Russian Federation failed to achieve the target values of the efficient use of the subsidies, specified by the Agreement, within the financial year, the subsidy rate for the ensuing financial year shall be reduced. The funds released are subject to redistribution by the Ministry of Regional Development of Russia to the other subjects of the Russian Federation, entitled to subsidizing and which have achieved the said target values.

In the event of improper use of the subsidies allocated, as a result, they shall be credited to the federal budget revenue according to the established procedure.

Proper use of the subsidies allocated shall be monitored by the Ministry of Regional Development of Russia and Federal Service for Financial and Budget Supervision.

Within the scope of State National Policy Implementation Arrangements the funds shall be transferred according to the Federal Law No. 94 –ФЗ dated July 21, 2005 “On Placing of Orders for Supplies of Goods, Performance of Works and Rendering of Services for State and Municipal Requirements” to the Executor’s account with regard to the given arrangement (under the awarded government contract) upon his submitting the report.

11. *Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?*

In order to exercise control of the efficient use by the subjects of the Russian Federation of the subsidies allocated for the North Indigenous Minorities economic and social development support the following efficiency factors are specified:

- percentage of the population involved in the cultural events and shows arranged by the government (municipal) organizations for cultural advancement as well as in the non-professional associations in the areas of the Indigenous Minorities traditional inhabitation and their traditional husbandry;
- infant mortality rate in the areas of the Indigenous Minorities traditional inhabitation and their traditional husbandry;
- recorded unemployment rate in the areas of the Indigenous Minorities traditional inhabitation and their traditional husbandry;
- number of the recorded active tuberculosis patients in the areas of the Indigenous Minorities traditional inhabitation and their traditional husbandry;
- personal income rate in the areas of the Indigenous Minorities traditional inhabitation and their traditional husbandry.

Subsidy use efficiency shall be annually evaluated by the Ministry of Regional Development of Russia on the basis of the reports submitted by the supreme executive authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation on achievement of the target values of the subsidy use efficiency, specified by the Agreement made between the Supreme Executive Authority of the subject of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Regional Development of Russia.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

Ministry of Regional Development of Russia activities in supporting Indigenous Minorities and Ethnic Groups as well as implementation of the state national policy are subject to the audit conducted by the Accounting Chamber of the Russian Federation as of the end of the financial year.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY SERBIA

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- *description/name and size of the national minority;*
- *number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).*

The table below shows the ethnic composition of the population in the Republic of Serbia according to the result of census from 2002.

	Republic of Serbia		Central Serbia	Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
	Number	%		
Serbs	6212838	82,86	4891031	1321807
Montenegrins	69049	0,9	33536	35513
Albanians	61647	0,8	59952	1695
Ashkalis	584	0,01	413	171
Bosniaks	136087	1,8	135670	417
Bulgarians	20497	0,3	18839	1658
Bunjevci	20012	0,3	246	19766
Vlachs	40054	0,5	39953	101
Goranci	4581	0,1	3975	606
Greeks	572	0,01	352	220
Egyptians	814	0,01	685	129
Jews	1158	0,02	706	452
Yugoslavs	80721	1,1	30840	49881
Hungarians	293299	3,9	3092	290207
Macedonians	25847	0,3	14062	11785
Muslims	19503	0,3	15869	3634
Germans	3901	0,05	747	3154
Roma	108193	1,44	79136	29057
Romanians	34576	0,5	4157	30419
Russians	2588	0,03	1648	940
Ruthenians	15905	0,21	279	15626
Slovaks	59021	0,8	2384	56637
Slovenians	5104	0,07	3099	2005
Turks	522	0,01	385	137
Ukrainians	5354	0,1	719	4635
Croats	70602	0,9	14056	56546
Arumenians	293	0,004	248	45
Checks	2211	0,03	563	1648
Sokci	717	0,01	38	679
Total number of citizens	7.498.001		5.466.009	2.031.992

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights uses funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia to finance regular activities of all elected national minorities' associations, including the associations of: Bosniaks, Bulgarians, Bunjevci, Vlachs, Greeks, Egyptians, Macedonians, Hungarians, Germans, Roma, Romanians, Ruthenians, Slovaks, Ukrainians and Croats, as well as Federation of Jewish Communities of Serbia, which has the same status as national minorities' associations. Also, Provincial Secretariat of Regulations, Administration and National Communities co-finances regular activities of national associations seated on the territory of the Autonomous

Province of Vojvodina. Currently, those are the associations of the following national minorities: Bunjevci, Macedonians, Hungarians, Romanians, Ruthenians, Slovaks, Ukrainians and Croats. Financing the work of national minorities' associations is a special item in the budget of the Republic and the Province, and the funds are transferred in equal, monthly, or quarterly installments. Financing of the national minorities' associations is also done based on the public bid process and individual requests, and a number of associations that receive funds this way is different and depends on the amount of available and requested funds.

2. *Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?*

The subsidies for the national minorities' associations are provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, the budget of the Province of Vojvodina and the budget of local self-governments. Co-financing is provided for expenses related to regular activities, purchase of equipment, implementation of projects and organization of events. There are certain exceptions for extraordinary and unpredicted costs, and these funds are awarded from current budget reserve, without public bid process.

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights has distributed A questionnaire on the „Distribution of public financial support (subsidies) for national minority associations” to relevant national and provincial institutions, and based on received feedback the conclusion was made that the following institutions finance national minorities' associations: Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Religion, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, Provincial Secretariat of Regulations, Administration and National Communities, Provincial Secretariat for Information and Provincial Secretariat for Culture.

In accordance with the Law on Determining the Jurisdiction of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Provincial Secretariat for Education provided funds for designing educational curriculum and programs for the languages of national minorities and translation of the tests for competitions, from school to national level, for the students of primary and secondary schools, by hiring professionals through national minorities' associations. National minorities' associations receive funds after completion of the projects, in accordance with the agreements or decisions, and are requested to submit reports and financial statements, in order to prove completion of the projects.

Ministry of Religion contributes to protection of religious component in cultural and ethnical identity of national minorities. During 2009, in order to achieve this goal, the assistance was provided for churches and religious communities, which gather only members of the national minorities. Roman Catholic church together with Greek Catholic church gathers Hungarians, Croats, Bunjevci, Ruthenians and Ukrainians; Slovak Evangelist Church gathers Slovaks; Christian Reformed Church gathers very small number of Hungarians; Islamic Community of Serbia and Islamic Community in Serbia gather Bosniaks, Albanians, part of the Roma, Ashkali, Goranci and Egyptians; Romanian Christian Orthodox Church “Dakija Felix“ gathers Romanians in Banat and Jewish Community gathers Jews.

Budget of the Ministry of Religion is shown in accordance with program methodology, and churches and religious communities of national minorities participate in the following projects: improvement of religious culture, religious freedom and tolerance; high-school education, university level of theological education, assistance in building, maintenance, urgent repairs and reconstructions of places of worship in undeveloped areas and assistance for priests, monks and religious officials in border areas and economically underdeveloped areas in order to regulate pension and disability contributions and health insurance.

Ministry of Education allocated significant funds for financing higher education, scholarships for students of theology and participation in housing costs for students in religious high schools. Classical Lyceum “Paulinum” in Subotica and Theological-catechesis Institute of the Catholic Church in Subotica (classes are held in Hungarian and Croatian language) are entirely financed from state funds. Muslim school in Belgrade is also financed from public funds, while Muslim school Gazi Isabeg in Novi Pazar receives subsidies for students' housing costs. Faculty of Islamic Studies in Novi Pazar

received honoraria for full-time professors and lecturers, and they were also paid pension and disability contributions. The best students of both educational institutions received scholarships from the Ministry of Religion.

As a part of implementation of governmental policy towards three municipalities in South Serbia, the Ministry of Religion awarded 19 scholarships to the students in Islamic schools and students of theology on the territory of Bujanovac and Presevo. Majority of scholarship beneficiaries attend high schools and faculty in Pristina.

3. *Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?*

Total amount of subsidies distributed for financing restoration of activities of national minorities' associations and organizations is set by the Budget Law of the Republic of Serbia, which is adopted every year by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. Also, Budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, adopted each year by the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina allocates special funds for financial assistance for both national minorities' associations and organizations of ethnical communities on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

4. *Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?*

The amount of funds from public sources, provided for financing activities of national minorities' associations, is decided for each year by the Budget Law of the Republic of Serbia, i.e. decisions related to the budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and local self-governments. The amount allocated in the budget of the Republic of Serbia is distributed so that 30 percent is divided in equal installments and distributed to all registered national minorities' associations in the Republic of Serbia, and remaining funds (70%) are distributed proportionately according to the number of members of certain national minority represented by the national minority association, as well as total number of organizations of that national minority in the field of culture, communications and official use of language and alphabet and scope of activities of that organization. Decision on distribution of subsidies from the budget of the Republic of Serbia is made by the Ministry, considering the suggestions of national minorities' associations. The funds provided from the budget of the Autonomous Province are distributed, in accordance with decision of relevant institution of the autonomous province, to the national minorities' association seated on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

The funds from the national budget are awarded in the public bid process, and the criteria used to determine who receives the subsidies are defined by the rules of bidding process and refer, primarily, to quality, originality and importance of the project for improvement of the right to be informed, as well as improvement of cultural, lingual and religious identity of the members of national minorities. Quotas for awarding funds are not pre-determined by languages or national minorities, but are made in accordance with the number and quality of projects, and the number of the members of certain national minority.

When announcing bidding procedure, the Ministry of Culture carefully considers number of people in certain minority group, territory (whether it is developed or undeveloped area), other sources of financing (if there is a country of origin or possibility to receive subsidies from provincial secretariats) and development of minority group itself (education and infrastructure). However, number and quality of submitted projects additionally influence the distribution of funds. In order to enable better selection of projects, specific criteria for quality of applications are set: significant artistic quality, importance for the Republic, contribution to decentralization of culture, contribution to intercultural dialogue, promotion and development of multiculturalism, importance for improvement of cultural and language identity, promotion of alternative culture and new artistic forms and expressions, realistic possibilities for implementation of project/program, sustainability and lifespan of the project, complete financial plan, realistic business plan, providing conditions so that all cultural values can be

available to all citizens, author/organizer has completed all previous obligations towards the Ministry, contribution to preservation/presentation of cultural heritage, cooperation with professional institutions and individuals, non-commercial character, and in case it as international guest performance, it should be a distinguished representative and/or distinguished international festival.

The Provincial Secretariat of Regulations, Administration and National Communities issues the decision which regulates allocation of budget assets to ethnical communities and the methods and criteria for allocation of budget funds to organizations of ethnic communities. 90% of available funds are awarded through the public bid, out of which 70% of the funds are distributed according to the percentage of an ethnic community in total population of minorities in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, number and importance of its organizations and their activities.

Remaining 10% of funds are kept for extraordinary and unpredictable requests. The following criteria is used for making decision on amount of subsidies awarded to ethnic communities: total financial expenses, character of the venue and importance of the event or project, duration of the event, number of participants, interest and attendance of the public, continuity and regularity of the event, media coverage, additional and subsequent activities, number of employees of the petitioner and subsidies that petitioner receives from other entities, funds, donors both national and international.

5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights allocates majority of budget funds for work of national minorities' associations, in accordance with the criteria set in the Law on National Associations of National Minorities stated in the answer to question number 4, and remaining amount is allocated depending on the case, based on submitted requests and projects. The Decision on the amount and allocation of funds is made by specially designated committee.

The Ministry of Culture allocates funds based on the public bid. After the deadline for submission of bids, the Ministry of Culture sends timely and complete applications to national associations of national minorities, and they are obliged to submit the suggestion for allocation of funds to the Ministry of Culture, within 15 days from the day they received the applications. Received projects are evaluated by independent committee, consisting of relevant experts, who are nominated annually by the decision of the Minister of Culture. Besides all the above mentioned criteria, the committee will also accept the recommendation of the national association of national minority, The Committee makes the draft decision on allocation of the funds, but, as previously stated, based on this draft decision, the Minister makes the final decision.

Provincial Secretariat of Regulations, Administration and National Communities uses similar procedure for allocation of subsidies. After the deadline for submission of bids, the Secretariat sends timely and complete applications to national associations of national minorities, and they are obliged to submit the suggestion for allocation of funds to the Secretariat within 15 days from the day they received the applications. Special committee in the Secretariat will decide about the applications that were not commented on timely basis by the associations, applications of the organizations of ethnic communities that did not register national minority association, as well as other applications. Provincial Secretariat evaluates the suggestions for allocation of subsidies issued by national minorities' associations and special committee and issues a decision on allocation of subsidies to end-users, and this decision is final. According to the decision of the national associations, it can be determined which applicants are priority when transferring allocated funds.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

Since the subsidies are provided from the budget of the Republic and the Province, the distribution of subsidies is done by relevant national or provincial institutions. 70% of funds allocated in the Republic budget, for the work of national minorities' associations, are distributed to individual national associations based on the recommendations of national minorities' associations, since they submit proposals for distribution of subsidies to the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, based on the number of people in certain national minority group represented by the national minority's association, as well as total number of organizations of that national minority in the area of culture, education, communications and official use of language and alphabet and scope of activities of those institutions. The advantage of such distribution of subsidies is that it is a result of an agreement by national associations. Informal joint body of all national associations "Coordination of national associations" meets occasionally and decides on the share of all national associations in funds allocated in the budget of the Republic.

Previous experience shows that issues related to subsidies for certain projects related to culture, communications, education, should be solved in coordination with other ministries with the jurisdiction to receive same applications from same organizations, because it is not good to have several allocations for the same purpose from different budget beneficiaries.

The advantage of such type of allocation of funds, involving national minorities' associations, is that these associations are more involved and informed about importance and role of projects of minorities in the area of information and culture, but also take active part in decision-making process. The disadvantages of this system include the possibilities that national minorities' associations can favor certain media or productions, projects etc. Also, within national minorities' association, the bid documentation should be decided on by the council for culture or media, with the option of obtaining the opinion of professionals. Unfortunately, there have been several complaints related to work of national minorities' associations, i.e. the fact that the lists of priorities are not made by authorized groups, but by individuals or some members of the associations.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

The Ministry for Human and Minority Right has the funds in its budget allocated for monthly (regular) subsidies for national minorities' associations, and these subsidies are awarded based on certain projects. Subsidies are awarded for work of national minorities' association in the procedure explained in the answer number 6, and financial assistance from the state is received in public bid procedure i.e. after submission of applications and project proposals, upon the suggestion of the nominated committee the minister issues the decision. The subsidy contract is made and it contains rights and obligations of contractual parties.

The Ministry of Culture distributes the subsidies by the decision of the Minister of Culture, and based on this the contract on co-financing of the project is made and signed by the Minister of Culture and authorized individual, i.e. the entity submitting the project proposal. Mutual obligations of the contractual parties are set out in the contract.

The subsidies are distributed to national minorities' association based on the Decision on distribution of budget funds of the Provincial Secretariat of Regulations, Administration and National Communities. The provincial secretary for Regulations, Administration and National Communities issues the final decision on distribution of subsidies to organizations of ethnic communities. The statement, which is a part of bid documentation, is signed by an authorized representative of the party submitting the bid and an authorized representative of the party which awards the subsidies, i.e. the Secretariat, and such a statement is considered as a contract.

8. Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favored when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?

The purpose of regular subsidies to national minorities' associations is restoration of their activities for the needs of minority self-government, in accordance with the Law on National Associations of National Minorities.

The subsidies are awarded for co-financing of program activities that contribute to improvement of right to free access to information and lingual and cultural identity of the members of national minorities. Programs that have significant value are those dedicated to the children and young people, intended for strengthening of professional capacity in the area of providing information to national minorities, introduction of new information technologies, providing access to greater number of users, programs with multicultural and intercultural content intended for development of the culture of dialogue and better understanding of different communities, as well as reaching goals set out in the plan of the Alliance of Civilizations. Quality, sustainability, multicultural and intercultural character and other criteria are used to determine the importance of the project and priorities in financing.

The subsidies awarded in the bid procedure can be used only for approved purpose. The organizations that receive the subsidies, as the users of the funds are under obligation to submit financial statement about the use of funds with specification of expenses from their records and complete financial documentation related to use of assets (contracts, decisions, invoices, receipts, bills of lading and copies of certified excerpts from the banks used for money transfers).

9. How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.

Basic financial assistance for national minorities' associations are monthly money orders from the budget of the Republic of Serbia through the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights. The purpose of these funds is prescribed by the Law on National Associations of National Minorities. The basic subsidies also include financial assistance from the provincial budget for the national minorities' associations seated on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The purpose of these money orders is established by the Decision on distribution of budget funds of the Provincial Secretariat of Regulations, Administration and National Communities.

In case the subsidies are distributed based on the individual requests for financial assistance, the purpose/goal of the project should be explained in detail. Along with the application, the following documents are also submitted: project proposal, mandatory form must include basic information about the project (short description, explanation, location of the project, target group, i.e. the users, description of activities, possible risks, results and future evaluation, project team and partner organizations).

Applications for co-financing of projects/programs must be explained on two bid forms. Form number 1 consists of four parts: 1. General information about the party submitting the project; 2. Description of the project (goal, reasons, target group, language, expected results, activities and dynamics, and type of program contents; 3. Budget (total project value, own assets, assets of the Ministry of Culture); 4. Statement of the party submitting the project confirming that all the data is accurate. Form number 2 contains specification of project expenses (numeric operative and personal expenses).

For the cultural projects, it is also important to fill out the bid form. This form and documentation include specific goals of the project/program, plan of activities and detailed specification of expenses. Detailed information helps create clear picture about the project, helps during decision-making process, and decreases the possibility of unplanned spending of assets.

10. Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?

National minorities' associations and councils have their own bank accounts and money orders are transferred through these accounts. National minorities' associations and councils operate as legal entities. In accordance with the Law on National Associations of National Minorities, national minorities' associations make annual financial plan, financial report and financial statement. Annual financial plan of the national association shows all income and expenses of that national association for that calendar year. National Association shall, within 15 days from the day the financial report or financial statement are issued, submit a copy of the report or statement to the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights.

For individual projects, the deadline for completion of the project and obligation of the association to submit the report on use of budget assets in timely manner are subject to agreement. The report is submitted in written form along with valid documentation proving the project expenses. So far, these reports were only sent to the Ministry, since that is the only institution with the jurisdiction to evaluate proper spending of budget funds.

The founders of the media and production companies, and other entities that apply for the subsidies from the Ministry of Culture, are obliged to submit the number of bank account, name and address of the bank, tax number and registration number. Upon expiration of the deadline for completion of the project, the beneficiaries are obliged to submit the written and financial report to the Ministry of Culture, containing valid accounting documentation (copies of invoices, excerpts from banks, copies of work contracts and copyright contracts etc.). All beneficiaries that are unable to prove proper spending of the budget funds are under obligation to return these funds to the Budget of the Republic of Serbia and lose the right to participate in the next public bid procedure. These reports are evaluated by authorized department in the Ministry of Culture.

Organizations and associations of national minorities must have bank accounts, used for transfer of funds, and in order to prove it, they have to submit the copy of the bank account contract. At the end of calendar year, the user of the funds has to submit the report on proper use of subsidies to the provincial secretariat which granted these funds. The financial report is a subject to internal financial control of the provincial secretariat.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

So far, in the practice of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the efficiency of the subsidies was evaluated before awarding of these funds in the public bid procedure or according to individual requests, while lasting results, success and efficiency were not assessed. After adoption of the Law on National Associations of National Minorities, it will be possible to assess basic subsidies, as well as lasting results, success and efficiency of these subsidies, at the end of fiscal years, at the time financial reports are submitted in accordance with the Law.

When evaluating applications and requests for co-financing of certain project, the Ministry of Culture considers the sustainability of the results, success and efficiency in use of previously granted subsidies. Written reports include information about achieved goals and results, as well as additional documentation such as, DVDs with the material for electronic media, and copies of the newspapers for printed media. The beneficiary of the funds is obliged to inform the public that the Ministry of Culture participated in financing of the project. There is a lack of sustainable, lasting and planned projects in culture. Therefore, national minorities' associations were advised to assess the current situation and make strategic plan, i.e. the document of cultural policy, in order to develop culture in the right direction and give priority to certain type of projects.

When assessing applications and requests for financial assistance from certain associations, provincial institutions consider sustainability of the results, success and efficiency of previously granted subsidies. They also consider work and activities of that organization, whether they fulfill their obligations towards secretariats-submit information about organized events and implementation of the projects, and inform media that provincial institutions took part in co-financing of the projects, as well as timeliness in submitting financial reports on proper use of funds.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

External audit of the budget activities is done by the State Audit Institution, and members of this Institution are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. All budget beneficiaries are subject to audit of the way the budget funds are spent, in accordance with the audit plan of the State Audit Institution, and upon their request the data for all purposes, including subsidies is submitted.

Subsidies awarded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia are subject to control of in the Ministry of Culture, where the Group for Internal Audit assesses if the laws related to financial operations and proper and legal use of granted subsidies are applied correctly, and if needed this audit is done by the budget inspection. The user of the funds shall submit the report on use of the funds, along with relevant documentation certified by authorized individual, to the issuer of the funds, not later than 7 days after the deadline for completion of the purpose for which the funds were received.

All provincial administrative institutions are subject to audit done by budget inspection. More precisely, the funds awarded from the budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina are subject to control of compliance with all the laws related to financial operations and proper and legal use of granted subsidies, done by the budget inspection. A user of funds shall enable unobstructed control of proper and legal use of funds by the budget inspection and audit of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The user of the funds shall submit the report on use of the funds, along with relevant documentation certified by authorized individual, to the issuer of the funds, not later than 15 days after the deadline for completion of the purpose for which the funds were received. Also, external audit of budget operations is done by an independent audit firm, selected by the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

**DISTRIBUTION OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SUBSIDIES)
TO THE ASSOCIATIONS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE COURSE OF 2009 IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR CULTURE

PAID FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE AND ART OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA								
NATIONAL MINORITY	Publishing activity (first book editions, magazines, assistance to the publishing activity of publishing houses)	Cultural-artistic events	Professional theatres – activity and tours in the APV	Work of galleries of importance for the province	Protection of cultural heritage	Institutes of culture of national minorities	Adaptations, repairs and maintenance of facilities	TOTAL
Hungarians	13,996,028.00	3,638,000.00	28,068,230.00		25,000.00	8,300,000.00		54,027,258.00
Slovaks	2,435,500.00	1,100,000.00	1,875,000.00	200,000.00		5,000,000.00	3,160,000.00	13,770,500.00
Romanians	2,073,500.00	1,590,000.00	1,200,000.00	200,000.00		4,000,000.00		9,063,500.00
Ruthenians	1,959,000.00	2,895,000.00	1,200,000.00			3,250,000.00		9,304,000.00
Croats	1,129,000.00	1,205,000.00		25,000.00		4,150,000.00		6,509,000.00
Ashkali	60,000.00	30,000.00						90,000.00
Bulgarians		50,000.00						50,000.00
Bunjevci	150,000.00	280,000.00						430,000.00
Czechs		84,000.00						84,000.00
Jews	30,000.00	60,000.00						90,000.00
Macedonians	60,000.00	65,000.00						125,000.00
Germans	30,000.00	64,000.00					1,500,000.00	1,594,000.00
Roma	448,000.00	181,500.00	1,200,000.00					1,829,500.00
Ukrainians	130,000.00	120,000.00						250,000.00
Multiethnic	983,000.00	445,000.00	1,700,000.00		900,000.00		476,710.00	4,504,710.00
TOTAL:	23,484,028.00	11,807,500.00	35,243,230.00	425,000.00	925,000.00	24,700,000.00	5,136,710.00	101,721,468.00

PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR REGULATIONS, ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

OVERVIEW OF PAID FUNDS FOR CO-FINANCING THE EXPENSES OF ORGANIZATIONS OF NATIONAL COMMUNITIES					
National minority	Paid under open competitions	Extraordinary requests and contingencies	Total in accordance with the Decision	Current budgetary reserve	TOTAL
Hungarians	23,080,000.00	210,000.00	23,290,000.00	400,000.00	23,690,000.00
Slovaks	5,110,000.00	-	5,110,000.00	-	5,110,000.00
Croats	5,110,000.00	-	5,110,000.00	-	5,110,000.00
Montenegrins	420,000.00	-	420,000.00	-	420,000.00
Romanians	4,050,000.00	134,140.00	4,184,140.00	-	4,184,140.00
Roma	2,550,000.00	15,000.00	2,565,000.00	10,500.00	2,575,500.00
Bunjevci	1,865,000.00	-	1,865,000.00	-	1,865,000.00
Ruthenians	2,470,000.00	-	2,470,000.00	-	2,470,000.00
Macedonians	1,200,000.00	-	1,200,000.00	-	1,200,000.00
Ukrainians	935,000.00	-	935,000.00	-	935,000.00
Germans	840,000.00	50,000.00	890,000.00	230,000.00	1,120,000.00
Slovenians	210,000.00	-	210,000.00	-	210,000.00
Bulgarians	240,000.00	-	240,000.00	-	240,000.00
Czechs	210,000.00	-	210,000.00	-	210,000.00
Bosniaks	-	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	15,000.00
Jews	190,000.00	-	190,000.00	-	190,000.00
Ashkali	110,000.00	-	110,000.00	-	110,000.00
Greeks	60,000.00	-	60,000.00	-	60,000.00
Egyptians	0,00	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	15,000.00
Multicultural projects	1,360,000.00	20,000.00	1,380,000.00	3,000,000.00	4,380,000.00
Total	50,010,000.00	459,140.00	50,469,140.00	3,640,500.00	54,109,640.00

PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR INFORMATION

CONTINUING SUBSIDIES PROVIDED TO THE MEDIA IN NATIONAL MINORITIES LANGUAGES AND THE OPEN COMPETITION FOR CO-FINANCING THE PROJECTS RELATING TO PUBLIC INFORMATION, RECOGNITION OF MULTICULTURALISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF MULTILINGUALISM AND INTERCULTURALISM IN PUBLIC MEDIA IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA								
NATIONAL MINORITY	Open competition for co-financing public information projects	Newspapers founded by a national council	Other newspapers in minority languages	Newspapers containing pages in minority languages	Radio stations in minority languages	Radio stations broadcasting among other in minority languages	TV stations in minority languages	TV stations broadcasting among other in minority languages
Hungarian	550,000.00	111,479,600.00	1,150,000.00	700,000.00	3,399,000.00		3,926,000.00	
Hungarian and Serbian	600,000.00							
Hungarian and other languages						8,504,520.00		5,281,000.00
Slovak	550,000.00	30,640,000.00		200,000.00	3,386,000.00	5,672,000.00	1,036,000.00	1,186,000.00
Romanian	250,000.00	30,121,000.00		350,000.00	700,000.00	2,268,000.00		2,086,000.00
Ruthenian		32,722,000.00				2,080,520.00		700,000.00
Croatian	400,000.00	25,511,000.00			3,412,000.00	2,050,000.00	2,495,000.00	200,000.00
Bunjevacki		6,563,000.00				1,936,000.00		
Macedonian		5,200,000.00						900,000.00
Roma		5,100,000.00				3,218,000.00		900,000.00
Roma and Serbian	200,000.00							
Ukrainian		4,003,400.00				1,932,520.00		
Multiethnic programs	950,000.00							
Total	3,500,000.00	251,340,000.00	1,150,000.00	1,250,000.00	10,897,000.00	25,611,560.00	7,457,000.00	11,253,000.00
TOTAL SUBSIDISED AMOUNT								312,458,560.00

MINISTRY FOR HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS

SUPPORT TO PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF MINORITY ORGANIZATIONS		
No.	National minority	Amount
1.	Ruthenian national minority	1,400,000.00
2.	Bunjevac national minority	1,500,000.00
3.	Roma national minority	15,440,541.00
4.	Multicultural	3,700,000.00
TOTAL		22,040,541.00

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

FUNDS GRANTED FOR PROJECTS/PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION IN THE LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL MINORITIES			
Language	Open competitions	Annual subsidies for publishing newspapers in minority language	Total
Bosnian language	1,651,900.00	5,573,334.00	7,225,234.00
Bulgarian language	507,477.00	7,513,302.00	8,020,779.00
Albanian language	930,000.00	6,644,322.00	7,574,322.00
Roma language	5,656,315.00	6,819,912.00	12,476,227.00
Wallachian language	2,204,250.00		2,204,250.00
Hungarian language	1,982,626.00		1,982,626.00
Slovak language	712,000.00		712,000.00
Romanian language	680,000.00		680,000.00
Croatian language	893,096.00		893,096.00
Czech language	253,346.00		253,346.00
Ukrainian language	264,000.00		264,000.00
Ruthenian language	200,000.00		200,000.00
Macedonian language	542,000.00		542,000.00
Multicultural projects	2,388,000.00		2,388,000.00
TOTAL			45,415,880.00

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

CO-FUNDING OF PROJECTS/PROGRAMS WHICH OWING TO THEIR QUALITY CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE AND ART OF NATIONAL MINORITIES					
National minority	Contemporary creative work, cultural industry and cultural relations	Publishing activity in national minority languages	Periodicals in national minority languages	Literary events in national minority languages	Total
Albanians	70,000.00				70,000.00
Bosniaks	700,000.00		200,000.00	200,000.00	1,100,000.00
Bulgarians	200,000.00	200,000.00		50,000.00	450,000.00
Bunjevci	180,000.00	150,000.00		50,000.00	380,000.00
Wallachians	80,000.00				80,000.00
Greeks	100,000.00				100,000.00
Jews	150,000.00				150,000.00
Hungarians	400,000.00	180,000.00	400,000.00	100,000.00	1,080,000.00
Macedonians	100,000.00				100,000.00
Romanians	180,000.00		50,000.00		230,000.00
Ruthenians	130,000.00			100,000.00	230,000.00
Roma	500,000.00	150,000.00		50,000.00	700,000.00
Slovaks	200,000.00				200,000.00
Croats	250,000.00		80,000.00	50,000.00	380,000.00
Multicultural projects	500,000.00			500,000.00	1,000,000.00
TOTAL					6,250,000.00

MINISTRY OF RELIGION

No.	National minority	Amount
1.	Ashkali national minority	360.000,00
2.	Bosniak national minority	450.000,00
TOTAL		810.000,00

MINISTRY FOR HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS

FINANCING OF ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COUNCILS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES				
	NATIONAL COUNCIL	Number of the national council members	Subsidies during 2009	Monthly subsidy
1	Hungarian national minority	35	19,797,776	1,649,815
2	Bosniak national minority	35	14,104,854	1,175,405
3	Roma national minority	35	12,150,567	1,012,547
4	Croatian national minority	35	10,592,802	882,734
5	Slovak national minority	29	9,559,013	796,584
6	Wallachian national minority	21	8,029,570	669,131
7	Romanian national minority	21	7,802,987	650,274
8	Macedonian national minority	21	7,434,787	619,566
9	Bulgarian national minority	21	7,222,365	601,864
10	Bunjevac national minority	21	7,194,042	599,504
11	Ruthenian national minority	18	6,755,036	562,920
12	Ukrainian national minority	18	6,316,029	526,336
13	German national minority	18	6,259,383	521,615
14	Association of Jewish Municipalities	18	6,146,091	512,147
15	Egyptian national minority	18	6,131,930	510,994
16	Greek national minority	18	6,117,768	509,814
TOTAL		382	141,615,000	11,801,250

PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR REGULATIONS, ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

CO-FINANCING OF EXPENSES RELATING TO PERFORMANCE OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COUNCILS SEATED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA	
Name of the national council	Total funds paid in 2009
National Council of the Hungarian National Minority	4,617,500.00
National Council of the Bunjevac National Minority	799,000.00
National Council of the Croatian National Minority	1,331,500.00
National Council of the Slovak National Minority	1,332,500.00
National Council of the Romanian National Minority	962,500.00
National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority	743,000.00
National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority	586,500.00
National Council of the Macedonian National Minority	689,000.00
National Council of the German National Minority	563,500.00
Total	11,625,000.00

MINISTRY OF RELIGION

SUBSIDIES TO CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES						
No.	NAME OF THE CHURCH	Religious culture	Construction	Aid	Religious schooling	Total
1	Roman Catholic Church	1,993,500.00	4,650,000.00	6,146,804.86	10,422,000.00	23,212,304.86
2	Islamic community of Serbia	670,000.00	2,800,000.00	3,394,416.72	4,350,000.00	11,214,416.72
3	Islamic community in Serbia	240,000.00			11,751,000.00	11,991,000.00
4	Slovak Evangelical Church of the A.C.	600,000.00		1,251,976.76		1,851,976.76
5	Christian Church of Reformation	600,000.00	1,000,000.00	641,000.00		2,241,000.00
6	Evangelical Christian Church of the A.C.	650,000.00	1,000,000.00	587,994.16	390,000.00	2,627,994.16
7	Jewish community	700,000.00		500,000.00		1,200,000.00
8	Diocese „Dacia Felix“ of the Romanian Orthodox Church	200,000.00	1,700,000.00	487,994.00		2,387,994.00
	TOTAL	5,653,500.00	11,150,000.00	13,010,186.50	26,913,000.00	56,726,686.50

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- *description/name and size of the national minority;*
- *number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).*

In Slovakia there are approximately 800 000 persons belonging to **12 national minorities** (Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, German, Croatian, Czech, Moravian, Polish, Bulgarian, Russian and Jewish). The results of the census of population, houses and dwellings in 2001 indicate the following ethnic structure in Slovakia:

Nationality	Number	%
Slovak	4 614 854	85.8
Hungarian	520 528	9.7
Roma	89 920	1.7
Czech	44 620	0.8
Ruthenian	24 201	0.4
Ukrainian	10 814	0.2
German	5 405	0.1
Moravian	2 348	0.1
Croatian	890	0.02
Polish	2 602	0.04
Bulgarian	1 179	0.02
Russian	1 590	0.03
Jewish	218	0.01
other	5 350	0.1
unknown	56 526	1.1
Total:	5 379 455	100.00

This means that **14.2%** of the population belongs to a national minority. The census respected the right of each person to freely determine their own nationality, which is confirmed in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

The Commission for Supporting the Culture of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, which falls under the competence of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic Dušan Čaplovič, operates at the **Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic**.

The support to activities of national minorities is also provided under the programme entitled the Action Plan to Prevent All Forms of Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Expressions of Intolerance (Action Plan) which is drawn up for a three-year programming period. On average, **70 minority associations** and **ten municipalities** receive subsidies from the Commission for Supporting the Culture of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups every year, whereas the subsidies from the Action Plan are provided to **10 to 15 minority associations** for the same period.

In 2008, the **Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities**, as a government advisory body for the Roma community issues, granted subsidies to **113 applicants** (17 cities, 55 municipalities, 32 civic associations, 2 foundations, 4 non-profit organisations, 1 official church and 2 private schools).

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic supports minority associations, organisations and individuals through a grant system of the Ministry of Culture (a total number of **410 minority associations** were granted subsidies in 2008), a subsidised organisation of the Ministry of Culture – the Slovak National Museum and its **eight specialized minority museums** and a subsidised

organisation of the Ministry of Culture - **the Hungarian artistic ensemble** Ifjú Szivek – Young Hearts.

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

Yes. All those specified budgets (state budget, budgets of regional and local self-governments).

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?

Within the framework of budgets of individual central government bodies, the total annual subsidy amount is approved by the Slovak Government and subsequently by the National Council of the Slovak Republic (Parliament). Regional self-governments (higher territorial units) and local self-governments (municipalities) determine budgets for supporting the culture of national minorities according to their own needs and requirements.

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

The amount of subsidy is based on several criteria and the percentage share of the respective minority in Slovakia's population is one of them. The main criteria in the determination of subsidies committed to a project are the quality of a project, effects on the national minority (target group) and further criteria such as the requirement to issue at least one periodical for each minority.

5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?

The subsidy allocation mechanism depends on the institution which provides the subsidy and is governed by the respective laws and regulations. Typically, an evaluation committee of experts is set up to decide on the allocation of subsidies depending on the quality of submitted applications for a subsidy on the basis of criteria determined beforehand. At the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic there is a special grant committee of experts is established for each national minority.

6. Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?

Subsidies are distributed by the public administration. In individual cases, the evaluation committees are composed of experts from several central government bodies to prevent overlapping and duplicate aid from public funds, as well as to ensure the continuity of performed activities. Alternatively, grant committees may comprise representatives of individual national minorities.

7. Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?

Based on a contract between the subsidy provider and the beneficiary.

8. Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?

Depending on the provider, the purpose (objective) may be the support for live culture of national minorities and ethnic groups (festivals, editorial activities, music, education), provision of social assistance and a better standard of living, as well as the support for education (Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities).

At the Government level, the Action Plan to Prevent All Forms of Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Expressions of Intolerance was adopted for the period of 2009-2011. Even though the primary focus of the Action Plan is not the support for national minorities and ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic, some of its parts directly concern these groups of people. Each subsidy programme is implemented on the basis of, and in accordance with, a decree, internal directive and methodological guideline for subsidy applicants.

Several months in advance, the Ministry of Culture regularly publishes on its web-site information on the prepared grant programme for the following year along with methodological instructions for applicants which contain the structure of the individual grant programmes and sub-programmes, priorities and evaluation criteria. In the same vein, the Ministry of Culture organises seminars to provide applicants with information concerning the submission of applications, priorities, financial reporting, etc.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

The specification of the requested subsidy varies on a case-by-case basis according to the specific needs of the applicant organisation. However, it must be in compliance with the purpose of the subsidy programme.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

A subsidy beneficiary is obliged to submit a financial report for the provided subsidy, including a substantive evaluation of the project (meeting of the purpose; compliance with the place and deadline of the project implementation; attendance rate of the event; description of the course of the event; in the case of printing, documents demonstrating the issue of the book and periodicals, CDs) to the provider.

11. *Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?*

Yes. Depending on the provider, such an evaluation is performed by an authority, organisational unit of the provider, expert group or the grant committee. In certain cases, members of the committee or the substantive review body of the provider participate, where possible, in the respective projects in order to assess their quality and efficiency. The failure to comply with the set criteria is taken into account in approving the projects in the following year.

12. *Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?*

In line with the plan of subsequent financial control, all public funds are regularly reviewed by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic. In justified cases, financial control may be performed by the Supreme Audit Office.

Information concerning the grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture is also discussed by the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups at its sessions. Each following year, the Ministry of Culture submits to the Parliament the final account for the chapter "Culture" which also contains information on projects approved in the area of the culture of national minorities.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY SLOVENIA

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- **description/name and size of the national minority;**
- **number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).**

Two traditional national minorities – the Italian and Hungarian national minorities – and the Roma community live in the Republic of Slovenia. All three communities are protected by the Constitution (Articles 64 and 65 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia).

In a 2002 census survey, 2258 persons identified themselves as members of the Italian national community, and 3762 persons stated that their mother tongue was the Italian language.

In a 2002 census survey, 6243 persons identified themselves as members of the Hungarian national community, and 7713 persons stated that their mother tongue was the Hungarian language.

In a 2002 census survey, 3246 persons identified themselves as members of the Roma community, and 3834 persons stated that their mother tongue was the Romani language. According to the estimates of various institutions (social work centres, administrative units, non-governmental organisations), around 10,000 Roma (even up to as many as 12,000) live in Slovenia.

The Roma Association of Slovenia operates within the Roma Community Council, in which Roma societies are included (21 Roma societies were its members in June 2009).

Around ten societies are active in the Italian national community, and around 20 in the Hungarian national community.

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

Funds for the operation of the Italian and Hungarian self-governing national communities (the umbrella organisations of the Italian and Hungarian national communities): the Coastal Italian Self-Governing Community and the Pomurje Hungarian Self-Governing National Community) are provided from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia, namely through the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for National Minorities. The Government Office for National Minorities also finances the bilingual operation of municipalities in which members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities live (municipalities of Koper, Izola, Piran, Lendava, Dobrovnik, Hodoš, Šalovci, Moravske Toplice) and the operation of self-governing national communities in the municipalities of Koper, Izola, Piran, Lendava, Dobrovnik, Hodoš, Šalovci, Moravske Toplice.

Funds for the operation of the Roma community (namely, the umbrella organisation The Roma Community Council) are also provided from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia through the Government Office for National Minorities.

In addition, the Government Office for National Minorities also finances the media activity of all three communities.

The cultural activities of the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community are financed from the state budget through the Ministry of Culture; education and schooling of all three communities are financed from the state budget through the Ministry of Education and Sport; and the establishment of the economic basis of the Italian and Hungarian national communities is financed from the state budget through the Slovenian Regional Development Fund.

3. *Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?*

The total amount of funds earmarked for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community is determined by the National Assembly.

The National assembly adopts the state budget, supplementary budget, amendments to the state budget and the annual financial statement of the state budget. The Government submits the draft budget for the next year by 1 October of the current year at the latest. Amendments to the draft budget may be submitted by the deputies of the National Assembly (the Italian and the Hungarian communities have two deputies), deputy groups, interested working bodies, and the working body responsible.

4. *Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?*

No special criteria were established for (co-)financing of the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community. The number of persons affiliated with the community does not affect the amount of allocated funds. The basis for allocation of funds is determined by the amount of funds in the previous year increased by annual inflation rate and by the well-founded needs of the particular community.

5. *Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?*

Relating to the Ministry of Culture and the Slovenian Regional Development Fund, in most cases the umbrella organisations decide on the distribution of financial resources based on submitted opinions. If e.g. particular associations directly participate in invitations to tender, the state authority awards the funds based on the decision made by the expert committee.

For co-financing, every year the Ministry of Culture:

- extends **direct invitation** to the national communities for their cultural programme which includes the operation of public institutes established by the national community and the funds earmarked for invitations to tender or tenders for other providers.
The central (umbrella) organisations of the national communities, the Coastal Italian Self-Governing Community and the Pomurje Hungarian Self-Governing National Community, apply their cultural programmes based on direct invitations, which include the operation of their public institutes (established by the national communities) and the activities of other providers that implement activities for national communities on the basis of invitations to tender. Pursuant to Article 15³² of the Self-Governing Ethnic Communities Act (Official Gazette of RS, No 65/94), the national communities are also invited to submit their opinions relating to the content of direct invitation;
- issues a **public call** (public calls are used in cases when the artistic, cultural-political and expert criteria that have to be fulfilled by a public cultural programme or cultural programme for co-financing from public funds may be determined in advance) or **invitation to tender** (invitation to tender is used in cases when only the criteria for assessment and evaluation of proposals of cultural projects or programmes may be determined in advance, and only the projects with higher assessment or evaluation values shall be financed) for co-financing of cultural projects. The subject of the call is the financing of cultural projects of cultural organisations with the status of a private law legal entity in the Roma community in the Republic of Slovenia and cultural projects of authors affiliated with the Roma community in the Republic of Slovenia with the status of a self-employed professional in the field of culture. Cultural organisations which have the status of legal entity are societies, associations of

³² When state authorities decide on matters relating to the position of the members of national communities, they shall first acquire an opinion of the self-governing national communities.

societies, private institutes and other non-governmental organisations. Authors are natural persons with a valid status as a self-employed professional in the field of culture.

6. *Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?*

Funds from the state budget are allocated through state authorities (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Sport, the Slovenian Regional Development Fund, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for National Minorities); funds earmarked for bilingual municipalities (Koper, Izola, Piran, Lendava, Dobrovnik, Hodoš, Šalovci, Moravske Toplice) are distributed from the state budget through the Government Office for National Minorities to municipalities, which then divide the funds up into those funds needed for bilingual operation and funds intended for municipal self-governing national communities.

The communities strive to achieve the right to manage the financial resources from the state budget themselves which would probably make the Government's supervision of the utilisation of those funds more difficult, and cause tension between the communities and within a particular community.

7. *Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?*

Financial resources are distributed mostly on the basis of concluded contracts.

8. *Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?*

Based on concluded contracts the Government Office for National Minorities (co-)finances:

- Coastal Italian Self-governing Community (the umbrella organisation of the Italian community in Slovenia),
- joint Italian cultural institutions in the Republic of Croatia (EDIT Publishing House in Reka; Italijanska Drama, Reka; Centre for Historical Research in Rovinj; Italian Union Reka),
- Pomurje Hungarian Self-Governing National Community (the umbrella organisation of the Hungarian community in Slovenia),
- Institute for the Information Activity of the Hungarian National Community,
- radio and television programmes for the Italian and Hungarian national communities,
- nationally mixed municipalities with the members of the Italian national community (municipalities of Koper, Izola, Piran) and the members of the Hungarian national community (municipalities of Lendava, Dobrovnik, Hodoš, Šalovci, Moravske Toplice), namely for implementing bilingualism and other constitutional rights (financing of municipal self-governing national communities).
- Roma Community Council (the umbrella organisation of the Roma community in Slovenia),
- radio and television shows for the Roma community.

The Ministry of Culture finances special³³ programmes (library services, publishing activity, museum and fine art services, activities of cultural groups, contacts with the nation of origin, cooperation with minority groups, preservation of language, events, lectures and seminars, investments, regular activity of the Institute for the Culture of the Hungarian National Community, a programme at Lendava Cultural Centre etc.) and integration³⁴ programmes of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, as well as special and integration programmes for the Roma community.

³³ The special programme is intended to support integration and activities for preserving special identities. It supports a wide range of diverse projects of societies and associations.

³⁴ The integration programme represents integration according to equal criteria and quality inclusion in the public cultural infrastructure.

The Ministry of Education and Sport finances the implementation of the rights of Italian and Hungarian national communities in the field of pre-school education and primary and secondary education.³⁵

Slovenia gives special consideration to schools educating Roma pupils and grants them support. For individual and group work with Roma pupils in the school process, the Ministry of Education and Sport allocates additional financial resources, sets more advantageous norms for classes with Roma, specially finances meals, textbooks, excursions etc., and it financed research and development studies dealing with the issues of more successful inclusion of Roma pupils and the standardisation of the Romani language as the basis for teaching it.

From 2003 to 2005 the Ministry of Education and Sport co-financed the research and development project entitled “Ensuring of Equal Opportunities for the Education of Roma Children and their Families” and it was implemented by the Educational Research Institute in selected schools. In the summer of 2006, the research and development project entitled “Slovenian Roma Language Standardisation and Integration of Roma Culture into Education” and implemented by the Faculty of Education in Ljubljana was concluded. Between October 2006 and September 2008 the Faculty of Social Sciences under the guise of the target-research programmes conducted the project “Solving the Roma issue in Slovenia” with emphasis on social inclusion of the Roma in the education system.

Slovenia provides funds for the Italian and Hungarian national communities to create an economic basis for both indigenous national communities. The funds are raised based on the Act Regulating the Use of Funds Arising from the Proceeds Based on the Transformation of Company Ownership Act in the special bank account of the Slovenian Regional Development Fund. The Slovenian Regional Development Fund (hereinafter the Fund) is a financial institution which has been awarding funds for co-financing investments in the areas of indigenous national communities since 2002. The funds intended to promote an economic basis in the areas of indigenous national communities are awarded every year on the basis of an invitation to tender. The funds may be awarded to natural or legal entities with projects in nationally mixed areas as refundable means, non-refundable means, or as a combination of both.

9. How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.

Funds for the operation of community institutions (e.g. Institute for the Culture of the Hungarian National Community), current activities in the field of culture, schooling and education belong to the area of basic financing. Additional needs of the national communities (e.g. purchase of transportation means), insofar as they are well founded, are financed with additional funds.

10. Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?

The communities have to submit reports on the eligible use of funds (half-yearly and annual reports) for the received funds to state authorities or local communities.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

The success (eligible use of funds) is evaluated indirectly based on the received reports and on the spot (e.g. working talks with mayors during the signing of annual contracts).

³⁵ Schooling and education of the members of Italian and Hungarian national communities is an integral part of the Slovenian education system.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

The funds earmarked for the communities from the state budget are audited by internal audit services and the Court of Audit.

INFORMATION SOUMISE PAR LA SUISSE

"Veuillez noter que les informations fournies concernent exclusivement les subventions accordées au niveau fédéral aux minorités nationales reconnues comme telles"

1. *Merci de préciser les informations suivantes pour chaque minorité nationale :*

- description/nom et taille de la minorité nationale ;
- nombre moyen d'associations de minorités bénéficiant chaque année d'une subvention (y compris les groupements d'associations);

a. Communauté romanche

Il s'agit de la communauté linguistique la plus petite de Suisse. Elle est située dans le canton des Grisons, à l'est du pays. Uniquement 0.5% de la population suisse est de langue maternelle romanche (ce qui correspond à 35 095 personnes, selon le recensement de la population de 2000). A l'intérieur du canton des Grisons vivent également les communautés germanophone (majoritaire) et italophone.

Mis à part les nombreux parlers locaux, le romanche se divise en cinq grands idiomes, correspondant chacun à une région différente du canton des Grisons: le sursilvan dans la vallée du Rhin antérieur (d'Oberalp aux portes de Coire), le sutsilvan dans la vallée du Rhin postérieur, le surmiran dans l'Oberhalbstein et la vallée de l'Albula, le puter en Haute-Engadine et dans le haut de la vallée de l'Albula, le vallader en Basse-Engadine et dans le Val Müstair.

Entre 1990 et 2000, le nombre de personnes habitant les Grisons et désignant le romanche comme langue principale a diminué de 8,9 % (moins 2 641), alors que la population du canton a augmenté de 7,6% durant cette même période. La population romanche ne représente plus qu'un septième de l'ensemble de la population du canton. La baisse est particulièrement sensible au niveau de l'emploi du romanche comme langue parlée en famille (-3 015 ou -8,2%), la famille qui est avec l'école un important vecteur de diffusion d'une langue. On constate par contre une légère augmentation de l'emploi du romanche dans le cadre professionnel.

Le romanche, enfin, n'est que faiblement représenté hors des Grisons. En effet, 51,6% des romanchophones vivent dans leur région linguistique et 25,5% dans les autres régions linguistiques du canton des Grisons (total 27 038 personnes, soit 77% des romanchophones de Suisse). En dehors de ce canton, très peu de districts ont une proportion de romanchophones supérieure à 0,3% : Sargans (0,4%), Werdenberg (0,3%), Zurich (0,3%). En termes absolus, la ville de Zurich abrite le plus grand nombre de romanchophones en dehors des Grisons (990 personnes). Coire est la commune qui compte le plus de locuteurs de cette langue (1765 personnes, 5,4%). A la différence de la communauté italophone, la condition du romanche est davantage précaire dans la mesure où cette langue n'est pas parlée dans d'autres pays limitrophes.

Les associations / organisations bénéficiant de subventions annuelles pour la promotion et la sauvegarde du romanche sont :

- *Lia Rumantscha (LR)* : elle encourage la langue et la culture romanche de quatre manières : 1° en fédérant et en soutenant les organisations romanches, 2° en réalisant et encourageant des projets dans ce domaine, 3° en se penchant sur les questions de politique des langues et 4° en représentant la communauté linguistique romanche en dehors de son aire traditionnelle. Son programme comprend des activités dans les domaines suivants: linguistique, traduction, publication, confection de manuels, information, documentation, relations publiques.
- *Agentura da Novitads Rumantscha (ANR)*: fondée en 1996, l'ANR est une agence de presse indépendante, chargée de soutenir les rédactions des médias romanches en diffusant des nouvelles en romanche. Ses prestations de service font partie des mesures de sauvegarde et de promotion du romanche, puisqu'on renforce ainsi la diffusion d'informations orales et écrites en romanche.

Les deux organisations bénéficient de subventions de la part de la Confédération suisse et du Canton des Grisons.

b. Communauté italophone

C'est la deuxième communauté linguistique minoritaire du pays, avec 6.5% de locuteurs (470 961 personnes). L'aire d'utilisation traditionnelle de l'italien recouvre l'ensemble du canton du Tessin et quatre vallées méridionales du canton des Grisons qu'on appelle les « valli » (Mesolcina, Val Calanca, Val Bregaglia, Valposchiavo). Dans ces régions, on parle non seulement l'italien standard, mais également le dialecte tessinois et italo-grison.

Une grande partie des italophones vit toutefois hors de l'aire traditionnellement italophone et est composée d'immigrés. A l'échelle de la Suisse, 470 961 personnes indiquaient l'italien comme langue principale en 2000 contre 524 116 en 1990, soit 6,5% de la population active contre 7,6% en 1990. Ces chiffres confirment le recul de l'italien dans la diaspora : en 1990, les italophones des trois régions non italophones étaient plus nombreux (279 273) que ceux résidant en Suisse italienne (244 843); le rapport s'est inversé en 2000, avec respectivement 204 231 (43,4%) personnes utilisant l'italien comme langue principale dans la diaspora et 266 730 (56,6%) en Suisse italienne. La perte de 75 042 locuteurs italophones hors de l'aire linguistique entre 1990 et 2000 représente une diminution de 26,9%. La présence de l'italien comme langue principale en Suisse alémanique, romande et romanchophone a ainsi chuté de 4,2% à 2,9% en l'espace de dix ans.

L'organisation bénéficiant de subventions annuelles pour la promotion et la sauvegarde de l'italien, active dans le canton des Grisons, est :

- *Pro Grigioni Italiano (PGI)* : La PGI encourage la présence des Grisons italiens et entend améliorer le climat culturel ainsi que les conditions d'existence de la population italophone des Grisons. Elle organise des conférences, des expositions, des concerts et des cours, et publie plusieurs périodiques. Elle soutient en outre des activités destinées à sauvegarder et répandre l'italien aux Grisons, ainsi que des recherches historiques, linguistiques, économiques et sociales. La PGI compte neuf sections hors des vallées italiennes des Grisons (Bâle, Berne, Chiasso, Coire, Davos, Lugano, Suisse romande, Sopraceneri et Zurich).

c. Communauté des gens du voyage

Presque toute la communauté des gens du voyage suisses est composé de Yéniches. Selon les dernières estimations, la population d'origine yéniche de Suisse serait comprise entre 30 000 et 35 000 personnes, dont environ 3 000 sont encore itinérants. La plupart des gens du voyage suisses passent chaque hiver sur la même aire de séjour dans une caravane ou un petit chalet. Ils sont enregistrés auprès des autorités locales et leurs enfants vont à l'école du quartier ou du village. Pendant les mois d'été, les gens du voyage se déplacent en Suisse par petits groupes, ils s'installent pour une à deux semaines sur une aire de séjour à partir de laquelle ils visitent leur clientèle. Pendant ce temps, les enfants restent en contact étroit avec leur école : ils se font envoyer les cours, les devoirs et les corrigés par les enseignants.

Les associations / organisations bénéficiant de subventions annuelles de la Confédération suisse sont :

- *La Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse* : l'association faîtière des gens du voyage suisses, reçoit pour sa part des subventions fédérales annuelles depuis 1985.
- *La Fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses »* : cette fondation créée en 1997 par la Confédération reçoit des subventions annuelles conformément à la loi fédérale du 7 octobre 1994 concernant la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » (RS 449.1), « pour assurer et améliorer les conditions d'existence [des gens du voyage] et pour défendre leur identité culturelle ».

Buts de ces deux organisations : Assurer et améliorer les conditions de vie des gens du voyage en Suisse ainsi que les aider à préserver leur identité culturelle.

2. *Attribuez-vous des subventions publiques aux associations des minorités nationales ? Quel budget (national, régional, local) est utilisé à cet effet?*

Comme cela a déjà été évoqué dans la question précédente, des subventions publiques sont octroyées aux organisations mentionnées.

Les organisations actives dans le canton des Grisons (LR, ANR et PGI) reçoivent des financements de la part de la Confédération suisse et du canton des Grisons. Les organisations actives dans la promotion des gens du voyage bénéficient de subventions de la part de la Confédération suisse uniquement.

3. *Qui fixe le montant total des subventions mentionnées ci-dessus (Parlement, administration publique) ?*

Les subventions provenant de la Confédération suisse à LR, ANR et PGI s'effectuent à travers le crédit prévu dans le cadre de la loi fédérale sur les aides financières pour la sauvegarde et la promotion des langues et des cultures romanche et italienne (RS 441.3) et son ordonnance d'application (RS 441.31). Le financement passe de la Confédération au Canton des Grisons, qui le fait suivre aux organisations. La subvention annuelle destinée au canton des Grisons est formellement fixée par le Parlement fédéral sur proposition du Gouvernement suisse (Conseil fédéral). A partir de 2010, ce subside s'effectuera dans le cadre de la Loi fédérale sur les langues nationales et la compréhension entre les communautés linguistiques et de son ordonnance d'application. Les dispositions des loi (RS 441.3) et ordonnance (RS 441.31) y seront intégrées. Les organisations sont soutenues également par le canton des Grisons, à travers son propre budget cantonal.

Le montant des subventions destinées à la Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse et à la Fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » est fixé par le Parlement sur proposition du Gouvernement suisse (Conseil fédéral). La loi fédérale concernant la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » (RS 449.1) établit les conditions de financement à la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses ».

4. *Quels critères sont appliqués pour fixer le montant de la subvention accordée à une minorité nationale donnée ? Le nombre de membres de la minorité en question fait-il partie de ces critères ?*

Les critères pour la subvention au canton des Grisons (et aux organisations rattachées, LR, ANR et PGI) sont fixés dans le cadre de l'ordonnance sur les aides financières pour la sauvegarde et la promotion des langues et des cultures romanche et italienne (RS 441.31). L'art. 6 précise ces critères :

Art. 6 Critères de calcul

Le montant de l'aide financière fédérale destinée à appuyer une mesure se calcule en particulier en fonction des critères suivants:

- a. l'urgence du point de vue de la politique linguistique;
- b. l'impact sur la sauvegarde ou la promotion de la langue et de la culture;
- c. la portée;
- d. le caractère innovateur.

Ce n'est donc pas le nombre de membres de la minorité romanchophone et italoophone qui détermine le montant de la subvention.

Les montants de la subvention pour la Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse et pour la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » sont fixés en tenant compte de leur frais de fonctionnement (tâches et mandat de ces organisations, budget, rapports annuels, bilans) et des possibilités financières de la Confédération suisse.

**5. *Qui décide à quelle association d'une minorité nationale la subvention doit être versée ?
Existent-ils des critères, des priorités, des lignes directrices ou des organes consultatifs en la matière ?***

Les critères de subvention aux *organisations LR, ANR et PGI* sont fixés dans la loi fédérale sur les aides financières pour la sauvegarde et la promotion des langues et des cultures romanche et italienne (RS 441.3) et son ordonnance d'application (RS 441.31). Plus précisément, l'art. 2 al. 1 de la loi :

Art. 2 Aides financières

1 La Confédération peut, dans les limites des crédits votés, octroyer des aides financières aux cantons des Grisons et du Tessin pour soutenir:

- a. des mesures générales de sauvegarde et de promotion des langues et des cultures romanche et italienne;
- b. des organisations et institutions assumant des tâches suprarégionales de sauvegarde et de promotion des langues et des cultures romanche et italienne;
- c. l'édition en Suisse rhéto-romane et en Suisse italophone.

LR, PGI reçoivent une aide en fonction de leur capacité à assumer des tâches suprarégionales de sauvegarde et de promotion des langues et cultures romanche et italienne.

L'ANR reçoit une aide pour la presse (cf. art. 2, alinéa 2) :

2 La Confédération peut, à des fins de sauvegarde et de promotion de la langue romanche, soutenir la presse romanche.

Concernant *les gens du voyage*, ne sont subventionnées par la Confédération que des organisations à vocation nationale défendant les intérêts de tous les gens du voyage.

6. *Les subventions sont-elles distribuées par l'administration publique, par des institutions externes ou par les associations des minorités ? Quels avantages et désavantages présente votre système national ; quelle est votre expérience en la matière et que faudrait-il éviter ?*

Les subventions sont distribuées par l'administration publique.

En ce qui concerne le financement au *canton des Grisons* (qui redistribue par la suite aux organisations LR, PGI et ANR), le financement est fixé dans le cadre de la loi fédérale sur les aides financières pour la sauvegarde et la promotion des langues et des cultures romanche et italienne (RS 441.3) et son ordonnance d'application (RS 441.31). A partir de 2010, ce subside s'effectuera dans le cadre de la Loi fédérale sur les langues nationales et la compréhension entre les communautés linguistiques et de son ordonnance d'application. Les dispositions de loi (RS 441.3) et ordonnance (RS 441.31) y seront intégrées.

Pour le moment, la pratique est que le canton adresse une demande d'aide financière à l'Office fédéral de la culture (OFC), qui examine le dossier. La demande du canton contient également les demandes que les trois organisations ont adressées au canton. La subvention suit sous forme de décision prise par le Département fédéral de l'Intérieur (DFI), sur avis de l'OFC. Une fois par année, l'OFC rencontre les représentants du canton pour une réunion de coordination. Ce mode de fonctionnement a fait ses preuves, la collaboration aux niveaux fédéral et cantonal permet au canton d'adresser une demande respectant l'esprit de la loi. A partir de 2010, la subvention se fera via un contrat de prestation entre le DFI et le canton des Grisons.

Concernant *les gens du voyage*, les subventions sont versées par l'administration fédérale en se basant sur les décisions du Parlement.

Nos expériences et nos conseils :

1. Il ne peut y avoir qu'une seule organisation faîtière – c'est-à-dire la Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse – qui représente les intérêts des gens du voyage au plan national. Quand d'autres associations en faveur des gens du voyages sont créées, elles ne peuvent toucher des aides financières qu'en adhérant à la Radgenossenschaft. Il incombe à la Radgenossenschaft de décider si elle veut soutenir l'action et aider financièrement ces associations ;
2. Sont importantes : Une bonne collaboration et une bonne répartition des tâches entre la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » et la Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse. Cette

dernière fournit une aide directe et immédiate aux nomades dans leurs problèmes quotidiens, alors que la fondation a pour vocation de favoriser le contact entre les gens du voyage et les autorités et de contribuer à l'amélioration et à la consolidation à long terme des conditions de vie des gens du voyage, en fournissant des conseils juridiques et scientifiques, en permettant des échanges de réflexions et d'expériences entre tous les milieux concernés et en exerçant une influence sur les décisions politiques. La fondation n'a pas pour seule mission de représenter les intérêts des nomades, mais aussi d'apporter un complément indispensable à la Radgenossenschaft en étant une institution par le biais de laquelle l'État essaie, en collaboration avec les gens du voyage, d'assumer ses responsabilités vis-à-vis de cette minorité culturelle.

7. Ces subventions sont-elles distribuées en vertu d'un contrat ou d'une décision officielle d'une autorité ?

Concernant LR, PGI et ANR, la décision de financement au canton des Grisons se prend sous forme de *décision* du DFI. Le canton distribue par la suite une part de ce financement aux organisations et contribue également avec une subvention cantonale. A partir de 2010, elle se fera sous forme de *contrat de prestation*.

La subvention de la Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse est versée en vertu d'une décision de l'administration fédérale faisant suite à l'approbation du budget de la Confédération par le Parlement. La subvention attribuée par administration fédérale à la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » se base sur l'arrêté fédéral du 18 septembre 2006 concernant l'octroi d'un crédit-cadre à la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » pour les années 2007 à 2011 (FF 2006 8221).

8. Merci d'indiquer la vocation des subventions. Quels objectifs/priorités sont privilégiés pour l'attribution des subventions ? Des lignes directrices sont-elles en place pour les associations de minorités nationales et/ou l'administration publique ou les institutions qui accordent des subventions en vertu d'un contrat ou d'une décision ?

Comme déjà signalé, ce sont la loi fédérale sur les aides financières pour la sauvegarde et la promotion des langues et des cultures romanche et italienne (RS 441.3) et son ordonnance d'application (RS 441.31) qui indiquent les raisons, objectifs et priorités de la subvention au canton des Grisons et en conséquence aux organisations mentionnées (LR, ANR et PGI). L'objectif principal est une aide financière de la Confédération au canton pour la promotion et la sauvegarde des langues et cultures romanche et italienne, à travers le soutien à des projets scientifiques, à des organisations de promotion de ces langues et au soutien à la presse romanche.

La Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse offre une palette variée de services d'assistance aux gens du voyage. Elle dispose d'un secrétariat et un centre de documentation ouvert au public; elle a pour mandat de fournir des services aux gens du voyage qui demandent conseil ou aide et de coopérer avec les autres organisations de nomades. L'Association sert d'intermédiaire entre les autorités et les gens du voyage, fournit d'importantes prestations en matière d'aires de transit ou de stationnement, intercède en faveur des gens du voyage qui auraient des problèmes de patentes ou de scolarisation, et offre des conseils dans le domaine de l'assistance judiciaire ou de l'aide sociale. Cette Association constitue une institution importante pour les relations publiques et la sensibilisation de l'opinion publique aux préoccupations des gens du voyage. En soutenant cette Association, la Confédération défend les intérêts d'une minorité culturelle suisse, grâce à une organisation indépendante de l'Etat, gérée par les gens du voyage eux-mêmes. Dans la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses », la Radgenossenschaft, c'est-à-dire les gens du voyage, est représentée au conseil de fondation par cinq membres sur onze.

La fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » a pour objectif, selon la loi, de contribuer à améliorer les conditions de vie des gens du voyage. A la fois active sur le plan national et indépendante de l'administration, elle doit promouvoir le dialogue entre les parties concernées et rechercher des solutions rapides et non bureaucratiques en cas de conflits.

Ses objectifs sont définis dans l'acte de fondation. Elle vise en premier lieu à promouvoir la collaboration intercantonale et intercommunale en ce qui concerne:

- a. l'aménagement et la gestion d'aires de séjour et d'aires de transit;
- b. l'accès facilité à l'activité professionnelle;
- c. l'éducation des degrés primaire, secondaire et tertiaire;
- d. les mesures de portée générale qui conduisent à une meilleure compréhension des conditions de vie de la population nomade en Suisse et contribuent à les garantir et à les améliorer.

Pour remplir ce mandat, la fondation doit collaborer avec les institutions et les associations de nomades déjà existantes et avec les administrations de la Confédération, des cantons et des communes.

9. *A quel point le sujet/l'objet de la demande d'aide financière doit-il être concret ? Une distinction est-elle faite entre les subventions de base et les subventions par projet ? Si oui, merci de préciser.*

Depuis 2009, *PGI, ANR et LR* reçoivent les subventions par le biais d'un contrat de prestation qui définit l'octroi du subside cantonal et fédéral, signé avec le Canton des Grisons. Dans ce contrat sont indiquées les prestations fournies. Les organisations reçoivent des subventions pour des *prestations* fournies (projets, publications, médiation, formation, etc.) et pas pour leur infrastructure.

La Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse et la *Fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses »* présentent leur programme d'action pour l'année à venir, le rapport annuel, leur budget et le bilan. Les projets sont en général financés par la subvention annuelle ; quelquefois, s'il s'agit de grands projets, un financement à part est prévu.

10. *Les associations de minorités sont-elles tenues d'établir des comptes financiers correspondants ? A quel moment, à l'intention de quelle autorité et de quelle manière (présentation de factures ou simplement de rapport écrits, ou les deux) ? Les informations soumises sont-elles contrôlées par la même autorité ou institution que celle qui est responsable du contrat ou de la décision concernant la subvention ?*

ANR, LR et PGI sont tenues d'établir des comptes financiers annuels pour justifier de l'utilisation de la subvention.

Les organisations doivent présenter ces comptes au canton des Grisons au plus tard le 31 janvier de l'année suivant l'utilisation du subside par le biais d'un bilan et d'un compte d'exploitation. La correspondance se fait sous forme écrite.

Ces informations sont contrôlées par le canton des Grisons, qui peut décider des modifications du subside dans le cas où les prestations prévues dans le contrat de prestation ne seraient pas respectées. La Confédération a également une marge de contrôle lorsqu'elle reçoit la demande cantonale annuelle pour le subside fédéral au canton et aux organisations.

Le fonctionnement des deux organisations *des gens du voyage* est contrôlé par l'administration versant les subventions. De plus, l'examen des comptes et bilans de la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » est fait par le Contrôle fédéral des finances, celui de la *Radgenossenschaft* par une entreprise fiduciaire privée.

11. *Le caractère durable des résultats et de l'efficacité de la subvention accordée aux associations de minorités est-il évalué ?*

En règle générale, non.

La subvention attribuée à la fondation « Assurer l'avenir des gens du voyage suisses » se base sur un arrêté fédéral pour une durée de cinq ans. Pour obtenir un nouveau crédit-cadre, un message (rapport) au Parlement est nécessaire, dans lequel l'activité de la fondation pendant les cinq années passées est décrite et analysée.

12. L'administration publique ou les institutions chargées des contrats ou décisions concernant les subventions sont-elles auditées ? Doivent-elle rendre compte des actions concrètement menées (par exemple au Parlement, au bureau d'audit ou au département interne de vérification) ?

Le contrôle fédéral des finances examine à tour de rôle l'activité de l'administration fédérale dans des domaines spécifiques, selon leur appréciation en tenant compte de critères politiques et financiers.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY SWEDEN

1. Description/name and size of the national minority

Sweden has five national minorities – Jews, Roma, Sami, Swedish Finns and Tornedalers.

Sweden does not compile official statistics on people's ethnic origin, apart from their citizenship and country of birth, as there are no methods of calculating numbers of people belonging to an ethnic group that are both ethically acceptable and scientifically reliable. It is hence not possible for Sweden to submit statistical data on its national minorities. In accordance with the Personal Data Act (1998:204), it is also forbidden to process personal data that reveals race, ethnic origin or religious belief.

The figures given below are therefore rough estimates and medians from different sources provided by researchers and the various language minority groups themselves. They can also be found in the Swedish Government Bill *Nationella minoriteter i Sverige* [National Minorities in Sweden] (1998/99:143).

Sami

The Sami population in Sweden amounts to approximately 20 000–30 000 people. There are about 9 000 speakers of Sami in Sweden. The Sami are an indigenous people. According to the Sami Parliament Act (Sametingslagen) (SFS 1992:1433), which determines who is eligible to vote in the Sami parliamentary election, a Sami is a person who considers him/herself to be Sami and who speaks or has spoken Sami at home, or

whose parents or grandparents speak or have spoken Sami at home, or who has a parent who is or has been on the Sami parliamentary electoral register.

Finnish

The Sweden-Finnish population in Sweden is put at about 450 000, an estimated 50 per cent of whom use the Finnish language to some extent. About 16 000 Finnish speakers live in the county of Norrbotten.

Meänkieli

Approximately 50 000 Tornedalers live in the municipalities of Haparanda, Övertorneå and Pajala and in certain parts of Kiruna and Gällivare. A rough estimate is that about 40 000 have some knowledge of Meänkieli. During the 1950s, a large-scale movement of people took place from the areas around Tornedalen to the southern parts of the county of Norrbotten and the rest of Sweden.

Romani Chib

Romani Chib consists of several different varieties. In connection with Sweden's ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, all the varieties spoken in Sweden were recognised as one minority language.

The number of Roma living in Sweden is estimated at between 40 000 and 50 000 people. The Romani population in Sweden is not homogenous. It includes descendants of the Romani groups that arrived in Sweden in the 16th century as well as those who came to Sweden at the end of the 20th century. Among the oldest Romani groups in

Sweden is the Finnish Kalé Roma, of which there are an estimated 3 200. The Travellers, who have also been in Sweden since the 16th century, are estimated to be around 20 000 in number. The Romani community in Sweden also includes the 2 500 or so Swedish Kelderash Roma whose forefathers came to Sweden some 100 years ago. The largest group of Roma in Sweden, normally referred to as "non-Nordic" Roma, is

estimated to be about 15 000 in number and came to Sweden at the end of the 1960s or later. As a result of the collapse of the former Yugoslavia, at least 5 000 Roma came to Sweden, mostly from

Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are no figures relating to the number of speakers of the different varieties of Romani Chib in Sweden.

Yiddish

The Jewish community in Sweden is estimated at around 20 000–25 000 people and includes those with either one or both parents of Jewish origin. There are an estimated 3 000 Yiddish speakers in Sweden. As far as Yiddish is concerned, it is important to remember that the number of Yiddish speakers in Europe has decreased unnaturally as a result of the Holocaust during the Second World War. Today, efforts are being made by Jewish congregations to increase the number of Yiddish speakers in Sweden.

State subsidies

It is possible for organisations representing national minority groups to receive state subsidies. The aim of these subsidies is to promote efforts that strengthen the culture and identity of such groups, support minorities policy and allow the groups to exert more influence in society. As of 2006, this state support is regulated by the Ordinance (2005:765) on government support for national minorities.

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs is a government agency that has, among others, the task of distributing funds to civil society in the form of support for organisations, projects and international cooperation. All the agency's support is distributed on behalf of the Swedish Government.

The target groups are:

- decision-makers;
- civil servants; and
- organisations (working with young people, women, homosexual, bisexual and transgender people, national minorities, ethnic minorities etc.).

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs distributes subsidies to the national minorities in different ways.

1. There is a specific fund directed exclusively to national minorities named State Subsidies for National Minorities. About nine organisations receive annual subsidies. One of the criteria is that the organisation is national, i.e. is organised on a national level. The budget for this fund is SEK 3 800 000 and includes four of the five minorities. The Sami organisation receives subsidies from the Sami Parliament (see below for further information).
2. There is also a specific governmental project focused on supporting gender equality among national minorities. The budget for this fund is SEK 6 500 000 for a three-year period. The administrator of the project is the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs.
3. The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs also distributes subsidies to national minorities from the funds for youth organisations and women organisations.

So far this year, four of five national minorities' youth organisations have received a total amount of SEK 1 068 000. The fifth, representing the Tornedalers, has never applied for subsidies from the youth fund.

4. The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs is also involved in capacity-building projects and networks, mainly focused on the Roma community. The agency produced a report on the situation of Roma youths in Sweden in June 2009.

The Sami Parliament receives an appropriation of SEK 43 000 000 as a general grant every year from the Government. Apart from this the Sami Parliament also receives almost SEK 9 000 000 for cultural activities and Sami organisations, SEK 5 454 000 for the Sami Theatre, approximately SEK 56 000 000 as compensation for predators affecting the reindeer business and SEK 55 718 000 as an appropriation for reindeer herding. The Sami Parliament decides for itself how the money it has received should be administered. In 2008, 57 organisations received subsidies for cultural activities.

Apart from the subsidies distributed through the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs and the Sami Parliament, subsidies are also distributed through the Swedish Arts Council (SAC). The SAC distributes public subsidies to national minorities, amounting to a total of SEK 9 500 000 in 2009. The subsidies distributed by the SAC benefit non-profit organisations, foundations, public companies and private firms.

The SAC disposes of state grants intended for subsidies and other contributions with the aim of promoting the language and culture of national minorities. Four organisations have been chosen by the Government as recipients of subsidies – the New Finnish Theatre, the Theatre of Tornedalen, the Swedish-Finnish Library in Stockholm and the Jewish Library. In addition to these organisations, the SAC has given priority to two Roma cultural centres in Malmö and Stockholm.

For the last two years the distribution has been as follows:

New Finnish Theatre – SEK 2 000 000

Theatre of Tornedalen – SEK 2 000 000

Swedish-Finnish Library in Stockholm – SEK 1 000 000

Jewish Library – SEK 250 000

Roma Cultural Centre in Stockholm – SEK 500 000

Roma Cultural Centre in Malmö – SEK 500 000

The remaining appropriation (about SEK 950 000) is distributed to different projects. Including those mentioned above, a total of 21 organisations were given grants from this appropriation during 2008.

Furthermore, the SAC has the possibility of distributing subsidies to minority associations according to the regulations of the appropriation for literature and arts periodicals. This subsidy can be granted for the publication of literature and arts periodicals in national minority languages. The annual appropriations direction also gives the SAC the possibility of supporting contributions to promote the publication and distribution of literature and arts periodicals of national minorities. In 2008, a total of 17 publishers and other literature organisations, and 6 arts publications received subsidies.

2. *Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?*

The subsidies are distributed from the national budget, please see the answer to Question 1 for further information.

3. *Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)*³⁶?

It is the Parliament, after proposal from the Government, that decides on the total amount of the subsidies. But it is the government agencies that decide how the subsidies should be distributed.

³⁶ Please specify only the organ responsible for determining the amount of the subsidies, and the procedure followed. Do not indicate the amount of the subsidies. Please do not include information on the financing of the education system for minorities.

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

This question is not relevant for the SAC's subsidies, only for subsidies from the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs, that distributes funds according to the Ordinance (2005:765) on state subsidies for national minorities.

As mentioned above, the Ordinance (2005:765) on state subsidies for national minorities regulates the distribution of subsidies to organisations representing national minorities. It is stated in the Ordinance that a minority organisation referred to in this Ordinance is a national organisation or an organisation of national interest which:

1. represents one of the national minorities and where the members of the organisation or its local associations or sections consist, to an overwhelming extent, of people who belong to the national minority; and which
2. organises activities aimed at empowering the national minority, promoting the identity, culture and language of the national minority group, combating discrimination of or disseminating knowledge about the group in question.

The state subsidies for the national minorities according to this Ordinance come in two parts. The total sum of SEK 3 800 000 is divided into a fixed and a variable part, where the fixed part is only SEK 600 000 per national minority. The variable part depends on the number of member associations affiliated with the national organisation. If the organisations receive other subsidies from the Government, the state subsidies for national minorities can be reduced.

The Sami Parliament is a public administrative authority, and is thus part of the yearly state fiscal process.

5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?

The regulations for distributing the subsidy for promoting the language and culture of national minorities are given in the annual appropriations direction. This only stipulates the purpose for the appropriation and specifies the aforementioned organisations. Apart from that, the SAC decides how to distribute the grant. The SAC has chosen to give priority to projects that support the structures of national minorities as well as children and young people.

In accordance with the regulations of the appropriation for literature and arts periodicals, the SAC can distribute grants for the publication of literature and arts periodicals in national minority languages. The annual appropriations direction also gives the SAC the possibility of supporting contributions to promote the publication and distribution of literature and arts periodicals of national minorities.

The SAC has an expert panel to assist it in assessing the applications for these two subsidies. The expert panel consists of a group of people that has broad knowledge of minority policy issues and the culture, language and literature publication of national minorities. The expert panel only has an advisory role and gives recommendations for the SAC's decisions. The members of the expert panel are appointed by the board of the SAC. Suggestions on new members to be elected to the expert panel are given by the national minorities' organisations, but the SAC makes its own decisions on whom to elect.

The SAC has recently agreed with the governmental Institute for Language and Folklore and the Sami Parliament that applications concerning national minorities' languages are to be sent to these agencies for comments.

The SAC arranges regular consultations with the national minorities' national organisations (or their counterparts). The SAC also has regular contact with other persons involved in the language, culture and literature of national minorities.

The Sami Parliament decides on allocations to Sami organisations and projects. The Sami culture appropriation is distributed by the Sami Arts Council. The criteria are given by the objectives of cultural policy decided by the Sami Parliament. Organisations receiving a basic subsidy must be non-profit organisations. of project subsidies can also be institutions, public companies and foundations as well as individuals.

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs has certain routines for the distribution of subsidies to national minorities.

5. Ordinance (2005:765) on state subsidies for national minorities
6. Directions (föreskrifter) for implementing the Regulation

The national organisation representing national minorities can use and allocate the subsidy quite freely, as long as it is used in accordance with the regulations contained in the above Ordinance (2005:765). The national organisation may, for example, distribute the funds to its member associations but also use them for administrative costs. Each year, the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs reviews the organisation's annual report etc. to verify that the funds are used in accordance with the Ordinance (2005:765).

6. Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?

The distribution of subsidies is carried out by public administration. Concerning the distribution of the appropriation for subsidies for promoting the language and culture of national minorities, this is dealt with by the SAC, formally decided by the Director-General of the SAC. The appropriation for Sami culture, Sami organisations and the Sami Theatre is distributed by the Sami Parliament, delegated to the Sami Arts Council (except for the Sami Theatre, whose subsidy is decided by the Government). The subsidies to national minority organisations are dealt with by the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs.

7. Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?

As a general rule state subsidies are given by formal decision.

8. Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?

The aim of the subsidies to national minorities, as well as the aim of the Swedish policy for national minorities, is to protect the national minorities, to strengthen their influence and to support the long-established minority languages with a view to keeping them alive.

The Sami Parliament follows its own guidelines and principles when granting subsidies to Sami projects.

Please also see the answer to Question 5.

9. *How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.*

All recipients send in new applications each year to the SAC, as well as accounts for previous grants received.

Organisations that are specified in the annual appropriations direction account for their activities and financial results for the previous year in their application, as well as activities and finances for the current year. They also present an activity plan and a budget for the year the application concerns. The same procedure applies to the two Roma cultural centres, as their subsidies are considered recurrent.

Organisations applying for the SAC's project subsidies are to present a project activity plan and a budget.

As for subsidies given by the Sami Parliament, the Government is not normally involved in these activities since the Sami Parliament has a certain degree of self-determination. The regulations for the Sami culture subsidies, decided by the Sami Parliament, stipulate that applications for basic subsidies for Sami culture must contain minutes from the annual meeting, the annual report, annual accounts, and they must specify the members of the board. For project subsidies, the application must contain the objective and a plan for the implementation of the project. If the organisation has received subsidies previously, these must be accounted for as well.

As for subsidies given by the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs, there is a distinction between state subsidies and project subsidies. The formal criteria for obtaining the state subsidy are described in the answer to Question 4, and how the subsidy can be used in the answer to Question 5. The criteria for receiving project subsidies are related to the purpose and quality of the project. If an organisation applies for the project subsidy aimed at supporting gender equality among national minorities, they must explain why and how their project supports gender equality as well as how they evaluate the results.

10. *Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?*

The organisations that receive state subsidies are obliged to submit written reports to the government agency (the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs, the Sami Parliament or the SAC) containing details of who has distributed the subsidies. The government agency in turn submits annual written reports on its activities to the Government Offices.

The system of reporting to the SAC can be given as an example of procedure. Subsidies granted from the SAC's appropriations are to be accounted for within three months of the project's completion, in accordance with the regulations for all subsidies given by the SAC. This means that the applicant must account for the implementation and results of the project, how the subsidy has been used and the total revenues and expenditures. No copies or verifications are required. For grants that exceed the sum of SEK 300 000, an audit by an approved or chartered accountant is required.

Reports must be submitted for subsidies granted from the Sami Arts Council. They must contain details of how the subsidy has been used, along with the financial outcome.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

Concerning the lasting results, success and efficiency of the subsidies awarded by the Sami Parliament, the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs or the SAC, it is the responsibility of the government agencies to evaluate this.

As some examples of evaluations made by these government agencies, the following can be mentioned.

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs informed the Government Offices in June 2009 that, when it comes to measuring the effects of the subsidies, there are some technical (concerning methodology) as well as financial challenges to overcome. These challenges were presented in a written report to the Government Offices and have resulted in amendments to the Ordinance.

No evaluation has been carried out of the subsidies of the SAC. However, the SAC follows the development of the recipient organisations and gathers the information in the annual report for the SAC.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs submits an annual evaluation report to the Government Offices.

The Sami Parliament, the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs and the SAC account for their subsidies in the annual report, which is sent to the Government Offices. These government agencies are, like other government agencies, audited by the Swedish National Audit Office, a parliamentary agency.

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY UKRAINE

1. Please give the following information for each national minority:

- description/name and size of the national minority;
- number of minority associations receiving subsidies per year (including umbrella associations).

According to data of the 2001 all Ukrainian census of population 37,5 million persons are representatives of the Ukrainian nationality (77,8% from the general amount of population) and 10,9 million (22,2 %) are representatives of over 130 nationalities.

Most numerous national minorities in Ukraine are:

Russians (8, 3 million persons (17, 3% of the total population of the state), nearly 100 associations

Byelorussians (275 thousand, (0, 6%),

Moldavians (258, 6 thousand, (0, 5%), 10 associations

Crimean Tatars (248,2 thousand, (0.5 %),

Bulgarians (204, 6 thousand (0, 4%), 41 associations

Hungarians (156, 6 thousand, (0, 3%), 19 associations

Romanians (151 thousand, (0, 3%), 14 associations

Poles (144, 1 thousand, (0, 3%), almost 120 associations

Jews (103, 6 thousand, (0,2%), 153 associations

Armenians (99, 9 thousand, (0,2%), 35 associations

Greeks (91, 5 thousand, (0,2%), more than 100 associations

Tatars (73, 3 thousand, (0,2%), 13 associations

Roma (47,6 thousand, (0,1%), 88 associations

Azerbaijani (45,2 thousand, (0,1%), 34 associations

Georgians (34,2 thousand, (0,1%), 13 associations

Germans (33,3 thousand, (0,1%), 85 associations

Gagauz (31,9 thousand, (0,1%).

The number of representatives of the rest ethnic groups varies from 30 thousand to 300 persons. The least numeral ethnic groups in Ukraine are Karaims around 1,2 thousands of persons, Turks – Meskhetins above 300 persons, Buryats and Krymchaks for 400 persons accordingly.

As of January 1, 2009 there are 1458 public associations of national minorities in Ukraine, 43 of them having all-Ukrainian status.

2. Do you distribute public subsidies to national minorities' associations? Which budget (national, regional, local) is used for this purpose?

Financial support provided to national minorities' public organizations on ethnic and cultural activities is considered to be one of the practical mechanisms of the state policy implementation on preserving ethnic identity of national minorities. Financial assistance is granted from the budgets of all level:

- national (from the State budget)
- regional
- local (from the budgets of towns or cities)

3. Who determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations (parliament, public administration)?

Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament) determines the total amount of the subsidies to be distributed to national minorities' associations by adopting the Law on the Annual State Budget of Ukraine the draft of which is developed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (Government).

4. Which criteria is used to determine the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association? Is the number of persons affiliated with a national minority one of the criteria?

In Ukraine financial support is provided to national minorities' associations for carrying out educational and cultural activities. There are no precise criteria for determining the amount of the subsidy for each national minority association. Nevertheless, such factors as the importance of an event, its reaction (response) in the society, providing parity among national minorities are taken into account while distributing subsidies. The number of persons affiliated with a national minority is not a determinant factor.

5. Who decides on the allocation of the subsidy to a minority association within a national minority and are there any criteria, priorities or guidelines or advisory bodies?

Financial support is not distributed among minority associations within a national minority. It is allocated to an association by an executive authority mandated to do it.

6. Is the distribution of subsidies made by public administration, outsourced institutions or by minority associations? Which advantages or disadvantages are associated with your own national system; which experience have you encountered and what should be avoided?

Subsidies to national minority associations are distributed:

- at the national level – by central executive bodies which are chief managers of budgetary programmes on the revival of national minorities' culture
- at the regional level – by regional public administration
- at the local level – by local authorities.

The advantage of such a system of subsidies distribution is the possibility of any minority association to receive a subsidy in case it applies for it.

The drawback is the number of applications from minority associations (very often several minority associations within a national minority) can be greater than the amount of funds to be distributed.

7. Is the distribution of these subsidies made by a contract or by a formal decision of an authority?

A minority association submits an application to an authority for a subsidy and the latter takes a decision to grant it or not.

8. Please indicate the purpose(s) of the subsidies. Which targets/priorities are favoured when attributing subsidies? Are there any guidelines for national minority associations and/or public administration or institutions which grant the subsidy contract or subsidy decision?

Subsidies are granted for minority activities aiming at maintaining and fostering their ethnic identity, culture and language and promoting tolerance and good inter-ethnic relations. Minority associations are granted the possibility to hold cultural and artistic festivals, days of national culture, conferences, and workshops as well as publish reference books and textbooks in minority languages.

9. How concrete should the subject/object/topic of the financial support request be? Is there a distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies? In the affirmative, please clarify.

The subject of financial support request must be concrete (e.g. for holding the Days of Greek culture or the festival of Slovak folk art or publishing a textbook in Gagauz language). There is no distinction between basic subsidies and project subsidies.

10. Are the minority associations obliged to set up corresponding financial accounts? When, to whom, and in which manner (submission of invoices or only written reports or both)? Is the reporting controlled by the same authority or institution which is responsible for the subsidy contract or decision?

Minority associations are obliged to set up their financial accounts. They submit reports and invoices to an authority which has granted subsidies just after the event has been held and money has been spent.

11. Are the lasting results, success, and efficiency of the subsidy awarded to minority associations evaluated?

The results and success of the subsidies awarded to minority association are proven by the social response of the event, that is to say, the majority of festivals are all-Ukrainian with great number of minority participants, and there is information about the event in the newspapers on TV.

12. Is public administration, or the institutions which are responsible for the subsidy contracts or decisions audited? Are there any reporting duties for public administration or institutions responsible for awarding these subsidies with regard to concrete actions (e.g. to the parliament, Audit Office or internal revision department)?

An authority granting subsidies is recurrently audited with regard to special-purpose financing.