

Strasbourg, April 1998 (English only)

Final Report
to the European Commission
(PHARE-programme)

on the implementation of the Joint
Programme with the Council of Europe
entitled

"Minorities in Central European Countries"

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document is the final report on the Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries", prepared by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe. The programme ran from 1 July 1996 to 31 March 1998.

A draft of this document was submitted to the delegations of participating countries and discussed and approved at the Fifth Meeting of Government Offices in Skopje on 11-12 December 1997.

The final version takes account of remarks made at that meeting. Before turning to a description of the development and an evaluation of the Joint Programmes (5), its birth is recalled (2) as well as its contents (3) and an overview of the activities undertaken is given (4).

2. BIRTH OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME:

The Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries" was signed in June of 1996 by the European Commission and the Council of Europe Secretariat.

This Programme resulted from a proposal made at the first meeting of Government Offices for National Minorities ('Governments for Minorities') organised by the Hungarian Office for National Minorities in November 1994 in Budapest. This multilateral gathering of representatives of various governmental structures responsible for minority issues in the region led to a very constructive dialogue and a wish to develop an atmosphere of mutual trust, goodwill and to share experiences. Following this conference a proposal was presented by the Hungarian authorities for structured co-operation between the various Governmental Offices for National Minorities among the 'accompanying measures' to the Stability Pact.

Bearing in mind the specific expertise of the Council of Europe, in particular in the fields of standard-setting and confidence-building measures for national minorities, and the support given to the first conference of Governmental Offices held in Budapest in November 1994, it was proposed that the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the European Union, should accept responsibility for designing, planning and implementing a possible programme of co-operation in this field, to be co-financed by the European Commission PHARE programme and the Council of Europe (Demosthenes Programme). This programme would thus constitute a concrete contribution by the two major European institutions to the implementation of the Stability Pact.

Since 1994 the Council of Europe has initiated, within its co-operation and assistance programmes with countries of central and eastern Europe (Demosthenes Programme), a special section specifically devoted to co-operation activities for national minorities. However, the main achievement of the Council of Europe is in the field of standard-setting which resulted in the adoption of two major European legal instruments for the protection of the rights of national minorities:

- the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages [ETS no. 148 of 1992];

- the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities [ETS no. 157 of 1995].

These texts, which both entered into force in early 1998, together with the human rights provisions included in the European (Association) Agreements with the European Union constituted the political and legal references for the implementation of the Programme.

3. CONTENTS OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME

The duration of the Joint Programme was initially set at 18 months from 1 July 1996 to 31 December 1997. An extension of three months was requested and approved in order to carry out all activities envisaged by the programme. The Joint Programme thus ended on 31 March 1998.

The programme was structured into four main projects:

- i Regular meetings of the Governmental Offices for National Minorities (MIN I);
- ii Study visits for representatives of Offices for National Minorities to similar institutions in other countries (MIN II);
- iii Seminars/workshops on topical subjects common to all (or several) Offices for National Minorities (MIN III);
- iv Specific follow-up action (MIN IV).

Below, under 4, an overview is given of the activities carried out.

2. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Project MIN I : regular meetings of representatives of Governmental Offices for National Minorities

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| 6. | Hungary to Wales (United Kingdom), 21-25 May 1997 | 9 |
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Project MIN III - Seminars/workshops on topical subjects common to all (or several) Offices for National Minorities

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Project MIN IV - Specific follow-up action

none

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5. DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME

The above overview of activities, in combination with the appendices, gives a clear insight into the individual events carried out under the Joint Programme. The aim of this part of the report is to complement the overview with a description of the development of the programme and it further includes observations of an evaluative nature.

Project MIN I : Regular meetings of representatives of Governmental Offices for National Minorities

The meetings of Government Offices for National Minorities (project MIN I), as was recalled above, formed the starting point of the Joint Programme. Held periodically and bringing together governmental delegations from the 17 participating countries, these meetings continued to form the backbone of the Joint Programme. Besides the general aim of establishing a mutual sense of trust and allowing for an exchange of views on the policies for national minorities, these meetings defined the policy guidelines for the programme, initiated new proposals for co-operation, served to develop common initiatives for co-operation and assessed the progress made in the implementation of the programme.

The meeting in Bucharest (10-11 September 1996) saw the launch of the Joint Programme and provided the venue for discussion of the proposals tentatively included in it. The results of these discussions for projects MIN II-IV are reflected below under the respective project headings. Concerning project MIN I itself there were offers to host future meetings in Bratislava and Skopje respectively. Both proposals were adopted and the meetings took place in Bratislava and Skopje accordingly.

Regarding the nature of these meetings there was, in comparison with the first meeting held in Budapest in 1994, a clear development. Participants have come to know each other better, through these meetings and other activities under the Joint Programme, and so, to a significant extent, the initial diplomatic reserve of delegations was overcome. This made it possible to exchange information at professional level as well as to have open discussions between professionals about the problems they deal with in the course of their work. In order to facilitate discussions it was decided that delegations would prepare written information on the relevant topics in advance of the meetings, thus avoiding lengthy factual oral presentations. Furthermore it was agreed that, as far as technically possible, these meetings would be split up into workshops in order to facilitate participation by all. Both decisions were successfully implemented.

What should further be noted as a significant feature of these meetings is that they provided the occasion for important bilateral contacts. Many officials participating in the meeting have responsibility for official bilateral relations with neighbouring countries. Such relations are often embedded in bilateral treaties between the respective countries. As is evident from the treaties enumerated in the Stability Pact, bilateral treaties in many cases contain express provisions concerning the (mutual) protection of national minorities. The opportunity for officials to meet each other in the context of meetings of Government Offices was a valuable contribution to these bilateral relations, which have a significant bearing on the domestic climate for protection of national minorities.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the meeting in Bratislava clearly expressed the wish to see participation of, in particular, Western European countries in the seminars under project III as well as in the meetings under project I. A strict geographical limitation to countries of Central and Eastern Europe would wrongly give the impression that other States are not interested in or concerned with questions of protection of national minorities. Although the budget did not allow for participants from these countries to be re-imbursed, it was decided that these countries would be invited to participate, albeit at their own expense. Pursuant to this decision representatives from all Council of Europe member States were invited to attend the Seminar on Participation of Minorities in Decision-making Processes in Brdo (1-2 December 1997) and the Fifth Meeting of the Governmental Offices for National Minorities in Skopje (11-12 December 1997). Participation from other countries, particularly in the latter meeting was rather disappointing, but that was due mainly to incidental reasons rather than a lack of interest.

The evaluation held at the Fifth Meeting of Government Offices in Skopje showed explicitly that these meetings are considered to be most useful by participants and that there is a clear desire for them to continue.

Project MIN II - Study visits for representatives of Offices for National Minorities to similar institutions in other countries

Most proposals for study visits included in the tentative programme concerning project MIN II were confirmed, whilst a number of additional proposals were put forward at the meeting in Bucharest. All new proposals were accepted, subject to availability of sufficient financial resources and acceptance by the host countries.

A substantial number of study visits has thus been carried out. The feedback from the participants has, almost without exception, been very positive. Host countries have also generally welcomed the possibility to receive visitors from abroad and to arrange programmes for the visits. Written reports, of varying length and detail, have been received from all participants, with the exception of those who participated in the very last study visit at the end of March 1998.

Generally speaking, study visits are regarded with a measure of scepticism concerning their real worth and are sometimes even referred to as "political tourism". Although it is difficult to fully assess the value of a study visit, it is the Secretariat's impression that the study-visits carried out under the Joint Programme do not deserve such a pejorative description. Awareness of the way in which minority questions are dealt with, both at the legal level and in practice, in other European countries as well as the contacts that are established in the course of such visits are valuable, if difficult to quantify, assets when it comes to developing and implementing policies in the home country. Of course, the selection of participants is crucial to the success and countries are encouraged to nominate those persons who will have most benefit from the visit in their day-to-day work. Furthermore, in order to derive maximum benefit, it needs to be ensured that, over time, a broad range of persons has the opportunity to participate.

Particularly successful appear to have been the study visits by a combination of delegations to one country (for example to Finland, see appendix 6; to Austria, see appendix 8 and to Hungary - see appendix 12). These visits allowed the different visiting delegations to reflect jointly on the

features of the host country, which led to an interesting multi-lateral exchange of information.

Project MIN III - Seminars/workshops on topical subjects common to all (or several) Offices for National Minorities

Concerning project MIN III the discussion at the meeting in Bucharest revealed on the one hand that no delegation was offering to host sub-regional seminars whilst on the other hand a number of delegations were willing to host thematic seminars which would be open to participants from all countries involved in the Joint Programme. As a result, the structure of project MIN III was modified to take account of the proposals put forward.

Organisation of seminars for participants from all seventeen countries obviously also had serious budgetary consequences. In particular, the calculations for the sub-regional seminars originally envisaged were based on train-fares, not air-fares, which meant as a consequence that the number of events that could be organised had to be reduced.

These developments were discussed with the European Commission in February 1997. The following approach was agreed:

1. to reduce the number of seminars to three or four, in function of available resources and proposals from participating countries;
2. to tackle in each seminar a major theme in the field of protection of national minorities (media, education, participation) and to use each seminar as a starting point for further activities and co-operation within these themes;
3. to encourage involvement in the seminars not only of government officials but also of minority representatives by increasing the size of delegations to the seminars from two (originally envisaged) to three or four persons each. The decision whether or not to include minority representatives as well as the question of selection of minority representatives would be left to the countries concerned.

In line with this agreement the seminars "Minorities and media" (see appendix 19) and "Minorities and education" (see appendix 20) "Participation of minorities in Decisionmaking Processes" (see appendix 21) were successfully organised as starting points for co-operation under the respective themes. All three were of an exploratory nature and generated proposals for further activities.

The exploratory nature of the meetings should not be understood as meaning that they were superficial. The themes of the three seminars, media, education and participation, were chosen as they are central to the question of protection of national minorities, as is clear from the FCNM. The seminars provided the very first opportunity to take them up in this kind of multi-lateral setting and this required that an exploratory approach be taken.

The purpose of the seminars was therefore to identify in respect of each of these areas firstly whether there are other relevant (international) standards including particularly those of a "soft

law" nature, which give guidance to the understanding and implementation of the general legally binding standards laid down in the framework Convention. This was especially the case for the areas of media and education where relevant international standards do exist. Secondly, the seminars aimed to bring out both the existing experience at European level and the experience at national level of the participating countries in these areas. As a result all participants were able to acquaint themselves both with relevant international standards and experience, as well as with national standards and experience in other countries.

The third and largest of the three Seminars organised was the one in Brdo, Slovenia on 1-2 December 1997 concerning the participation of minorities in decision-making processes. In this area no international standards exist outside Article 15 of the FCNM but there is a host of experience at national level. The seminar brought this wide range of practice together under four workshops/themes (consultative councils, parliamentary representation, cultural autonomy and self-government and civil society) and provided participants with a rich compendium of experience to draw from in their domestic work.

The presence of minority representatives at the seminars proved to be most valuable. Unsurprisingly, they often did not express entirely the same perspective on issues and questions as government officials did, however in all cases the differences of view were presented constructively and thus contributed valuable components to the gathering of an overall insight into the matters under discussion.

A further interesting aspect of the participation of minority representatives was that the seminars often provided the opportunity to meet with government representatives of the "kin-states".

Finally it should be noted that at the meeting in Bratislava (under project MIN I- see appendix 2a) there was general endorsement of the idea that minority representatives should continue to be involved in these seminars.

Project MIN IV - Specific follow-up action

At the Bucharest meeting a few proposals were tentatively put forward for activities under this heading. However, in subsequent discussions with the authorities concerned it appeared that these ideas could not be brought to fruition. Although this is disappointing, it should be pointed out that it may have been a bit optimistic to introduce an item of specific follow-up action at a time when the co-operation was only about to begin.

* * *

General

At the Fifth meeting of Government Offices in Skopje on 10-11 December 1997, the representatives of the participating States expressed their positive evaluation of the Joint Programme. Also the Secretariat of the Council of Europe takes the view that the Joint Programme has made a good start in enhancing co-operation between participating countries in the field of protection of national minorities and has contributed to the participation of persons

belonging to national minorities in this often complicated field. Although the activities originally envisaged had to be substantially revised to take account of the wishes expressed by participating States, once this had been done, all activities were carried out successfully.

The proposal for the Joint Programme stated:

"This programme constitutes a first and modest attempt to develop a structured co-operation between various governmental agencies dealing with national minorities' issues in Central European countries. If, after 18 months, the achievements of the programme are positively assessed, it could lead to a more ambitious and far-reaching programme of co-operation".

It is submitted that the Joint Programme should be assessed positively and that the seeds have been sown for further continued and enhanced co-operation. Indeed, the Fifth meeting of Government Offices in Skopje agreed that a concrete proposal for a new Joint Programme should be put forward. It was agreed that such a proposal should take account of the following :

- a. the desirability of continued involvement of minority representatives in the activities;
- b. the desirability of a thematic approach;
- c. the possibility to allow, within the themes identified, for flexibility of working methods including "variable geometry";
- d. the desirability of involvement of other member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union.

A proposal for a new Joint Programme entitled "National Minorities in Europe" which takes the above into account was subsequently submitted to the European Commission.

* * *

APPENDICES

"Third Meeting of Government Offices for National Minorities"

Field of activity:

Human Rights / Minorities

Type of activity:

Conference

Country:

Multilateral

Date and place:

10 - 11 September 1996, Bucharest

Budgetary reference:

BO 9201

Origin:

The co-operation between Government Offices for National Minorities was initiated through a first meeting of Government Offices for National Minorities held in November 1994 in Budapest. At that meeting it was decided to seek to continue and deepen this activity in the form of a Joint Programme between the European Commission (Phare Programme) and the Council of Europe and it was subsequently included among the "accompanying measures" to the Stability Pact. Items to be included in the Joint Programme were discussed at the second meeting (Budapest, December 1995), the third meeting in Bucharest, organized with the Romanian Government saw the launch of the Joint Programme, following its signature on 20 June 1996.

The expected duration of the Programme is 18 months. It is structured into four main projects:

i.regular meetings of the Governmental Offices for National Minorities to create a spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding. These meetings will define the policy guidelines for the programme and initiate new proposals for co-operation ;

ii.a scheme of study visits to promote an exchange of technical assistance between countries where Governmental Offices for National Minorities function and those which are in the process of setting up (or adapting) similar structures. This scheme should also facilitate an exchange of experience on specific issues ;

iii.a series of well-targeted workshops/seminars associating countries confronted by similar problems in order to define common solutions and to develop new co-operation schemes ;

iv.a limited number of pilot projects for the training of professionals (governmental officials, journalists, cultural administrations, teachers, etc) which are developing their professional activities in the context of national minorities.

Assessment meetings will be held half way through the programme (at 9 months) and at the end (at 18 months) to assess the progress of the programme and to adapt, if need be, its content and orientations.

Participants:

The meeting constituted a contribution of the Council of Europe to the Joint Programme and was financed out of its budget. The participants were the representatives of the Government Offices for National Minorities or Government Departments which deal with minority questions from the 17 participating States (Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine ¹). Furthermore, representatives from all national minorities in Romania had been invited to attend as observers and the meeting was open to the press. The European Commission (Phare Programme) was also represented as was the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Objectives:

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the following themes:

- i.the implementation of the framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities;
- ii.programmes for organisations of national minorities: preparation and implementation;
- iii.future co-operation.

Opening statements were made by Mr. Viorel Hrebenciuc, Secretary General of the Government of Romania and Co-ordinator of the Council for National Minorities and Mr Peter Leuprecht, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The Conclusions of the meeting were presented by Mr. Pierre-Henri Imbert, Director of Human Rights.

General assessment:

The meeting can be regarded as successful as it gave the participants the possibility of exchanging a great deal of information and sharing their experiences on their activities in the field of implementation and on programmes for organisations of national minorities. Furthermore the first arrangements could be made for the implementation of the further activities

¹ The contribution of the Commission of the European Communities covers the expenses of 11 Phare countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). The costs of including other countries in the Programme are borne by the Council of Europe.

under the Joint Programme. Valuable proposals were made and agreed to improve the effectiveness of work in further meetings (see the Conclusions). The establishment of a network of contact persons (one per participating country) will enhance the effective implementation of the programme.

For a more detailed information, including the programme of the Conference, the list of participants, the list of projects and the network of contact persons you may contact the Directorate of Political Affairs.

PROGRAMME
OF THE
THIRD MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL OFFICES FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES
BUCHAREST, 10-11 SEPTEMBER 1996

organised by

the ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES
and
the COUNCIL OF EUROPE

in the framework of
MINORITIES IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,
a Joint Programme between the European Commission (Phare- programme) and
the Council of Europe

MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 1996

Arrival of the participants in Bucharest

20h.00 Cocktail offered by the Romanian Government Council for National Minorities

TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 1996

08h.00 Breakfast

09h.00 Opening

Mr. Viorel Hrebenciuc, Secretary General of the Government of Romania
and Co-ordinator of the Council for National minorities

Mr. Peter Leuprecht, Deputy-Secretary General of the Council of Europe

- 09.45 **Theme I : The implementation of the framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities**
- Moderator: Mr. Philippe Boillat (Switzerland)
- 11.15 Coffee-break
- 11.30 Continuation of discussion on Theme I
- 13.00 Break for lunch
- 15.00 **Theme II : Programmes for organisations of national minorities: preparation and implementation**
- Moderator: Mr. Viorel Hrebenciuc
- Introduction: Mr. Ivan Truter, Executive Secretary of the Romanian Government Council for National Minorities
- 16.15 Coffee-break
- 16.30 - 18.00 Discussion on Theme II
- 20.00 Reception

WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 1996

08.00 Breakfast

09.00 Continuation of discussion on Theme II

Moderator : Mr. Rolf Gossmann (Germany)

11.00 Coffee-break

11.15 **Theme III : Future co-operation**

Moderator : Mr Pierre-Henri Imbert, Director of Human Rights

Introduction: Mr. Jean-Louis Laurens, Deputy-Director of Political Affairs the Council of Europe

13.00 Break for lunch

15.00 Discussion on Theme III

16.15 Coffee-break

16.30 Continuation of Discussion on Theme III

17.30 - 18.00 Conclusions

Mr. Pierre-Henri Imbert

Mr. Viorel Hrebenciuk

18.15 Meeting with the press

20.00 Festive dinner

THURSDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 1996

Departure of the participants

"Fourth Meeting of Government Offices for National Minorities"

Field of activity:

Protection of national minorities

Type of activity:

Meeting

Budgetary reference:

BO 9201

Country:

Multilateral - Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Ukraine

Date and place:

19-20 June 1997, Bratislava, Slovakia

CoE experts (inc country):

Mr. Rolf GOSSMANN, Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Interior, Germany

CoE Secretariat:

Ms. Jane DINSDALE, Deputy-Director of Human Rights

Mr. Jean-Louis LAURENS, Deputy-Director of Political Affairs

Mr. Frank STEKETEE, Minorities Section, Directorate of Human Rights

Ms. Nadia KHAFAJI, Minorities Section, Directorate of Human Rights

Participants (role/capacity):

Government officials from offices for national minorities from the participating countries

Observers:

.representatives from the European Commission;

.representative of the High Commissioner on National Minorities;

.representatives from national minorities in Slovakia and Government officials from Slovakia.

Total number of participants:

Invited:34

Attended: 33

Partner institutions/organisations:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia

Origin/reference to other activities:

Joint programme "Minorities in Central European Countries" - proposal by Slovak Government

Objectives:

Regular Meetings of the Government Offices for National Minorities are the backbone of the Joint Programme on Minorities. Their general aim is to create a spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding; to define the policy guidelines for the Joint Programme and to initiate new proposals for co-operation.

The fourth meeting held in Bratislava focused on :

- 1.the framework Convention for the Protection of National minorities;
- 2.integration of national minorities into civic society, with as sub-theme; modalities of participation of national minorities in decision-making processes at the State-level;
3. future co-operation.

General evaluation:

The discussion of theme 1 (the framework Convention) showed positive prospects for the entry into force of the framework Convention as well as highlighting some specific problems which still have to be overcome.

Under theme 2. integration was discussed and identified as being a "two-way street" and thus being completely different from assimilation. Under the sub-theme preparatory discussions were held for a seminar that will be held on the topic of participation by national minorities in decision-making processes in Brdo, Slovenia in November 1997.

The discussion on future co-operation revealed enthusiasm for the activities carried out under the programme so far and a desire to see the Joint programme be continued in future. It was suggested that minority representatives should be included in appropriate activities (particularly the thematic seminars), that the thematic approach should be further developed, allowing also for activities at sub-regional or bi-lateral level. Furthermore it was proposed that member States of the Council of Europe which do not participate in Joint programme should be invited to participate in the meetings and seminars (albeit at their own expense as the budget cannot cover these expenses).

In light of the considerable interest from the press, a press conference was given.

Results/decisions:

The meeting was a successful one, revealing an increasing openness between participants. The positive feedback on the Joint programme in general lead to a decision to prepare a proposal for a new Joint Programme at the next meeting in Skopje (11-12 December 1997). Furthermore, representatives from member States of the Council of Europe which do not participate in the Joint Programme as such , will be invited to send participants to the seminars and meetings at their own expense.

PROGRAMME
OF THE
FOURTH MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL OFFICES FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES
Bratislava, 19 - 20 June 1997

organised by

the GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
and
the COUNCIL OF EUROPE

in the framework of
"MINORITIES IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES",
a Joint Programme between the European Commission (Phare-programme) and
the Council of Europe

WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 1997

Arrival of participants in Bratislava
(Transportation will be provided for by the Slovak Government from Vienna
airport to the Forum Hotel)

19.00 Dinner in the Forum Hotel

THURSDAY, 19 JUNE 1997

07.30-08.20 breakfast

08.30 transport to Hotel Borik

09.00 **Opening session**

Mr Jozef KALMAN, Vice-Premier of the Slovak Government

Ms Jane DINSDALE, Deputy Director of Human Rights of the Council of

Europe

Theme I : The framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Moderator: (to be designated)

10.30 Coffee-break

10.45 Continuation of theme I

12.00 Break for lunch (served in Hotel Borik)

14.00 Theme II : The integration of National Minorities into Civic Society

Moderator: (to be designated by the Slovak Government)

15.15 Introductions: (speakers to be designated by the Government of Slovakia)
Coffee-break

15.30-17.20 Continuation of theme II

17.30 Transportation to Hotel Forum

19.00 Reception offered by Mr. Jozef Kalman

FRIDAY, 20 JUNE 1997

07.30-08.20 Breakfast

08.30 Transportation to Hotel Borik

09.00 Sub-Theme : Modalities of participation of national minorities in decisionmaking processes at the State-level

Moderator : (to be designated by the Council of Europe)

10.15 Coffee-break

10.30 Continuation of sub- theme

12.00 Break for lunch (served in Hotel Borik)

14.00 Theme III: Future co-operation

Moderator: Mr. Jean-Louis LAURENS, Deputy Director of Political Affairs

- 15.15 Coffee-break
- 15.30-16.20 **Closing session**
- 16.25-16.50 Meeting with the press
- 17.00 Transportation to Hotel Forum
- 17.30-18.10 Dinner in Hotel Forum
- 18.20 Transportation to Concert Hall
- 19.00 Concert by Philharmonic Orchestra
- 21.30 Transportation to Hotel Forum

SATURDAY, 21 JUNE 1997

- 07.30-08.00 Breakfast
- 08.20 Departure on excursion to Gabčíkovo river dam
- 11.30 Lunch in the town of Pezinok
- 12.30 Departure for Bratislava
- 13.00 Departure of the participants
(Transportation to Vienna Airport will be provided by the Slovak Government)

"Fifth Meeting of Government Offices for National Minorities"

Field of activity:

Protection of national minorities

Type of activity:

Meeting

Budgetary reference:

BO 9201

Countries:

Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Date and place:

11 - 12 December 1997, Skopje

CoE Secretariat:

Mr Thomas OUCHTERLONY, Mr Krzysztof ZYMAN, Mr Frank STEKETEE, Ms Nadia KHAFAJI.

European Commission: John PENNY, DG1A. Observers: Mr Julian PEEL YATES, OSCE, Mr Victor de la TORRE, European Human Rights Foundation.

Participants (role/capacity):

Officials from the Government Offices for National Minorities.

Total number of participants:

Out of 34 invited, 30 participated.

Partner institutions/organisations:

Minister of Foreign Affairs of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

Origin/reference to other activities:

Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries".

Objectives:

Discussion in working groups of the theme of integration (the role of language in the integration process; the role of culture in the integration process) and of the theme of tolerance (the role of education; the role of civil society including political parties). Furthermore the meeting discussed future co-operation by evaluating the current joint programme and discussing the proposal for a new joint programme.

General evaluation:

The technical and organisational preparation of the required considerable effort including the preparation of a draft evaluation document and a draft proposal for the new joint programme. The discussions of the themes of integration and tolerance were quite interesting, but did not fully meet the high expectations of the co-organisers of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The discussions, which in a multilateral setting of this nature inevitably are not concrete in the sense that they do not focus one or two particular country situations, were nonetheless useful from the point of view of identifying questions which could be the subject for further work in activities under the new joint programme. Certainly the format of working in working groups, new to the meetings of Government Offices, was successful. The experience will be used in preparing the sixth meeting of Government Offices which is scheduled to take place in Riga in September 1998.

The meeting evaluated the Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries" in very positive terms and requested that a proposal for a new Joint Programme be put forward, based on the achievements of the current Joint Programme and taking account of the evaluation. Particularly, it was agreed that the approach of a new Joint Programme should be thematic, allow for flexible working methods, enhance the participation of minority representatives and not be limited only to the countries of central and eastern Europe, but should seek to include the other members states of the Council of Europe and European Union.

Results/decisions:

The reports of the rapporteurs from the working groups will be collated and distributed among all participants. The themes of the meeting are included in the proposal for the new Joint Programme. Based on the positive evaluation of the existing Joint Programme, it was decided that a proposal for a new Joint Programme should be put forward, taking account of the achievements and evaluation of the current Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries".

PROGRAMME
OF THE
FIFTH MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL OFFICES FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES
Skopje, 11 - 12 December 1997

organised by

the GOVERNMENT OF "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"
and
the COUNCIL OF EUROPE

in the framework of
"MINORITIES IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES",
a Joint Programme between the European Commission (Phare-programme) and
the Council of Europe

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 1997

Arrival of participants in Skopje
(Transportation will be provided from the airport to the Intercontinental Hotel)

19.00 Dinner in the Intercontinental Hotel

THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER 1997

09.00 **Opening session**

Mr. Ognen MALESKI, Under Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Jean-Louis LAURENS, Deputy Director of Political Affairs of the Council
of Europe

09.45 **Theme I : Integration**

working group 1: the role of language in the process of integration

working group 2: the role of culture as a factor of integration

10.30 Coffee-break

- 11.00 Continuation of working groups on theme I
- 12.30 Break for lunch
- 14.30 Continuation of working groups on theme I
- 15.15 Coffee-break
- 15.45 **Theme II : Tolerance**
- Working group 1 Role of education
- Working group 2 Role of civil society, including political parties
- 17.30 end of day 1
- 19.00 Reception offered by Mr. Ognen MALESKI

FRIDAY, 12 DECEMBER 1997

- 09.00 continuation of working groups under theme II
- 10.45 Coffee-break
- 11.15 Plenary reporting on working groups themes I and II
- 12.30 Break for lunch
- 14.30 **Theme III: Future co-operation**
- Moderator: Mr. John PENNY
- 16.30 Coffee-break
- 17.00 **Closing session**
- 17.30 end of meeting

EVENING

visit of performance at the Theatre of National Minorities

SATURDAY, 21 JUNE 1997

Sightseeing in Skopje

**INFORMATION NOTE
ON THE
THE FIFTH MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL OFFICES FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES
IN SKOPJE, 11-12 DECEMBER 1997**

Introduction

It was agreed at the Fourth Meeting of Government Offices for National Minorities on 20-21 June in Bratislava, the themes of integration and tolerance would be taken up as themes for discussion at the Fifth Meeting. Furthermore it was agreed that it would be desirable to be able to meet in working groups, as this allows for a greater participation of all participants.

The programme for the Fifth Meeting was drawn up on the basis of these decisions. Under each of the two substantive themes two working groups are proposed, each with a different sub theme.

As the delegations from all participating countries will consist of two persons, one representative can participate in each working group. All participants are requested to prepare for an active contribution to the discussion. They are encouraged to present detailed factual information on the subjects concerned in written form, as experience shows that the oral presentation of many facts and figures is not the most effective way of transmitting this information.

Themes of the Fifth Meeting

theme 1: integration:

The discussion at the Fourth Meeting of governmental Offices in Bratislava (June 1997) took up, for the first time in the context of the co-operation between Governmental Offices, the issue of integration. Although the discussion was only a preliminary one and was not aimed at drawing overall final conclusions, there was general agreement that Governments, in developing programmes for integration policy, should recognise that :

- integration is not assimilation and that;
- integration is a "two-way street", requiring efforts from both minority and majority.

When discussing these ideas further, the role of language and the role of culture in the process of integration were mentioned as being particularly important. For this reason it is proposed to explore these items further in two working groups:

1. the role of language in the integration process;
2. the role of culture in the integration process:

The first working group could consider issues such as:

- language as a means of communication or as a symbol of ethnic identity;
- language as an obstacle to integration;
- language a part of cultural heritage;
- use of language in communications with and within public authorities and services.

The second working group could consider issues such as:

- promoting and developing institutions for strengthening cultural identity;
- advancement and promotion of these institutions as a factor of integration;
- measures to encourage intercultural dialogue;

theme 2: tolerance

The second theme of the Fifth Meeting of Governmental Offices is tolerance. It will be the first time that this theme is taken up as such in the framework of the meetings of Government Offices. In order to avoid this discussion being too abstract in nature and in order to give room for concrete contributions from all delegations, there will also be two working groups under this theme

1. the role of education
2. the role of civil society, including political parties

The first working group could take up issues like:

- learning about human rights as a basis for development of tolerance;
- education and dealing with traditional prejudices;
- other means of promoting tolerance through the system of education

The second working group could take up issues like:

- Ngo's and the promotion of tolerance
- role of political parties
- responsibility of actors in civil society
- should it be possible to ban extremist NGO's and political parties ?

theme 3: future co-operation

Under this heading the meeting will discuss proposals for a new Joint Programme following the expiry of the current Joint Programme on 31 March 1998.

A draft proposal will be prepared by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and distributed to all delegations.

Delegations are expressly invited to present proposals for future activities at the meeting. It would be appreciated if such proposals would be communicated to the Programme Counsellor in

advance of the meeting so that they can be taken into account.

It is recalled that a number of delegations made tentative suggestions for further activities in the field of media and the field of education following the thematic seminars that were held:

1. Minorities and Media, Budapest, 3-4 April 1997
2. Minorities and Education, Vilnius, 22-23 May 1997

A third thematic seminar will be held in Brdo, Slovenia on 1-2 December 1997 concerning the participation of minorities in decisionmaking processes. In this area too there may be proposals for further activities.

Finally it is noted that activities may also be proposed involving a smaller number of countries or even on a bi-lateral basis.

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Study visit

- Field of activity:** Protection of National Minorities.
- Budgetary reference:** EW 5700.
- Country:** Albania.
- Date and place:** 27 May 1996 - 6 June 1996, Greece.
- Partner organisations/institutions:** Legal Department of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Participants (number, role/capacity):** Two: Mr. Albert Beja, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Ethnic Issues and Head of the Government Office for Minorities, Mr. Frederik Mikeli, Diplomatic Adviser to the Prime Minister.
- Origin/reference to other activities:** Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries".
- Objectives:** To become acquainted with the Greek experience in the fields of human rights and protection of minorities in the Balkan area and to receive information on the way a member of European institutions adopts and implements policies to find a good solution to these problems in the whole Balkan area. Main interests of study visit also pertained to the Greek experience relating to the international protection of human rights, with special emphasis to the European Convention, minority protection in Greece (legal framework and practical measures) and the Greek policy towards the ethnic and minorities' issues.
- Programme:** Visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Legal Department, Directorate of International Organisations and Division of Neighbouring Countries and of Minorities of the General Directorate of Political Affairs); to the Ministry of Education (Department of External Relations, Department of Elementary Schools and Department of Religious Affairs); to the Ministry of Interior (Division of Prefectures); to NGOs (Greek Helsinki Committee, Philallia); to Prefectures of Xanthi and Rhodopi and to Cities

of Parga and Thessaloniki.

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | EW 5700. |
| Country: | Lithuania. |
| Date and place: | 20 - 22 March 1997, Poland. |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Ministry of Culture of Poland. |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Four: Dr. Remigijus Motuzas, Director of the Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, Dr. Severinas Vaitiekus, Coordinator to the Council of Europe, Dr. Rimgaudas Gele_vi_ius, Adviser to the President of the Republic of Lithuania on Internal Policy, Ms. Bo_ena Zombkiewicz, Specialist of the Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities. |
| Origin/reference to other activities: | Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries". |
| Objectives: | To become acquainted with the administration and governing system on National Minorities in Poland (legislation, activities of non-governmental organisations, problems) as well as the work of state institutions (ministries, parliament, government) concerning activities and problems of national minorities and to meet representatives of various NGOs. |
| Programme: | Visit to the Ministry of Culture and Art of Poland; to the Office of Culture of National Minorities; to the Parliamentary Committee on National Minorities; to representatives of Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Byelorussian and German organisations; to the Information Centre of National Minorities and to the Centre of Regional NGOs. |

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | EW 5700 / BO 9201 |
| Country: | Estonia, Slovakia and "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". |
| Date and place: | 15 - 18 April 1997, Finland (Helsinki/Rovaniemi). |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Five : Mr. Aleksander Dusman (Estonia), Chairman of the Round Table of National Organisations in Ida-Virumaa, Mr. Pavol Mikula (Slovakia) from the National Minority Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Juraj Zervan (Slovakia), Director of the Department for National Minorities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Emilija ("Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") from the Ministry of Education and Mr. Zoran Todorov ("Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") from the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. |
| Origin/reference to other activities: | Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries". |
| Objectives: | To study problems of the protection of languages and rights of national minorities in Finland and the situation and legal standards of national minorities in Finland. |
| Programme: | Visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Directorate for Legal Affairs, Legal and Political Departments); to the Swedish Popular Assembly; to the Ministry of Justice; to the Ministry of Social and Health Affairs (Advisory Board on Romany Affairs); to the University of Helsinki (discussion with Sami Parliament representatives) and to the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi (discussion with the Director of the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law and a scientist |

of Arctic Centre).

Study visit

- Field of activity:** Protection of National Minorities.
- Budgetary reference:** EW 5700.
- Country:** Hungary.
- Date and place:** 14 - 17 April 1997, Bolzano (South Tyrol), Italy.
- Partner organisations/institutions:** Regional Parliament of South Tyrol.
- Participants (number, role/capacity):** Two: Dr. Éva Hegyesiné-Orsós, State Secretary and President of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities, Ms. Ágnes Szauer, Head of Department responsible for the German minority living in Hungary.
- Origin/reference to other activities:** Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries".
- Objectives:** To study the autonomy of South Tyrol with a special emphasis on legal rights as well as on the legal background and the practical implementation of financial, linguistic and cultural autonomy; to visit institutions of social and health care and to get acquainted with the institutional conditions of caring for the elderly people and ensuring them the opportunity to use their mother tongue.
- Programme:** Visit to the President of the Regional Parliament and regional deputies; to the President of the Province of South Tyrol; to the Vice-President of the Trentino-South Tyrol Autonomous Region; to the Head of the local Ministry for Trade and Tourism; to the local Minister for Education and representatives of the Office for Youth and School (Ladin and German schools); to Heads of Departments in the local Ministry for Health and Social Affairs; to the local Minister for Work and Employment; to the Director of the *Südtiroler Volksgruppeninstitut* and to the General Hospital of Bolzano.

Study visit

- Field of activity:** Protection of National Minorities.
- Budgetary reference:** EW 5700 / BO 9201.
- Country:** Croatia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovakia, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".
- Date and place:** 12-16 May 1997, Vienna, Klagenfurt (Carinthia), Eisenstadt and Oberwart (Burgenland), Austria.
- Partner organisations/institutions:** Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Austria.
- Participants (number, role/capacity):** Twelve: Ms. Mila Šimi_ (Croatia) from the Government Office for Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities, Mr. Tihomir Telišman (Croatia) from the National Minorities Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Milan Pospíšil (Czech Republic), Secretary of the Council for National Minorities of the Czech Government, Mr. Andrej Sulitka (Czech Republic), Secretary at the Government of the Czech Republic, Dr. Rimgaudas Gelezevicius (Lithuania), Deputy Director of the Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities, Mr. Stanislas Vidtmann (Lithuania), Adviser to the President of the Republic of Lithuania on Internal Policy, Ms. Anina Botošová (Slovakia), Secretary of the Council of Minorities of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Erik Lipták (Slovakia) from the Department of National Minorities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ján Podolák (Slovakia), Counsellor at the Government Office of the Slovak Republic, Ms. Jelena Cvetanovska ("Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Head of the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Tatjana Janjic ("Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") from the Ministry of Justice and Ms. Biljana Stefanovska ("Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Head of the European Integration Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Origin/reference to other activities:** Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European

Countries".

Objectives:

To become acquainted with the Austrian minority policy, especially regarding Slovenes of Carinthia and Croats and Hungarians of Burgenland; to study communication between various ethnic groups in Austria, the legal status of these minorities, the State's position regarding these minorities, to collect information on the position of national minorities in Austria, to study conditions for developing culture and education of minorities.

Programme:

Visit to the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Federal Chancellery; to the Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia; visit with the Regional Government of Kärnten in Klagenfurt; visit to the Federal Higher Secondary School for Slovenes and the bilingual Federal Higher Secondary Commercial School both in Klagenfurt; to the publishing house "Hermagoras/Mohorjeva"; to the Office of the Provincial Government of Burgenland; to the bilingual Secondary School (Croat/German, Hungarian/German); meeting in Oberwart with representatives of the Cultural Association of the Hungarians in the Burgenland and the Roma Association; meeting in Oberwart with the chairmen of the Advisory Councils of the Croat, Hungarian and Roma Ethnic Groups and visit to a bilingual municipality in the vicinity of Eisenstadt.

Study visit

- Field of activity:** Protection of National Minorities.
- Budgetary reference:** EW 5700.
- Country:** Hungary.
- Date and place:** 22 - 24 May 1997, Cardiff and London, United Kingdom.
- Partner organisations/institutions:** Welsh Office in Cardiff and School of Slavonic and East European Studies at the University of London.
- Participants (number, role/capacity):** Two: Mr. Otto Heinek, Vice President of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities, Ms. Judit Lászlóne Solymosi, Head of the Department for International Relations in the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities.
- Origin/reference to other activities:** Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries".
- Objectives:** To study the Welsh language policy, its objectives, methods, means and achievements in order to understand the reasons of the revival of the Welsh language.
- Programme:** Visit to the Welsh Language Board; to the University of Wales; to the S4C (publicly supported Welsh Language Television Authority); to Ysgol Gynradd Llanishen (Primary School with Welsh medium education); to ACAC (Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales); to the Welsh Office (Division of Culture and Recreation, Division of Schools Performance); to the University of Wales in Cardiff; to the Cardiff City Council; to the School for Slavonic and Eastern European Studies at the University of London.

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | BO 9201. |
| Country: | Croatia and "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". |
| Date and place: | 21-26 October 1997, Bolzano and Trento (Trentino-South Tirol), Italy. |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Autonomous Region of Trentino-South Tirol. |
| CoE Secretariat: | Secretariat did not participate in the study visit. |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Five: Ms. Mila Šimi_ (Croatia) Deputy Head of the Government Office for Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities, Ms. Milena Klajner (Croatia), Senior Adviser to the Committee of Human Rights of Ethnic and National Communities and Minorities in the House of Representatives of the Croatian Parliament and Secretary of the Subcommittee for Realisation of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities, Ms. Elisabeta Gorgieva ("Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Counsellor at the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Maja Klimovska ("Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Counsellor at the Ministry of Justice and Mr. Vangel Panovski ("Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Head of Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. |
| Origin/reference to other activities: | Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries". |
| Objectives: | To study the special status of the Trentino-South Tirol region; to be introduced to the position of linguistic minorities, both with reference to their legal status and the factual implementation of their rights; to visit local institutions and meet German-speaking minorities and other minorities |

representatives (Slovenes or Croats).

Programme:

Meeting with Mr. Paolo Magagnotti, journalist and public relations officer of the Regional Council of Trento (report on history and autonomous status of the Trentino-South Tirol region), meeting with Mr. Marco Dell'Adami de Taczal, Deputy Secretary of the Regional Council of Trento, meeting with Mr. Tarcisio Grandi, President of the Regional Council of Trento and Mr. Franco Tretter, the Vice-president, visit to the mocheny minority living in Val del Fersina on the protection of language and culture, meeting with Dr. Umberto Montefiore, President of the Provincial Council of Bolzano, meeting with Dr. Franz Pahl, Regional Deputy-premier, meeting with Dr. Giovanni Salghetti, Mayor of Bolzano, visit to the Local Council for German and Ladin Culture, visit to the Institute for Ethnic Groups of South Tirol, meeting with the Governmental Commissioner in Bolzano and visit to the Ladin minority in Val Gardena on the problem of non-standardization of the Ladin language, meeting with Mr. Bojan Brezigar, Director of the Slovenian daily.

General evaluation:

The Croatian delegation draw the conclusion that this study visit was very interesting and instructive. However, they would have liked to have more meetings with minority representatives to obtain a full picture of the life of the minorities in general and problems they encounter. The Macedonian delegation underlined that this study visit was very important and useful because the realisation of minority rights in the Region Trentino-South Tirol is treated as one of the most advanced solutions. However, the Macedonian delegation emphasized that it is quite difficult, if not impossible, to automatically transfer these solutions to different concrete circumstances. The "principle of proportionality", which represents the basis for the proportionate representation of the linguistic groups, was considered especially interesting by the Macedonian delegation. The principle is of a fundamental significance, although a bit rigid, since the obligatory declaration of the ethnic (linguistic) affiliation

cannot be changed at least for ten years (next census). The Macedonian also found the educational system very interesting. There are completely separate schools for the two linguistic groups but and this raises the question of the possibility and need of mutual introduction and wider integration. For this reason, the Macedonian delegation concluded that the basic impression from the visit to the Trentino-South Tirol region is that the two linguistic groups make all possible efforts to avoid any mixing and lead completely ghettoized social and even private life. Intolerance can be felt despite the high economic standard. Both delegations regretted that the meetings with the President of the Region and the Vice-president of the region as well as the meeting with the Commissioner of the Government were cancelled. The Italian authorities however enclosed in the programme a meeting with a representative of the Slovenian minority, which satisfied both delegations.

Results/decisions :

Although the Secretariat could not participate in this study visit, the impression based on the reports of the participants is a good one. The study visit allowed participants to assess the comparative advantages and drawbacks of the system implemented in the Region and, although such a model cannot be automatically transplanted in their own countries, thus provided valuable material for considering domestic measures and policies.

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | EW 5700. |
| Country: | Latvia. |
| Date and place: | 20-27 October 1997, Barcelona and Girona (Catalonia, Spain), Andorra-la-Vella (Andorra). |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Generalitat de Catalunya, Departament de Cultura, Direcció General de Política Lingüística. |
| CoE Secretariat: | Secretariat did not participate in the study visit. |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Three: Ms. Ei_enija Aldermane, Head of the Naturalisation Board at the Ministry of Education, Mr. Juris Cibus, Foreign Relations and Press Department, the Naturalisation Board, Mr. Ilm_rs Geige, Head of the Department of National Affairs Section of Social and Religious Department of the Ministry of Justice. |
| Origin/reference to other activities: | Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries". |
| Objectives: | To get acquainted with the work and experience, legal basis, historical background of different Catalan institutions; to study the language situation in Catalonia; to study the acquisition of citizenship and residence permits in Spain as well as immigration and integration policies. |
| Programme: | Visit to the Language Academy (Institut d'Estudis Catalans), visit to TERMCAT (presentation of the Centre of Catalan Terminology as well as the Terminology Bank - BTERM), visit to the Directorate General for Language Policy, internal lecture for staff of the language situation made by the Latvian delegation, visit to the Civil Registry Office and meeting with Judge Fernando Alberdi |

Vecino on the citizenship acquisition and residence permits, visit to the Consortium for Language Normalisation, visit to the Foundation "Cáritas" in Girona and discussion on immigration and integration policies, visit to the Documentation Centre, visit to the Ministry of Education (Teaching Department) and working session on the language policy in schools, visit to a school in Barcelona, visit to the National Art Museum of Catalonia, visit to the President's Department and meeting with Mr. Pau Puig of the Directorate General for External Relations (working session on foreign affairs and Europe of the Regions), visit to the Institute of Catalan Studies, visit to the installations of the Catalan National Television, visit to the Ministry of the Interior and to the ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in Andorra.

General evaluation:

Both the Latvian delegation and host institutions were very satisfied with this study visit. According to the former this study visit produced a great deal of valuable information and the programme met with the Latvian participants' high expectations. There was an interesting exchange of information. The Latvian participants reported that they could study in depth the language situation in Catalonia. Many materials reflecting the structure of the institutions, their objectives and achievements were provided in Catalan, Castilian and English. The Latvian delegation underlined the necessity of having the possibility to go on study visits to carry out studies and to compare the administrative legislation and development of certain sectors in various European countries.

Results/decisions :

The information gathered during the study visit was of great interest as the draft Law on the State (official) Language is under discussion in the Saeima (Parliament) of Latvia. The Latvian participants envisaged that they could use the experience of various institutions of Catalonia on how to organise a network of different establishments to teach a language and where to learn it, although the relationship between Catalan and Castilian on one hand and Latvian and Russian on the other hand is not the same. Mr.

Cibu_s in his lecture explained that the information provided concerning the granting of citizenship was also very useful to the participants because it is a very acute problem in Latvia. The staff of the Generalitat Catalunya was indeed very satisfied to hear about the linguistic situation in Latvia. This idea of a presentation by the visiting country should be encouraged as it promotes cooperation between countries rather than putting these visits in a teacher/pupil perspective.

Study visit

- Field of activity:** Protection of National Minorities.
- Budgetary reference:** EW 5700 / BO 9201 / BO 9202.
- Countries:** Estonia, Romania, Slovakia, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Azerbaijan.
- Date and place:** 28 October-2 November 1997, Budapest (Hungary).
- Partner organisations/institutions:** Office for Ethnic and National Minorities in Budapest.
- CoE Secretariat:** Mr. Michaël Guet, Administrative Assistant in the Minorities Unit of the Directorate of Human Rights.
- Participants (number, role/capacity):** Fourteen: Ms. Olga Bunder (Estonia), Counsellor at the Ministry of Culture, Mr. Rafik Grigorjan (Estonia), Counsellor to the Minister on National Issues, Ms. Liidia Kõlvart (Estonia) from the Association Lyra, Mr. Cristian Guttmann (Romania), Head of the Territorial Section at the Governmental Office for the Protection of National Minorities, Ms. Gyönnvér Somoi György (Romania), Counsellor in Cluj to the Governmental Office for the Protection of National Minorities, Ms. Monica Presecan (Romania), Counsellor at the Governmental Office for the Protection of National Minorities, Directorate for the Relations with Civil Society and International Bodies, Mr. Michal Kačavský (Slovakia), Counsellor to the Governmental Office of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Erik Lipták (Slovakia) of the Department of National Minorities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dušan Mikolaj (Slovakia), Director of the Section "Local Culture and Minorities" in the Ministry of Culture, Ms. Jelena Cvetanovska ("The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Head of the Department of Human Rights in the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, Ms. Divna Šipovi_ ("The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Counsellor to the Minister and Head of the Cabinet in the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ms. Tatjana Janji_ ("The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Counsellor to the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Mouzaffar Mashaev (Azerbaijan), Senior Expert in the Department of the State Counsellor for National Issues, Mr. Gunesh Roustam-Zadeh (Azerbaijan), Attaché at the Legal Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Origin/reference to other activities: Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries".

Objectives: To become acquainted with the Hungarian minority policy, especially regarding the implementation of the Hungarian Act on the Rights of National Minorities; to study minority self-governments at local and national levels (legal framework and financing); to study the conditions for developing culture and education of minorities; to study the function of the ombudsman for the rights of national and ethnic minorities and the role of public foundations; to collect general information on the position of national minorities in Hungary.

Programme: Meetings with Dr. Éva Hegyesi-Orsós, President of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities in Budapest, with Dr. Zsuzsanna Berzsenyi, Head of the Legal Department, with Mrs. Edit Hornung Rauh, Deputy Head of the Department of Roma Affairs and with rapporteurs of national minority communities of this office, meeting with Dr. Jen_ Kaltenbach, Ombudsman for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities, meeting with Mrs. Márta Pankucsi, Director of the Directorate for Civil Relations, Department of National and Ethnic Minorities at the Ministry of Culture and Public Education, meeting with Mr. Márton Molnár, Secretary of the Public Foundation for Hungarian National and Ethnic Minorities, visit to the Primary and Secondary School of Croats in Budapest and discussion with the Director, Mrs. Mária Baronfeind Polgár; visit to the National Slovak Self-Government and discussions with the President, Mr. Mihaly Mata and other Slovak

representatives.

General evaluation:

The study visit has been very constructive and interesting. There was no waste of time, all parts of the programme followed each other without any interruption. Furthermore, presentations were concise and time was left for delegations to put forward questions. Members of delegations were well prepared for asking questions. The Macedonian and Estonian delegations were particularly active in this field. All of them accepted to stay longer when meetings went beyond the schedule time. The only negative remark would be that all meetings took place in Budapest, but that was due to the large number of participants, which made almost impossible the organisation of visits to other parts of Hungary. In their report the Macedonian delegation mentioned that they had the possibility to be introduced in situ to the advantages and problems in the functioning of the system of minority self-governments. The balance between meetings with the staff of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities and those of minority representatives (Croats and Slovaks) was, according to them, well achieved whereas the Slovak delegation regretted not to have had the opportunity to meet other representatives of national minorities living in Hungary. They were also very interested in the visit to the Croatian school in Budapest. The Romanian delegation particularly appreciated the openness of discussions. The Romanian participants suggested that it would be useful to have a round-table with members of all delegations to talk about each country's models. The Estonian participants were very satisfied with the contents of the programme of this study visit. It gave them an overview of the situation in Hungary, although the Estonian experience differs from the Hungarian one. The Estonian delegation also met the Armenian self-government outside the programme and visited the Museum of Armenia in Budapest. The Azeri participants have not submitted any report so far.

Results/decisions:

The Macedonian delegation reported that the information and knowledge gained during this study visit will be used for the purpose of

comparison of the Hungarian experiences with their own experiences. However, they specified that the effects from eventual introduction and implementation of a certain solution should carefully be considered, since the same measures in different circumstances could function quite differently. The Macedonian delegation finally draw the conclusion that such an exchange of experiences, no matter how incompatible they are, could only help, not damage, the process of rapprochement and unifying all European countries. The Romanian delegation reported that they could use in Romania some of the fund raising methods and could probably use the experience of Hungary in the educational system, especially on how to stimulate Roma children to study. The Estonian participants intend to put forward the experience of Hungary in the field of national self-governments, national schools and houses of national culture in their suggestions to the Law on Cultural Autonomy. The Estonian delegation also pointed out that they already have some experience of national minorities getting closer to the native nation through *inter alia* cultural activities and political discussions, which might be useful to consider in the context of a future study visit. The participation of the Minorities Unit in a study visit was very useful as it allowed the Secretariat to have a precise view of what is going on *in situ* concerning both the organisation and the first-sight impressions of such activities. This study visit was special in the sense that it gathered five countries with different experiences, but almost all participants expressed a great interest in learning about other countries and establishing contacts for future co-operation.

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | EW 5700. |
| Country: | Slovakia. |
| Date and place: | 1-7 November 1997 in Denmark. |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Danish Ministry of the Interior. |
| CoE Secretariat: | Secretariat did not participate in the study visit. |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Two: Mrs. PhDr. Jarmila Bernáthová, State Policy Expert in the field of national minorities education and M. Juraj Zervan, Director of the National Minority Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. |
| Origin/reference to other activities: | Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries". |
| Objectives: | To obtain the information on the questions of the legislative situation and position of the members of national minorities in Denmark and to study the conditions and functioning of the ethnic school system and institutions for the Danish citizens with German ethnic origin. |
| Programme: | Meeting with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior of the Danish Kingdom, Mr. Torben Sørensen, Director of Division and Mr. Mads Laursen, Director of Department; meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Christian Thornung, Director of Department and Mrs. July Rechnagel; meeting with Mrs. Charlotte R. Winther of the Ministry of Culture; meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Hanne Traberg and Mr. Jorgen Winther, Director of the Division; visit to German minority representatives in Aabenraa and Tinglev, cities in Nort Schleswig; visit to local municipal |

bodies; meeting with Mr. Siegfried Matlock, Director of the Secretariat of the Federation of Germans of Nort Schleswig and Chief of the local newspaper "Nortschleswiger"; meeting with Mr. Peter Iver Johanson, General Secretary and Mr. Hans Heinrich Hansen, Chairman of the Federation of Germans of Nort Schleswig, meeting with Mr. Ingo Radke, Consul General of Germany; meeting with Mr. Poul Nielsen, Head of the Social Department and Culture of the Municipal Office in Tringlev; meeting with Mr. Philip Iwersen from the German School and Language Association; meeting with other directors of local schools.

General evaluation:

The Slovak delegation mentioned that this study visit was a very useful one, especially in the field of education. The Slovak participants pointed out the difference between the Slovak and the Danish school systems. The system of Folk schools in Denmark is comparable with the system of schools in Slovakia but so called private schools have no legal personality and have no private property in their possession like in Slovakia. The Slovak participants underlined that the Danish school system has a higher degree of freedom and liberties than other school systems in Europe. The financial support of the State is also higher in Denmark than in Slovakia. As far as German schools in Nort Schleswig are concerned, financial expenses are partially covered by the Danish State and partially by the German government. The Slovak delegation was also very interested in the functioning of bilingual schools. There was an interesting exchange of information between the Slovak participants and their counterparts in Danish ministries, notably regarding the foreign policy of Slovakia (i.e. the Treaty of Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation between the Slovak Republic and Hungary), the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Slovak educational system and the principles and results of the ethnic policy of the Slovak government.

Results/decisions :

All information and materials collected during this study visit are now available in the database

of the Department for National Minorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the State Pedagogical Institute in Bratislava. The Slovak participants mentioned that these information will be used in further work of these institutions.

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | EW 5700. |
| Country: | Latvia. |
| Date and place: | 3-9 November 1997, Bonn, Potsdam, Cottbus (Brandenburg), Bautzen and Dresden (Saxony), Germany. |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany. |
| CoE Secretariat: | Secretariat did not participate in the study visit. |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Three: Ms. Inita Krievica, Head of the Complaints Department in the Latvian State Human Rights Office, Mr. Aleksandrs Dementjevs, Head of the Citizenship Section of the Naturalization Board of the Latvian Republic, Mr. Ilms Geige, Head of the Department of National Affairs Section of the Social and Religious Department of the Ministry of Justice. |
| Origin/reference to other activities: | Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries". |
| Objectives: | To get acquainted with minority legislation in Germany; to discuss problems regarding the protection of the rights of minorities; to study the procedure of getting citizenship in the Federal Republic of Germany. |
| Programme: | Meeting with representatives of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Mr. Rolf Goßmann, Head of Division, Mr. Krupatz and Mr. Wüsthof; visit to the Latvian Embassy in Bonn; meeting in Potsdam with Mr. Fischer, Head of Section, and Mr. Preuß of the Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports of the Land Brandenburg about education of the Sorb and Wendian minorities; visit to the Wendian Museum and Wendian |

House "Domovina" (contact: Mr. Konzack) in Cottbus (Land Brandenburg); several meetings with representatives of the Sorbs in Cottbus; visit of the Sorb House in Bautzen (Saxony, contact: Mr. Ziesch) and visit to the Cultural Information Department (contact: Mr. Wuschansky); meeting in Dresden with Mr. Stanislaw Br_zan, Head of the Section for Sorbian Affairs at the State Ministry for Sciences and Arts of the Free State of Saxony; meeting with Dr. Harald Walther on the Sorb situation in Dresden.

General evaluation:

The Latvian delegation reported that the programme of this study visit had been very well prepared by the German authorities and host institutions. They also appreciated meeting the staff of the Latvian Embassy in Bonn. The immigrant and national minority issues in Germany were presented to the Latvian delegation and the Latvian participants presented the situation of immigrants and national minorities in Latvia to host institutions. The Latvian participants noticed that although issues about the education and language rights of the Sorbian minority were discussed only after the reunification of both German republics, it has led to a real cultural autonomy. The visit to the new Wendian Museum in Cottbus was very useful as it helped Latvian participants to get acquainted with the Sorb-Wendian history. The visits to "domovinas", governmental structures partly financed by the German State, were also very instructive. The Latvian participants had the impression that a process of assimilation exists in areas where Sorbs and Germans live together; however they also noted that the Sorbs were quite optimistic concerning the preservation and development of their identity as their rights are protected under the current legislation.

Results/decisions :

The Latvian participants informed the Minorities Section that they were very satisfied with the organisation of this study visit. In terms of concrete results, discussions on the naturalization process in Germany were particularly useful for the Latvian delegation as a source of reflection on this issue, which is currently being reviewed in the

Saeima (Latvian Parliament).

APPENDIX 15

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | EW 5700. |
| Country: | Hungary. |
| Date and place: | 11-16 November 1997 in Paris, France. |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Centre of Research on Gypsies at René Descartes University, Paris. |
| CoE Secretariat: | Secretariat did not participate in the study visit. |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Two: Dr. Éva Hegyesi-Orsós, Director of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities and Mrs. Judit Laszlone Solymosi, Head of the International Department of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities. |
| Origin/reference to other activities: | Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries". |
| Objectives: | To study the situation of Roma/Gypsy population in France as well as the solutions and the attempts for the integration of this population and similar groups of foreign origin fighting with social handicaps. |
| Programme: | Meeting with Mr. Jean-Pierre Liégeois, Director of the Centre of Research on Gypsies at René Descartes University; meeting with Mr. Kurte Sejdinov, President of the Association "Romano Lil"; meeting with Mrs. Marie Poinot of the <i>Agence pour le Développement des Relations Interculturelles</i> ; meeting with Mr. Pascal Noblet of the Ministry of Social Affairs; meeting with Mrs. Charlemagne, President of the Association <i>Etudes tsiganes</i> and the documentalist, Mrs. Evelyne Pommerat; meeting with Mr. Jacques Le Montagner, Director of the IFA (<i>Institut pour la</i> |

Formation à l'Animation Socio-culturelle); meeting with Dr. Laurent El Ghozi, Deputy Mayor of the Municipal Government of Nanterre and with Mrs. Claire Auzias, historian; meeting with Mrs. Catherine Richard, Coordinator of the Association "Médecins du Monde, Mission Banlieue".

General evaluation:

The visits to the *Agence pour le Développement des Relations Interculturelles* (ADRI), the *Institut pour la Formation à l'Animation Socio-culturelle* and to the Association *Etudes tsiganes* were very instructive. It was very useful for Hungarian participants to realise even more the importance of information and training in minority issues. They can prove most effective in fighting racism, decreasing intolerance, promoting mutual understanding and raising awareness against prejudices. The Hungarian delegation concluded that, on one hand, Western European countries provide many positive solutions and models (the Hungarian delegation also referred to their study visits in South Tirol and Wales) but, on the other hand, concluded that these countries have not always resolved problems, especially concerning the Roma minority. The Hungarian delegation noted with particular interest the draft law prepared by France, which would limit the travelling way of life of Roma families. The Hungarian participants noted that, in other cases, progressive legal provisions do exist, but sanctions for not applying them are missing.

Results/decisions :

In Hungary, there are plenty of initiatives and good examples of practice which are not known either by Roma communities themselves or by those supporting them (teachers, social workers, doctors etc.). Information on resources and problem solving does not reach these actors. They intend to develop a network of practitioners, which would constitute a basis for co-operation between institutions as well as between Gypsies and Non-Gypsies. The Hungarian participants intend to follow up contacts with ADRI and *Etudes tsiganes*, which could help the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities to develop the plan of implementing a similar information and training centre. Recently, different projects for the

creation of Roma community houses have emerged in Hungary. In this respect, the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities realised the lack of well prepared leaders and also has to face the problem of an environment which is not prepared to accept the emergence of such places. As a consequence, the possibility of a common project is being considered with IFA aiming at the training of Roma leaders and the leaders of settlements.

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | BO 9201. |
| Countries: | Ukraine. |
| Date and place: | 26 January-1 February 1998, Bucharest, Suceava (Jude_ de Suceava), Sighetul Marma_iei (Jude_ de Maramure_), Romania. |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Department for the Protection of National Minorities of the Government of Romania. |
| CoE Secretariat: | Mr. Michaël Guet, Administrative Assistant in the Minorities Unit of the Directorate of Human Rights. |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Three: Mr. Andriy Popok, Head of the Department for Ukrainian Diaspora in the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration; Ms. Tetiana Halchenko, Chief of the Department on the Development of Languages in Ukraine in the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration; Mr. Oleg Gainicheru, Chief Consultant in the Department of Humanitarian Policy and Counsellor to the President of the Republic of Ukraine. |
| Origin/reference to other activities: | Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries". |
| Objectives: | To provide the participants with knowledge of the way the questions linked to the protection of national minorities are dealt with in Romania, especially in areas with a high percentage of Ukrainians; to discuss with Romanian authorities how to ensure minorities' rights to receive education and information (newspapers) in their mother tongue and to discuss other topics, such as cultural protection and development, printing of newspapers in minority languages or interchurches relations; to weigh up the establishment of a bilateral sub-committee on minorities issues as a result of the bilateral treaty |

signed between Romania and Ukraine.

Programme:

Visit to the Department for the Protection of National Minorities of the Government of Romania and meeting with Mr. Klaus Fabritius, Secretary of State, Mr. Vichentie Nicolaiciuc, Deputy representing the Ukrainian minority in the Romanian Parliament, Mr. Cristian Guttman, Head of the Territorial Section and Ms. Monica Presecan, Expert of the Department; visit to the Ministry of National Education Office and meeting with Mr. Andras Bere_, Secretary of State, with Ms. Vierslava Timar, Inspector in the Directorate for Education of National Minorities and President of the Commission of Education, Science and Youth within the Council of National Minorities and Ms. Eleonora Enoiu, Expert at the Department of International Relations; visit to the Ukrainian community in Suceava (visit of several Ukrainian schools and libraries) and meeting with Mr. Vasile Ilie, Prefet of Suceava; visit to Taras _evcenko (Ukrainian) High School in Sighetul Marma_iei; meeting with the Mayor of Sighetul Marma_iei; visit to different Ukrainian schools in the Jude_ of Maramure_; meeting with representatives of the branch of the Union of Ukrainians from Romania in Sighetul Marma_iei; meeting with the Director of the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sighetul Marma_iei; feed-back meeting in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest with Ambassador Ion Maxim, Director of the Directorate of Juridical and Consular Affairs and Mr. Gabriel Micu, Director of the Directorate of Human Rights (discussions on the bi-lateral treaty signed by Romania and the Ukraine) as well as with Ms. Adelin_ Lozeanu, Director of the Directorate of Relations with Civil Society and International Organisations in the Department for the Protection of National Minorities; meeting with the Ambassador of Ukraine in Romania and various personalities of the Ukrainian community at the Ukrainian Embassy in Bucharest; meeting with Mr. Varujan Pambuccian, Armenian Member of the Romanian Parliament and Head of the Minority Parliamentary Group as well as with Mr. Vichentie Nicolaiciuc, Ukrainian Deputy in the Romanian Parliament; visit to the Office of

the Union of Ukrainians from Romania based in Bucharest.

General Evaluation:

The programme of the study visit - regarded as very intensive by the Ukrainian participants - led to a fruitful exchange of experience between Ukrainian and Romanian officials. However, the Ukrainian participants have noticed some negative tendencies in the dynamism of education in the Ukrainian language (in 1997 the number of villages where the Ukrainian language is being taught was reduced almost by two compared to 1991). There is a need for religious services in the mother tongue and the property problem between the Romanian Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Romania has not been solved yet. Finally the Democratic Council of Ukrainians in Romania, which was founded in spring 1996, is not represented in the Council of National Minorities and therefore is not financially supported.

Results/decisions:

On the basis of the bi-lateral Agreement on Good-Neighbour and Co-operation Relations between Ukraine and Romania, it was decided that an Intergovernmental Commission relating to the issues of protection of national minorities has to be created. It was furthermore decided to initiate a study visit of a Romanian delegation to Ukraine in the framework of the Joint Programme and to organise a bi-lateral (maybe tri-lateral - if Hungary is included) round-table on issues relating to the protection of national minorities.

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | BO 9201. |
| Country: | Croatia. |
| Date and place: | 23 February-1 March 1998 in Prague, Jevišovka, Olomouc, Ostrava and Český Těšín (Czech Republic). |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Council of National Minorities of the Government of the Czech Republic. |
| CoE Secretariat: | Secretariat did not participate in the study visit. |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Four: Ms. Mila Šimić, Deputy Head of the Office for Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities of the Croatian Government; Ms. Milena Klajner, Senior Adviser to the Committee of Human Rights and Rights of Ethnic and National Communities and Minorities in the House of Representatives of the Croatian National Parliament (Sabor); Mr. Jaroslav Vojta, Vice-President of the Council of National Minorities and Ms. Mira Zovko, Adviser for Education of national Minorities to the Ministry of Education and Sport. |
| Origin/reference to other activities: | Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries". |
| Objectives: | To study the situation of Roma/Gypsy population in the Czech Republic; to visit minority schools and cultural organisations of minorities and to talk to Czech authorities about education of Croats in their mother tongue. |
| Programme: | Visit to the Secretariat of the Council for National Minorities of the Czech Government and meeting with Dr. Andrej Sulitka, Head of the Secretariat, Mr. Milan Pospišil, Secretary of the Office, Mr. |

Ladislav Goral, Member of the Secretariat and Ms. Alena Nemodová, Advisor for National Minorities to the Government of the Czech Republic; visit to the Slovak Culture Club in Prague; visit to the Centre of Association of Germans living in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia in Prague; meeting with Mr. Miroslav Cagošek, Mayor of Jeviškova where lives a Croat community as well as with Croatian inhabitants (Mr. Josef Schneider and Mr. Josef Lawitscha); meeting with members of the Civil Association of Croats in Olomouc, whose President is Mr. Herwig Sittek; visit to Don Bosco's Oratory (Centre for Roma children) in Ostrava; visit to the Roma Club in Ostrava; visit to the P. Pitter's Elementary Church School and Roma community Centre in Ostrava; meeting with Mr. Zbynek Pra_ak, Deputy-mayor of Ostrava; visit to a Polish Secondary School in _eský T_šin; visit to the Council of Poles, the Centre of Polish community and the Publishing House OLZA in _eský T_šin; feed-back meeting with the Secretariat of the Council for National Minorities of the Government of the Czech Republic in Prague.

General evaluation:

The Croatian participants were able in their talks with government representatives to become acquainted in detail with the system of protection of national minorities in the Czech Republic. Opportunity was given to the Croatian participants to verify information and minorities' claims (in particular the restitution of property nationalized after World War II) in their talks with numerous members of national minorities, including the Croatian one. The visits to different cities of the Czech Republic, where national minorities live and work, were highly appreciated by the Croatian participants. Also appreciated was the fact that the whole programme was effectively carried out and that requests submitted by the Croatian participants before the study visit (for instance, meeting with Croatian associations or visit to Roma schools) had been taken into account by the Czech organisers. The latter's openness and ability to organise a good study visit was highly valued.

Results/decisions :

The Croatian participants consider that some examples of working methods with national

minorities, for instance the Don Bosco Centre and the Roma school, could be very useful in their work with the Roma community in Croatia. They also value the experience of the Czech Republic in the work of the Council for National Minorities, which could serve as an example. At the end of the study visit a proposal was made by Croatian participants to initiate the signing of a bilateral agreement between Croatia and the Czech Republic on the protection of the Croatian minority in the Czech Republic and the protection of the Czech minority in Croatia.

Study visit

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| Field of activity: | Protection of National Minorities. |
| Budgetary reference: | EW 5700. |
| Country: | Bulgaria, Romania. |
| Date and place: | 21-28 March 1998, Madrid, Sevilla, Cordoba and Barcelona (for Romanian participants only), Spain. |
| Partner organisations/institutions: | Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Generalitat de Catalunya, Departament de Cultura, Direcció General de Política Lingüística. |
| CoE Secretariat: | Ms. Françoise Kempf of the Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs (Roma Section). |
| Participants (number, role/capacity): | Eight: Mr. Petar Dimitrov ATANASSOV, Secretary of the National Council for Ethnic and Demographic Issues at the Council of Ministers (Bulgaria); Mr. Vladlen Stefanov STEFANOV, Expert in International Legal Protection of Human Rights at the International Organisations and Human Rights Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bulgaria); Mr. Blagoy Miltchev ASSENOV, Secretary-General of the Roma Public Council "Kupate" (Bulgaria); Ms. Ana Dantcheva IORDANOVA, Spokeswoman of the Roma Public Council "Kupate" (Bulgaria); Ms. Adelin_ LOZEANU, Director of the Directorate of Relations with Civil Society and International Organisations in the Department for the Protection of National Minorities (Romania); Ms. Coziana CIUREA, Consultant at the Directorate of Relations with Civil Society and International Organisations in the Department for the Protection of National Minorities (Romania); Ms. Anna NAGY, Minister Adviser at the Minister Cabinet, Department for the Protection of National Minorities (Romania); Mr. Dan OPRESCU-ZENDA, Head of the National Office for Roma in the Department for the Protection of |

National Minorities (Romania).

Origin/reference to other activities: Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries".

Objectives: To get acquainted with the work and experience of Spanish national and regional authorities in the fields of protection of Roma culture and identity and integration of Roma into society; to study the co-ordination between state-institutions and Roma non-governmental organisations; to study how to render assistance in significant projects of non-governmental organisations related to ethnic groups and demographic issues; to study specific programmes and legislation on education and social protection of Roma; to get acquainted with the Catalan model of decentralization, especially regarding administrative and higher education issues (for Romanian participants only).

Programme: Overview of the situation of Roma in Spain and introduction to the operation of the National Programme for Gypsy Development and the National Consultative Commission on Roma/Gypsy issues by Ms. Françoise Kempf of the Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs in the Council of Europe; meeting in Madrid with Mr. Josep Gomis i Marti, Delegate of the Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia; visit to the Catalan Ministry of Education and to the Catalan Ministry of Public Administration in Barcelona organised on the spot by Catalan authorities for two Romanian participants; meeting in Madrid with Mr. Nicolas Jimenez Gonzales, former responsible for the implementation of the Regional Development Plan for the Gypsy population in Extremadura between 1995-1997; participation in the national conference "The Gypsy Communities: present and prospects for the future" held in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Madrid; meeting with Ms. Teresa Mogin Barquin, General Director of the Division for Social Action, Underaged and Family Issues in the Ministry of labour and Social Affairs; meeting in Sevilla with Mr. José Nieto Castro, General Director of Social Policy, Mr. José Manuel Leal Sabido, Head of Department in the Secretariat for the Gypsy Community and Mr.

José Manuel Flores Campos, Secretariat for the Gypsy Community at the head office of the Directorate of Social Affairs of the Autonomous Government of Andalusia (Junta de Andalusia) and discussion on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for Gypsy Development of Andalusia; visit of the Andalusian Parliament and meeting with Mr. Isaias Perez Saldana, Counsellor (Minister) for Social Affairs of Andalusian Autonomous Government; visit to the head office of the Association Villela Or Gao Kalo in a Gypsy quarter of Sevilla; meeting with Ms. Carmen Santiago Reyes, Spanish member of the Specialist Group on Roma/Gypsies of the Council of Europe [the visits to several associations and schools in Grenada as well as the visit to the head office of the Andalusian Federation of Roma Associations (FARA) in Cordoba were cancelled at the request of participants].

General evaluation:

Due to the fact that this study visit took place a week before the end of the Joint Programme, no reports have been submitted yet neither by Romanian or Bulgarian delegations. However, on the basis of Ms. Kempf's report, a few remarks can be made: the programme was apparently intensive, especially for the majority of the Bulgarian participants, for whom it was the first visit abroad, but who did nonetheless appreciate the learning opportunity. However, the Romanian participants were absent during significant parts of the programme and displayed a serious lack of professional commitment. A letter of complaint was addressed to Mr. György Tokay, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister for National Minorities regarding the lack of interest and respect displayed by the Romanian participants during this study visit. The fact to have a common study visit was not - in this case - of great interest as both delegations talked little to each other, mainly because of a linguistic problem.

Results/decisions :

Both delegations established contacts with the main Roma NGOs and gained useful information concerning the way of life of Roma in Spanish society. Mr. Atanassov, Secretary of the newly founded National Council for Ethnic and

Demographic Issues (NCEDI) in Bulgaria, discussed with Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs about a future collaboration through a contract of co-operation between Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Ms Nagy and Ms. Lozeanu gained fruitful information in Barcelona on the Catalan model of decentralisation, which could be of interest for Romania, particularly for Transylvania. However, the fact that participants, especially the Romanians, did not attend meetings from the beginning to the end made it difficult for them to fully understand the situation of Roma in Madrid and Andalusia and the impact of the implementation of programmes for Roma. The results of this study visit are therefore rather disappointing, in particular for the Romanian delegation.

Title of activity
"Minorities and Media"

Field of activity:

Protection of National Minorities

Type of activity:

Seminar

Budgetary reference:

BO 9201 / EW 5700

Country:

Multilateral - Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Ukraine

Date and place:

3-4 April 1997, Budapest, Hungary

CoE experts (incl country):

Mr. Marek NOWICKI, member of the European Commission of Human Rights, Poland
Mr. Jean-Paul MARTHOZ, Human Rights Watch- Brussels, Belgium
Mr Ed KLUTE, Director of Stichting Omroep Alloctonen (STOA), Utrecht, The Netherlands
Ms. Milica PESIC, the Reporting Diversity Project, London/Belgrade, UK/Yugoslavia
Mr. Alfonso DE SALAS, Media Section, Directorate of Human Rights, Council of Europe, France

CoE Secretariat:

Mr. Frank STEKETEE, Minorities Section, Directorate of Human Rights
Ms. Nadia KHAFIJI, Minorities Section, Directorate of Human Rights

Participants (role/capacity):

Government officials from the participating countries, one in the field of minority policy and one in the media field

Total number of participants:

Invited : 34

Present: : 30 (Albania and Poland did not designate participants)

Partner institutions/organisations:

The Hungarian Government Office for Ethnic and National Minorities

Origin/reference to other activities:

Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries" - proposal submitted by the Hungarian Government

Objectives:

- to be a starting point of activities in the field of "Minorities and Media" in the framework of the Joint Programme through:
 - introduction to international legal standards relevant to "Minorities and Media";
 - specific attention to two themes:
 - freedom of expression and protection from hate speech;
 - minorities and access to the media;
 - exchange of information on policy and practice in participating countries;
 - establishing contacts between relevant counterparts from participating countries

General evaluation:

The presentations given by the five speakers were all of a very good quality and were well received by the participants. It was particularly useful that they ranged from a general legal overview (NOWICKI) and international recommendations (DE SALAS) to accounts of very practical experience (MARTHOZ and PESIC) and experience with setting up concrete projects (KLUTE). The texts of these presentations are being collated so that they can be made available to the participants. Presentations made by the participating delegations generated a great deal of information on policies and practice in participating countries. Prior to the seminar a questionnaire had been prepared and almost all delegations submitted, or meanwhile have, information in writing which will also be disseminated as part of the proceedings of the seminar. The plenary discussions were mainly of an informative nature, keeping clear of any form of confrontation with speakers or other participants. The meeting also provided the opportunity for informal discussions between the participants.

Some delegations suggested that in further activities also representatives of national minorities be involved. At the end of the seminar many formal and informal comments of a very positive nature were made about the seminar.

There was interest in the seminar from in particular the minority press, who had a number of interviews with persons attending the seminar.

Results/decisions:

The seminar, as a starting point for further activities in this field, appears to have been successful. A number of suggestions were made for further activities in this field, which may be

formally proposed and included in the Joint Programme II.

The proceedings of the seminar will provide a useful reference tool for policy makers at a national level.

Programme of the Seminar

"MINORITIES AND MEDIA"

organised in the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Commission (Phare programme) and the Council of Europe "Minorities in Central European Countries" in co-operation with the Hungarian Office for National and Ethnic Minorities

Budapest, 3-4 April 1997.

THURSDAY 3 APRIL

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

- 9.30 Opening of and introduction to the seminar
- 10.00 *Article 10 of the ECHR and other international legal standards concerning minorities and the media*
Mr Marek Antoni NOWICKI, Member of the European Commission of Human Rights
- 11.00 Coffee-break

THEME I: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PROTECTION FROM HATE-SPEECH

- 11.30 *Presentation on the balance between freedom of expression and protection from hate speech from the perspective of the journalist/media professional*
Jean Paul MARTHOZ, Human Rights Watch, Brussels, Belgium
- 12.15 Questions and discussion on presentation
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 *Presentation on the approach of the Council of Europe to hate speech and the media and the promotion of a culture of tolerance.*
Mr Alfonso De Salas, Media Section of the Council of Europe
- 15.15 Questions and discussion on the presentation
- 16.00 Tea-break
- 16.30 *Presentations and discussion on questions arising at the national level and panel discussion*
(based on responses to the questionnaire)

18.00 End of programme day 1

FRIDAY 4 APRIL 1997

THEME 2: MINORITIES AND ACCESS TO THE MEDIA

9.30 *Case-study: Presentation of the regulation of access to the media in The Netherlands*

Mr Ed KLUTE, Director of Stichting Omroep Allochtonen (STOA), Utrecht, The Netherlands

10.30 questions and discussion on the presentation

11.00 Coffee-break

11.30 *Presentation on access to the media from the perspective of a media-professional*
Milica PESIC, the Reporting Diversity Project

12.15 questions and discussion

12.45 Lunch

14.30 *Presentations and discussion on questions arising at the national level and panel discussion*
(on the basis of responses to the questionnaire)

16.00 Tea -break

CONCLUDING SESSION

16.30 Conclusions
(including taking stock of possible proposals for further activities in the field of minorities and the media)

17.30 Closure of the seminar

INFORMATION NOTE
on the Seminar
"Minorities and Media"
Budapest, Hungary on 3-4 April 1997

Introduction:

In the framework of the Joint programme between the European Commission (Phare programme) and the Council of Europe "Minorities in Central European Countries", the Hungarian Government Office for National Minorities has offered to host a seminar devoted to the subject of minorities and media.

The programme of the seminar first provides a general introduction on international legal standards relevant to this question and Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights in particular, presented by an international expert. Following this general introduction the seminar will focus on two themes:

1. Freedom of expression and protection from hate speech;
2. Minorities and access to the media.

The *first theme* will examine the often difficult balance that has to be struck between guaranteeing the individuals' right to freedom of expression on the one hand and, on the other hand, the interest of other members of society to be protected from statements or other expressions that incite ethnic, racial or religious violence and intolerance. The media clearly play an essential role in this field and their perspective on this question is an extremely important one. An international expert will make a presentation on this subject.

Furthermore attention will be paid to recent developments in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe which is about to adopt recommendations on two highly topical issues relevant to this subject:

- a recommendation on hate speech;
- a recommendation on the promotion of a culture of tolerance

Following a presentation of these recommendations by an expert from the Council of Europe there will be the opportunity to discuss them and to examine modalities for their implementation.

The *second theme* of the seminar focuses on minorities and access to the media. In this theme attention will be paid to the possibilities for persons belonging to national minorities to have access to public media as well as to the possibilities for the establishment of private media.

The 17 countries participating in the Joint Programme are each invited to designate two participants, one governmental expert in the field of minority-policy (e.g. from the Governmental Office for National Minorities) and one governmental expert in the media field

(e.g. an official from the Ministry dealing with the media). The participants will be requested to fill in a brief questionnaire (attached) in advance of the seminar as well as to prepare a brief oral presentation (approximately 5 minutes) on the situation in their country in relation to each of the two themes.

Together with the input provided by the international experts who have been invited to address the seminar, the information provided by the governmental experts from participating countries will form a valuable reference tool for policy makers at a national level.

Title of activity
"Minorities and Education"

Field of activity:

Protection of national minorities

Type of activity:

Seminar

Budgetary reference:

BO 9201/ EW 5700

Country:

Multilateral - Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Ukraine

Date and place:

22-23 May 1997, Vilnius, Lithuania

CoE experts (incl country):

Mr. Jan FIERS, Assistant-Professor at the University of Gent, Belgium

Ms. Brigitta BUSCH, Lecturer at Klagenfurt University, Austria

Dr. Remigijus MOTUZAS, Director of the , Lithuania

Dr. Pranas GUDYNAS, Director of the Pedagogical Institute of Lithuania, Lithuania

CoE Secretariat:

Mr. Frank STEKETEE, Minorities Section, Directorate of Human Rights

Ms. Nadia KHAFI, Minorities Section, Directorate of Human Rights

Participants (role/capacity):

Government officials from the participating countries working in the field of national minority policy and education, as well as representatives of national minorities from the participating countries

Total number of participants:

Invited : 51 (a maximum of three per country)

Present 41 (no participants from Moldova; smaller delegations from some countries)

Partner institutions/organisations:

Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities of the Government of Lithuania

Origin/reference to other activities:

Joint programme "Minorities in Central European Countries" - proposal by the Lithuania Government

Objectives:

This seminar was the starting point for activities within the framework of the Joint programme on the theme of "Minorities and Education" . The aim was to increase awareness and understanding of standards, issues and approaches to minority education as well as to give an opportunity for exchange of information on practice in the participating countries. Thereto the participants were provided with an overview of relevant international (legal) standards in this field, an introduction on intercultural education, workshops ("the school as a cultural centre in a nationally mixed environment" and "Civic maturity, social and cultural preconditions at schools of national minorities") and a case-study (including visits) of minority education in Lithuania. Furthermore there was a session of oral exchange of information between the participants.

General evaluation:

The presentations were all of high quality and well received by the participants. Many of the issues raised in these general introductions returned in the discussions in the workshops. The opportunity of discussion in workshops was appreciated very much by the participants: they felt that the time allotted for them in the programme was too short. The case-study, including visits, was most useful as the confrontation with some concrete examples of minority education in practice helped a great deal to focus and trigger of the discussions. A great number of issues (e.g. funding /composition of curricula/ teacher recruitment/ availability of textbooks, choice of teaching language) were touched upon, revealing very different approaches in different countries. This was also apparent from the information provided orally and in written form of the meetings on the country situations. The presence of minority representatives in several delegations was appreciated because it helped discussions to be concrete and lively and generally contributed to a less formal atmosphere.

Results/decisions:

The seminar was successful and a good start for further activities within this theme. Many participants expressed their high degree of appreciation for it. A number of them tentatively made suggestions for further activities which could be formally proposed and included in Joint programme II. The proceedings of the seminar (texts of presentations and written information provided by delegations) will be produced and sent to all participants. Particularly striking was the positive contribution of all participants, quite a few of which do not often have the opportunity to meet counterparts from abroad.

Programme of the Seminar

"MINORITIES AND EDUCATION"

organised in the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Commission (Phare programme) and the Council of Europe "Minorities in Central European Countries" in co-operation with the Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities of the Government of Lithuania

Vilnius, 22 - 23 May 1997.

THURSDAY 22 MAY, 1997

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

- 9.30 Opening of and introduction to the seminar
- 10.00 *International standards concerning minorities and education*
Mr. Jan FIERS, Assistant Professor, University of Gent, Belgium
- 10.45 Coffee-break
- 11.15 *Presentation on intercultural education*
Ms. Brigitta BUSCH, Lecturer at Klagenfurt University,
Consultant to the Council of Europe Confidence Building Measures programme
- 12.00 Questions and discussion on presentation
- 12.30 Lunch

WORKSHOPS

GENERAL THEME: IDENTITY, CULTURE AND SCHOOLS

- 14.00 Workshop 1: *The school as a cultural centre in a nationally mixed environment*
- Workshop 2: *Civic maturity, social and cultural preconditions at schools of national minorities*

16.00 Tea-break

CASE STUDY: LITHUANIA

16.30 *National Minorities in Lithuania: integration and identity*

Dr. Remigijus MOTUZAS, Director of the Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

17.00 *Reform of educational system of Lithuania*

Dr. Pranas GUDYNAS, Director of the Pedagogical Institute of Lithuania

17.30 Questions and discussion on the presentations

18.00 End of programme day 1

19.00 Official dinner

FRIDAY 23 MAY, 1997

***VISITS IN GROUPS TO NATIONAL MINORITIES' SCHOOLS
(RUSSIAN, POLISH, BELARUSIAN, JEWISH)***

9.00 departure of groups to visit schools

11.00 return of groups from school visits - coffee break

REPORTING SESSION

11.30 reports from the working groups and on the visits to the schools

13.00 Lunch

COUNTRY REPORTS

14.30 *Presentations on minority education in the participating countries*

16.30 Tea -break

CONCLUDING SESSION

17.00 Conclusions

(including taking stock of possible proposals for further activities in the field of minorities and education)

18.00 Closure of the seminar

INFORMATION NOTE
on the Seminar
"MINORITIES AND EDUCATION"
in Vilnius, Lithuania on 22 and 23 May 1997,

The Seminar "Minorities and education" is the second thematic multilateral seminar to be organised in the framework of the Joint programme between the European Commission (Phare programme) and the Council of Europe entitled "Minorities in Central European countries". This seminar is hosted and co-organised by the Department of Regional Problems and National minorities of the Lithuanian government.

The seminar focuses on education, a core question in the field of protection of national minorities. International standards and recommendations in this field exist and are being developed, concerning education of and in the language of persons belonging to national minorities. The implementation of these standards requires addressing complicated questions of inter alia a legal, educational and cultural nature as well as the question of available resources. Examples of such questions are the possibility of establishing schools and/or participation in running of schools, development of curricula, availability, acquisition and development of teaching materials and teacher training and recruitment.

The seminar is geared towards government officials and minority representatives in the field of minority education giving them the opportunity, through introductions by international experts, a case study of the Lithuanian system of minority education including visits to schools as well as reports from other participating countries, to increase their awareness and understanding, to examine with experts and counterparts from other countries the issues involved and to exchange experience on how these issues may be addressed. Being a first step, this seminar may also generate proposals for further activities.

The seminar will bring together participants (three per country), being government officials dealing with questions of minority education and representatives of national minorities, from all the countries participating in the Joint programme "Minorities in Central European Countries": Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Russia and Ukraine.

Title of activity

"Participation of national minorities in decision-making processes"

Field of activity:

Protection of national minorities

Type of activity:

Seminar

Budgetary reference:

EW 5700; BO 9201

Countries:

Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Date and place:

1 - 2 December 1997, Brdo, Slovenia

CoE experts (incl national experts):

General Rapporteur: Professor Joseph MARKO (Austria); Mr Miroslav DURISH (Czech Republic); Mr Priit JÄRVE (Estonia); Mr Varujan PAMBUCCIAN (Romania); Mr Roberto BATTELLI (Slovenia); Ms Marija POZSONEC (Slovenia); Mr Peter KOVACS, (Hungary); Ms Zoia Y. TSIRENOVA (Russian Federation); Mr Alan PHILLIPS (United Kingdom); Mr Romedia ARQUINT (Switzerland).

CoE Secretariat:

Mr Frank STEKETEE, Mr Michael GUET, Ms Nadia KHAFAJI, Minorities Section, Directorate of Human Rights.

Participants (role/capacity):

Government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of national minorities.

Total number of participants:

Out of 64 invited, 59 participated.

Partner institutions/organisations:

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, The Ombudsman for National Minorities of Slovenia and the Institute for Ethnic Studies in Ljubljana.

Origin/reference to other activities:

Joint Programme "Minorities in Central European Countries".

Objectives:

To explore the practise and experience that exists in different European countries on the different ways in which national minorities participate in decision-making processes.

General evaluation:

The seminar required quite intense preparation, particularly the selection and briefing of the experts and the preparation of the conference documents, (an overview of the forms of participation of minorities in decision-making processes).

The discussions were without exception of a high quality and much appreciated by the participants. The programme arranged for participants to meet in four working groups which were held in parallel focusing on different aspects of the question of the participation in decision-making processes (Councils, parliaments, cultural autonomy, NGOs and civil society). As the number of participants in each working group was relatively small, there was ample opportunity not only for experts to make their presentations but also for participants to put forward and discuss their own experiences with the form of participation concerned. The media were present at the opening session and some participants as well as the representative of the secretariat of the Council of Europe gave interviews to (minority) media. The feedback from the participants at the time of the seminar was unequivocally positive. Despite local differences in approach and experience, it appeared that there was substantial common ground between participants and that the experience of participants/experts from one country was very useful to participants from another country. The broad range of backgrounds of those present (government officials, parliamentarians, minority representatives, international NGOs, international organisations) provided for a great deal of dynamics during and outside the official programme.

Results/decisions:

The results of the working groups were reported by 8 rapporteurs and the General Rapporteur, Professor Marko, provided an excellent final summing up. All contributions of the experts, the reports of the working groups, the presentation and conclusions of the general rapporteur and the overview document are going to be brought together in a publication which will be prepared in co-operation with the Institute for Ethnic Studies in Ljubljana. It was furthermore strongly recommended that the area of participation in decision-making processes be retained as one of the themes for the new Joint Programme on Minorities, a suggestion that has meanwhile been retained by the Fifth Meeting for Governmental Offices for National Minorities.

Programme of the Seminar

"PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES"

organised in the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Commission (Phare programme) and the Council of Europe "Minorities in Central European Countries" in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office for National Minorities of the Government of Slovenia and the Institute for Ethnic Studies

Brdo, 1 - 2 December 1997

Sunday, 30 November

Programme organised by the Slovene authorities

- 10h.00, Visit to Postojnska jama (Caves)
- Lunch in Ljubljana
- Short sightseeing tour of Ljubljana and return to Brdo by 18.00

20.30: meeting of chairpersons, rapporteurs and experts (after dinner).

Monday, 1 December 1997

09.00 PART I: Opening session

- a) Introductory speech by the Slovene State Secretary of Foreign Affairs
- b) Presentation by Frank STEKETEE, Council of Europe
- c) Presentation on political participation and legal instruments by Professor Joseph MARKO, Institute of Public Law and Political Sciences, Graz
- d) Presentation by Mr Peter WINKLER, Director of Government Offices for National Minorities, Graz

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 PART II: First round of working groups

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <i>Group 1^A :</i> | <i>Group 2^A :</i> | <i>Group 3^A :</i> | <i>Group 4^A :</i> |
| <i>Consultative Councils and Round-tables at State level</i> | <i>Representation in Parliament and electoral laws</i> | <i>Self-governments, cultural autonomy and participation in cultural life</i> | <i>Associations, NGOs, bilateral and international levels</i> |
| Chairwoman <i>V. ABRAMTCHOUC</i> | Chairman <i>M. KI_</i> | Chairman <i>P. BURIAN</i> | Chairman <i>V. PANOVSKI</i> |

Rapporteur
A. RUDENKO
-DESNYK

Rapporteur
B. JESIH

Rapporteur
F. SIMION

Rapporteur
A. POLGÁR

presentations by presentations by presentations by presentations by

M. DURISH

V. PAMBUCCIAN

P. KOVÁCS

R. ARQUINT

P. JÄRVE

R. BATTELLI

Z. TSIRENOVA A. PHILLIPS

12.30 **Lunch**

14.30 **Continuation of working groups**

16.00 **Tea break**

16.30 **Continuation of working groups**

17.30 **End of the first round of working groups**

18.00 **Reception offered by the Slovene State Secretary of Foreign Affairs**

Tuesday, 2 December 1997

09.00 **PART III: Second round of working groups**

Group 1^B :
Consultative Councils
and Round-tables at
State level

Group 2^B :
Representation in
Parliament and cultural
electoral Laws

Group 3^B :
Self-governments,
bilateral and
and participation in
cultural life

Group 4^B :
Associations, NGOs,
international levels

Chairman
M. LUCZKA

Chairman
V. KREMYANKO

Chairman
S. VIDTMANN

Chairwoman
E. ALDERMANE

Rapporteur
A. YOUSEIN

Rapporteur
D. KUMBARO

Rapporteur
V. TROSKHYNKYI

Rapporteur
D. AHMETOV

presentations by presentations by presentations by presentations by

M. DURISH

V. PAMBUCCIAN

P. KOVÁCS

R. ARQUINT

P. JÄRVE

M. POZSONEC Z. TSIRENOVA A. PHILLIPS

10.30 **Coffee break**

11.00 **Continuation of working groups**

13.00 **Lunch (End of second round of working groups)**

15.00 **PART IV: Concluding Session**

Reports by 8 rapporteurs

16.30 **Tea break**

17.00 **Final conclusions presented by the General Rapporteur, Professor Joseph MARKO**

18.00 **Closing of the seminar**

INFORMATION NOTE
on the Seminar
"Participation by Minorities in Decision-making processes"
in Brdo, Slovenia on 1-3 December 1997

This seminar is being organised as one of a number of thematic seminars which is taking place in the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Commission (Phare programme) and the Council of Europe entitled "Minorities in Central European Countries".

The aim of the seminar, generally speaking, is to explore the practice and experience that exists on the different ways in which national minorities participate in decisionmaking processes. Participation in public by national minorities is recognised, also in international legal standards such the framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, as being of crucial importance. Where can issues of concern to national minorities be discussed with the Government; how is the voice of minorities heard in Parliament; are there arrangements at local or regional level; how can national minorities be heard at bi-lateral or international level ?

Europe offers a wide variety of practice and experience in this field. In some countries there are consultative councils of and with national minorities, other countries have round-tables for discussion of minority questions. At the level of parliament there are also many examples of ways in which the participation of minorities is ensured, for example through a system of reserves seats for minorities or through exemption from certain provision regarding the number of votes needed to get into Parliament. A number of countries have introduced forms of local or regional autonomy or systems of local self government or cultural autonomy. Finally there is participation of minorities in and through civil society, through non-governmental organisations working at state and at international level. States also co-operate between each other in the field of protection of national minorities and there too there is often a role for participation by minorities.

This seminar will bring together participants from a great number of European countries to share experience with different systems in different countries as well as to discuss the way in which they function, or sometimes do not function. The international pooling and exchanging of experience by and between government officials and minority representatives, enhanced by the possibility of meeting in working groups, will make this seminar a valuable contribution to consideration of these questions at domestic level as well as give rise to specific proposals for further activities in this field.

The seminar will, following general presentations and introductions on the theme, split up into four working groups, each of which will focus on one area within the broader theme.

The four working groups are:

1. Consultative councils and round-tables at State-level;
2. Representation in Parliament and electoral laws;
3. Self-government, cultural autonomy and participation in cultural life;
4. Associations, non-governmental organisations, bilateral and international levels.

In each working group two experts shall be making introductory presentations on the subject.

Organisation of the seminar:

As you can see from the programme the seminar is divided into four parts: I-IV.

Part I is the opening session which will take place in plenary with all participants.

Part II is the first round of working groups. As indicated above there will be four working groups going on in parallel. In each working group there will be presentations by two (or more) invited experts followed by a discussion with the participants. Each working group will have a chairman and a rapporteur, who shall be making a report (not more than 10 minutes to the final session (see part IV)).

Part III is the second round of working groups. The subjects of the working groups are exactly the same as in the first round, but each participant will now choose another working group. Again, each working group will have a chairman and a rapporteur.

In Part IV, the final session, the rapporteur will report on the discussions in the working groups, the general rapporteur shall make his presentation and delegations will be invited to make proposals for further activities under the Joint Programme concerning the theme of participation by national minorities in decisionmaking processes.

APPENDIX 22

**List of all participants of the Joint-Programme between the European Commission (Phare Programme) and the Council of Europe
updated in April 1998**

| Countries | Names of participants | Meetings of Government Offices | | | Seminars | | | Study-visits | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| | | Bucharest Sept. 96 | Bratislava June 97 | Skopje Dec. 97 | Budapest Apr. 97 | Vilnius May 97 | Brdo Dec. 97 | GR Jun 96 | PL Mar 97 | I Apr 97 | FIN Apr 97 | A May 97 | UK May 97 | E Oct 97 | I Oct 97 | H Oct 97 | DK Nov 97 | D Nov 97 | F Nov 97 | RO Jan 98 | CZ Feb 98 | E Mar 98 | |
| Albania | Mr. Albert BEJA <i>Adviser to the Prime Minister on Ethnic Issues & Head of the Office for Minorities</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albania | Mr. Bashkim BERISHA <i>Director of Department of Primary Education at the Ministry of Education</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albania | Mr. Urim BUJARI <i>Adviser to the Cabinet of the Prime Minister</i> | * | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albania | Mr. Dervish DUMI <i>Legal expert in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albania | Ms. Irma HALIMI <i>Inspector of Foreign Relations in the Ministry of Education and Sports</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albania | Ms. Dajena KUMBARO <i>Desk Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albania | Mr. Vasillaq KURETA <i>Adviser to the Prime Minister</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Countries | Names of participants | Meetings of Government Offices | | | Seminars | | | Study-visits | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| | | Bucharest Sept. 96 | Bratislava June 97 | Skopje Dec. 97 | Budapest Apr. 97 | Vilnius May 97 | Brdo Dec. 97 | GR Jun 96 | PL Mar 97 | I Apr 97 | FIN Apr 97 | A May 97 | UK May 97 | E Oct 97 | I Oct 97 | H Oct 97 | DK Nov 97 | D Nov 97 | F Nov 97 | RO Jan 98 | CZ Feb 98 | E Mar 98 | |
| | <i>for Education, Culture and Social Affairs</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|---------|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Albania | Mr. Frederik MIKELI <i>Linguist at the Prime Minister's Office</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albania | Mr. Napolon ROSHI <i>Member of the Academy of Sciences in Tirana & Former Ambassador of Albania to Slovenia</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albania | Ms. Admira SHEHU <i>Desk Officer in the European Integration Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belarus | Mr. Aleksandr BILYK <i>Secretary of Co-ordination at the Council for National Minorities</i> | * | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belarus | Mr. Ivan JANOVICH <i>Deputy-chairman of the State Committee on Religions and Nationalities Affairs</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belarus | Mr. Mikhail KOPYLSKY <i>Chairman of the State Committee on Religions and Nationalities Affairs</i> | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belarus | Mr. Vasily KURLOVICH <i>First Secretary of the Humanitarian Co-operation and Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belarus | Mr. Viacheslav MATUCHENKO <i>Chief Inspector in the Ministry of Education</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Belarus | Mr. Wladimir PROKOPTSOV <i>Head of the Section of Culture and Media in the Council of Ministers</i> | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Belarus | Ms. Natalia VASHEHILO <i>Expert in the Department of Humanitarian Co-operation and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bulgaria | Ms. Tatiana ANGUELOVA <i>Expert at the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bulgaria | Mr. Blagoy ASSENOV <i>Secretary-General of the Roma Public Council Kupate</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Bulgaria | Mr. Petar ATANASSOV <i>Secretary of the National Council for Ethnic and Demographic Issues at the Council of Ministers</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Bulgaria | Ms. Ana IORDANOVA <i>Spokeswoman of the Roma Public Council Kupate</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Bulgaria | Ms. Ruth LEVI <i>Expert in Hebrew Language in the Ministry of Education</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bulgaria | Mr. Kamen MIACEV <i>Counsellor at the Embassy of Bulgaria in Bucharest</i> | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bulgaria | Ms. Detelina STAMBOLOVA <i>Expert at the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | | | * | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bulgaria | Mr. Vladlen STEFANOV <i>Expert in International Legal Protection of Human Rights in Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | * | * | * | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Bulgaria | Mr. Güner TAHIR <i>Member of Parliament</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Bulgaria | Mr. Nicolay VASSILEV <i>Adviser to the Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria</i> | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bulgaria | Mr. Ahmed YOUSSEIN <i>Member of Parliament</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bulgaria | Ms. Lora ZAGOROVA <i>Senior Expert in Turkish Language in the Ministry of Education</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Croatia | Mr. Miroslav KIŠ <i>President of the Committee for Human Rights and Rights of Ethnic and National Minorities</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Croatia | Ms. Milena KLAJNER <i>Senior Adviser at the Committee for Human Rights and Rights of Ethnic and National Minorities</i> | | | * | | | * | | | | | | * | | | | | | | * | |
| Croatia | Ms. Nives KOSTIČIĆ-ŠKRLEC <i>Senior Adviser at the Ministry of Administration</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Croatia | Ms. Mila ŠIMIĆ <i>Deputy-Head of the Office for National Minorities</i> | * | * | * | * | * | * | | | * | | * | | | | | | | | * | |
| Croatia | Mr. Tihomir TELIŠMAN <i>Senior Counsellor at the National Minorities Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | * | * | | * | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Croatia | Mr. Jaroslav VOJTA <i>Vice-President of the Council of National Minorities</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | |
| Croatia | Ms. Mira ZOVKO <i>Adviser for Education of National Minorities to the Ministry of Education</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | |

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| Estonia | Ms. Olga BUNDER <i>Adviser on Cultural Minorities Issues at the Folk Culture Department of the Ministry of Culture</i> | * | * | * | * | * | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | |
| Estonia | Mr. Aleksander DUSMAN <i>Chairman of the Round-Table of National Organisations of Ida-Virumaa</i> | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Estonia | Mr. Rafik GRIGORJAN <i>Counsellor at the Office of the Minister of Nationalities</i> | | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | |
| Estonia | Ms. Lydia KÕLVART <i>President of the International Cultural Organisation Lyra & Head of the Korean Cultural Society in Estonia</i> | | | * | * | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | |
| Estonia | Ms. Ludmilla POLJAKOVA <i>Chief Editor of Teachers' Weekly & Chief of Teacher Union of Russian Schools</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hungary | Ms. Mária DEMETER ZAYZON <i>Head of the Department for Information and Documentation in the Office for Ethnic and National Minorities</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hungary | Mr. István FRETYÁN <i>Head of Department of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities</i> | * | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hungary | Ms. Éva HEGYESINÉ-ORSÓS <i>State-Secretary & President of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities</i> | | | | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | |
| Hungary | Mr. Ottó HEINEK <i>Vice-President of the Office for</i> | | | | * | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Lithuania | Ms. Rasa PALUKIEN_ <i>Specialist on National Minorities</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Ms. Tatiana POKLAD <i>Vilnius Pedagogical University</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Mr. Jonas RUMŠA <i>Responsible for Media at the Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities</i> | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Ms. Galina SIVODOVA <i>Principal of Skozino School</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Ms. Ramut_ SKRIPKIEN_ <i>Institute of Pedagogics</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Mr. Alfonsas SVELNYS <i>Director of the Department for Regional Problems and National Minorities</i> | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Ms. Ramun_ TRAKYMIEN_ <i>Governmental Officer</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Mr. Severinas VAITIEKUS <i>Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the Council of Europe</i> | * | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Mr. Stanislas VIDTMANN <i>Deputy-Director of the Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities</i> | | * | | | | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Mr. Roman VOINICKIY <i>President of the Byelorussian Centre "Siabryna"</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lithuania | Ms. Donata ZAKUTIEN_ <i>Deputy-Director of the Department for Regional Problems and National</i> | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | <i>Minorities</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Lithuania | Ms. Bozena ZOMBKIEWICZ <i>Expert at the Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities</i> | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The FYROM | Mr. Gazmen AJDERAGA <i>Member of Parliament</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The FYROM | Ms. Jelena CVETANOVSKA <i>Head of the Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | * | * | | | | | | | * | | | * | | | | | | | |
| The FYROM | Mr. Nikola DIMITROV <i>Desk Officer at the Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The FYROM | Mr. Nazif D_AFERI <i>Head of the Department of European Integration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The FYROM | Ms. Elisabeta GORGIEVA <i>Counsellor at the Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | * | * | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | |
| The FYROM | Ms. Tatjana JANJL <i>Expert Associate in the Ministry of Justice</i> | | | | | | | | | | * | | | * | | | | | | | |
| The FYROM | Ms. Nikolina KENIG <i>Professor Assistant Expert in the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Skopje</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The FYROM | Ms. Maja KLIMOVSKA <i>Desk Officer in the Ministry of Justice</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | |
| The FYROM | Ms. Ratka KULJAN <i>Member of Parliament</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Romania | Ms. Adelin_ LOZEANU <i>Director of the Directorate of Relations with Civil Society and International Organisations at the Department for the Protection of National Minorities</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Romania | Mr. Gabriel MICU <i>Director of the Department for Human Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | Mr. Neriman MOLALI <i>Head of the Education Commission of the Democratic Turkish Union from Romania</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | Ms. Anna NAGY <i>Minister Adviser at the Minister's Cabinet in the Department for the Protection of National Minorities</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Romania | Mr. Dan OPRESCU-ZENDA <i>Head of the National Office for Roma at the Department for the Protection of National Minorities</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Romania | Mr. Fedbi OSMAN <i>Representative of the Turkish Minority in the Romanian Chamber of Deputies</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | Mr. Varujan PAMBUCCIAN <i>Representative of the Armenian Minority in the Chamber of Deputies & Head of the Minority Parliamentary Group</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | Mr. Iosif PANE_ <i>Representative of the Slovak and Czech Minorities in the</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | <i>Chamber of Deputies</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Romania | Ms. Monica PRESECAN <i>Consultant in the Directorate for the Relations with Civil Society and International Bodies of the Department for the Protection of National Minorities</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Romania | Ms. Carmen PETRESCU <i>Expert at the Department for the Protection of National Minorities</i> | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | Mr. Florea SIMION <i>Representative of the Bulgarian Minority in the Chamber of Deputies</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | Ms. Gyönnér SOMAI GYÖRGY <i>Counsellor at the Territorial Office in Cluj Napoca to the Government Office for the Protection of National Minorities</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |
| Romania | Mr. Ivan TRU_ER <i>Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Department for the Protection of National Minorities of the Government</i> | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | Ms. Lumini_a Florina VINULESCU <i>Consultant at the Department for the Protection of National Minorities</i> | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Russian Federation | Mr. Venalyi AMELIN <i>Chairman of the Committee of National Questions to the Regional Administration of Orenbourg</i> | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Russian Federation | Mr. Yulij G. BEIM <i>Head of the Analysis and</i> | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | <i>National Minorities</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Slovakia | Ms. Anina BOTOŠOVÁ <i>Counsellor at the Office of Government of the Slovak Republic</i> | | * | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | Ms. Zuzana BURDANOVÁ <i>Deputy Director General in the Ministry of Culture</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | Mr. Peter BURIAN <i>Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | * | * | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | Mr. Juraj HORVÁTH <i>Director of the Department for Slovaks Abroad in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | Mr. Michal KAL'AVSKÝ <i>Counsellor at the Office of Government of the Slovak Republic</i> | * | * | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | Mr. Erik LIPTÁK <i>Head of the Department for National Minorities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | | | | * | | | | | * | | | * | | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | Ms. Zuzana MAJEROVÁ <i>Adviser in the Ministry of the Interior</i> | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | Mr. Dušan MIKOLAJ <i>General Director of the Section of Minority and Local Culture in the Ministry of Culture</i> | | | * | | | * | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | Mr. Pavol MIKULA <i>Head of the Department of National Minorities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | | | | * | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | Mr. Jan PODOLAK | * | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Slovenia | Ms. Marija POZSONEC <i>Representative of the Hungarian Minority in Parliament</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slovenia | Mr. Andrej ŠKERLAVAJ <i>Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> | * | * | * | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slovenia | Ms. Alenka TAŠTANOSKA <i>Adviser to the Minister in the Ministry of Education and Sport</i> | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slovenia | Mr. Peter WINKLER <i>Director of the Governmental Office for National Minorities</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | Ms. Natalya ARENDCE <i>Head of the Division of Analytical Information at the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration</i> | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | Mr. Andriy DATSENKO <i>Officer of the Directorate of International and Legal Affairs at the State Committee for Nationalities & Migration</i> | | | | * | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | Mr. Oleg GAINICHERU <i>Chief Consultant in the Department of Humanitarian Policy & Counsellor to the President of Ukraine</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | |
| Ukraine | Ms. Tetiana HALCHENKO <i>Chief of Department on National-Cultural Societies at the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | |
| Ukraine | Ms. Svetlana LI <i>Head of the Directorate on Languages Development at the</i> | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

STATISTICS

Part I Statistics on study visits

In the course of the Joint Programme, 15 study visits were organised.

A. Distribution of countries of the Joint Programme according to their participation in study visits:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| participation in 4 study visits | Slovakia, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" |
| participation in 3 study visits | Croatia, Hungary |
| participation in 2 study visits | Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania |
| participation in 1 study visit | Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Ukraine |
| no participation in study visits | Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia |

B.1. Countries which hosted study visits once in the frame of the Joint Programme:

Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom.

B.2. Countries which hosted study visits twice in the frame of the Joint Programme:

Italy (Trentino-South Tirol), Spain (Catalonia, Andalusia).

Part II Distribution of participants to the Joint Programme according to their sex and function (see next page)

| Countries | Total number (men/women) | | | President's office | PM's office ² | Foreign Affairs | Interior | Education | Culture | Justice | Nationalities & Religion | MPs & local institutions ³ | Govt Office for Minorities | Council for Minorities ⁴ | Mino. NGOs Associations | Civil life ⁵ |
|-----------|--------------------------|----|----|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albania | 10 | 7 | 3 | - | 4 | 3 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Belarus | 7 | 6 | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Bulgaria | 12 | 7 | 5 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| Croatia | 7 | 3 | 4 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Czech Rep | 8 | 6 | 2 | - | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - |
| Estonia | 6 | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Hungary | 13 | 6 | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 9 | - | - | 1 |
| Latvia | 11 | 5 | 6 | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | 3 | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Lithuania | 20 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | - | 2 | 7 |
| Macedonia | 17 | 7 | 10 | - | 1 | 7 | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | 3 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Moldova | 6 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | 1 | - |
| Poland | 7 | 5 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Romania | 21 | 11 | 10 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 15 | - | 1 | - |
| Russia | 8 | 5 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | 2 | - |

² Also includes advisers to Vice PM, to councils of ministers and government as well as to the Office of the Minister of the Czech and Slovak Republics and to the State Office of the Republic of Moldova.

³ Examples of local institutions: Latvian Human Rights Office, Self-governments in Hungary and Slovenia, mayors etc.

⁴ As well as round-tables.

⁵ Includes university professors, schools principals, directors of media, directors of institutes or foundations etc.

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|----------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Slovakia | 14 | 9 | 5 | - | 3 | 5 | 1 | - | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Slovenia | 10 | 4 | 6 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | 3 |
| Ukraine | 11 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | - | - | - |