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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

**Initial periodical report
presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

SERBIA

Belgrade, June 2007

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Supplement 1 - The Territorial Disposition of Speakers of Minority Languages

Supplement 2 – Speakers of Minority Languages according to Activities and Educational Background.

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1. Geographic Location

The Republic of Serbia is situated in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula, on the main traffic routes connecting Europe and Asia, covering an area of 88,361 sq. kilometres. The northern part of the Republic of Serbia has a predominantly lowland landscape, while its central and southern parts are hilly and mountainous. Lowlands are in the Pannonian Plain and its adjacent parts (Mačva, Posavina, Pomoravlje, Stig and Negotinska krajina). The Republic of Serbia has 55% of arable land, while 27% is covered by forests. The length of the Republic of Serbia's border is 2,619.2 km. The Republic of Serbia borders the Republic of Bulgaria to the east, Romania to the northeast, the Republic of Hungary to the north, the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the west, Montenegro to the southwest and Albania and the Republic of Macedonia to the south.

1.2. Historical Development

Serbia is an old European state. It was formed as a separate state in the Middle Ages, as a result of the struggle of the Serbian people against Byzantine domination, which ended in the late 12th century. Serbia became a kingdom in 1217 and an empire in 1346. After the Turkish intrusion into the Balkan Peninsula, Serbia lost its independence and fell under the Turkish rule in 1459.

The development of modern Serbia began in 1804, with the First Serbian Uprising, which broke out in central Serbia. The First Serbian Uprising was a national liberation struggle against the Turks and a social revolution. After the Second Serbian Uprising in 1815, Serbia became an autonomous principality within the Ottoman Empire, as confirmed by Hatt-I Serifs of 1830 and 1833. Its independence from the Ottoman Empire Serbia gained after the Serbian – Turkish Wars from 1876 to 1878, which was confirmed by the Congress of Berlin in 1878.

After the First World War, Montenegro and Vojvodina joined the Kingdom of Serbia. Through the unification of the Kingdom of Serbia with the newly established state of the Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, on 1 December 1918, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was established, later to be named the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

After the Second World War and the socialist revolution, the Democratic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was created, which was to become the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It comprised the Socialist Republic of Serbia as one of its federal units.

The break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia commenced with the secession of the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia in 1991. In April 1992, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was formed, consisting of two federal units – the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro. After the constitutional reconstruction of the relations between the members of the Federation, in 2003 the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro was created. In a referendum held in May 2006, the inhabitants of Montenegro decided for the Republic of Montenegro to become an independent state, hence the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro ceased to exist. In a referendum held in October 2006, citizens of the Republic of Serbia endorsed a new Constitution. The Republic of Serbia is the legal successor of all the above predecessor states.

1.3. Demographic Data

According to the results of the 2002 population census, the Republic of Serbia has a population of 7,498,001. The table below provides a breakdown of the population by sex and by age group.

Population by Sex and by Broad Age Group

	Sex	Total	0-19	20-39	40-59	60 or over	80 or over	Not known	Mean age	Aging index (60+/0-19)
Republic of Serbia	P	7498001	1672421	1979451	2113919	1684289	145477	47921	40.25	1.01
	M	3645930	857616	992973	1040717	732306	53320	22318	38.97	0.85
	F	3852071	814805	986478	1073202	951983	92157	25603	41.46	1.17
Central Serbia	P	5466009	1212430	1433543	1532085	1248592	106303	39359	40.41	1.03
	M	2660988	621914	716743	752898	551167	40528	18266	39.23	0.89
	F	2805021	590516	716800	779187	697425	65775	21093	41.52	1.18
Vojvodina	P	2031992	459991	545908	581834	435697	39174	8562	39.82	0.95
	M	984942	235702	276230	287819	181139	12792	4052	38.27	0.77
	F	1047050	224289	269678	294015	254558	26382	4510	41.27	1.13

Natural population change is presented in the table below:

**Natural Population Change in the Republic of Serbia
over the Period 1998 – 2005**

Year	Mid-year population	Live births	Deaths		Natural increase	Live births	Deaths	Natural increase	Infant deaths per 1000 live births
			total	infants					
2000	7661365	73764	104042	785	-30278	9.6	13.6	-4	10.6
2001	7736362	78435	99008	799	-20573	10.1	12.8	-2.7	10.2
2002	7500031	78101	102785	790	-24684	10.4	13.7	-3.3	10.1
2003	7480591	79025	103946	711	-24921	10.6	13.9	-3.3	9
2004	7463157	78186	104320	633	-26134	10.5	14	-3.5	8.1
2005	7440769	72180	106771	579	-34591	9.7	14.3	-4.6	8

The table below presents data on mean population age and the aging index:

Mean Age of the Population, the Aging Index in the Republic of Serbia

Year	Mean age of the population			Aging index of the population		
	total	males	females	total	males	females
2000	39.8	38.7	40.8	95.6	83.0	108.2
2001	39.9	38.8	41.0	97.1	84.1	109.1
2002	40.2	39.0	41.5	99.1	84.2	114.8
2003	40.3	39.0	41.5	99.5	84.4	115.3
2004	40.4	39.1	41.7	100.4	84.9	116.6
2005	40.6	39.3	41.8	100.6	84.9	117.2

The national structure of the population according to the results of the 2002 population census is provided in the table below:

	Republic of Serbia		Central Serbia	AP Vojvodina
	Number	%		
Serbs	6212838	82.86	4891031	1321807
Montenegrins	69049	0.9	33536	35513
Albanians	61647	0.8	59952	1695
Ashkalia	584	0.01	413	171
Bosniacs	136087	1.8	135670	417
Bulgarians	20497	0.3	18839	1658
Bunjevci	20012	0.3	246	19766
Vlachs	40054	0.5	39953	101
Gorani	4581	0.1	3975	606
Greeks	572	0.01	352	220
Egyptians	814	0.01	685	129
Jews	1158	0.02	706	452
Yugoslavs	80721	1.1	30840	49881

Hungarians	293299	3.9	3092	290207
Macedonians	25847	0.3	14062	11785
Moslems	19503	0.3	15869	3634
Germans	3901	0.05	747	3154
Roma	108193	1.44	79136	29057
Romanians	34576	0.5	4157	30419
Russians	2588	0.03	1648	940
Ruthenians	15905	0.21	279	15626
Slovaks	59021	0.8	2384	56637
Slovenians	5104	0.07	3099	2005
Turks	522	0.01	385	137
Ukrainians	5354	0.1	719	4635
Croats	70602	0.9	14056	56546
Tzintzars	293	0.004	248	45
Czechs	2211	0.03	563	1648
Backa Croats (Sokci)	717	0.01	38	679
Total population	7498001		5466009	2031992

The tables below provide data on the educational level attained and literacy:

Population Aged 15 or Over according to the Education Level Attained and Literacy (Primary Education)

	No official education		1 st to 3 rd form of primary school		4 th to 7 th form of primary school	Primary education
	total	illiterate	total	illiterate		
Republic of Serbia	357552	227039	126127	2863	896847	1509462
Central Serbia	282175	184810	91401	2023	651184	1083898
Vojvodina	75377	42229	34726	840	245663	425564

Population Aged 15 or Over according to the Education Level Attained and Literacy (Secondary, Post-Secondary and Higher Education)

	Secondary education						Post-secondary education	Higher education	Not known
	total	Two- and three-year vocational education schools	Grammar schools	Vocational education schools	Secondary job-oriented education	Schools for specialization			
Republic of Serbia	2596348	787028	292204	1408272	72919	35925	285056	411944	137895
Central Serbia	1845166	502797	218484	1032654	60921	30310	211571	323348	122710
Vojvodina	751182	284231	73720	375618	11998	5615	73485	88596	151851

1.4. Basic Economic Indicators

The level of economic development of the country is reflected in the following indicators. The first table provides data on gross domestic product.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
GDP, at current prices - total in millions of RSD	397655.6	783896.7	1020116.5	1171563.8	1431313.1	1750000.0
GDP, at current prices - per capita, in RSD	52905	104472	136015	156614	191784	235191
GDP, at constant prices, 2002 - total, in millions of RSD	933533.9	978749.8	1020116.5	1045570.4	1133650.6	1204065.3
Growth rates (%)	4.5	4.8	4.2	2.5	8.4	6.2
GDP - total, in millions of USD ³⁾	9013.0	10431.1	12171.8	16123.9	20965.5	...
GDP – per capita, in USD ³⁾	1199.1	1390.2	1622.9	2155.4	2809.2	...
Conversion factor	44.12	75.15	83.81	72.66	68.27	...
GDP - total, in millions of EUR ⁴⁾	26431.3	13186.2	16811.8	18008.7	19723.5	21107.9
GDP - per capita, in EUR ⁴⁾	3516.5	1757.4	2241.6	2407.4	2642.8	2836.8
Average	15.0449	59.4482	60.6785	65.0553	72.5689	82.9074

exchange rate, EUR ⁴⁾						
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The table below provides data on employment and/or unemployment:

Employed Persons and Rates of Registered Unemployment

As of	Year	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	Employed in firms, institutions and organisations, all ownership types ¹⁾	Individual entrepreneurs, self-employed persons and their employees ²⁾	Farmers (Source: Labour Force Survey)	Job-seekers ³⁾ according to data of the National Employment Service	Unemployed persons ³⁾ according to data of the National Employment Service	Rate of registered unemployment
March	2001	2798953	1766266	340958	691729	764965	...	21.5
September	2001	2787858	1738196	357933	691729	777356	...	21.8
March	2002	2773021	1706805	378381	687835	799499	...	22.4
September	2002	2736087	1646857	401395	687835	885742	...	24.5
March	2003	2720363	1628067	418425	673871	945960	...	25.8
September	2003	2710161	1595198	441092	673871	954794	...	26.1
March	2004	2706624	1600696	464208	641720	948837	...	26.0
September	2004	2678509	1559578	477211	641720	946512	842775	23.9 ⁵⁾
March	2005	2657205	1556871	513626	586708	992147	884111	25.0
September	2005	2654137	1536070	531359	586708	1000652	897724	25.3
March	2006	2533723	1496202	535584	501937	1012245	920031	26.6
September	2006	2521405	1447298	572170	501937	1007657	914564	26.6

¹⁾ Source: the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (RZS), regular semi-annual surveys on employees and wages and salaries. Also included is the data on employees in small-sized enterprises (up to 50 employees) from the Supplementary Survey to the Semi-annual Survey on employees and salaries and wages.

²⁾ Source: the Serbian Health Insurance Fund.

³⁾ Under Article 3 of the Law on Employment.

⁴⁾ Under Article 4 of the Law on Employment (as of July 2004, "unemployed persons" and "job-seekers" are two separate categories)

⁵⁾ Since September 2004, the registered unemployment rate has been calculated relative to unemployed persons, rather than to job-seekers.

The tables below provide data on salaries and wages and their movements:

2006	Average wage ¹⁾	Average wage net of taxes and contributions
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	31745	21707
Central Serbia	31509	21560
Vojvodina	32392	22110

¹⁾ Denominated in dinars at an exchange rate of EUR 1 = RSD 80; all tables in the Report provide data in dinar amounts

2005	Total average wage		Average wage in the economy		Average wage in non-economic activities	
	gross	net	gross	net	gross	net
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	25514	17443	24072	16472	28754	19623
Central Serbia	25178	17213	23654	16195	28570	19478
Vojvodina	26440	18076	25212	17229	29275	20033

2004	Total average wage		Average in the economy		Average wage in non-economic activities	
	gross	net	gross	net	gross	net
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	20555	14108	19126	13128	23990	16464
Central Serbia	20235	13877	18755	12868	23766	16286
Vojvodina	21432	14740	20135	13836	24619	16962

1.5. Indicators of Social Life

1.5.1. Education

There are several levels of education in the Republic of Serbia. The data on preschool education and care is provided in the table below:

Preschool Education

Number of Educational and Caregiving Institutions and the Number of Children – by Sex and by Age Bracket

Year	Number of institutions	Number of children								
		total	girls	by age bracket						
				under 18 months	18 months to 2 years	from 2 to 3 years	from 3 to 4 years	from 4 to 5 years	from 5 to 7 years	from 3 to 7 years mixed groups
Republic of Serbia										
2004	1840	162256	78957	4211	7202	13079	20145	22812	78426	16381
2005	1873	167441	81287	4313	6844	13758	20582	25464	79515	16965
Central Serbia										
2004	1220	115560	56338	3488	5780	9834	14611	16084	55471	10292
2005	1243	119648	58242	3457	5523	10685	15011	18085	56898	9989
Vojvodina										

2004	620	46696	22619	723	1422	3245	5534	6728	22955	6089
2005	630	47793	23045	856	1321	3073	5571	7379	22617	6976

The data on regular primary education is provided in the table below:

Regular Primary Education

Number of Schools, Classes and the Number of Pupils – by Sex and by Form - at school year start -

Year	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils									
			total	female pupils	By form							
					I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Republic of Serbia												
2004	3579	31032	659543	321119	80219	80286	82416	81992	83813	82473	84840	83504
2005	3572	30669	641612	312612	71633	79556	79421	81904	82665	82079	81323	83031
Central Serbia												
2004	3043	22609	481763	234628	58578	58557	59897	60072	61331	60370	61964	60994
2005	3036	22331	469213	228754	52385	58218	57963	59610	60545	60024	59626	60842
Vojvodina												
2004	536	8423	177780	86491	21641	21729	22519	21920	22482	22103	22876	22510
2005	536	8338	172399	83858	19248	21338	21458	22294	22120	22055	21697	22189

The data on regular secondary education is provided in the table below:

Regular Secondary Education

Number of Schools, Classes and the Number of Pupils – by Sex and by Form - at school year start -

Year	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils						
			total	female pupils	by form				
					I	II	III	IV	
Republic of Serbia									
2004	480	10891	297708	150508	84894	82385	79246	51183	
2005	482	10916	101477	148220	81279	80848	78437	50913	
Central Serbia									
2004	357	7946	220162	110747	62592	60709	58281	38580	
2005	359	7963	215509	109065	59895	59563	57678	38373	
Vojvodina									

2004	123	2945	77546	39761	22302	21676	20965	12603
2005	123	2953	75968	39155	21384	21285	20759	12540

The data on post-secondary and higher education is provided in the table below:

Post-Secondary and Higher Education

Number of Enrolled Students, by Sex, by Financing Mode and by Study Year

Year	Number of students		Financing mode		Students by study year - total				
	total	female students	budget-financed	self-financed and partially self-financed	I	II	III	IV	V+VI
Republic of Serbia									
2004	218508	121760	108220	110288	72846	66657	47648	23459	7898
2005	229355	127034	110520	118835	76231	66763	52887	25538	7936
Central Serbia									
2004	172235	96303	83426	88809	57588	52884	38220	17525	6018
2005	179691	100002	84279	95412	59836	52988	41654	19475	5738
Vojvodina									
2004	46273	25457	24794	21479	15258	13773	9428	5934	1880
2005	49664	27032	26241	23423	16395	13775	11233	6063	2198

1.5.2. Culture

The situation in the field of culture in the Republic of Serbia is described by the data on libraries, theatres, cinemas, archives, museums and published books and brochures.²

Libraries in the Republic of Serbia in 2004

Type of library	Number of libraries	Users in thousands
Scientific and research libraries	328	2670
School libraries	2038	-
Public libraries	536	3703

Professional Theatres, Theatre Societies and Children's Theatres in the Republic of Serbia and Their Shows

² The data refers to different years since it is monitored differently by statistics. The lack of data on 2005 and 2006 in certain fields is a consequence of periodical monitoring or of the fact that the data is still processed.

Year	Type of theatre					
	professional theatres		theatre societies		children's theatres	
	number of theatres	number of shows	number of theatres	number of shows	number of theatres	number of shows
2002/03	40	3756	44	814	12	1682
2003/04	39	4437	38	754	10	1645
2004/05	40	4473	35	880	9	1562

The table provides data only on formally registered theatres. The number of theatre societies that produce plays, and are active in community culture halls, cultural and artistic societies, community cultural centres, etc., is far higher. Thus, in the territory of AP Vojvodina, there is a total of 196 theatre societies, alongside with 14 professional theatres.

Number of Cinemas in the Republic of Serbia

Year	Number of cinemas
2002	156
2003	156
2004	152
2005	138

Archives (three-year periods)

Year	Number	Visitors, in thousands
2002	36	34
2005	38	35

Museums (three-year periods)

Year	Number	Visitors, in thousands
2003	124	1515

Books and Brochures by Field in the Republic of Serbia in 2006

Field	Total number of books
General	1618
Philosophy, psychology	330
Religion, theology	411
Social sciences (general)	3396
Natural sciences	507
Applied sciences, medicine, technology	1799
Arts	1147
Linguistics, philology, literature	4546
Archaeology, geography, biography, history	1031
Total	14785

1.5.3. Media

Hours of radio shows broadcast in the Republic of Serbia are presented in the table below:

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005
Republic of Serbia	1030810	1344885	1321611	1384989
Central Serbia	884927	1146303	1123606	1239650
Vojvodina	145883	198582	198005	145339

Hours of broadcast TV shows are presented in the table below:

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005
Republic of Serbia	395139	428322	425604	550281
Central Serbia	370497	394205	388602	494041
Vojvodina	24642	34117	37002	56240

1.5.4. Periodical Publications

Information on periodical publications in the Republic of Serbia in 2006 is provided in the tables below:

Periodical Publications

total	1425
journals	842
magazines	421
other periodical publications	162

Periodical Publications by Type of Publication and by Frequency of Publication

Frequency of publication	total	journals	magazines	other periodical publications
	1425	842	421	162
daily	23		23	
two times a week	6	1	5	
weekly	92	21	69	2
biweekly	37	11	24	2
monthly	354	205	133	16
bimonthly	109	80	22	7
quarterly	178	146	26	6
semi-annually	93	86	5	2
annually	166	81	2	83
not known	246	145	73	28
occasionally	113	66	39	16

Periodical Publications by Field

type of publication		total
	total periodical publications	1425
journals		842
	general	87
	philosophy, psychology	14
	religion, theology	22
	social sciences (general)	215
	natural sciences	36
	applied sciences, medicine, technology	235
	arts	114
	linguistics, philology and literature	90
	archaeology, geography, biography, history	29
magazines		421
	general	23
	philosophy, psychology	2
	religion, theology	9
	social sciences (general)	191
	natural sciences	1
	applied sciences, medicine, technology	105
	arts	65
	linguistics, philology and literature	25
other periodical publications		162
	general	33
	religion, theology	4
	social sciences (general)	46
	natural sciences	3
	applied sciences, medicine, technology	29
	arts	21

	linguistics, philology and literature	8
	archaeology, geography, biography, history	18

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

2.1. Constitutional Definition of the Republic of Serbia

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia was endorsed in the referendum held in October 2006.

The Preamble of the Constitution stipulates that the citizens of Serbia adopt the Constitution *considering the state tradition of the Serbian people and equality of all citizens and ethnic communities in Serbia and also considering that Kosovo and Metohija is an integral part of the Republic of Serbia, which has the status of a substantial autonomy within the sovereign state of Serbia.*

The Constitution sets out in its Article 1 that the Republic of Serbia is *a state of the Serbian people and all citizens who live in it, based on the rule of law and social justice, principles of civil democracy, human and minority rights and freedoms, and commitment to European principles and values.*

2.2. Human and Minority Rights

The entire Section Two of the Constitution deals with human and minority rights, which under Article 1 of the Constitution belong to the values on which the state is based. The fundamental principles of human and minority rights include direct exercise of guaranteed rights, constitutional regulation of the purposes of constitutional guarantees, the regulation of restrictions on human and minority rights, prohibition of discrimination and their protection.

Article 18 of the Constitution provides for *direct exercise of guaranteed rights*. Paragraph 2 of the same Article prescribes that *human and minority rights guaranteed by the generally accepted rules of international law and ratified international treaties are guaranteed by the Constitution and directly implemented as such. Laws may prescribe a manner of exercising human rights only if that is explicitly stipulated in the Constitution or necessary to exercise a specific right owing to its nature, whereby the law is not to affect the substance of the relevant guaranteed right.* Under paragraph 3 of the same Article of the Constitution, *the provisions on human and minority rights are to be interpreted to the benefit of promoting values of a democratic society, pursuant to applicable international standards of human and minority rights, as well as the practice of international institutions which supervise their implementation.*

Article 19 of the Constitution prescribes that *guarantees of human and minority rights have the purpose of preserving human dignity and exercising full freedom and equality of each individual in a just, open, and democratic society based on the principle of the rule of law.*

Human and minority rights guaranteed by the Constitution may, under Article 20 of the Constitution, *be restricted, if the Constitution permits such restriction, and for the purpose allowed by the Constitution, to the extent necessary to meet the constitutional purpose of the restriction in a democratic society and without encroaching upon the substance of the relevant guaranteed right.*

All are equal before the Constitution and law, and Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Constitution *explicitly prohibits any, direct or indirect, discrimination on any grounds.*

In the constitutional-legal system of the Republic of Serbia, under Article 22 of the Constitution, *everyone has the right to judicial protection when any of their human or minority rights guaranteed by the Constitution has been violated or denied, and citizens also have the right to address international institutions in order to protect their freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Constitution.*

2.3. Constitutional Provisions on the Use and Protection of the Language

In the Republic of Serbia, under Article 10, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, the *Serbian language and the Cyrillic script are in official use.*

Paragraph 2 of the same Article of the Constitution sets out that *official use of other languages and scripts is to be regulated by the law, based on the Constitution.*

The above provisions of Article 10 are not the only provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia on the use and protection of languages.

In Article 21, paragraph 2, the Constitution prohibits discrimination, on any ground, stipulating that discrimination is prohibited in particular on specific grounds (race, sex, national affiliation, social origin, birth, religion, political or other opinion, culture, etc.), which explicitly include the *language.*

Under Article 202, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, *differentiation based on the language in the constitutional-legal system of the Republic of Serbia is not permitted even in the case of measures providing for derogation from human and minority rights during the state of emergency or war.*

Article 199, paragraph 1, of the Constitution stipulates that *everyone has the right to use his/her language in the proceedings before a court of law, another state body or organisation exercising public powers, when his/her right or duty is decided on while paragraph 2 sets out that lack of knowledge of the language of the proceedings may not be an impediment for the exercise and protection of human and minority rights.*

The above provision is also related to Article 32, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, under which *everyone is guaranteed the right to free assistance of an interpreter if he/she cannot speak or understand the language officially used in the court.*

The use of the language is also regulated by the constitutional provisions on habeas corpus. Under Article 27, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, a person who has been deprived of liberty by the state bodies is to be promptly informed, *in the language he/she understands*, of the reasons for the deprivation of liberty, of the charges against him/her, as well as of his/her rights, while under Article 33, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, every person accused of a criminal offence has the right to be informed as soon as possible, in conformity with the law, of the nature of and reasons for the charges against him/her, as well as of the evidence collected against him/her, in detail and in the *language he/she understands*. The above provisions of the Constitution do not guarantee the protection and use of one's own language, but the right of every person, including foreign nationals, to be informed in the *language they understand* of the reasons for the deprivation of liberty and other relevant data in the pre-trial investigation and in the criminal proceedings.

In the constitutional-legal system in the Republic of Serbia, the language is a value which is also protected by means of the institute of asylum. Under Article 57, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, *an alien who has a well-founded fear of persecution, inter alia, on the ground of his/her language, is entitled to take refuge in the Republic of Serbia.*

The use and protection of minority languages is specifically regulated by Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, which deals with the rights to the preservation of specific features of persons belonging to national minorities. Pursuant to that Article of the Constitution, persons belonging to national minorities are entitled, *inter alia*, to:

- *use their language and script;*
- *in those communities where their populations are sizeable, have procedures also conducted in their own language, by the state bodies, organisations vested with public authority, bodies of autonomous provinces and local self-government units;*
- *education in their language in public institutions and institutions of autonomous provinces;*
- *use their name and family name in their own language;*
- *in those communities where their populations are sizeable, have traditional local names, names of streets and settlements and topographic signs written in their own languages as well;*
- *full and impartial information provided in a timely manner in their own language, including the right to express, receive, send and exchange information and ideas;*

The same Article of the Constitution also guarantees to persons belonging to national minorities the right to establish private educational institutions and their own media, without specifying the language of instruction and/or public information, which provides freedom to persons belonging to minorities to use minority languages in private educational institutions and in the media.

2.4. Relationship between International and Internal Law and the Status of International Treaties in the Hierarchy of Internal Law

Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that *generally accepted rules of international law and ratified international treaties are an integral part of the legal system* of the Republic of Serbia. The identical arrangement is enshrined in Article 194, paragraph 4. Under the same Article and paragraph of the Constitution, *ratified international treaties may not be in contravention of the Constitution*. Under Article 194, paragraph 5, *laws and other general acts adopted in the Republic of Serbia may not contravene ratified international treaties*. In line with the above provisions is also the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia pursuant to Article 167 of the Constitution to decide on the conformity of laws and other general acts with ratified international treaties, as well as on the conformity of ratified international treaties with the Constitution. The above constitutional provisions actually mean that *in the hierarchical ranking of the legal system of the Republic of Serbia ratified international treaties are above laws and other general acts, but below the Constitution*.

Nevertheless, not all international treaties are of lesser legal power than the Constitution. Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Constitution sets forth that *human and minority rights guaranteed by, inter alia, ratified international treaties are guaranteed by the Constitution and are directly implementable as such*. The above provision actually means that *in the legal system of the Republic of Serbia the provisions of international treaties that guarantee human and minority rights are of the same legal power as the provisions of the Constitution*.

2.5. Competences and Constitutional Bodies of the Republic of Serbia

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia in its Article 4, paragraph 1, prescribes that *the legal system of the Republic of Serbia is single*, while Article 8, paragraph 1, sets out that *the territory of the Republic of Serbia is inseparable and indivisible*.

The unity of the legal system and of the territory of the Republic of Serbia is not undermined by the existence of provincial autonomies and local self-governments. Considering the existence of the provincial autonomies and local self-governments, it can be said that *the Republic of Serbia is a decentralised state*. The Constitution, in its Article 176, sets out that *citizens have the right to the provincial autonomy and local self-government, which they exercise directly or through their freely elected representatives*. Under Article 177 of the Constitution, *local self-government units have competences in matters which can be dealt with, in an effective manner, within a local self-government unit, and autonomous provinces in matters which can be dealt with, in an effective manner, within an autonomous province, over which the Republic of Serbia has no competences*.

The competences of the Republic of Serbia are laid down by the Constitution in its Article 97. Under that Article of the Constitution, the Republic of Serbia regulates and provides:

1. *sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Serbia, its international status and relations with other states and international organisations;*
2. *exercise and protection of freedoms and rights of citizens; constitutionality and legality; proceedings before courts and other state bodies; responsibility and sanctions for violation of freedoms and rights of citizens enshrined in the Constitution and for violation of laws, other regulations and general acts; amnesty and pardon for criminal offences;*
3. *territorial organisation of the Republic of Serbia; the system of local self-government;*
4. *defence and security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens; measures to be taken in the state of emergency;*
5. *the system of crossing the border and controlling cross-border trade in goods and services and passenger traffic; status of aliens and foreign legal entities;*
6. *the single market; legal status of economic agents; the system of performing particular economic and other activities; strategic stocks; monetary, banking, foreign exchange and customs systems; foreign economic relations; the system of foreign credit relations; the tax system;*
7. *property and contractual relations and protection of all types of ownership;*
8. *the system in the area of labour relations, occupational safety, employment, social insurance and other forms of social security; other economic and social relations of the public interest;*
9. *sustainable development; the system of protection and improvement of the environment; protection and improvement of flora and fauna; production of, trade in and transport of arms, toxic, inflammable, explosive, radioactive and other hazardous substances;*
10. *the system in the areas of health care, social protection, protection of war veterans and disabled persons, childcare, education, culture and protection of cultural heritage, sports, public information, the system of public services;*
11. *control of legality of management of legal entities' assets; financial audits of public funds; collection of statistical and other data of the public interest;*
12. *development of the Republic of Serbia, policies and measures for encouraging a balanced development of individual parts of the Republic of Serbia, including the development of underdeveloped*

areas; organisation and utilisation of space; scientific and technological development;

13. *the regime and safety in all types of transport;*
14. *holidays and decorations of the Republic of Serbia;*
15. *financing of the exercise of rights and the discharge of duties of the Republic of Serbia, laid down by the Constitution and law;*
16. *organisation, competences and work of the bodies of the Republic;*
17. *other relations of interest to the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the Constitution.*

The holder of legislative power in the Republic of Serbia is the National Assembly. Under Article 100, paragraph 1, of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the National Assembly has 250 seats, and deputies to the National Assembly are elected in direct elections by secret ballot in accordance with the law. *The Constitution prescribes legal grounds for the participation of representatives of speakers of minority languages in the legislative branch of power in the Republic of Serbia. Under paragraph 2 of the same Article of the Constitution, equality and representation of national minorities' representatives is to be ensured in the National Assembly, in accordance with Law, thus also ensuring the equality and representation of speakers of those minority languages.* The Law on the Election of Deputies, in its Article 81, paragraphs 2 and 3, lays down that *political parties of national minorities and coalitions of political parties of national minorities take part in the distribution of seats even in those situations where they have won less than the statutory threshold of 5% of the total number of votes cast and that political parties of national minorities are all those parties whose main objective is to represent and advocate interests of national minorities and to protect and advance rights of persons belonging to national minorities, in keeping with international legal standards.*

The holder of executive power in the Republic of Serbia is the Government of the Republic of Serbia. Pursuant to Article 123 of the Constitution, the Government: 1. establishes and pursues policies, 2. implements laws and other general acts of the National Assembly, 3. issues decrees and other general acts for the purpose of law implementation, 4. proposes to the National Assembly bills and drafts of other general acts and gives opinions on them if they are submitted by some other mover, 5. directs and coordinates the work of public administration bodies and performs supervision of their work, 6. performs other tasks as well, as stipulated by the Constitution and law.

The state unity of the Republic of Serbia is expressed by the President of the Republic. Under Article 112 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the President of the Republic: 1. represents the Republic of Serbia in the country and abroad, 2. promulgates laws by virtue of his/her decree, in keeping with the Constitution, 3. proposes Prime Minister Designate to the National Assembly, after he/she has heard the views of representatives of the elected party tickets, 4. proposes nominees for public offices to the National Assembly, in accordance with the Constitution and law, 5. appoints and recalls by virtue of his/her decree, ambassadors of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal

by the Government, 6. receives letters of credit and letters of recall of foreign diplomatic representatives, 7. grants pardons and awards decorations, 8. in accordance with the law, commands the Army and appoints, promotes and relieves of duty officers of the Army of Serbia, 9. performs other tasks as well, as stipulated by the Constitution.

2.6. Competences of Autonomous Provinces

Under Article 182, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, autonomous provinces are *autonomous territorial communities established by the Constitution, in which citizens exercise the right to provincial autonomy.*

The Republic of Serbia has two autonomous provinces as its integral parts – the *Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.* Under Article 182, paragraph 3, of the Constitution, *new autonomous provinces may be established, and the already established ones may be abolished or merged, following the procedure envisaged for amending the Constitution.*

United Nations Security Council resolution no. 1244 of 1999 has established the UN Interim Administration Mission (UNMIK) in the territory of AP Kosovo and Metohija, which will remain there pending the establishment of essential autonomy of Kosovo and Metohija as an integral part of the Republic of Serbia. Article 182, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that essential autonomy of Kosovo and Metohija is to be regulated by a special law which will be adopted in accordance with the procedure envisaged for amending the Constitution. Bearing in mind that the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija is under the interim international administration, the Report on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Republic of Serbia does not cover that part of the territory Republic of Serbia.

The competences of the autonomous provinces are laid down by Articles 177 and 183 of the Constitution. Under Article 177, the *autonomous provinces have competences in those matters which may be dealt with, in an effective way, within an autonomous province, and which do not fall among the competences of the Republic of Serbia,* while under Article 183 of the Constitution, the autonomous provinces, *in accordance with the Constitution and their Statutes, regulate the competences, election, organisation and work of bodies and services which they establish, while in accordance with the law, they regulate matters of relevance to the province in the following fields:*

1. *spatial planning and development,*
2. *agriculture, water management, forestry, hunting, fishery, tourism, catering, spas and health resorts, environmental protection, industry and crafts, road, riverine and railway transport and road repairs, organisation of fairs and other economic events,*
3. *education, sports, culture, health care and social protection and public information at the provincial level.*

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the same Article of the Constitution, the *autonomous provinces ensure the exercise of human and minority rights, in accordance with the law*, while under paragraph 4, the autonomous provinces *define symbols of the provinces and the manner of their use*.

The autonomous provinces can have broader competences than those explicitly stipulated in the Constitution. Under Article 178, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, *the Republic of Serbia may delegate to the autonomous provinces particular matters falling in its competence, by virtue of the law*.

The Law on the Establishment of Specific Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina of 2002 specifically and precisely lays down primary and delegated competences of that autonomous province.

The autonomous provinces manage provincial assets in the manner provided for by the law.

The autonomous provinces, under Article 183, paragraph 6, of the Constitution have their own revenues, provide funding to local self-government units for the performance of delegated tasks, adopt their own budgets and annual financial statements, in keeping with the Constitution and law.

Under Article 185 of the Constitution, the supreme legal act of the autonomous province is its Statute.

The Statute of the autonomous province is adopted by its assembly, subject to prior approval of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

The autonomous province enacts other decisions and other general acts on matters within its competences.

The bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina are the Assembly, the Executive Council and administrative bodies.

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia provides for a legal ground for the participation of representatives of speakers of minority languages in the assembly of the autonomous province. Article 180, paragraph 4, sets out that in the autonomous provinces with a mixed national structure of the population, a proportional representation of national minorities in the assemblies is to be ensured, in accordance with the law.

2.7. Competences of Local Self-Governments

The competences of local self-government units are laid down in general terms in Article 177 of the Constitution. In that Article, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that *local self-government units have competences in those matters which can be dealt with, in an effective manner, within local self-government units*.

Local self-government units in the Republic of Serbia are *municipalities, towns and the City of Belgrade*. As regards the competences of the above local self-government units, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia provides for no major differences. It stipulates that *a town has competences delegated to the municipality, whereas other competences may be delegated to it by the law*.

Article 190 of the Constitution more precisely defines the competences of municipalities. Under that Article, municipalities, through their bodies, in accordance with the law:

1. *regulate and ensure the performance and development of municipal activities;*
2. *regulate and ensure the use of buildable land and business premises;*
3. *ensure construction, reconstruction, maintenance and use of local roads and streets as well as other public facilities of municipal significance; regulate and provide local transportation;*
4. *ensure that the needs of citizens are met in the fields of education, culture, health care and social protection, childcare, sports and physical culture;*
5. *ensure development and promotion of tourism, crafts, catering and trade;*
6. *ensure environmental protection, protection against natural and other disasters; protection of cultural heritage of significance to the municipality;*
7. *ensure the protection, improvement and use of agricultural land;*
8. *perform other duties as well, as specified by the law.*

In accordance with the law, the municipality autonomously *adopts its budget and annual financial statement, zoning plan and municipal development programme, determines symbols of the municipality and their use*.

The municipality ensures *the exercise, protection and promotion of human and minority rights, as well as public information in the municipality*.

The Law on Local Self-government of the Republic of Serbia sets out that the municipality is responsible for the performance through its bodies, in conformity with the Constitution and law, of the following tasks from its direct purview: 1) adoption of development programmes; 2) adoption of zoning plans; 3) adoption of the budget and annual financial statement; 4) regulation and provision of the functioning and development of utility services (purification and distribution of water, steam and hot water generation and supply, transportation of passengers in road traffic on inner city services and suburban commuter services, cleaning of towns and settlements, maintenance of landfills, development, maintenance and utilisation of green markets, parks, green, recreation and other public areas, public parking lots, street lighting, regulation and maintenance of cemeteries and burials, etc.), as well as of the organisational, financial and other conditions for their performance; 5) maintenance of residential buildings and provision of safety of their use, as well as the setting of fees for the maintenance of residential

buildings; 6) conduct of the procedure for eviction of illegal tenants from flats and auxiliary premises in residential buildings; 7) adoption of development plans for buildable land, regulation and ensuring of the performance of works on the development and use of buildable land and setting of fees for the development and use of buildable land; 8) regulation and ensuring of the use of business premises under its management, setting of fees for the use of business premises and supervision of the use of business premises; 9) care for environmental protection, adoption of programmes for the use and protection of natural values and of environmental protection programmes, i.e., local action and rehabilitation plans, in accordance with its strategic documents and its own interests and specific characteristics, and the setting of a separate fee for environmental protection and promotion; 10) regulation and ensuring of the performance of tasks related to construction, rehabilitation and reconstruction, maintenance, protection, use, development and management of local and non-categorised roads and streets in settlements; 11) regulation and provision of special conditions for and organisation of passenger taxi services; 12) regulation and provision of regular shipping lines in the territory of the municipality and definition of parts of the coastline or riverbanks and aquatic areas where hydraulic works and shipping berthed are allowed; 13) establishment of strategic stocks and determination of their size and structure, subject to approval of the competent ministry, in order to satisfy the needs of the local population; 14) founding of institutions and organisations in the fields of primary education, culture, primary health care, physical education, sports, childcare and social protection and tourism, monitoring and provision of their functioning; 15) organisation of the performance of tasks related to the protection of cultural heritage of significance to the municipality, encouragement of the development of cultural and artistic amateurism and creation of conditions for the work of museums, libraries and other cultural institutions whose founder it is; 16) organisation of protection against natural and other large-scale disasters and fires, and creation of conditions for their elimination, i.e., for the alleviation of their consequences; 17) adoption of the basic principles for the protection, utilisation and cultivation of agricultural land and ensuring of their observance, definition of erosion hazard areas, organisation of the use of pastures and deciding on the change of their purpose; 18) regulation and determination of the manner of the use and management of springs, public wells and fountains, determination of requirements for water management, issuance of water management approvals and licenses for local-level facilities; 19) provision and creation of conditions for the preservation, utilisation and promotion of areas with natural curative properties; 20) organisation and encouragement of tourism development on its territory and determination of the level of the tourist tax; 21) ensuring of the development and promotion of catering, arts and crafts and trade, setting of working hours, designation of locations where particular activities may be conducted and determination of other requirements for their work; 22) use of state owned assets and ensuring of their safekeeping and growth; 23) regulation and organisation of the performance of activities related to the keeping and protection of domestic and exotic animals; 24) organisation of the performance of tasks related to the legal protection of its rights and interests; 25) setting up of bodies, organisations and services for the needs of the municipality and definition of their organisation and work; 26) encouragement of and support to the development of co-operatives; 27) setting up, if necessary, of legal aid services for citizens; 28) provision of protection and exercise of personal and collective rights of

national minorities and ethnic groups; 29) determination of the languages and scripts of national minorities in official use on the territory of the municipality; 30) provision of public information of local significance; 31) definition of petty offences for violations of municipal regulations; 32) setting up of inspection services and performance of controls over enforcement of regulations and other general acts falling in the competences of the municipality; 33) regulation of the organisation and work of conciliation committees; 34) regulation and ensuring of the use of the name, coat of arms and other symbols of the municipality; 35) performance of other tasks of direct interest to the local population, in accordance with the Constitution, law and statute.

The municipality may have broader competences than those stipulated by the Constitution and the Law on Local Self-government. In certain fields, the Law provides for special competences of a local self-government. Thus, Article 2 of the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths sets forth that the maintenance of registers is ensured by the municipal administrative body responsible for administrative affairs. Just as the Republic may delegate certain tasks from its purview to the province, the autonomous province, under Article 178, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, may also delegate certain matters falling in its competence to local self-government units by virtue of a decision.

The municipality is autonomous in the management of municipal assets, in accordance with the law.

The municipality, in accordance with the law, prescribes petty offences for violations of municipal regulations.

The supreme legal act of the municipality is its *Statute*. The Statute is adopted by the municipal assembly.

The municipal assembly adopts general acts falling in its competences, adopts the budget and annual financial statement of the municipality, adopts a development plan and a spatial plan for the municipality, calls municipal referendums and performs other tasks as laid down by law and the Statute.

The bodies of the municipality are the municipal assembly and other bodies defined by its Statute, in accordance with the law. Under the applicable Law on Local Self-government, which is yet to be harmonised with the new Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the municipality has the president of the municipality and the municipal council as its executive bodies. Municipalities also have their own municipal administrations, which are referred to in the Law as municipal services. In addition to the above bodies, in nationally mixed municipalities, councils for interethnic relations are established. Municipalities can also establish the Ombudsman and the Council for Development and Protection of Local Self-government.

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia provides for the legal basis for the participation of representatives of speakers of minority languages in the assemblies of local self-government units. Article 180, paragraph 4, sets forth that in local self-government units with a mixed

national structure of the population, a proportional representation of national minorities in their assemblies is to be ensured, in accordance with the law.

2.8. Division of Competences in the Regulation of the Use and Protection of Minority Languages

Considering the above constitutional and legal provisions, it is possible to note that the competences in the regulation of the use and protection of regional or minority languages are distributed between different organisational levels of the public authorities.

Proceeding from the constitutional provision that the Republic of Serbia regulates and ensures relationships with other states and international organisations, it is in the competence of the Republic of Serbia to conclude international multilateral and bilateral agreements which are fully or partially devoted to the use and protection of minority languages.

Bearing in mind that the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia prescribes that official use of other languages and scripts is to be regulated by the law, it is clear that the Republic of Serbia regulates official use of languages and scripts by the law.

The Republic of Serbia is also responsible for regulating the issue of the use of the language in proceedings before courts and other state bodies.

Proceeding from the constitutional provision that the Republic is responsible for regulating the exercise and protection of freedoms and rights of citizens, it is obvious that the Republic is responsible for regulating the manner in which minority rights that guarantee the use of native language, as well as information and education in minority languages, are exercised.

The Republic is also responsible for regulating liability and sanctions for violations of freedoms and rights of citizens laid down by the Constitution and for breaches of laws, other regulations and general acts; hence the Republic regulates, by virtue of its law, liability and sanctions for violations of freedoms and rights to use regional or minority languages, as well as of regulations governing the use of minority languages and scripts.

The Statute of the autonomous province defines the languages and scripts that are in official use in the territory of the autonomous province. On the basis of the Law on the Establishment of Specific Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, certain issues related to the regulation of the use and protection of minority languages have been delegated to the Autonomous Province Vojvodina. Under Article 18 of that Law, the Autonomous Province, through its bodies, in accordance with the law governing official use of the language and script, more specifically defines official use of languages and scripts of national minorities in the territory of the Autonomous Province. Article 55 of the same Law sets out that the Autonomous Province, through its bodies, in accordance with the law governing the seal of state and other bodies, more specifically defines the contents and design of the seals of provincial bodies, bodies of local self-

government units and legal entities exercising administrative powers, which have their seats in the territory of the Autonomous Province.

Statutes of local self-government units define the languages and scripts of national minorities which are in official use in the respective territories of local self-government units. The Statutes of local self-government units in the territory of AP Vojvodina also define which minority languages are in official use in the respective territories of particular populated places or local communities (see the explanation in Section 3.1.3. of the Report).

2.9. Tasks and Organisation of the Public Administration

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, in its Article 136, paragraph 1, prescribes that *the public administration is independent, bound by the Constitution and law and accountable for its work to the Government.*

The tasks of the public administration are performed by the ministries and other bodies of the public administration defined by the law.

The tasks of the public administration and the number of ministries are provided for by the law.

The Law on the Public Administration of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that the tasks of the public administration include: *participation in the formulation of government policies, monitoring of the situation in the fields falling in the purview of administrative bodies, implementation of laws, other regulations and general acts, inspection supervision, ensuring the operation of public services, development-related tasks and other professional tasks.*

The public administration in the Republic of Serbia is organised in the form of ministries, administrative bodies within ministries (which exist as administrations, inspectorates and directorates) and special administrative organisations (existing as secretariats and bureaus). Under the Law on Ministries of 2004, the public administration of the Republic of Serbia comprises the following ministries: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-government, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Ministry of Capital Investment, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Services, Ministry of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Religions and Ministry of the Diaspora. After the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had ceased to exist, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence were incorporated into the system of the public administration in the Republic of Serbia. For the purpose of performing the tasks of the public administration outside the seat of the public administration bodies, administrative districts are formed.

Under the Law on the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the *Government, by virtue of its decrees, sets up agencies for professional or technical tasks shared by all public administration bodies or several of them, and prescribes their organisation and purview.*

The Government of the Republic of Serbia has set up several agencies that perform professional tasks, or tasks for all public administration bodies or several of them (e.g. the Agency for Human and Minority Rights, etc.).

2.10. Tasks and Organisation of the Administration of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

The tasks of the provincial administration include: *implementation of laws, other regulations and general acts of the Republic of Serbia delegated to the province, decision-making in administrative matters and exercise of administrative supervision in those cases where that has been delegated to the province on the strength of law, implementation of decisions and other general acts adopted by the provincial Assembly and the Executive Council, drafting of decisions and other general acts to be adopted by the provincial Assembly and the Executive Council, performance of other tasks defined by the Constitution, law and provincial Statute, as well as of other professional tasks for the needs of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina and of the Executive Council of AP Vojvodina.*

The only existing form of provincial administrative bodies includes provincial secretariats. In addition to secretariats, it is also possible to set up provincial administrative organisations, agencies and directorates. The secretariats in AP Vojvodina have been established for individual administrative fields – the economy, education and culture, information, health care, labour and social policy, finances, administration, regulations and national minorities, etc. Provincial secretariats are headed by Secretaries General, who are at the same time members of the Executive Council of AP Vojvodina.

2.11. Tasks and Organisation of the Administrations of Local Self-Government Units

In the legal system of the Republic of Serbia, tasks of the municipal administration, as the basic form of local self-government organisation, include: *implementation of decisions and other general acts of the municipal assembly and the president of the municipality, deciding in first instance administrative proceedings on the rights and duties of citizens, firms, institutions and other organisations from the direct purview of municipalities, exercise of administrative supervision of the enforcement of regulations and other general acts of the municipal assembly, implementation of laws of the Republic of Serbia and other regulations of the Republic of Serbia and the Autonomous Provinces, whose implementation was delegated to the municipality, drafting of the regulations and other acts adopted by the municipal assembly and the president of the municipality and performance of professional and other tasks as defined by the municipal assembly and the president of the municipality.*

The decision on the establishment and organisation of the municipal administration is adopted by the municipal assembly. The internal organisation of, and the job classification in, the municipal administration are regulated by the Rules issued by the head of the municipal administration, upon approval of the president of the municipality. The municipal administration can have, and in most of the cases it has, its internal organisational units, as entities for the performance of related tasks. The municipal

administration can establish its sub-district bodies – local community offices. Local community offices are set up in rural areas; they are a form of organisation which is the closest to citizens, where certain administrative tasks are performed, such as the maintenance of registers, and where the civil registry offices are located; they also issue certificates and transcripts confirming the facts on which the municipal administration is keeping records, receive and transmit submissions, provide information on the procedures for the exercise of rights and discharge of duties of citizens, etc. Local community offices should be differentiated from local communities, which, under the Law on Local Self-government, constitute a form of self-government at the lowest level of organization, which is established by virtue of a decision of the assembly of a local self-government unit for one, two or more villages, or parts of cities, for the purpose of self-governing performance of tasks and exercise of rights and discharge of duties laid down in the decision on the founding of the local community and its Statute. In practice, the territorial jurisdiction of a local community office in rural areas largely tallies with the territory of a local community.

2.12. Functional Decentralisation – National Councils of National Minorities

National councils of national minorities constitute a form of cultural autonomy of national minorities and of functional decentralisation, introduced into the legal system in 2002, by the adoption of the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities.

Under Article 19, paragraph 1, of that law, *persons belonging to national minorities may elect national councils for the purpose of exercising the right to self-governance in the fields of official use of the language and script, education, information and culture.*

A national council of a national minority is a legal entity and under paragraph 7 of the same Article of the Law *it represents a national minority in the fields of official use of the language, education, information in the language of the national minority and culture, takes part in the decision-making process or decides on issues in those fields and establishes institutions in these fields.*

The Law provides for different forms of the participation of national councils in the decision-making process. First, the Law, in paragraph 8, provides for the obligation *of the state, territorial autonomy or local self-government unit, to consult the council when deciding on issues in the fields of official use of the language, education, information in the language of the national minority and culture.* Councils of national minorities *may address all the levels of the authorities with respect to all the issues that have an impact on the rights and status of the national minority.* Moreover, *public powers in the fields of official use of the language and script, education, culture and information in the languages of national minorities may be vested with councils, with the state providing financial resources necessary for the exercise of these powers.* National councils are financed out of the budgets of different levels of the public authorities and out of donations. National councils are financed by the Republic of Serbia and by AP Vojvodina, as well as by certain local self-governments, out of their budgets.

The right to the election of national councils of national minorities has been constitutionalised. The new 2006 Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, in its Article 75, guarantees *collective minority rights* on the basis of which persons belonging to national minorities, *directly or through their representatives take part in decision-making or decide by themselves on specific issues related to their culture, education, information and official use of the language and script, in accordance with the law.* Paragraph 3 of the same Article of the Constitution stipulates that *persons belonging to national minorities, in accordance with the law, may elect their national councils for the purpose of exercising the right to self-governance in culture, education, information and official use of the language and script.*

Before the compilation of the State Report on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, persons belonging to Bosniac, Bunjevac, Bulgarian, Vlach, Greek, Egyptian, Macedonian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Croatian national minorities have elected their national councils.

Bearing in mind that the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities has not precisely defined the procedure for electing national councils and their competences, as well as that the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that persons belonging to national minorities may elect national councils in accordance with the law, the Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia has prepared a Draft Law on Elections for and Powers of National Councils of National Minorities.

2.13. Court Organisation

Judicial power is single in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia sets out in Article 143, paragraph 1, that *judicial power belongs to courts of general and special jurisdiction*, while in paragraph 2 of the same Article it prescribes that the *establishment, organisation, jurisdiction, setup and structure of courts are to be regulated by the law.*

Under the applicable legal arrangements, which have to be harmonised with the new Constitution by 31 December 2008, the courts of general jurisdiction in the Republic of Serbia are municipal and district courts, while courts of special jurisdiction include commercial courts and the Higher Commercial Court. The highest-instance court in the Republic of Serbia is the Supreme Court of the Republic of Serbia.

Municipal courts with jurisdiction *ratione loci* include: 1) Ada Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Ada; 2) Aleksandrovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Aleksandrovac; 3) Aleksinac Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Aleksinac and Ražanj, with a department of the Court in Ražanj; 4) Alibunar Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Alibunar; 5) Apatin

Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Apatin; 6) Arandelovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Arandelovac; 7) Arilje Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Arilje; 8) Babušnica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Babušnica; 9) Bajina Bašta Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Bajina Bašta; 10) Batočina Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Batočina and Lapovo; 11) Bačka Palanka Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Bačka Palanka and Bač, with a department of the Court in Bač; 12) Bačka Topola Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Bačka Topola and Mali Idoš; 13) Bela Crkva Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Bela Crkva; 14) First Belgrade Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Palilula and Stari grad; 15) Second Belgrade Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Savski venac, Čukarica and Rakovica; 16) Third Belgrade Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Vračar and Zvezdara; 17) Fourth Belgrade Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Zemun and Novi Belgrade; 18) Fifth Belgrade Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Barajevo, Voždovac and Grocka; 19) Bečej Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Bečej; 20) Bogatić Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Bogatić; 21) Boljevac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Boljevac; 22) Bor Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Bor; 23) Bosilegrad Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Bosilegrad; 24) Brus Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Brus; 25) Bujanovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Bujanovac; 26) Valjevo Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Valjevo; 27) Varvarin Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Varvarin and Čičevac; 28) Veliko Gradište Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Veliko Gradište and Golubac; 29) Velika Plana Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Velika Plana; 30) Vladimirci Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Vladimirci; 31) Vitina Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Vitina; 32) Vladičin Han Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Vladičin Han; 33) Vlasotince Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Vlasotince and Crna Trava; 34) Vranje Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Vranje and Trgovište; 35) Vrbas Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Vrbas and Srbobran, with a department of the Court in Srbobran; 36) Vršac Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Vršac and Plandište with a department of the Court in Plandište; 37) Vrnjačka Banja Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Vrnjačka Banja; 38) Vučitrn Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Vučitrn; 39) Gnjilane Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Gnjilane; 40) Gornji Milanovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Gornji Milanovac; 41) Guča Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Lučani; 42) Despotovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Despotovac; 43) Dimitrovgrad Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Dimitrovgrad; 44) Dragaš Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Gora and Opolje; 45) Đakovica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Đakovica; 46) Žabari Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Žabari; 47) Žagubica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Žagubica; 48) Zaječar Municipal Court, for the territory of the

municipality of Zaječar; 49) Zrenjanin Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Zrenjanin, Žitište and Sečanj, with a department of the Court in Sečanj; 50) Ivanjica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Ivanjica; 51) Indija Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Indija; 52) Istok Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Istok; 53) Kanjiža Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kanjiža; 54) Kladovo Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kladovo; 55) Kikinda Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Kikinda and Nova Crnja, with a department of the Court in Nova Crnja; 56) Knjaževac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Knjaževac; 57) Kovin Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kovin; 58) Kovačica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kovačica; 59) Kosjerić Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kosjerić; 60) Kosovska Kamenica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kosovska Kamenica; 61) Kosovska Mitrovica Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Kosovska Mitrovica, Zubin Potok, Zvečan and Srbica, with a department of the Court in Zubin Potok; 62) Koceljeva Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Koceljeva; 63) Kragujevac Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Kragujevac and Knić; 64) Kraljevo Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kraljevo; 65) Krupanj Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Krupanj; 66) Kruševac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kruševac; 67) Kula Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kula; 68) Kuršumlija Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Kuršumlija and Podujevo with a department of the Court in Podujevo; 69) Kučevo Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Kučevo; 70) Klina Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Klina; 71) Lazarevac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Lazarevac; 72) Lajkovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Lajkovac; 73) Lebane Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Bojnik, Lebane and Medveđa; 74) Leskovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Leskovac; 75) Lipljan Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Lipljan; 76) Loznica Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Loznica and Mali Zvornik; 77) Leposavić Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Leposavić; 78) Ljig Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Ljig; 79) Ljubovija Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Ljubovija; 80) Majdanpek Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Majdanpek; 81) Mionica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Mionica; 82) Mladenovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Mladenovac; 83) Negotin Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Negotin; 84) Niš Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Gadžin Han, Doljevac, Niš and Bela Palanka, with a department of the Court in Bela Palanka; 85) Nova Varoš Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Nova Varoš; 86) Novi Bečej Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Novi Bečej; 87) Novi Kneževac Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Novi Kneževac and Čoka; 88) Novi Sad Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Bački Petrovac, Beočin, Žabalj, Novi Sad and Sremski Karlovci, with departments of the Court in Bački Petrovac, Beočin and Žabalj; 89) Novi Pazar Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Novi Pazar; 90) Obrenovac

Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Obrenovac; 91) Orahovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Orahovac; 92) Osečina Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Osečina; 93) Odžaci Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Odžaci; 94) Pančevo Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Pančevo and Opovo; 95) Paraćin Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Paraćin; 96) Petrovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Petrovac; 97) Peć Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Peć and Dečane; 98) Pirot Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Pirot; 99) Požarevac Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Malo Crniće and Požarevac 100) Požega Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Požega; 101) Preševo Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Preševo; 102) Priboj Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Priboj; 103) Prizren Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Prizren; 104) Prijepolje Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Prijepolje; 105) Prokuplje Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Blace, Žitorađa, Merošina and Prokuplje, with a department of the Court in Blace; 106) Priština Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Glogovac, Priština, Obilić, Kosovo Polje and Novo Brdo; 107) Rača Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Rača; 108) Rekovac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Rekovac; 109) Raška Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Raška; 110) Ruma Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Irig, Pećinci and Ruma, with departments of the Court in Irig and Pećinci; 111) Svetozarevo Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Svetozarevo; 112) Svilajnac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Svilajnac; 113) Svrlijig Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Svrlijig; 114) Senta Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Senta; 115) Sjenica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Sjenica; 116) Smederevo Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Smederevo; 117) Smederevska Palanka Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Smederevska Palanka; 118) Sombor Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Sombor; 119) Sopot Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Sopot; 120) Sokobanja Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Sokobanja; 121) Sremska Mitrovica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Sremska Mitrovica; 122) Stara Pazova Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Stara Pazova; 123) Subotica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Subotica; 124) Suva Reka Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Suva Reka; 125) Surdulica Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Surdulica; 126) Temerin Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Temerin; 127) Titel Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Titel; 128) Užice Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Užice; 129) Topola Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Topola; 130) Trstenik Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Trstenik; 131) Tutin Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Tutin; 132) Čuprija Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Čuprija; 133) Ub Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Ub; 134) Uroševac Municipal Court, for the territories of the municipalities of Uroševac, Kačanik, Štimlje and Štrpce, with a department of the Court in Štrpce; 135) Čačak Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of

Čačak; 136) Čajetina Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Čajetina; 137) Šabac Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Šabac; 138) Šid Municipal Court, for the territory of the municipality of Šid.

District Courts with jurisdiction *ratione loci* include: 1) Belgrade District Court, for the jurisdictions of the First Municipal Court, Second Municipal Court, Third Municipal Court, Fourth Municipal Court and Fifth Municipal Court in Belgrade and municipal courts in Obrenovac, Lazarevac, Sopot and Mladenovac; 2) Valjevo District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Valjevo, Lajkovac, Ljig, Mionica, Osečina and Ub; 3) Vranje District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vladičin Han, Vranje, Preševo and Surdulica; 4) Zaječar District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Boljevac, Bor, Zaječar, Knjaževac and Sokobanja; 5) Zrenjanin District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Zrenjanin, Kikinda, Novi Bečej and Novi Kneževac; 6) Kragujevac District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Arandelovac, Batočina, Kragujevac, Rača and Topola; 7) Kraljevo District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Kraljevo, Raška and Vrnjačka Banja; 8) Kruševac District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Aleksandrovac, Brus, Varvarin, Kruševac and Trstenik; 9) Leskovac District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Vlasotince, Lebane and Leskovac; 10) Negotin District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Kladovo, Majdanpek and Negotin; 11) Niš District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Aleksinac, Niš and Svrlijig; 12) Novi Sad District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Novi Sad, Bačka Palanka, Bečej, Vrbas, Titel and Temerin; 13) Novi Pazar District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Novi Pazar, Sjenica and Tutin; 14) Pančevo District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Alibunar, Bela Crkva, Kovačica, Kovin, Vršac and Pančevo; 15) Peć District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Peć, Istok, Klina and Đakovica; 16) Pirot District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Babušnica, Dimitrovgrad and Pirot; 17) Požarevac District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Veliko Gradište, Žagubica, Žabari, Kučevo, Petrovac and Požarevac; 18) Prizren District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Dragaš, Orahovac, Prizren and Suva Reka; 19) Priština District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Lipljane, Priština and Uroševac; 20) Prokuplje District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Kuršumlija and Prokuplje; 21) Svetozarevo District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Despotovac, Paraćin, Svetozarevo, Svilajnac, Rekovac and Čuprija; 22) Smederevo District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Velika Plana, Smederevo and Smederevska Palanka; 23) Sombor District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Apatin, Kula, Odžaci and Sombor; 24) Sremska Mitrovica District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Indija, Ruma, Sremska Mitrovica, Stara Pazova and Šid; 25) Subotica District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Ada, Bačka Topola, Kanjiža, Senta and Subotica; 26) Užice District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Arilje, Bajina Bašta, Ivanjica, Kosjerić, Nova Varoš, Požega, Priboj, Prijepolje, Užice and Čajetina; 27) Čačak District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Gornji Milanovac, Guča and Čačak; 28) Šabac District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Bogatić, Vladimirci, Koceljeva, Krupanj, Loznica, Ljubovija and Šabac; 29) Gnjilane District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Vitina, Gnjilane and Kosovska Kamenica; 30)

Kosovska Mitrovica District Court, for the territories of the municipal courts in Vučitrn, Kosovska Mitrovica and Leposavić.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CHARTER

3.1. Information on the Accession Process

3.1.1. Background Information on the Accession Process

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was signed on behalf of Serbia and Montenegro on 22 March 2005. The Assembly of Serbia and Montenegro, at its sitting of 21 December 2005, passed the Law on the Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. After the ratification by the President of Serbia and Montenegro, pursuant to Article 18 of the Charter, the instrument of ratification of Serbia and Montenegro was deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 15 February 2006. The Charter entered into force for the Republic of Serbia as the successor to the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro on 1 June 2006.

The accession to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is part of the fulfilment of post-admission obligations of the Republic of Serbia arising from the membership of the Council of Europe.

3.1.2. Main Reasons that Guided the State in the Ratification Process

The main reasons that guided the state in the ratification process included: the preservation of multiculturalism, further development of democracy through protection and promotion of the use of the language, equal protection of all specified languages in respect of which the commitments referred to in Part III are undertaken and affirmative action measures in favour of the Roma language and Roma community.

Bearing in mind that the Charter underscores in its Preamble that the protection of the historical regional or minority languages of Europe contributes to the maintenance and development of Europe's cultural wealth and traditions, the main objective of the accession to the Charter was for the Republic of Serbia to contribute, through yet another international legal act intended for the protection and promotion of minority languages to the protection and preservation of multiculturalism in Serbia and Europe.

By acceding to the Charter the Republic of Serbia has demonstrated its willingness to protect and promote minority languages in good faith, together with other member States, on the basis of the provisions of the Charter, thus contributing to the democratisation of its own society and to the building of democratic Europe.

Having in mind that the Charter in its Part III defines alternative undertakings, from among which the States, under Article 2, paragraph 2, should apply a minimum of 35 paragraphs and sub-paragraphs in respect of each language specified at the time of ratification, *in the procedure of ratification the Republic of Serbia was guided, when*

specifying the languages and undertakings referred to in Part III, by the intention to provide the same level of protection to all languages it is to specify, that is, to undertake the same paragraphs and sub-paragraphs in respect of them. Such intention resulted in the specification of languages in respect of which protection and promotion is provided in practice, pursuant to the national legislation, in accordance with a minimum of 35 paragraphs and sub-paragraphs referred to in Part III of the Charter. Proceeding from the above intention, at the submission of the ratification instrument, Serbia and Montenegro made the following declaration with respect to the Republic of Serbia:

«1. In accordance with Article 2, paragraph 2, of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Serbia and Montenegro accepts, in respect of the Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Croatian languages, the application of Article 8, paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g; Article 9 paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, paragraph 2 a, b, c, paragraph 3; Article 10, paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), c, paragraph 2 b, c, d, g, paragraph 3 c, paragraph 4 c, paragraph 5; Article 11 paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii), paragraph 2, paragraph 3; Article 12, paragraph 1 a, b, c, f, paragraph 2; Article 13, paragraph 1 c; Article 14 a, b in the Republic of Serbia».

If the Republic of Serbia had specified more minority languages, it would not have been able to apply a minimum of 35 paragraphs and sub-paragraphs referred to in Part III of the Charter, while providing equal protection to all the languages, that is, to implement the same measures for all the specified languages. Representatives of speakers of the languages that have not been specified in the above declaration have criticised such an approach. According to the opinion of the National Council of the Macedonian national minority in the Republic of Serbia, «the Macedonian language ... should be included in the group of minority or regional languages», while according to the opinion of the National Council of the Bunjevac national minority, «the Republic of Serbia as a signatory ... of the Charter, has not yet fulfilled the undertakings in respect of Bunjevci pursuant to paragraph 2, Article 2, of the Charter, through recognition or approval of the Bunjevac language...» The Republic of Serbia is of the opinion that the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is a *process*, which should also encompass and include in the implementation all stakeholders, and in particular representatives of speakers of regional or minority languages. In that sense, the Republic of Serbia's position is that this process, under Article 3, paragraph 2, of the Charter, can result, *inter alia*, in the specification of new languages to which the undertaken paragraphs and sub-paragraphs will apply. Moreover, the Republic of Serbia does not deny that the Macedonian language belongs to the group of minority languages (see Section 3.3.) to which the provisions of Part II of the Charter apply (see the section of the Report devoted to Part II of the Charter). With respect to the Bunjevac language, it should be pointed out that this language has not yet been standardised, that the state, in spite of that, has an intention of taking certain measures with a view to implementing Article 7, and that in principle it does not deny the possibility of treating this language as a regional or minority language.

The group of languages specified in the ratification instrument includes the Roma language with a special intention of attaining, in the process of the implementation of the Charter, in cooperation with the international community, the level of protection in respect of the Roma language, which other specified languages already enjoy, which is a special form of taking affirmative action measures in favour of the Roma language and Roma community.

3.1.3. Explanatory Notes to the Interpretative Statement

The Republic of Serbia made no reservations to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

At the deposition of its ratification instrument, Serbia and Montenegro made the following *declaration*:

«With respect to Article 1.b of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Serbia and Montenegro hereby declares that the expression " territory in which the regional or minority language is used" shall apply to the territories in which regional or minority languages are in official use in accordance with the national legislation.»

Measures for promoting the use of minority languages in public life, provided for by Part III of the Chapter, imply, and/or are implemented in the legal system of the Republic of Serbia, through individual forms of official and public use of regional or minority languages. Different forms of official and public use of regional or minority languages in the Republic of Serbia, in different fields of social and public life, in accordance with the national legislation, can apply to and be applied in different territories – from the territory of a local community and an individual settlement, to the territory of a local self-government unit, to the territory under the jurisdiction of first instance and second instance courts (municipal and district), to the territory of the Autonomous Province, and in some cases even the entire state. Thus, for instance, the Decision on More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues concerning Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of AP Vojvodina, in Article 8, paragraph 3, prescribes that the language and script of a national minority are to be introduced *in official use in a settlement or local community in such local self-government unit where that language and script is not in official use in the entire territory*, if the percentage of persons belonging to a particular national minority, according to the results of the most recent population census, reaches 25% of the total population of the settlement or local community. That form of official use of the language and script is related only to the writing of public inscriptions and names and to the conduct of certain administrative affairs by the local community offices in those local communities. Under the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts and the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, official use of the language and script is linked to the *territory of a local self-government unit* and includes official use of the language and script in administrative procedures and the conduct of administrative procedures in the language of a national minority, the use of the language of a national minority in the

communication between bodies with public powers and citizens; issuance of public documents and keeping of official records and collections of personal data and data in the languages of national minorities and acceptance of such documents in those languages as valid, the use of the language in ballots and voting material, the use of the language in the work of local representative bodies, inscriptions of titles of bodies exercising public powers, local self-government units, populated places, squares and streets and other toponyms in the language of the national minority, according to its tradition and orthographic rules. Official use of minority languages and scripts can also include the *areas in which municipal courts with jurisdiction racione loci are located*, and which consist of two or more local self-government units, if at least in one of them a minority language and script are in official use. That form of official use of the language and script is reflected in official use in court proceedings (administrative, criminal and civil proceedings), which in certain cases also implies the conduct of the entire judicial proceeding in one of the minority languages which are in official use. This is also analogous to the areas of jurisdictions racione loci of district courts - official use of minority languages and scripts may also cover the *areas in which district courts have jurisdictions racione loci, and which include areas where two or more municipal courts have jurisdictions*, if a minority language and script are in official use in at least one of those municipal courts. That form of official use of the language and script is reflected in official use in court proceedings (administrative, criminal and civil proceedings), which in certain cases also implies the conduct of the entire judicial proceeding in one of the minority languages which are in official use. A broader area to which official use of minority languages is linked is the *Autonomous Province*, which in its Statute more specifically defines languages that are in official use and certain forms of official use in the work of provincial bodies. Certain forms of official and public use of minority languages are linked to the areas which are not, or cannot be, statutorily predefined. Thus, for example, official records in schools where instruction is held in minority languages are kept in the minority languages of the instruction. Since the provision of instruction in minority languages depends on the decision of the parents and/or pupils, (see Section 5.1. Report), it is not possible to determine in advance the areas where official school records will be kept in minority languages. Certain forms of public use of minority languages, in respect of which it is possible *to consider the entire territory of the state to be, in a certain sense, the territory where those forms of public and official use of minority languages and scripts are realised*, exist in those cases where the state bodies, in the areas in which minority languages are in official use, are under an obligation to issue documents in minority languages, which are valid in the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia, (e.g. identity cards whose forms are printed in minority languages, health insurance booklets whose forms are printed in minority languages, diplomas, etc.), i.e., when state bodies are under an obligation to provide official responses to the petitions of citizens in minority languages, or when minority languages are officially used in the work of the bodies of the central authorities (e.g. in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia).

Considering the above possibilities for official and public use of minority languages, a conclusion can be drawn that the interpretative statement that was made constitutes the only possible legal expression which covers and expresses the possibility to apply various

forms of official and public use of regional or minority languages in different fields of social life, in different territories and by bodies of different levels of the public authorities. *When it made its interpretative statement, Serbia and Montenegro had no intention of making the implementation of the Charter conditional upon the national legislation, or the intention of narrowing the geographical areas in which the undertakings assumed will be implemented, but exactly the opposite - to subsume the national legislation under the Charter, through one expression, and to more specifically determine, in the implementing national legislation, not only the meaning of the expression «territory in which the regional or minority language is used», but also of other general terms and broad formulations that leave the room for interpretation to the Contracting Parties, such as «a number of people (who use regional or minority languages) justifying the adoption of the various protective and promotional measures,... », «to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field».* Bearing in mind that various forms of official and public use of regional or minority languages in the Republic of Serbia, in different fields of social and public life, under the national legislation may apply to and be implemented in different territories – from the territory of a local community and an individual settlement, to the territory of a local self-government unit, to the territory under the jurisdiction of first instance and second instance courts (municipal and district) to the territory of the Autonomous Province, even the entire state in certain cases, the interpretative statement that was made bridges the gap between territorial and non-territorial languages in the implementation of the Charter in the Republic of Serbia, that is, it enables the envisaging of the same level of protection for the Roma language as for other, territorial languages.

The above forms of public and official use of minority languages and scripts, in different territories, with the exception of the use in the keeping of school records (see Section 5.1. of the Report) and public use in the whole territory of the state, are presented in the table below.

Official Use of Minority Languages in Local Self-Government Units in the Territory of AP Vojvodina

No.	Municipalities	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian	Czech
1	Ada	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian					
2	Alibunar	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script		Slovak	Romanian			
3	Apatin	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian*				Croatian*	
4	Bač	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian	Slovak				
5	Bački Petrovac	Serbian Cyrillic	Serbian Latin		Slovak				

		script	script						
6	Bačka Palanka	Serbian Cyrillic script			Slovak				
7	Bačka Topola	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian	Slovak*		Ruthenian*		
8	Bela Crkva	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian		Romanian			Czech
9	Beočin	Serbian Cyrillic script			Slovak*				
10	Bečej	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian					
11	Vrbas	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian			Ruthenian		
12	Vršac	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian*		Romanian*			
13	Žabalj	Serbian Cyrillic script					Ruthenian		
14	Žitište	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian		Romanian			
15	Zrenjanin	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian			
16	Indija	Serbian Cyrillic script							
17	Irig	Serbian Cyrillic script							
18	Kanjiža	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian					
19	Kikinda	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian*					
20	Kovačica	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian			
21	Kovin	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian		Romanian			
22	Kula	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian			Ruthenian		
23	Mali Idoš	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian					

24	Nova Crnja	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian					
25	Novi Bečej	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian					
26	Novi Kneževac	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian					
27	Novi Sad	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian	Slovak		Ruthenian		
28	Opovo	Serbian Cyrillic script							
29	Odžaci	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian	Slovak				
30	Pančevo	Serbian Cyrillic script							
31	Pećinci	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script						
32	Plandište	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian			
33	Ruma	Serbian Cyrillic script							
34	Senta	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian					
35	Sečanj	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian		Romanian			
36	Sombor	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian					
37	Sremska Mitrovica	Serbian Cyrillic script						Croatian*	
38	Srbobran	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian					
39	Sremski Karlovci	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script						
40	Stara Pazova	Serbian Cyrillic script			Slovak*				
41	Subotica	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian				Croatian	

42	Temerin	Serbian Cyrillic script		Hungarian					
43	Titel	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian					
44	Čoka	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script	Hungarian					
45	Šid	Serbian Cyrillic script	Serbian Latin script		Slovak		Ruthenian		

* In the municipality of Apatin, in the populated places called Kupusina and Svilojevo, the Hungarian language and script are in official use, while in the populated place called Sonta the Croatian language and script are in official use.

* In the municipality of Bačka Topola, in the populated place called Bajša, the Slovak language and script are in official use, while in the populated place called Novo Orahovo the Ruthenian language and script are in official use.

* In the municipality of Beočin, in the populated place called Lug, the Slovak language and script are also in official use.

* In the municipality of Vršac, in the following populated places: Vojvodinci, Markovac, Straža, Mali Žam, Malo Središte, Mesić, Jablanka, Sočica, Ritiševo, Orešac and Kuštilj, the Romanian language and script are also in official use, while in the following populated places: Šušara and Vatin, in official use are also the Hungarian language and script.

* In the municipality of Stara Pazova, in the populated place called Stara Pazova, the Slovak language and script are also in official use.

* In the municipality of Kikinda, in the following populated places: Banatska Topola, Kikinda, Rusko Selo and Sajan, the Hungarian language and script are also in official use.

* In the municipality of Sremska Mitrovica, in the populated place called Stara Bingula, the Croatian language and script are in official use.

In 38 municipalities and in the City of Novi Sad, languages and scripts of persons belonging to national minorities are in official use. Out of this number, in 31 municipalities and in the City of Novi Sad, one or more languages of persons belonging to national minorities are officially used in the entire territory, while in 7 municipalities only in certain populated places.

In the rest of the Republic of Serbia, minority languages are in official use in the following local self-government units:

Municipality	Minority languages in official use
1. Bujanovac	Albanian
2. Medveđa	Albanian
3. Preševo	Albanian

4. Novi Pazar	Bosnian
5. Sjenica	Bosnian
6. Tutin	Bosnian
7. Bosilegrad	Bulgarian
8. Dimitrovgrad	Bulgarian

Minority languages are in official use in the following municipal courts (for the territories of their jurisdictions, see Section 2.13.):

Court	Languages in official use
1. Ada	Hungarian
2. Alibunar	Slovak, Romanian
3. Apatin	Hungarian, Croatian
4. Bačka Palanka	Slovak, Hungarian
5. Bačka Topola	Hungarian,
6. Bela Crkva	Hungarian, Romanian, Czech
7. Bečej	Hungarian
8. Bosilegrad	Bulgarian
9. Bujanovac	Albanian
10. Vrbas	Hungarian, Ruthenian
11. Vršac	Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak
12. Dimitrovgrad	Bulgarian
13. Zrenjanin	Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian
14. Kanjiža	Hungarian
15. Kikinda	Hungarian
16. Kovin	Hungarian, Romanian
17. Kovačica	Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian
18. Kula	Hungarian, Ruthenian
19. Novi Bečej	Hungarian
20. Novi Sad	Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian
21. Novi Kneževac	Hungarian
22. Odžaci	Hungarian, Slovak
23. Preševo	Albanian
24. Senta	Hungarian
25. Sombor	Hungarian
26. Sremska Mitrovica	Croatian
27. Subotica	Hungarian , Croatian
28. Stara Pazova	Slovak
29. Temerin	Hungarian
30. Titel	Hungarian
31. Tutin	Bosnian
32. Šid	Slovak, Ruthenian

Minority languages are in official use in the following district courts (for the territories of their jurisdictions, see Section 2.13.):

Court	Minority languages in official use
1. Vranje	Albanian; Bulgarian
2. Pančevo	Romanian, Slovak, Hungarian, Czech
3. Sombor	Hungarian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Croatian
4. Subotica	Hungarian, Croatian
5. Novi Sad	Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian
6. Sremska Mitrovica	Slovak, Ruthenian, Croatian

7. Zrenjanin	Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian
8. Pirot	Bulgarian

The Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, in its Article 6, sets forth that in the work of the bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, in addition to the Serbian and Croatian languages, also in official use are the Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Ruthenian languages and their scripts, in the manner defined by the law.

The official and public use of the Ukrainian and Roma languages is carried out in the territory in which the said languages are used in the educational process (see the section on Education), as well as to some extent in the field of information, in the public broadcasting service, of which references will be made in the relevant parts of the Report.

3.2. Legal Acts Underpinning the Implementation of the Charter, Referred to in the Report

Considering the division of competences in the field of the regulation of the use and protection of regional or minority languages (see Section 2.8), legal acts underpinning the implementation of the Charter can be classified according to the entity which has passed them and to the fields of social life in which minority languages are used.

On the basis of succession, the Republic of Serbia is a Contracting Party to international multilateral and bilateral treaties which, *inter alia*, regulate the use and protection of regional or minority languages. They include:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Both Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
- Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Republic of Serbia is the successor to bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities, which also regulate the use of minority languages in part. They include the following agreements:

- Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia on the Protection of the Serbian and Montenegrin National Minorities in the Republic of Macedonia and of the Macedonian National Minority in Serbia and Montenegro (*SaM Official Journal - International Treaties, no. 6/2005*)
- Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Hungary on the Protection of Rights of the Hungarian National Minority Living in Serbia and Montenegro and of the Serbian National Minority Living in the Republic of Hungary (*SaM Official Journal - International Treaties, no. 14/2004*)

- Agreement between the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of Romania on Cooperation in the Field of the Protection of National Minorities (*SaM Official Journal - International Treaties, no. 14/2004*)
- Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Croatia on the Protection of Rights of the Serbian and Montenegrin Minorities in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Minority in Serbia and Montenegro (*SaM Official Journal - International Treaties ", no. 3/2005*)

The Republic of Serbia is the successor to bilateral agreements on cooperation in the fields of culture and education, which are of relevance to minority languages:

- Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture and Sports between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of Ukraine (*FRY Official Journal - International Treaties no. 4/96*)
- Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture and Sports between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Slovak Republic (*FRY Official Journal - International Treaties no. 4/96*)
- Agreement between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture and Education (*FRY Official Journal - International Treaties no. 12/02*)

The Republic of Serbia is also the successor to bilateral agreements in other fields of social life that are of relevance to the use of minority languages and that are listed in the Report:

- Agreement between the SaM Council of Ministers and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on Border Control and Procedures in Railway Traffic (*SaM Official Journal - International Treaties no. 13/05*)
- Agreement between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the Regulation of Border Railway Transport (*FRY Official Journal - International Treaties no. 1/98*)
- Agreement between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on the Regulation of Border Railway Transport (*FRY Official Journal - International Treaties no. 5/96*)

The national legislation can be grouped into the following categories:

Constitutional law, criminal law, the judiciary, state and public administration

- Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (*RS Official Gazette, nos. 83/2006 and 98/2006*)
- Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (*APV Official Journal no. 17/91*)
- Statutes of the local self-government units where minority languages are in official use – see the table

- Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 45/91)
- Law on the Election of Deputies (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 35/2000 and 18/2004)
- Law on the Establishment of Specific Competences of AP Vojvodina (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 6/2002)
- Law on Local Self-government (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 9/2002, 33/2004 and 105/2004)
- Criminal Code (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 85/2005, 88/2005 and 107/2005)
- Criminal Procedure Code (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 46/2006)
- Law on Litigation (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 125/2004)
- Law on Non-contentious Proceedings (*SRS Official Gazette*, nos. 25/82, 48/88 and *RS Official Gazette*, no. 46/95 and 18/05)
- Law on Administrative Disputes (FRY Official Journal, no. 46/96)
- Law on General Administrative Procedure (FRY Official Journal no. 33/97 and 31/2001)
- Law on the Public Administration (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 79/2005)
- Law on the Government of the Republic of Serbia (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 55/2005 and 71/2005)
- Law on Public Services (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 42/91, 71/94 and 79/2005)
- Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities (*FRY Official Journal*, no. 11/2002 (57/2002))
- Law on the Seals of State and Other Bodies (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 11/91)
- Law on the Identity Card (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 62/2006)
- Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths (*SRS Official Gazette*, no. 15/90, *RS Official Gazette*, nos. 57/03 and 101/05)
- Law on the Organisation of Courts (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 63/2001, 42/2002, 27/03, 29/04, 101/05, 46/06)
- Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 56/05)
- Law on the Publishing of Laws and other Regulations and General Acts and on the Publication of the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia* (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 72/91)
- Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (APV Official Journal nos. 23/2002 and 30/2004)
- Decree on the Establishment of the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Serbia (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 61/2006)
- Resolution on the Measures Aimed at Increasing the Participation of Persons belonging to National Minorities in the Public Administration Bodies (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 40/2006)
- Decision on More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues concerning Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (APV Official Journal nos. 8/2003 and 9/2003)
- Instruction on Administration and Forms of Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths (*SRS Official Gazette*, no. 48/90 and *RS Official Gazette*, no. 22/91)

- Decision on Multilingual Forms for Certificates of Births, Marriages and Deaths and on the Method of Making Entries in the Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths (APV Official Journal no. 1/2001)
- Decision on Foreign Language and National Minority Language Exams for Employment in Administrative Bodies (APV Official Journal nos. 14/2003 and 2/2006)

Education

- Law on Basic Principles of the Educational System (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 62/2003, 62/2003, 58/2004 and 62/2004)
- Law on Primary Schools (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 50/92 and 22/2002)
- Law on Secondary Schools (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 50/92, 24/96, 23/2002 and 25/2002)
- Law on Higher Education (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 76/2005)

Culture

- Law on Activities of the Public Interest in the Field of Culture (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 49/92)
- Law on Librarianship (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 34/94, 101/2005)

Media

- Public Information Law (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 43/2003 and 61/2005)
- Broadcasting Law (*RS Official Gazette*, nos. 42/02, 97/04, 76/05, 62/06, 85/06 and 86/06)

Economic and Social Life

- Family Law (*RS Official Gazette*, no. 18/2005)

3.3. Minority Languages in the Republic of Serbia

3.3.1. Criteria for Defining the Concept of “A Speaker of a Minority Language”

In the Republic of Serbia there are no constitutional or legal provisions to determine the concept of “a speaker of a regional or minority language”. However, starting from the legal definition of a national minority certain criteria for defining the concept of “a speaker of a minority language” may be inferred. Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 1 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, a national minority is a group of citizens who in terms of their number are sufficiently representative despite representing a minority on the territory of the state, who belong to a population group which has long term and strong connections with the territory of the state and has characteristics such as language, culture, national or ethnic affiliation, background or religion which distinguish them from the majority of the population and

whose members are characterised by the wish to retain their mutual identity, including their culture, tradition, language and religion. On the basis of the aforementioned provision, it is clear that the speakers of minority languages must be *citizens of the Republic of Serbia* and that the groups to which they belong are *numerically smaller than the rest of the population and that they have a long term connection* with the territory of the state, which *implies the traditional use of the minority language*. Also, on the basis of this provision, it is clear that the *minority language*, if it exists, *is different to the official language*, i.e. in the case of the Republic of Serbia, *different to the Serbian language, the language of the majority of the population which is at the same time the official language* in the Republic of Serbia. The presented criteria are in accordance with the definition from article 1, paragraph a, subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of the Charter. Considering that certain provisions of the Constitution predict the right to the use of *one's own* language and script, i.e. the use and study of the native language, it could be concluded that it is the free will, i.e. the decision of every individual citizen of the Republic of Serbia as to what he/she considers as his/her native language, the basis for the determination of both the affiliation of the individual to the group of speakers of the regional or minority language and the very existence of the regional or minority language, under condition that they are different to the Serbian language which is the official language.

Starting from the presented provision from the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and the methodological instructions from the international recommendations for censuses around 2010 for the states of the ECE region regarding the determination of native language, the methodological instructions for the implementation of the census in the Republic of Serbia predict that the *native language considers the language which the individual learned in early childhood, i.e. the language which the individual considers his/her native language, if several languages were used in the household*. Census takers must not influence, nor exert any kind of pressure on the person who provides the answer to the question regarding his native language during the census. For children younger than 15 years of age, the reply to this question is given by one of the parents, the adoptive parent or the guardian. For deaf, dumb or deaf-mute persons, the native language is the language which is mostly spoken in their household.

3.3.2. Minority Languages, the Number of Speakers and Territorial Disposition

According to article 1, paragraph a, subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of the Charter, the presented provisions of the domestic regulations, as well as the results of the census from 2002, the minority languages of in the Republic of Serbia are: Albanian, Bosniak, Bulgarian, Vlach, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Roma, Rumanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Croatian and Czech. The aforementioned languages are the minority languages which are, on the basis of their traditional use and registration in previous censuses, i.e. on the basis of the free declaration of citizens, listed in the classification of minority languages for the needs of the census. Although the census registered a certain number of speakers, those languages which are not traditionally in use are not classified among the regional or minority languages in the Republic of Serbia, such as: Danish, English, Italian, Chinese, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, Slovenian, French, Dutch and Swedish. The Bunjevac language is a special case from the viewpoint of minority

languages in the Republic of Serbia. The Bunjevac language was not listed in the classification of native languages for the needs of the census from 2002, even though a certain number of the members of the Bunjevac national minority stated that they speak the Bunjevac language. Because of the absence of the Bunjevac language in the classification of native languages, the members of the Bunjevac minority who cited the Bunjevac language as their native language in the census were included in the category of other languages. Even though the National Council of the Bunjevac national minority, because of the aforementioned, stand firm in their position that “in the Republic of Serbia the Bunjevac minority still has no official recognition of their Bunjevac native language, not even under point 1, article 7 of the Charter”, the absence of the Bunjevac language from the classification of the native languages for the needs of the census does not mean that the state denies the possibility of treating the Bunjevac language as a minority or regional language until such time as standardisation becomes the condition for the introduction of specific measures, but results in the absence of the possibility of the Republic of Serbia stating the exact number of the speakers of the Bunjevac language and their territorial disposition in its report on the implementation of the European Charter on regional and minority languages. Out of 20,012 persons who belong to the Bunjevac national minority, according to the census from 2002, 59.11% speak Serbian, 2.31% Hungarian, 3.56% Croatian, 0.52% are undefined while 34.5% stated that they speak languages which were not listed in the classification of native languages, primarily the Bunjevac language.

The territorial disposition of the speakers of minority languages according to municipality is presented in Table 1 of the supplement to this report.

The participation of the speakers of individual minority languages in the population of the minority communities is presented in the tables below.

The Native Languages of the Members of the Albanian National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Albanian	100.00	1.03	98.73	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.11

There is an almost absolute correlation between the ethnic affiliation and the native language among the Albanians. Namely, almost 99% of Albanians cited Albanian as their native language.

The Native Languages of the Members of the Bosniak National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
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The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Bosniaks	100.00	2.59	0.00	97.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.07

The Native Languages of the Members of the Bulgarian National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Bulgarians	100.00	23.40	0.00	0.01	74.44	0.00	0.12	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.34	0.64

Bulgarians have a very high level of alter-phony (lack of correlation between the ethnic affiliation and the native language). 74.4% of Bulgarians cited Bulgarian as their native language. Almost every fourth Bulgarian (23.4%) considers Serbian as their native language. This phenomenon is, however, the most present in those ethnic communities with a small number of members, where the second language, mostly the Serbian one, is present to a significant extent.

The Native Languages of the Members of the Bunjevac National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Bunjevac	100.00	59.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.56	34.50	0.52

The majority of Bunjevac declared Serbian as their native language (59.11%). However, one third of the members of this national minority cited the Bunjevac language as their native language but because of the absence of this language in the classification of native languages there was no possibility of the Bunjevac language being marked separately and it was thus included in "Other languages". Apart from the aforementioned languages, 3.56% of Bunjevac chose Croatian and 2.31% Hungarian as their native language.

The Native Languages of the Members of the Vlach National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85

of Serbia

Vlachs	100.00	7.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	91.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.08
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The native language of Vlachs corresponds to their national affiliation to a considerable degree, i.e. almost 92% of Vlachs cited Vlach as their native language in the consensus from 2002. 7.7%, i.e. 3,088 of them chose Serbian as their native language.

However, out of a total of 54,818 persons who cited Vlach as their native language in the consensus, 15,190 (27.7%) of them chose Serbian national affiliation.

On this basis, it could be concluded that those persons who chose Vlach ethnic affiliation are much more attached to a specific language than the persons of the Vlach native language are to a specific, i.e. Vlach ethnic group.

The Native Languages of the Members of the Goranis National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Goranis	100.00	89.30	1.05	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.03	1.09

The native language of the convincing majority of Goranis is the Serbian language (89.3%). Most of the remaining members of this ethnic group cited Macedonian (around 1.4%) and Albanian (1%) as their native language. Also, around 7% of Goranis chose languages which were not listed in the classification and were thus included in “Other languages”.

The Native Languages of the Members of the Jewish National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Jews	100.00	83.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.62	0.17	0.00	0.09	0.35	0.78	3.54	0.78

83.68% of Jews cited Serbian as their native language and 10.62% chose Hungarian, while the participation of other languages was marginal.

The Native Languages of Yugoslavians, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other	Gave no
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	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Yugoslavians	100.00	87.76	0.38	0.05	0.30	0.27	5.56	0.51	0.26	0.64	0.76	0.71	1.87	0.94

87.76% of Yugoslavians cited Serbian as their native language and 5.56% chose Hungarian, while the participation of other languages was of a marginal nature.

The Native Languages of the Members of the Hungarian National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Hungarians	100.00	6.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.52	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.22	0.12

The Native Languages of the Members of the Macedonian National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Macedonians	100.00	50.75	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	48.48	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.23	0.34

Among Macedonians 50.8% declared Serbian as their native language, while 48.5% chose Macedonian. The participation of other languages was of a marginal nature. The presented data clearly shows that the phenomenon of alter-phoney is widely spread among Macedonians in Serbia.

The Native Languages of the Members of the Muslim National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Muslims	100.00	82.88	3.20	10.44	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.30	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.64	1.06

The Native Languages of the Members of the German National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	German	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown

The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.03	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Germans	100.00	47.60	43.30	0.03	0.03	0.18	6.28	0.00	0.03	0.08	0.10	0.31	1.50	1.00

The Native Languages of the Members of the Roma National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Roma	100.00	24.45	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.47	0.06	72.99	0.75	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.43

The Native Languages of the Members of the Romanian National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Romanian	100.00	7.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.05	0.00	0.09	92.01	0.00	0.01	0.12	0.22

The Native Languages of the Members of the Ruthenian National Minority, 2002 (%)

	Total	Serbian	Ruthenian	Hungarian	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.18	3.82	0.46	0.77	0.37	5.25	0.85
Ruhenians	100.00	17.13	82.16	0.26	0.1	0.2	0.01	0.00	0.24

The Native Languages of the Members of the Slovak National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Slovaks	100.00	5.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	94.36	0.02	0.09	0.15

The Native Languages of the Members of the Ukrainian National Minority, 2002 (%)

	Total	Serbian	Ukrainian	Hungarian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown

The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.04	3.82	0.77	0.37	5.85	0.85
Ukrainians	100.00	47.25	47.81	0.11	0.04	0.02	4.47	0.30

The Native Languages of the Members of the Croatian National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Albanian	Bosniak	Bulgarian	Vlach	Hungarian	Macedonian	Roma	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.85	1.80	0.22	0.73	3.82	0.19	1.10	0.46	0.77	0.37	0.54	0.85
Croats	100.00	63.45	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.05	33.99	1.12	0.45

The difference between the native language and the national affiliation is particularly emphasised among the members of the Croatian ethnic community. Namely, only one third of this ethnic group cited Croatian as their native language, while 63% chose Serbian.

The Native Languages of the Members of the Czech National Minority, 2002 (in %)

	Total	Serbian	Czech	Hungarian	Romanian	Slovak	Croatian	Other languages	Gave no information or unknown
The Republic of Serbia	100.00	88.30	0.02	3.82	0.46	0.77	0.37	5.41	0.85
Czechs	100.00	43.69	53.9	0.45	0.09	0.41	0.27	0.92	0.27

The difference between the native language and the national affiliation is particularly emphasised among the Czech ethnic community. 43.7% cited Serbian as their native language while 53.9% chose Czech.

3.3.3. Non Territorial Languages

National legislature does not contain any provisions which differentiate between territorial and non territorial languages. In its ratification instrument Serbia and Montenegro did not cite the Roma language as a non territorial language, even though this language fulfils the conditions from article 1. c of the Charter guided by the reasons which are stated in section 3.1.3 of the Report, thus according to the declaration given at the time of the ratification all cited languages in the Republic of Serbia are minority languages.

3.4. The Legal Protection of the Use and the Right to the Use of Minority Languages

Bearing in mind that the right to the use of minority languages is guaranteed by the Constitution, this right can be protected within the constitutional legal system of the Republic of Serbia through a constitutional appeal to the Constitutional Court of the Republic. Pursuant to article 170 of the Constitution, a constitutional appeal may be made against individual acts or actions on the part of the public authorities or organisations which are entrusted with public

authority which violate or deny human or minority rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, if other legal resources for their protection have been exhausted or are not predicted.

The right to the use of minority languages also applies to criminal legal protection. Article 129 of the *Criminal Code* of the Republic of Serbia determines the *violation of the right to the use of language and script* as a criminal act and predicts a fine or prison sentence of up to one year for anyone who, contrary to the regulations on the use of the languages and scripts of those persons belonging to the national minorities resident in the Republic of Serbia, denies or limits the right of any citizen to use his preferred language or script during the fulfilment of his rights or while addressing the authorities or organisations. Article 128 of the Criminal Code predicts the criminal act of the *violation of equality*, i.e. predicts a prison sentence of up to three years for anyone who, among other things, and because of language differences, denies or limits another the rights of persons and citizens as determined by the Constitution, laws or other regulations or general acts or ratification by international agreements. Paragraph 2 of the same article regulates a stricter form of this criminal act for cases where the act from paragraph 1 of this article is committed by an official while carrying out his duties and which determines a prison sentence of between three months and five years.

The violation of the right to the use of minority languages in certain forms of judicial proceedings is considered as an essential violation of the proceeding. Article 392 of the *Criminal Procedure Code* predicts that an essential violation of the provisions of the criminal proceeding exists if the accused, defender or injured party as the prosecutor or private prosecutor is, against his request, denied the use of his language in the court trial or prevented from following the trial in his language. Essential violations of the provisions of the criminal proceeding are, according to the Criminal Procedure Code, the basis for filing an appeal against the first instance ruling, but the court, *ex officio*, has to investigate in the appellate proceeding whether the essential violation of the proceeding actually took place, independently of whether it was cited in the appeal. The court of second instance in the criminal proceeding will, by accepting the appeal, or *ex officio*, repeal the decision made by the court of the first instance and return the case for retrial if it establishes that there has been an essential violation of the provisions of the criminal proceeding regarding the use of language and script.

Article 361 of the *Law on Litigation* also predicts that the violation of the right to the use of language is an essential violation of the provisions of the civil proceeding, and article 376 prescribes that the court of the second instance will, in the appeal proceeding, rule to revoke the decision made by the court of the first instance if it establishes an essential violation of the provisions of the civil proceeding (article 361) and will return the case to the same court of the first instance or will transfer it to the competent court of the first instance for retrial.

Article 16 of the *Law on General Administrative Procedure* predicts the use of minority languages as one of the basic principles of the proceeding. The violation of the basic principles constitutes an essential violation of the rule of general administrative procedure

and in the appeal proceeding may lead to the amendment of the proceeding before the courts of the first or second instance, i.e. to the revoking of the administrative act made in the first instance. Article 239, paragraph 11 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure predicts that a proceeding ending in a ruling against which there is no regular legal remedy will be repeated if the party involved in the proceeding was not given the opportunity to use his native language and script under the conditions of article 16 of that law.

Certain aspects of the protection of the right to the use of languages and scripts are of a misdemeanour nature. Therefore, for instance, article 145 of *the Law on the Basic Principles of the Educational System* predict fines for primary and secondary schools which jeopardize, disparage or discriminate against groups and individuals on the basis of language affiliation. The sentences predicted by the *Law on the Official use of Languages and Scripts* are also of a misdemeanour nature. Pursuant to that law, fines will be imposed for the organisation and the responsible person within the organisation authorised to erect traffic sign posts and place names which, contrary to the provisions of the law, do not erect those signs in minority languages. Companies, institutions or other legal entities which place, i.e. write the company name contrary to the regulations of the law which predicts the writing of company names in minority languages will also be fined. Fines will be imposed on shop owners who do not have the features of a legal entity if they write, i.e. name a company contrary to the provisions of the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts on Writing Company Names in Minority Languages. The law predicts fines for the competent person within the authority, i.e. organisation which undertakes public authority if the name of the authority, i.e. the organisation is written contrary to the aforementioned law which predicts the writing of the company name in minority languages.

Within the sphere of broadcasting, the use of language is protected through the practice of the withdrawal of the licence from the broadcaster. The Broadcasting Agency may withdraw the licence for broadcasting programmes from the broadcaster for the violation of obligations or because of the failure to respect the conditions predicted by the broadcasting licence, one of which is the language of broadcasting.

The Decision on the More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues Concerning the Official Use of the Languages and Scripts of National Minorities on the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina predicts fines for the misdemeanour on the part of the legal entity and competent person within the legal entity for the violation of the provisions of this Decision which predicts the keeping of records in minority languages, the issuing of identity documents in minority languages, the printing of application forms for identity documents in minority languages as well as provisions which predict the obligation of those authorities which provide and collect payments from citizens for services in the fields of the electrical industry, the sale of natural gas, public utilities and postal and telegraph services to provide the users of their services and products with bills, various certificates and information regarding their services in minority languages. The same Decision predicts fines for the competent person within the authority who violates the provision of the Decision on the right to oral and written communication with the

authorities in the minority languages and scripts which are in official use, as well as the right that personal names and the personal names of children are registered in the birth records in their original form, in the minority language and according to the appropriate script and spelling.

3.5. Bodies and Organisation which Promote the Protection and Development of Minority Languages

3.5.1. Administrative Authorities which Promote the Protection and Development of Minority Languages

The promotion of the protection and development of minority languages in the Republic of Serbia is part of the wider protection of national minorities which is ensured at different levels of the public authorities.

At state level, the promotion of the protection and development of minority languages falls within the competence of the various public administration bodies which are competent for different fields of civil life within which the use of minority languages is realised (for instance, the *Ministry of Education*, the *Ministry of Culture*, the *Ministry of Justice*, etc.). The central, coordinating role is held by the *Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia*, which carries out expert jobs which relate to: the protection and promotion of human and minority rights; participation in the compilation of regulations on human and minority rights; monitoring the harmonisation of domestic regulations with international contracts and other international legal acts on human and minority rights and initiating the amendments to domestic regulations; submitting reports on the implementation of international contracts on human and minority rights if so predicted; the position of the national minorities who live on the territory of the Republic of Serbia and the fulfilment of minority rights; the establishment of connections between minorities and their native countries; the position and fulfilment of the competences of the national minorities' national councils; proposing that the Ministry of Finance approve the required budgetary funds for the current expenses of the work of the national minorities' national councils, as well as the funds needed for the implementation of the projects undertaken by the national minorities' national councils. The *national minorities' national councils* also operate at state level (see 2.12.) which, pursuant to article 19, paragraph 7 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, represent national minorities in the fields of the official use of the language, education, information in the languages of national minorities and culture, participate in the decision making process regarding issues from those fields and establish institutions in these fields. The cooperation of the state with the national minorities' national councils is realised through the *Republic of Serbia Council for National Minorities*, which is made up of the ministers of education, culture and media, internal affairs, state administration and local self-government, justice and religion and representatives of all elected national councils of the national minorities, and the president is the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The Republic of Serbia Council for National Minorities is responsible for the affirmation of national symbols and national minority holidays at the proposal of the national

minorities' national councils (in the further text: national councils); the consideration of bills and other regulations of significance for the fulfilment of national minority rights and the submission of its opinions to the Government; monitoring and considering the situation as regards the fulfilment of the rights of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia and the situation of trans-national relations in the Republic of Serbia; proposes measures for the promotion of the full and effective equality of the members of the national minorities and considers the measures which other authorities and bodies propose to that purpose; monitors the cooperation between national councils and the competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia, autonomous provinces and municipalities, cities and the city of Belgrade; considers the working conditions for national councils; considers the fulfilment of international obligations regarding the fulfilment of the rights of the members of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia and the international cooperation of national councils; undertakes other tasks as determined by law.

At the level of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the promotion of the protection and development of minority languages falls within the competence of various authorities of the provincial administration which are competent for various fields of civil life within which the use of minority languages is realised such as: *The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture* and *the Provincial Secretariat for Information* etc. The most important role is held by the *Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Minorities* which undertakes activities which, among other things, refer to: the fulfilment of the rights of national minorities as determined by the Constitution, the Statute of AP Vojvodina, the law and other regulations; the protection and promotion of the collective and individual rights of the national minorities in the Province; the monitoring and analytical assessment of the situation and the proposal of regulations and undertaking of other measures in the field of the protection and fulfilment of the rights of national minorities in accordance with the domestic regulations and international-legal acts in that field; cooperation with and support for the civil organisations and citizens associations of the members of the national minorities; cooperation with other administrative authorities and non governmental organisations as well as other tasks as defined by the law and other regulations from this field; ensures the translation of regulations and general acts into national minority languages and undertakes other translating activities for the needs of the provincial and other authorities; prepares the proposals of acts for the Parliament and Executive Council which refer to the education of the provincial administrative authorities, provincial organisations and services; monitors the organisation and work of the provincial administrative authorities, organisations and services; closely determines the content and appearance of the seals of the provincial authorities, local self-government units and legal entities which carry out the work of the administrative authorities and whose headquarters are on the territory of the Province; proposes the network of courts on the territory of the Province; regulates misdemeanours and misdemeanour penalties for the violation of regulations within its competence; establishes the official use of the languages and scripts of the national minorities on the territory of the Province; establishes the position of the provincial ombudsman as well as his jurisdiction; prepares acts which are not prepared by other administrative authorities; monitors the harmonisation of regulations and general acts

within the legal system in the adoption procedure and ensures their normative-technical and linguistic accuracy; takes care of publishing the regulations and other acts of the Parliament and the Executive Council and the provincial administrative authority and carries out other tasks as determined by the decision and other acts. The structure of the Provincial Secretariat includes, among other services, the Service for the Rights of National Minorities and the Translation Service which consists of separate departments which deal with specific languages (for instance, the Department for Hungarian, the Department for Slovak, the Department for Romanian, and the Department for Ruthenian).

According to the Law on Local Self-Government, councils for inter-ethnic relations may operate at local level. Pursuant to article 63, paragraph 4 of the Law on Local Self-Government, the Council considers issues of the fulfilment, protection and promotion of national equality in accordance with the law and the statute of the local self-government unit, which may also encompass the issue of the protection and promotion of minority languages.

3.5.2. Monitoring the Official Use of Minority Languages

Article 22 of the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts predicts the *supervision of the implementation of the provisions of that law within its jurisdiction, the ministries competent for the fields of administration, traffic, urbanism and housing-communal services, education, culture and health.*

For the territory of AP Vojvodina, the supervision of the official use of languages and scripts is determined differently. Article 18 of the Law on the Establishment of the Specific Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina establishes that the Autonomous Province, through its bodies and in accordance with the law which establishes the official use of languages and scripts, closely regulates the official use of the language and script of the national minorities on the territory of the autonomous province *and undertakes the supervision of the implementation of the regulations which regulate those issues and undertakes the supervision of the implementation of the law.* The Province undertakes the supervision of the implementation of the laws from this field on trust. On the basis of the Decision on the Provincial Administration (Official Journal of AP Vojvodina, number 21/02) those tasks fall within the jurisdiction of the *Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Minorities.*

3.5.3. Academic Bodies and Organisations

Academic bodies and organisations which promote the protection and development of regional or minority languages are the Interdepartmental Committee for the Study of Minority and Human Rights and the Commission for the Study of the Life and Customs of the Roma, which operate as part of the Serbian Academy of Science and Art and the departments and programmes for minority languages at the Philological Faculty in Belgrade (the Department for Romance Languages – Romanian language and literature programmes, the Department for Albanian – Albanian language and literature

programmes, the Department for Hungarian – Hungarian language and literature programmes, the Department for Slavic studies – programmes for the Slovak, Ukrainian and Czech languages, the Department for Germanic Philology – German language and literature programmes, the Department for the Serbian Language with South-Slavic Languages – Bulgarian language and literature programmes) and the Philological faculty in Novi Sad – (the Germanic Department – German courses, the Department for Hungarian – courses in Hungarian, the Department for Slavic Languages – courses in the Slovak language, the Romanian Department – courses in Romanian, the Ruthenian Department – courses in the Ruthenian language).

3.6. Measures for the Promotion of Awareness of the Charter

Before the signing and parliamentary ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the state organised several round tables about the content and obligations which originate from the Charter. For instance, under the organisation of the Federal Ministry of the National and Ethnic Communities in FR Yugoslavia and the Council of Europe, an international consultative conference dedicated to the Charter was held in Belgrade on 11th and 12th June 2001. Experts from the Council of Europe, representatives of the administrative authorities, experts on international law, linguists, other experts as well as representatives from non governmental organisations were present at the conference. The main goal of this seminar was to facilitate the exchange of opinions and information between representatives of all levels of power and non governmental organisation which deal in different ways with the issues and problems of national minorities.

After the parliamentary ratification, the text of the Charter was published in the Official Gazette of Serbia and Montenegro – International contracts, number 18/05 from 23rd December 2005.

Just prior to the Charter for Serbia and Montenegro going into effect, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and Montenegro, in cooperation with the Council of Europe's Office in Belgrade, organised an informative seminar about the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages on 4th April 2006. The participants in this seminar were representatives of the national minorities' national councils, NGOs, the public authorities, local self-governments and the media, etc.

After the Charter for the Republic of Serbia went into effect, the Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission in the Republic of Serbia and the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade, organised a number of seminars dedicated to the Charter and the preparation of the State's report on the implementation of the Charter. Each seminar also included sessions dedicated to the use of the minority languages in the region in which the seminar was held, as well as the fulfilment of the obligations taken from the third part of the Charter in different fields of civil life. Seminars were held in Subotica on 3rd November 2006 (dedicated to the use of language in education), Bujanovac on 17th November 2006 (dedicated to the use of language in the media), Vršac on 24th November 2006 (dedicated

to the use of language in courts and the administrative authorities and public services) and in Novi Pazar on 12th December 2006 (dedicated to the use of language in economic and civil life). The participants in those seminars were the representatives of the national minorities' national councils, NGOs, the public authorities and local self-governments, the media, etc.

3.7. Consultations with Relevant Bodies

In the seminars which the Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia organised in cooperation with the OSCE Mission in the Republic of Serbia and the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade (see 3.6.) *all participants were offered the opportunity to take part in the preparation of the State's report on the implementation of the Charter.*³ In that sense it should be emphasised that *consultations*

³ In addition to the seminar participants who participated in the compilation of the report, participation was also offered to the Roma National Minority National Council, the Slovak National Minority National Council, the Hungarian National Minority National Council, the Croatian National Minority National Council, the Bulgarian National Minority National Council, the Vlach National Minority National Council, the municipalities of Alibunar, Mali Idoš, Temerin and Titel, the Fund for Humanitarian Rights, the Fund for an Open Society, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, the Vojvodina Centre for Human Rights, the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, the Fund for Ethnic Relations, The Civil Initiative, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, the Centre for Regionalism, the Young Lawyers of Serbia, the Caribrod Cultural-Information Centre of the Bulgarian Minority, the Tradefer Bulgarian Cultural Society, the Posvita Association for the Ukrainian Language, Literature and Culture, the Alliance of Hungarian Pupils in Vojvodina, the Association for Hungarian Culture, the Sveti Kilment Ohridski Association of Macedonians in the central Banat region, the Association of Slovaks in Vojvodina, the Matica slovačka in Yugoslavia, the Alliance of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in Serbia, the Matica Rusincka, the Croatian-Academic Society, the Association for the Romanian Language in Vojvodina, the Romanian Association (foundation) for Ethnography and Folklore from Vojvodina, the Tibiskus Literary-Artistic Society, the Centre for Teaching Methods, the Narajan Multicultural Centre, the Roma Humanitarian Centre, The Youth Centre for the Education of the Roma, the Roma Democratic Centre, the Women's Initiative, the Civil Action for Human Rights, the Centre for Research into Politics – Argument, the Integra Centre for Civil Action, the Kredarica Association of Slovenians, the German Association in Bela Crkva, the Roma Cultural Centre, the Jewish Borough in Subotica, the Krov Citizens Association, Nova Vizija, the Flores Citizens Association, the European Movement – the local council in Novi Pazar, Impuls, Urban-in, the Sandžak Intellectual Circle, the Matica Bošnjaka - the association for culture, science and art from Sandžak, the Damad Cultural Centre, The Civil Forum, the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, the Centre for Multi-ethnic Dialogue, the Preporod Bosniak Association for Culture in Sandžak, the Vision Centre for Civil Initiatives and Action, the Centre for Multicultural Education, the Committee for Human Rights, the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments from Zrenjanin, the Sremski Karlovci Homeland Collection, the Bačka Topola Artistic Colony, the Novi Pazar National Museum, the Homeland Museum Collection in Dimitrovgrad, the Dimitrovgrad City Gallery, the Likovni Susret Gallery, the Menader Gallery, the House of Culture Gallery in Vrbas, the Gallery of Contemporary Art in Novi Sad, the Lazar Vozarević Gallery, the Museum of Srem, the Babka Gallery, the Ras Historical Archives, the Bela Crkva Historical Archives, the Pančevo Historical Archives, the Pirot Historical Archives, the Kikinda Historical Archives, the Sandzak Association of Painters, the Centre for Bosniak Studies, the Sandzak Writers Association, the Ruthenian KPD, the Petro Kuzmjak Ruthenian Association in Novo Orahovo, the Association of Slovak Pedagogues, the SKPD Šafarik, the KPD Jednota, the SKPD Erdevik, the Muzika Viva Choir, the Matej Ambrozi Literary Association, the KPD Karpati, the Music Youth, HKPD Jelačić, the Matica Hrvatska in Subotica, the HKPD Matija Gubec, the HKPD Silvije Strahomir Kranjčević, the HKPD Tomilsav, the HKPD Stjepan Radić, the Bunjevac Kolo Croatian Cultural Centre, the Croatian Information Centre, the Srijem Croatian Cultural Centre, RTV Vojvodina, Novi Sad Radio, the Magyar Szó, Ruske Slovo, Radio Trend, Radio Bačka Topola, the Bečej Mosaic, Radio Bečej, Radio Vrbas, Radio Zrenjanin, the Uj Kanizsai ujsag, the Kikindska newspaper, Radio Kikinda, the

were held before the compilation of the Report. The public authorities, courts, national minorities' national councils, provincial public authorities, the local self-government authorities, NGOs, media, libraries, museums, archives etc. all participated, i.e. were consulted in the compilation of the Report.

The relevant public administrative authorities which took part in the preparation of the State's Report on the Implementation of the Charter were: The Ministry of Culture and Media, the Ministry of Education and Sport, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute for Statistics of the Republic of Serbia and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monument of the Republic of Serbia.

The district courts in Subotica, Pančevo, Vranje, Zrenjanin, Sremska Mitrovica, Sombor and Novi Sad, who provided information about the municipal courts in the areas under their jurisdiction, as well as the municipal courts in Bisilegrad, Bujanovac, Dimitrovgrad and Preševo participated, i.e. were consulted in the compilation of the Report.

The national minorities' national councils which accepted the offer to participate in the compilation of the Report on the Implementation of the Charter were: the Bunjevac National Minority National Council, the Bosniak National Minority National Council, the Macedonian National Minority National Council, the Ruthenian National Minority National Council, the Romanian National Minority National Council and the Ukrainian National Minority National Council.

The Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Minorities, the Provincial Secretariat for Information and the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture participated, i.e. were consulted in the compilation of the Report.

The local self-governments which participated, i.e. were consulted in the compilation of the Report were the municipalities, i.e. cities of: Ada, Apatin, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bela Crkva, Beočin, Vrbas, Vršac, Žabalj, Žitište. Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Kula, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Kneževac, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Plandište, Senta, Sečanj, Sombor, Srbobran, Sremska Mitrovica, Stara Pazova, Subotica, Šid, Čoka, Bujanovac, Medveđa, Preševo, Bosilegrad, Dimitrovgrad, Novi Pazar, Prijepolje, Sjenica and Tutin.

The non governmental organizations which contributed to the compilation of the Report were: the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Humanitarian Activity from Priboj, the Centre for Human Rights from Priboj, the Association for the Ruthenian Language from Novi Sad, the Sandžak Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms from Novi Pazar, the Association of Romanians in Serbia from Novi Sad,

Kovinske newspaper, Radio Kovin, Radio 021, Radio Pančevo, TV Pančevo, the Dunataj, the Subotičke newspaper, Radio Subotica, the Bunjevac newspaper, RTV JU EKO, Radio 90, Radio Alfa, TV Subotica, TV Patria, TV Alfa, Radio Temerin, SRZ KTV, Radio Šid, Sremska TV, Television Spektri, Radio Ema, RTV Nišava, Radio Podvrce, TV Šabac, Radio Bor and Radio Bela Palanka.

the Association for Hungarian Culture in Yugoslavia from Novi Sad, the Association of Roma from the Pčinjsko-Jablanički District from Surdulica, the Matica Česka, the Czechs from Southern Banat, the Vardar Association of the Citizens of Macedonian Nationality of the Southern Banat District from Pančevo, the German National Alliance, the Šokadija Croatian Educational Association and the Đura Kiš Cultural-Educational Association from Šid.

The media and publishing houses which provided their proposals for the compilation of the Report were RTV Vojvodina (editorial offices, i.e. programmes in the Hungarian, Roma, Slovak, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Croatian and Macedonian languages), Radio Novi Sad (editorial offices, i.e. programmes in the Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian and Slovak languages), the public company Forum, the public company Magyar Szó, the public company Het Nap, NIU Libertatea, Hlas L'udu, Hrvatska Riječ, Them, Ruske Slovo, Radio Ada, Radion Far, Radio Apatin, Radio Srednja Bačka, the Košegi Hirlap editorial office, TV Eks Press- Channel, Radio Vidra, Radio Bela Crkva, Radio Vršačka Kula, Radio Patak, Radio Panda, Info TV, RTV Kovačica, Radio Bus, the editorial office of the Kulska Komuna newspaper, the editorial office of the So Besed newspaper, the editorial office of the Novokneževačke newspaper, TV Info Channel, Radio Kisač, Radio Sečanj, Radio Sombor, Radio Siti, Radio Palić, the editorial office of the Temerini Ujšag newspaper, Radio Stara Pazova, RTV Bujanovac, RTV Preševo, Radio Medveđa, the editorial office of the Perspektiva newspaper, Regional RTV Novi Pazar, TV Tutin, Radio As, Radio 100 plus, the editorial office of the Bošnjčka riječ, RTV Caribrod, NIU Bratstvo, Radio Bosilegrad, Radio Belgrade – the first programme, the programme in the Rome language, RTV Krlo e Romengo, Radio Leo, Radio Romano Vilo, Radio Amaro, Radio Trstenik and the AD Print shop Kultura, Agape.

Cultural institutions also participated and were consulted in the compilation of the Report. The national libraries, i.e. libraries which contributed to the compilation of the Report were: the National Library in Novi Bečej, the National Library in Apatin, the National Library in Bečej, the National Library in Kula, the Hristo Botev National Library in Bosliegrad, the National Library in Mali Idoš, the Veljko Petrović National Library in Bačka Palanka, the Dr. Ejup Mušović National Library in Tutin, the Dr. Đorđe Natošević National Library in Inđija, the Danilo Kiš National Library in Vrbas, the Detko Petkov National Library in Dimitrovgrad, the National Library in Bela Crkva, the Simeon Piščević National Library in Šid, the Dositej Obradovic National Library in Stara Pazova, the 14th November National Library in Bujanovac, the Branislav Nušić National Library in Novi Kneževac, the Stojan Trumbić National Library in Titel, the Branko Radičević National Library in Odžaci, the National Library in Plandište, the Jovan Popović National Library in Kikinda and the National Library in Opovo, the National Library in Srbobran, the Žarko Zrenjanin National Library in Zrenjanin, the Vuk Karadžić National Library in Bač, the Dositej Obradović National Library in Novi Pazar, the National Library in Bačka Topola, the Veljko Petrović National Library in Žabalj, the Savrađ Gabor National Library in Ada, the Jovan Dučić National Library in Sečanj, the Jovan Grčić Milenko Library in Beočin, the municipal library in Kovačica, the Karlo Bijelicki City Library in Kanjiža, the Serbian library in Irig, the Jožef Atila Library in Kanjiža, the Petar Petrović Njegoš Municipal Library in Medveđa, the Muhamed Abdagić Library in Sjenica, the city library in Vršac, the Gligorije Vozerević Library in Sremska Mitrovica, the city

library in Subotica, the city library in Novi Sad, the Vuk Karadžić Library in Kovin, the Branko Radičević Library in Žitište, the Stefan Homola Library in Bački Petrovac, the Vuk Karadžić Municipal Library in Alibunar, the library in Preševo and the Cultural-Educational Society in Sečanj.

The archives which contributed to the compilation of the Report were: the Historical Archives of the City of Novi Sad, the Archives of Serbia, the Archives of Vojvodina, the Historical Archives of Zrenjanin, the Historical Archives of Leskovac, the Historical Archives of Senta, the Historical Archives of Sombor, the 31st January Historical Archives in Vranje, the Historical Archives of Subotica and the Historical Archives of Srem in Sremska Mitrovica.

The museums, galleries and regional and local institutions for the protection of cultural monuments which contributed to the compilation of the Report were: the City Museum in Bečej, the City Museum in Subotica, the City Museum in Senta, the National Museum in Kikinda, the Contemporary Gallery of the Ečka Artistic Colony in Zrenjanin, the Vojvodina Theatre Museum in Novi Sad, the Ilijanum Naïve Art Museum in Šid, the Vojvodina Museum in Novi Sad, the National Museum in Vršac, the National Museum in Zrenjanin, the City Museum in Novi Sad, the City Museum in Sombor, the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Monuments of the City of Novi Sad, the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Sremska Mitrovica, the Inter-Municipal Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Subotica and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Pančevo.

3.8. General Indexes of the Language Situation in the Country

In addition to the information about the number, territorial disposition and participation of speakers of individual minority languages in the population of persons belonging to minority communities, information which shows the general language situation in the country is also accessible in the Republic of Serbia.

3.8.1. General Information about Speakers of Minority Languages

Information about the activities and educational backgrounds among the population of the speakers of individual minority languages is provided in the second table in the supplement of the Report.

3.8.2. Information about the Speakers and Knowledge of Minority Languages in the Public Authorities

3.8.2.1. Information about the Speakers and Knowledge of Minority Languages in the Bodies of Judicial Power

Information about the native languages of judges in the municipal courts (who stated which languages they spoke in the questionnaire) is provided in the table below:

		Native language
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Name of the body	Number of judges	Native language							
		Serbian	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian	Albanian	Bulgarian
Ada Municipal Court	3		3						
Alibunar Municipal Court	6	2		1	2				
Apatin Municipal Court	5	5							
Bačka Palanka Municipal Court	14	13	1						
Bačka Topola Municipal Court	9	6	3						
Bečej Municipal Court	8	6	2						
Bela Crkva Municipal Court	6	6							
Indija Municipal Court	10	10							
Kanjiža Municipal Court	5	1	4						
Kikinda Municipal Court	14	14							
Kovin Municipal Court	7	7							
Kovačica Municipal Court	6	1		3	2				
Kula Municipal Court	6								
Novi Bečej Municipal Court	6	6							
Novi Kneževac Municipal Court	5	4	1						
Novi Sad Municipal Court	87	67	1	1	1				
Odžaci Municipal Court	5	4		1					
Pančevo Municipal Court	30	26	1	2	1				
Ruma Municipal Court	18	18							
Senta Municipal	7	3	4						

Court									
Šid Municipal Court	7	7							
Sombor Municipal Court	22	10	1			1			
Sremska Mitrovica Општински	18	18							
Stara Pazova Municipal Court	8	8							
Subotica Municipal Court	34	24	5						
Temerin Municipal Court	4	3	1						
Titiel Municipal Court	4	3	1						
Vršac Municipal Court	14	13			1				
Vrbas Municipal Court	10	9	1						
Zrenjanin Municipal Court	33	28	5						
Bosilegrad Municipal Court	5	-							5
Bujanovac Municipal Court	9	8						1	
Dimtrovgrad Municipal Court	4	1							3
Preševo Municipal Court	5	2						3	
TOTAL	434	333	34	8	7	1	0	4	8

The table below shows the number of judges in municipal courts (who stated which languages they spoke in the questionnaire) who have knowledge of minority languages:

Name of the body	Knowledge of minority languages					
	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian	Czech
Ada Municipal Court	3					
Alibunar Municipal Court		1	3		1	
Apatin Municipal Court	1					
Bačka Palanka Municipal Court	1				1	1
Bačka Topola Municipal Court	1					

Bečej Municipal Court	2				8	
Bela Crkva Municipal Court						
Indija Municipal Court						
Kanjiža Municipal Court	1					
Kikinda Municipal Court	1					
Kovin Municipal Court			1			
Kovačica Municipal Court		4	2			
Kula Municipal Court	1					
Novi Bečej Municipal Court	3					
Novi Kneževac Municipal Court	3					
Novi Sad Municipal Court	2	3	1			
Odžaci Municipal Court						1
Pančevo Municipal Court	1	2	4		3	2
Ruma Municipal Court					18	
Senta Municipal Court	6				2	
Šid Municipal Court					2	
Sombor Municipal Court	1			1	4	
Sremska Mitrovica Општински	1				3	
Stara Pazova Municipal Court						
Subotica Municipal Court	16				12	
Temerin Municipal Court	1					
Titiel Municipal Court	1					
Vršac Municipal Court			2		3	
Vrbas Municipal Court	1					
Zrenjanin Municipal Court	4				3	
Bosilegrad Municipal Court						
Bujanovac Municipal Court						
Dimtrovgrad Municipal Court						
Preševo Municipal Court						
TOTAL	51	10	13	1	60	4

The table below shows the native languages of judges in district courts on the territory of AP Vojvodina (who stated which languages they spoke in the questionnaire):

Name of the body	Number of judges	Native language					
		Serbian	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian

Novi Sad District Court	27	26				1		
Pančevo District Court	13	13						
Sombor District Court	9							
Sremska Mitrovica District Court	15	15						
Subotica District Court	12	4	3					
Zrenjanin District Court	13	12	1					
Total	89	70	4	0	0	1	0	0
%		78.7	4.5	0.0	0	1.1	0.0	0.0

The table below shows the number of judges in district courts on the territory of AP Vojvodina (who stated which languages they spoke in the questionnaire) who have knowledge of minority languages:

Name of the body	Number of judges	Knowledge of minority languages					
		Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian	Czech
Novi Sad District Court	27		1		1	9	
Pančevo District Court	13	1				4	
Sombor District Court	9						
Sremska Mitrovica District Court	15					2	
Subotica District Court	12	3				4	
Zrenjanin District Court	13	3					
Total	89	7	1	0	1	19	0
%		7.9	1.1	0.0	1.1	21.3	0.0

3.8.2.2. Data on Speakers and Knowledge of Minority Languages in the Bodies of Executive Power

The table below contains data about the knowledge of minority languages among employees in certain bodies of the civil service and the services of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. There is no data for the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior and Foreign Affairs and the Department for Legislature.

Number of employees with knowledge of minority languages in institutions of executive power

Number	Institution	Minority language	Total number of employees with knowledge of this language
1	The Ministry of Health		
	Total number of employees		353
		Albanian	1
		Bulgarian	1
		German	5
2	The Ministry of Finance		
	Total number of employees		214
		Bulgarian	1
		Hungarian	1
		Macedonian	2
		German	27
		Slovak	1
		Croatian	1
3	The Ministry of Capital Investments		
	Total number of employees		301
		Albanian	3
		Bulgarian	4
		Hungarian	5
		Macedonian	6
		German	39
		Romanian	5
		Slovak	1
		Croatian	2
4	The Ministry of Agriculture		
	Total number of employees		1,000
		Albanian	9
		Bulgarian	10
		Hungarian	26
		Macedonian	16
		German	89
		Romanian	10
		Slovak	3
5	The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy		
	Total number of employees		548
		Albanian	4
		Bulgarian	3
		Hungarian	4

		Macedonian	8
		German	68
		Romanian	2
		Ruthenian	1
		Slovak	2
		Ukrainian	2
		Czech	1
6	The Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Services		
	Total number of employees		797
		Albanian	4
		Bulgarian	8
		Hungarian	10
		Macedonian	7
		German	64
		Romanian	5
		Slovak	1
		Ukrainian	1
		Croatian	1
7	The Ministry of Mining and Energy		
	Total number of employees		55
		Albanian	1
		German	14
8	The Ministry of Religion		
	Total number of employees		6
		German	1
9	The Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government		
	Total number of employees		67
		German	8
10	The Ministry of International Economic Relations		
	Total number of employees		108
		Hungarian	1
		German	7
11	The Ministry of Culture		
	Total number of employees		58
		German	7
		Czech	1
12	The Ministry of Diaspora		
	Total number of employees		38

		Albanian	2
		Hungarian	1
		German	5
13	Department for Common Affairs		
	Total number of employees		1,014
		Albanian	2
		Bulgarian	2
		Hungarian	1
		Macedonian	5
		German	46
		Romanian	2
		Slovak	2
		Czech	1

The employees in the departments were offered the answers for the Bosniak and Croatian languages separately in the questionnaire, thus the number of employees who have knowledge of those languages is much higher than in other bodies.

14	Agency for Human and Minority Rights		
	Total number of permanent employees and those who work on contracts		55
		Albanian	3
		Bosniak	55
		Bulgarian	4
		Vlach	1
		Macedonian	15
		German	5
		Roma	6
		Slovak	2
		Ukrainian	3
		Croatian	55
		Czech	2

The tables below provide data about the number of speakers of minority languages in the regional units of the republican bodies on the territory of AP Vojvodina:

The Republican Geodesy Institute

	Native language	Knowledge of minority languages
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Name of body	Serbian	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian	other	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croat	Czech
The department for cadastre and real estate ⁴	262	37	9	-	7	1	3	49	26	1	8	110	2
%	82.9	11.7	2.8	0	2.2	0.3	0.9	15.5	8.2	0.3	2.5	34.8	0.6

The Ministry of Finance – Customs Department on the Territory of AP Vojvodina

Name of body	Native language							Knowledge of minority languages					
	Serbian	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian	other	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croat	Czech
Customs and customs branches	534	17	4	3	-	-	1	77	18	74	4	165	5
%	65.3	2.1	0.5	0.4	0	0	0.1	9.4	2.2	9	0.5	20.2	0.6

The Republican Health Insurance Bureau – Provincial Bureau

Name of body	Native language							Knowledge of minority languages					
	Serbian	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian	other	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croat	Czech
Health Insurance Bureau	434	36	9	7	5	-	1	44	6	-	5	48	-
%	88.0	7.3	1.8	1.4	1	0	0.2	8.9	1.2	0	1	9.7	0

The Republican Fund for Employees' Pension and Disability Pension Insurance – the Novi Sad Branch

	Native language	Knowledge of minority languages

⁴ Žabalj, Bački Petrovac, Sombor, Irig, Odžaci, Pećinci, Ruma, Stara Pazova, Novi Sad, Šid, Sremska Mirovica, Titel, Temerin, Subotica, Srbobran, Bačka Palanka, Bač, Bečež, Vrbas, Indija, Kula, Apatin, Mali Idoš, Bačka Topola.

Name of body	Serbian	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croat.	other	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croat	Czech
Fund for Pension and Disability Pension Insurance	118	2	1	-	-	-	5	8	6	-	-	-	-
%	93.6	1.6	0.8	0	0	0	4.0	6.3	4.8	0	0	0	0

The Republican Fund for Pension and Disability Pension Insurance for Independent Activities– the Provincial Fund

Name of body	Native language							Knowledge of minority languages						
	Serbian	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian	other	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croat	Czech	
Fund for Pension and Disability Pension Insurance	45	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	
%	95.7	2.1	0	0	0	2.1	0	2.1	4.3	0	0	2.1	0	

The National Employment Service – Territorial Units on the Territory of AP Vojvodina

Name of body	Native language							Knowledge of minority languages						
	Serbian	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croatian	other	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croat	Czech	
Employment Service	403	27	11	6	6	3	-	39	13	9	7	136	-	
%	88.4	5.9	2.4	1.3	1.3	0.7	0	8.6	2.9	2	1.5	29.8	0	

Correctional Facilities on the Territory of AP Vojvodina

	Native language							Knowledge of minority languages						
	Serbian	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	Ruthenian	Croat	other	Hungarian	Slovak	Rumanian	Ruthenian	Croat	Czech	other

The Sremska Mitrovica Correctional Facility	606	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Sombor Correctional Facility	57	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	
The Subotica District Prison	26	6	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	18	-	
The Novi Sad District Prison	91	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	
The Zrenjanin District Prison	42	8	-	1	-	-	-	8	2	1	-	11	-	
The Pančevo District Prison	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	
Total	887	15	1	1	3	0	0	25	3	4	3	29	0	
%	97.5	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0	0	2.7	0.3	0.4	0.3	3.2	0	

3.8.2.3. Data about the Speakers and Knowledge of Minority Languages in the Bodies of the Provincial Administration

Data about the speakers and knowledge of minority languages in the bodies of the provincial administration is given in the table below:

The Structure of Employees in the Provincial Bodies on the Basis of Their Knowledge of Minority Languages, January 2006

Number	Institution	Passive	%	Active	%	Non	%	Unknown	%	TOTAL
1.	Provincial Secretariat (PS) for Architecture, Urbanism and Construction					19	100.00			19
2.	PS for Demography, the Family and Social Child Care	1	6.67	3	20.00	11	73.33			15
3.	PS for Energy and Mineral Resources			2	8.70	20	86.96	1	4.35	23
4.				6	7.14	75	89.29	3	3.57	84

	PS for Finance									
5.	PS for Information			5	17. 86	23	82. 14			28
6.	PS for the Local Self-Government and Municipal Cooperation			3	13. 64	18	81. 82	1	4. 55	22
7.	PS for Science and Technological Development	1	7. 69			12	92. 31			13
8.	PS for Education and Culture	1	1. 22	17	20. 73	63	76. 83	1	1. 22	82
9.	PS for Water, Agriculture and Forestry			5	17. 24	24	82. 76			29
10.	PS for Privatisation, Enterprising, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises			2	28. 57	5	71. 43			7
11.	PS for the Economy	1	3. 03	4	12. 12	28	84. 85			33
12.	PS for Regulations, Administration and National Minorities			33	53. 23	29	46. 77			62
13.	PS for Labour, Employment and Gender Equality			2	10. 53	17	89. 47			19
14.	PS for Sport and Youth			1	5. 26	16	84. 21	2	10. 53	19
15.	PS for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development	4	12. 12	1	3. 03	26	78. 79	2	6. 06	33
16.	PS for Health and Social Policy	4	3. 64	10	9. 09	94	85. 45	2	1. 82	110
17.	APV Executive Council's Secretariat	1	2. 94	5	14. 71	27	79. 41	1	2. 94	34
18.	Secretariat for Regional and International Cooperation			4	33. 33	8	66. 67			12

19.	The Department for the General and Common Affairs of the Provincial Organs	10	3. 22	22	7. 07	275	88. 42	4	1. 29	311
20.	Support Services for the realisation of the APV economic development programme					4	100. 00			4
21.	Directorate for APV Commodity Reserves					10	76. 92	3	23. 08	13
TOTAL		23	2. 37	125	12. 86	804	82. 72	20	2. 06	972

3.8.2.4. Data about the Speakers and Knowledge of Minority Languages in the Bodies of the Local Self-Government

Data about the speakers and knowledge of minority languages in the bodies of the local self-government were accessible only for the territory of AP Vojvodina.

The Structure of Employees in the Local Self-Government Units in AP Vojvodina, December 2004

Municipality	Bulgarian	Croatian	Croatian -Serbian	Hungarian и Croatian	Hungarian и German	Hungarian и Serbian	Hungarian	Macedonian	German	No data	Other	Roma	и Serbian	Ruthenian	Slovak и Serbian	Slovak	Serbian-Croatian	Ukrainian	TOTAL
City of Novi Sad							28			1	1	1		3	8	3			673
The Municipality of Ada							41												50
The Municipality of Alibunar	1						2							31		2			94
The Municipality of Apatin							7												70
The Municipality of Bač							1									5			47
The Municipality of Bačka Palanka							1									5			135
The Municipality of Bačka Topola							54												80
The Municipality of Bački Petrovac																33			43
The Municipality of Bečež							41										2		90
The Municipality of Bela Crkva					1			1						1					39

Zrenjanin																5						
TOTAL	1	14	1	1	1	18	716	13	1	17	1	1	3	91	33	1	136	19	2	4676		

3.8.3. Data about Minority Languages in the Media

Radio Programmes according to Language (in hours)

Language of broadcasting	Year			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
The Republic of Serbia				
Total	1,030,810	1,344,885	1,321,611	1,384,989
Serbian	970,050	1,262,168	1,264,032	1,330,066
Albanian	1,418	5,825	5,109	2,924
Bulgarian	468	499	716	1,521
Hungarian	25,843	33,727	36,962	28,419
Romanian	3,000	3,754	2,283	2,300
Ruthenian	1,883	48	1,972	1,925
Roma	7,432	23,813	4,611	4,331
Slovak	6,660	8,643	3,300	4,234
Ukrainian	130	130	128	208
Languages of other minorities	943	546	1,960	666
Other languages	12,983	5,732	538	8,395
Central Serbia				
Total	884,927	1,146,303	1,123,606	1,239,650
Serbian	867,109	1,111,960	1,112,405	1,223,917
Albanian	1,418	5,825	5,109	2,924
Bulgarian	468	499	612	1,521
Hungarian				
Romanian	730			
Ruthenian			40	40
Roma	6,222	22,287	3,488	3,349
Slovak				
Ukrainian				
Languages of other minorities	223		1,440	250
Other languages	8,757	5,732	512	7,649
Vojvodina				

Total	145,883	198,582	198,005	145,339
Serbian	102,941	150,208	151,627	106,149
Albanian				
Bulgarian			104	
Hungarian	25,843	33,727	36,962	28,419
Romanian	2,270	3,754	2,283	2,300
Ruthenian	1,883	48	1,932	1,885
Roma	1,210	1,526	1,123	982
Slovak	6,660	8,643	3,300	4,234
Ukrainian	130	130	128	208
Languages of other minorities	720	546	520	416
Other languages	4,226		26	746

TV Programmes according to Language of Broadcasting (in hours)

Language of broadcasting	Year			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
The Republic of Serbia				
Total	395,139	428,322	425,604	550,281
Serbian	358,090	403,280	388,424	508,880
Albanian				
Bulgarian	26			
Hungarian	794	1,062	601	1,332
Romanian	1,246	935	303	814
Ruthenian	268	353	299	212
Roma	768	432	537	494
Slovak	259	366	306	218
Ukrainian	27	24	15	13
Languages of other minorities	14	413	782	42
Other languages	33,647	21,457	34,337	38,276
Central Serbia				
Total	370,497	394,205	388,602	494,041
Serbian	340,535	374,055	355,165	457,042
Albanian				
Bulgarian	26			
Hungarian				
Romanian	961	596	2	596

Ruthenian				
Roma	487	83	177	185
Slovak				
Ukrainian				
Languages of other minorities		365	750	
Other languages	28,488	19,106	32,508	36,218
Vojvodina				
Total				
	24,642	34,117	37,002	56,240
Serbian	17,555	29,225	33,259	51,838
Albanian				
Bulgarian				
Hungarian	794	1,062	601	1,332
Romanian	285	339	301	218
Ruthenian	268	353	299	212
Roma	281	349	360	302
Slovak	259	366	306	218
Ukrainian	27	24	15	13
Languages of other minorities	14	48	32	42
Other languages	5,159	2,351	1,829	2,058

3.8.4. Data about Minority Languages in the Field of Culture

Books and Booklets Published in the Republic of Serbia in 2006 according to Language

Language	Total number of books
Serbian	13,886
Serbian Cyrillic	7,084
Serbian Latin	6,802
Albanian	11
Hungarian	187
Bulgarian	6
Bosniak	18
Greek	2
English	364
Italian	12
Macedonian	14
German	29

Roma	13
Romanian	52
Russian	16
Slovak	48
Croatian	37
Slovenian	2
Turkish	1
Ruthenian	34
French	24
Dutch	1
Czech	2
In several languages	5
Other languages	21
Total	14,785

Professional Theatres which Perform in Minority Languages in the Republic of Serbia

year 2003/04		year 2004/05.	
Language	Number of theatres	Language	Number of theatres
Serbian/Hungarian	1	Serbian/Hungarian	1
Serbian/Romanian	1	Serbian/Romanian	1
Serbian/Roma	1	Serbian/Roma	1
Serbian/other languages	1	Hungarian	3
Hungarian	3		

Amateur Theatres⁵ which Hold Performances in the Languages of the National Minorities in the Republic of Serbia

year 2003/04		year 2004/05	
Language	Number of theatres	Language	Number of theatres
Serbian/Bulgarian	1	Serbian/Bulgarian	1
Serbian/Hungarian	1	Serbian/Hungarian	1
Serbian/Ruthenian	1	Hungarian	1
Serbian/Slovak	1	Ruthenian	1
Romanian	1	Slovak	4

3.8.5. Minority Languages in Periodical Publications in 2006

⁵ Only registered amateurs theatres, but the real number is much bigger.

Periodical Publications according to Type of Publication and Language⁶

Type of publication	language	Total
	Total periodical publications	1,425
Magazines		842
	Albanian	1
	Bosniak	3
	Bulgarian	1
	English	62
	French	1
	Hungarian	10
	In several languages	59
	Roma	1
	Romanian	5
	Ruthenian	3
	Russian	1
	Slovak	8
	Serbian	685
	Turkish	1
	Croatian	1
Newspapers		421
	Albanian	1
	Bosniak	1
	Bulgarian	2
	English	2
	Hungarian	9
	In several languages	7
	Roma	1
	Romanian	6
	Ruthenian	3
	Slovak	3
	Serbian	384
	Ukrainian	1
	Croatian	1
Other periodical publications		162
	English	4
	Hungarian	4
	In several languages	13
	Romanian	1
	Slovak	2
	Serbian	138

Periodical Publication according to Language and Script

Language	Type of publication	Total
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⁶ Without local periodical publications

	Magazines		Newspapers		Other periodical publications		
	Cyrillic	Latin	Cyrillic	Latin	Cyrillic	Latin	
Albanian		1		1			2
Bosniak		3		1			4
Bulgarian	1		2				3
English		62		2		4	70
French		1					1
Hungarian		10		9		4	23
Roma		1		1			2
Romanian		5		6		1	12
Ruthenian	2	1	3				6
Russian	1						1
Slovak		8		3		2	13
Serbian	299	386	232	152	81	57	1,207
Turkish		1					1
Ukrainian			1				1
Croatian		1		1			2
In several languages	15	44	4	3	8	5	79
Total	318	524	242	179	89	73	
	842		421		162		1,425

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION II – ARTICLE 7 OF THE CHARTER

4.1. Information on the Policy, Legislature and Practice of the Implementation of Section II – Article 7 of the Charter

In the Republic of Serbia the formulation and management of policy, as well as the adoption of laws falls within the jurisdiction of the central authorities.

Article 7

Objectives and Principles

- 1. In respect of regional or minority languages, within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the state members shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:*
 - a) the recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth;*
 - b) the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question;*
 - c) the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them;*
 - d) the establishment of conditions for the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life;*

- e) *the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different language;*
 - f) *the adoption of regulations which will guarantee the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;*
 - g) *the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;*
 - h) *the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions;*
 - i) *the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.*
2. *The state members undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.*
 3. *The state members undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages within the educational process and the encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.*
 4. *In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the state members shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.*
 5. *The state members undertake to apply, mutatis mutandis, the principles listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 above to non-territorial languages. However, as far as these languages are concerned, the nature and scope of the measures to be taken to give effect to this Charter shall be determined in a flexible manner, bearing in mind the*

needs and wishes, and respecting the traditions and characteristics, of the groups which use the languages concerned.

4.1.1. The Recognition of Minority Languages as an Expression of Cultural Wealth

4.1.1.1. Policy

Following the democratic changes in 2000, the new minority policy in the country was formulated and managed. The basis of the new minority policy is the full integration of national minorities in public life together with the preservation and promotion of their national and cultural diversity. That is fulfilled through the permanent communication of the public authorities with the representatives of all national communities and with the partnership relations with the relevant international organisations and institutions (especially with the OSCE and the Council of Europe).

The bases of the new minority policy are:

1. the development of democratic institutions and respect for the rule of law,
2. the development of a universal legal regulative within the domain of minority rights,
3. the establishment of a social ambient which will nurture the spirit of tolerance and respect for diversity,
4. the faster tempo of the economic growth and development of the country.⁷

4.1.1.2. Legislation

Article 48 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia adopted in 2006 explicitly predicts that the Republic of Serbia undertakes to promote understanding, recognition and respect for those differences which exist because of the linguistic identity of its citizens in the fields of education, culture and the public information. Other constitutional provisions which recognise minority languages are provided in section 2.3 of the Report.

Article 2, paragraph 20 of the Law on Activities of Public Interest in the Field of Culture predicts that programmes from the field of the culture of national minorities and ensuring the protection of their cultural inheritance also fall within the *general interest in the field of culture*.

Pursuant to article 10 of the Law on Librarianship the compilation of the current, retrospective and other bibliographies of the Serbian nation and the national minorities resident in the Republic of Serbia falls within the *general interest in the field of librarianship*.

⁷ See the First Report of the FR Yugoslavia on the fulfilment of the Council of Europe Frame Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Article 12 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities predicts that the expression, protection, nurturing, development, broadcasting and public presentation of linguistic diversity as part of the tradition of citizens, national minorities and their members is an inalienable individual and collective right.

Article 78 of the Law on Broadcasting predicts that the holders of the public broadcasting service, in the *aim of the fulfilment of the public interest* in the field of the public broadcasting service, among other things, are obliged to satisfy the needs of citizens for programme contents which express the cultural identity of both the nation and the national minorities, i.e. ethnic groups, through the possibility of following certain programmes or the programming entirety in the areas in which they live and work in their native languages and scripts.

4.1.1.3. Practice

The aim of the most significant practical measures which recognise that minority languages are the expression of the cultural wealth in the Republic of Serbia is the preservation of the languages of minorities and consist of the study of minority languages as well as financial and other kinds support for creativity and information in minority languages. Such measures are presented in sections 4.2 and 5 of the Report.

There are special events in the Republic of Serbia in which the languages of minorities are explicitly presented as the expression of cultural wealth. In the village of Kovačica, with the partial financial support of the competent public authorities, the International Day of the Native Language is celebrated every year. The celebration is the expression and confirmation of the recognition of minority languages as the expression of cultural wealth.

4.1.2. Respect for the Geographical Area of Minority Languages

4.1.2.1. Policy

There is no policy in the Republic of Serbia aimed at the creation of obstacles to the promotion of minority languages. On the contrary, the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question is guaranteed by national legislation.

4.1.2.2. Legislation

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia forbids the assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities, and in article 78, paragraph 3 explicitly predicts that it is forbidden to undertake measures which would cause the artificial change of the national structure of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to members of national minorities. The Constitution predicts special proceedings for changes to the territory and borders of the autonomous territories and local self-governments. Pursuant to article 182 of the

Constitution, the territory of the autonomous provinces and the conditions under which the borders of autonomous provinces may be changed is determined by law, but the territory of the autonomous provinces may not be changed without the concord of their citizens expressed in a referendum in accordance with the law. Pursuant to article 188, paragraph 3 of the Constitution, the establishment, abolishment and change of the territory of the unit of the local self-government precede the referendum on the territory of that self-government.

Article 21 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities predicts a ban on measures which change the ratio of the population in areas inhabited by national minorities and which impede the fulfilment of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

The respect of the geographical area of certain minority languages in order to ensure that the existing or new administrative division does not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of minority languages is also guaranteed by certain bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities. For instance, article 2, paragraph 6 of the Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Hungary on the Protection of the Rights of the Hungarian National Minority Living in the Republic of Serbia and the Serbian National Minority Living in the Republic of Hungary predicts that the parties to the contract are obliged not to change the administrative and electoral units at state and local self-government level with the intention of placing national minorities in an unsatisfactory position.

4.1.2.3. Practice

In practice the existing administrative division in the Republic of Serbia does not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of minority languages.

4.1.3. Resolute Action to Promote Minority Languages

4.1.3.1. Policy

Action to promote minority languages in the aim of their protection encompasses the planning and implementation of measures for the promotion of full and effective equality on the basis of the constitutional and legal provisions as determined in the rationale of the implementation of article 7, paragraph 2 of the Charter and they should be planned and implemented in cooperation with the appropriate bodies whose competences and establishment are set out in part 2.12 of the Report and in the rationale of the implementation of article 7, paragraph 4 of the Charter.

4.1.3.2. Legislation

Legislation which constitutes the legal basis for undertaking resolute action for the promotion and preservation of minority languages is the same as for the adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality

between the users of those language and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions (see the comment from point 2 of this article).

4.1.3.3. Practice

The most significant practical measures which constitute resolute action for the promotion and preservation of native languages were undertaken in favour of the Roma language. Considering that among the persons who speak the Roma language, as well as among linguists, there exists a different view of the standardisation of the standard Roma language, the National Council of the Roma National Minority proposed the curriculum for the subject of the Roma Language with elements of national culture which the Ministry of Education adopted, and which significantly improves the Roma language and the possibilities for its study.

The unique action plan for educating the Roma, which was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, predicts the development of programmes and courses for the study of the Roma language and culture and support for the establishment of Roma studies at the Philology Faculty.

4.1.4. The Establishment of Conditions for Facilitating and Promoting the Use of Minority Languages

4.1.4.1. Policy

The establishment of conditions for facilitating and/or promoting the use of regional or minority languages is an integral part of the integration of the national minorities into public life along with the further preservation and development of their national and cultural distinctiveness, which is the priority of the new minority policy.

4.1.4.2. Legislation

Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guarantees the right to the use of minority languages in private and public life. A series of systematic laws determine the method of fulfilling the right guaranteed by the Constitution to the use of minority languages, which is explained in the corresponding parts of the Report.

4.1.4.3. Practice

Part 3.8 of the Report contains general information on the fulfilment of the right to use minority languages.

4.1.5. The Establishment of Cultural Links between Groups which Speak Minority Languages

The establishment of cultural links between groups which speak minority languages is explained in the comment on the implementation of article 1, sub-article g and paragraph 3.

4.1.6. Provisions which Ensure the Study of Minority Languages

4.1.6.1. Legislation

In addition to the Law on Primary Schools and the Law on Secondary Schools which contain provisions which ensure the study of minority languages (see section 4.1.7.1.), article 80, paragraph 2 of the Law on Higher Education predicts that a higher education institution may organise and provide study, i.e. a certain part of study, and organise the completion and defence of a doctoral thesis in a minority or foreign language in accordance with its statute. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the same article, the higher education institution may provide a study programme in a minority of foreign language if such a programme has been approved, i.e. accredited.

4.1.6.2. Practice

Information on the practice of studying regional or minority languages at appropriate stages of education is provided in the part of the Report which is dedicated to the third part of the Charter. Information on academic bodies which provide study in minority languages on the level of higher education is provided in section 3.5.3 of the Report.

4.1.7. Facilitating the of Study of Minority Languages

4.1.7.1. Legislation

Article 5 of the Law on Primary Schools predicts that the school realises the curriculum in the minority language if at least 15 pupils in the first grade so wish it, and when the curriculum is realised in the Serbian language, provides the teaching of the curriculum and the native language with elements of the national culture. The Law on Secondary Schools consists of an identical solution. Taking into consideration that the entire curriculum may be developed in the minority language if 15 pupils wish it and that the subject of the native (minority) language with the elements of the national culture is of a facultative character, whose attendance depends on the free choice of pupils, it is clear that the conditions are established for those who do not speak minority languages, and live in areas where those languages are spoken, to learn them if they so wish. Article 13, paragraph 7 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities predicts that on those territories where the minority language is in official use the curriculum in educational institutions and schools in the Serbian language should provide the possibility for the study of national minority languages.

4.1.7.2. Practice

Information on the study of minority languages is provided in the fifth part of the Report. It is important to emphasise that the number of pupils who study minority languages does not correlate with the national structure and that there are cases when minority languages are studied by those to whom those languages are not native, i.e. do not speak them. For instance, in the 2005 school year, the total number of pupils of Hungarian nationality was

17,687 while the total number of pupils attending some sort of classes in the Hungarian language was 18,286 which means that 599 pupils who were not of Hungarian nationality took advantage of the opportunity to study the Hungarian language. According to the data from the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture, on the basis of the poll, it is possible, on the territory of AP Vojvodina, to follow the fulfilment the right of persons who do not speak certain minority languages to learn them if they so wish. The possibility of studying minority languages already exists on the level of pre school education and the following tables provide data about the national affiliation of children who attend pre school education in individual minority languages.

The National Affiliation of Children in Pre School Institutions in the Year before Attending Primary School according to the Language of Instruction

THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE																				
Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Others	TOTAL	
6	0	1988	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	66	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2073

THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE																				
Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Others	TOTAL	
0	0	0	0	135	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	141

THE RUTHENIAN LANGUAGE

Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Others	TOTAL	
4	1	4	0	0	72	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83

THE SLOVAK LANGUAGE

Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Others	TOTAL	
23	0	0	358	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	386

THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE

Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Others	TOTAL	
0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

THE SERBIAN AND HUNGARIAN LANGUAGES

Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Others	TOTAL
68	0	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	167

THE SERBIAN AND ROMANIAN LANGUAGES

Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Others	TOTAL
44	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	61

THE SERBIAN AND SLOVAK LANGUAGES

Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Others	TOTAL
22	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44

SERBIAN AND CROATIAN LANGUAGES																			
Serbs	Montenegri ns	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavi ans	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Others	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53

The possibility of studying minority languages also exists in primary schools and the following tables provide data about the national affiliation of children who are educated in individual minority languages.

NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PUPILS INSTRUCTION IN THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE 2006/2007 SCHOOL YEAR																			
Serbs	Montenegri ns	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavi ans	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Bulgarians	Others
88	5	16,442	8	0	2	31	57	17	1	290	3	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	178
TOTAL FOR AP VOJVODINA																		17,128	

NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PUPILS INSTRUCTION IN THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE 2006/2007 SCHOOL YEAR																			
Serbs	Montenegri ns	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavi ans	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Bulgarians	Others

21	0	8	0	1,234	0	0	0	0	0	177	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL FOR AP VOJVODINA																	1,444		

NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PUPILS INSTRUCTION IN THE RUTHENIAN LANGUAGE 2006/2007 SCHOOL YEAR																			
Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Bulgarians	Others
18	5	13	1	0	539	4	0	0	0	10	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
TOTAL FOR AP VOJVODINA																	607		

NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PUPILS INSTRUCTION IN THE SLOVAK LANGUAGE 2006/2007 SCHOOL YEAR																			
Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Bulgarians	Others
41	2	0	3,147	4	2	5	17	0	0	21	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
TOTAL FOR AP VOJVODINA																	3,275		

**NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PUPILS
INSTRUCTION IN THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE
2006/2007 SCHOOL YEAR**

Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Bulgarians	Others
2	0	6	0	0	0	181	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
TOTAL FOR AP VOJVODINA																	197		

**NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PUPILS
INSTRUCTION IN THE SERBIAN AND SLOVAK LANGUAGES
2006/2007 SCHOOL YEAR**

Serbs	Montenegrins	Hungarians	Slovaks	Romanians	Ruthenians	Croats	Yugoslavians	Bunjevci	Backa Croats	Roma	Albanians	Ukrainians	Macedonians	Slovenians	Germans	Czech	Bosniaks	Bulgarians	Others
23	0	0	24	0	1	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
TOTAL FOR AP VOJVODINA																	57		

**Primary School Pupils according to National Affiliation and Language of
Instruction in the 2006/2007 School Year**

Number of	TOTAL Hungarian pupils	Number of Hungarian pupils who are educated in:	The total number of pupils who	The number of pupils who

	schools		The Hungarian language	The Serbian language	The Slovak language	The Romanian language	The Ruthenian language	The Croatian language	are educated in the Hungarian language	are educated in the Hungarian language and did not cite Hungarian as their nationality
TOTAL	277	20,770	16,442	4,301	0	8	13	6	17,128	686

	Number of schools	TOTAL Romanian pupils	Number of Romanian pupils who are educated in:				The total number of pupils who are educated in the Romanian language	The number of pupils who are educated in the Romanian language and did not cite Romanian as their nationality
			The Romanian language	The Serbian language	The Slovak language	The Ruthenian language		
TOTAL	103	2,379	1,234	1,141	4	0	1,444	210

	Number of schools	TOTAL Ruthenian pupils	Number of Ruthenian pupils who are educated in:				The total number of pupils who are educated in the Ruthenian language	The number of pupils who are educated in the Ruthenian language and did not cite Ruthenian as their nationality
			The Ruthenian language	The Serbian language	The Hungarian language	The Slovak language		
TOTAL	73	1,132	539	589	2	2	607	77

	Number of schools	TOTAL Slovak pupils	Number of Slovak pupils who are educated in:				The total number of pupils who are educated in the Slovak language	The total number of pupils who are educated in the Slovak language and did not cite Slovak as their nationality
			The Slovak language	The Serbian language	The Hungarian language	The Ruthenian language		
TOTAL	145	4,426	3,147	1,270	8	1	3,147	128

	Number of schools	TOTAL Croat pupils	The number of Croat pupils who are educated in:					The total number of pupils who are educated in the Croatian language	The total number of pupils who are educated in the Croatian language and did not cite Croat as their nationality
			The Croatian language	The Serbian language	The Hungarian language	The Slovak language	The Ruthenian language		
TOTAL	189	3,646	181	3,425	31	5	4	197	8

It is possible to study native languages with elements of the national culture in primary schools, which also represents a special type of studying minority languages.

**Studying Languages with Elements of National Culture in Primary Schools
according to National Affiliation in the 2006/2007 School Year**

THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMETS OF NATIONAL CULTURE	
	<p>The number of pupils who are not Hungarians but study the Hungarian language with elements of national culture</p>
	<p>The total number of pupils who study the Hungarian language with elements of national culture</p>

TOTAL	1,327	2,088
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THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE		
	The number of pupils who are not Romanians but study the Romanian language with elements of national culture	The total number of pupils who study the Romanian language with elements of national culture
TOTAL	261	469

THE RUTHENIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE		
	The number of pupils who are not Ruthenians but study the Ruthenian language with elements of national culture	The total number of pupils who study the Ruthenian language with elements of national culture
TOTAL	134	278

THE SLOVAK LANGUAGE WITH ELEMMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE		
	The number of pupils who are not Slovaks but study the Slovak language with elements of national culture	The total number of pupils who study the Slovak language with elements of national culture
TOTAL	251	622

THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE		
	The number of pupils who are not Croats but study the Croatian language with elements of national culture	The total number of pupils who study the Croatian language with elements of national culture
TOTAL	8	362

The reasons which pupils, speakers of other languages, cited as their motivation for studying minority languages with elements of national culture in the 2006/2007 school year are provided in the table below.

Language with Elements of National Culture

Primary schools in AP Vojvodina
(for the languages included in the poll)

2006/2007 school year

THE BULGARIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE						
				The reasons why they study the language		
1 st grade	The total number of pupils	The number of schools	The number of municipalities	Mixed marriage	The language of the environment	Other reasons
2	21	1	1	0	0	0

THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE						
				The reasons why they study the language		
1 st grade	The total number of pupils	The number of schools	The number of municipalities	Mixed marriage	The language of the environment	Other reasons
306	2,088	55	21	793	404	130

THE MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE						
				The reasons why they study the language		
1 st grade	The total number of pupils	The number of schools	The number of municipalities	Mixed marriage	The language of the environment	Other reasons

0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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THE ROMA LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE						
				The reasons why they study the language		
1 st grade	The total number of pupils	The number of schools	The number of municipalities	Mixed marriage	The language of the environment	Other reasons
137	723	27	14	2	0	26

THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE						
				The reasons why they study the language		
1 st grade	The total number of pupils	The number of schools	The number of municipalities	Mixed marriage	The language of the environment	Other reasons
56	469	12	10	110	140	11

THE RUTHENIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE						
				The reasons why they study the language		
1 st grade	The total number of pupils	The number of schools	The number of municipalities	Mixed marriage	The language of the environment	Other reasons
31	278	22	7	106	4	24

THE SLOVAK LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE						
				The reasons why they study the language		
1 st grade	The total number of pupils	The number of schools	The number of municipalities	Mixed marriage	The language of the environment	Other reasons
61	622	40	11	191	51	19

THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE						
				The reasons why they study the language		
1 st grade	The total number of pupils	The number of schools	The number of municipalities	Mixed marriage	The language of the environment	Other reasons
4	118	8	4	35	5	0

THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE WITH ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CULTURE						
				The reasons why they study the language		
1 st grade	The total number of pupils	The number of schools	The number of municipalities	Mixed marriage	The language of the environment	Other reasons
49	362	10	3	5	3	0

The possibility of studying minority languages also exists in secondary schools and the following tables provide data about the national affiliation of children who are educated in individual minority languages.

<i>HUNGARIAN AS THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION</i>																			
<i>Serbs</i>	<i>Montenegrin</i>	<i>Hungarians</i>	<i>Slovaks</i>	<i>Romanians</i>	<i>Ruthenians</i>	<i>Croats</i>	<i>Yugoslavians</i>	<i>Bunjevci</i>	<i>Backa Croats</i>	<i>Roma</i>	<i>Albanians</i>	<i>Ukrainians</i>	<i>Macedonians</i>	<i>Slovenians</i>	<i>Germans</i>	<i>Czech</i>	<i>Bosniaks/ Moslems</i>	<i>Others</i>	
37	0	6,487	0	0	2	28	50	8	0	6	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	25	

<i>SLOVAK AS THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION</i>																			
<i>Serbs</i>	<i>Montenegrins</i>	<i>Hungarians</i>	<i>Slovaks</i>	<i>Romanians</i>	<i>Ruthenians</i>	<i>Croats</i>	<i>Yugoslavians</i>	<i>Bunjevci</i>	<i>Backa Croats</i>	<i>Roma</i>	<i>Albanians</i>	<i>Ukrainians</i>	<i>Macedonians</i>	<i>Slovenians</i>	<i>Germans</i>	<i>Czech</i>	<i>Bosniaks/ Moslems</i>	<i>Others</i>	
0	0	0	369	0	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

<i>ROMANIAN AS THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION</i>																			
<i>Serbs</i>	<i>Montenegrins</i>	<i>Hungarians</i>	<i>Slovaks</i>	<i>Romanians</i>	<i>Ruthenians</i>	<i>Croats</i>	<i>Yugoslavians</i>	<i>Bunjevci</i>	<i>Backa Croats</i>	<i>Roma</i>	<i>Albanians</i>	<i>Ukrainians</i>	<i>Macedonians</i>	<i>Slovenians</i>	<i>Germans</i>	<i>Czech</i>	<i>Bosniaks/ Moslems</i>	<i>Others</i>	
0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

RUTHENIAN AS THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

<i>Serbs</i>	<i>Montenegrins</i>	<i>Hungarians</i>	<i>Slovaks</i>	<i>Romanians</i>	<i>Ruthenians</i>	<i>Croats</i>	<i>Yugoslavians</i>	<i>Bunjevci</i>	<i>Backa Croats</i>	<i>Roma</i>	<i>Albanians</i>	<i>Ukrainians</i>	<i>Macedonians</i>	<i>Slovenians</i>	<i>Germans</i>	<i>Czech</i>	<i>Bosniaks/ Moslems</i>	<i>Others</i>
3	2	0	0	0	69	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4.1.8. Promoting of the Study and Research into Minority Languages at Universities

4.1.8.1. Legislation

Pursuant to article 6 of the Law on Higher Education, the autonomy of universities and other independent higher education institutions includes, among other things, the right to the establishment of the curriculum.

4.1.8.2. Practice

Information about the practice of studying and researching minority languages at universities is provided in parts 3.5.3 and 5.1 of the Report.

4.1.9. Promoting Trans-National Exchange

4.1.9.1. Legislation

The promotion of appropriate types of trans-national exchange in the fields of civil life mentioned in the European Charter for Minority Languages is regulated by the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and the provisions of international agreements which regulate the protection of national minorities as well as the fields of cultural and educational cooperation.

Article 80, paragraph 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbian guarantees persons belonging to national minorities the right to free links and cooperation with compatriots from outside the Republic of Serbia.

The Republic of Serbia, as the successor of the FR Yugoslavia and Serbia and Montenegro, is the contractual party in several bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities which consist of provisions which are of importance for trans-national cooperation in the fields of civil life in which minority languages are used.

Article 3 of the *Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia on the Protection of the Serbian and Montenegrin National Minorities in the Republic of Macedonia and the Macedonian National Minority in the Republic of Serbia* predicts that the parties to the contract recognise the right of persons belonging to national minorities to the oral and written use of their native language in private and public life, as well as the right for their personal names in public identification papers and official documents to be written in their native language and script. Article 4 of the Agreement predicts that the parties to the contract undertake to *stimulate educational cooperation and exchange regarding the education of national minorities – particularly through the exchange of experts, curriculum, text books and other teaching materials, by granting scholarships and the participation of teachers in seminars dedicated to professional training, as well as cooperation between schools and mutual visits between children and teachers.*

Article 3 of the *Agreement between the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of Romania on Cooperation in the Field of the Protection of National Minorities* predicts that the parties to the contract recognise the right of persons belonging to national minorities to the oral and written use of their native language in private and public life, as well as the right for their personal names in public identification papers and official documents to be written in their native language and script. Article 4 predicts that the parties to the contract will, through appropriate laws, provide persons belonging to national minorities with the opportunity to be educated in their native language at all stages of education, when required, as well as to *promote the exchange of experiences in education, by creating the conditions for teachers who live on the territory of one of the parties to the contract to participate in professional training which is organised on the territory of the other party to the contract and to approve scholarships and other favours for all stages of education.*

Article 3 of the *Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Croatia on the Protection of the Rights of the Serbian and Montenegrin Minorities in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Minority in Serbia and Montenegro* predicts that the parties to the contract undertake to develop the area of education in the languages and scripts of minorities and provide the education of persons belonging to national minorities according to special programmes for whose adoption the opinion of national minority associations shall be procured. The Agreement determines that the special programmes in the languages and scripts of national minorities, along with the general part, also consist of a part whose contents include the peculiarities of the national minority (native language, literature, history, geography and cultural creative work of the national minority). In areas where, pursuant to the national regulations, the official use of the language and script of the national minority is established, the Agreement predicts that the pupils of educational institutions where teaching is in the majority language will also be able to study the language and script of the national minority. It is also guaranteed that the pedagogical documentation in institutions with teaching in the languages and scripts of national minorities will also be maintained in the minority language.

Article 4 of the *Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Hungary on the Protection of the Rights of the Hungarian National Minority Living in Serbia and Montenegro and the Serbian National Minority Living in the Republic of Hungary* predicts that the parties to the contract undertake to provide persons belonging to national minorities with institutionalised education in their native language and the teaching of the native languages of national minorities at all stages of education. The parties to the contract undertake to provide education in pre-school institutions, primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education in the native languages of national minorities and to provide support for the establishment of such institutions. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the same article, the parties to the contract undertake to provide the use of state scholarships and educational foundation scholarships for the education, professional training and post graduate studies, especially for the training of teachers and theologians. Those scholarships will facilitate the organisation of courses for the professional training of the teaching staff of the national minorities in both countries. It is particularly important to emphasise that the Agreement predicts that the parties to the contract undertake to support the *exchange of students and teachers and provide conditions for their professional training, i.e. postgraduate studies, as well as to enable that, in the case of an insufficient number of teachers in the native language of the national minority, teachers from the native country will be engaged*. The parties to the contract will jointly establish the conditions for their engagement. Paragraph 8 of the same article predicts that the parties to the contract undertake to provide support, at all stages of minority education, for the teaching of the language, culture and history of national minorities and their native countries and to provide *support in the procurement of books and teaching materials for this purpose*. The parties to the contract are obliged to promote the spreading of knowledge about the history and culture of national minorities among the majority population.

Article 3 of the *Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture and Sports between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Ukraine* predicts that the parties to the contract undertake to promote the study of the Serbian language in the Ukraine and that of the Ukrainian language in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Paragraph 2 of article 3 determines that in this aim the *parties to the contract undertake to promote the exchange of language instructors, teachers and experts in Serbian, i.e. Ukrainian language and literature, the exchange of text books and teaching materials, as well as organising courses and seminars in the fields of the language and culture of the nations of the two countries*.

Article 3 of the *Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture and Sports between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Slovak Republic* predicts that the parties to the contract undertake to promote the study of the Serbian language in the Slovak Republic and that of the Slovak language in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Paragraph 2 of the same article determines that in this aim the *parties to the contract undertake to promote the exchange of language instructors, teachers and experts in Serbian, i.e. Slovak language and literature, the exchange of text books and teaching materials, as well as organising courses and seminars in the fields of the language and culture of the nations of the two countries*.

Article 1 of the *Agreement between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture and Education* predicts that the parties to the contract undertake to promote mutual cooperation in the fields of culture and education through: 1) the exchange of professors, researchers, students and experts from the field of education; 2) the exchange of artists and experts in the fields of fine arts, music, theatre and dance, literature and film; 3) the exchange and distribution of films, books, text books, magazines and other publications; 4) the promotion of cooperation in the field of music and theatre; 5) the promotion of publishing artistic, literary and scientific works; 6) the promotion of art exhibitions and fine arts events, as well as other forms of cooperation agreed between the parties to the contract, while article 4 predicts that the parties to the contract undertake to *promote cooperation and exchange in the field of education and establish the appropriate conditions for direct contacts between schools and other educational institutions, especially through the exchange of educational experts, curriculum, text books and other materials about the educational systems in the two countries.*

4.1.9.2. Practice

The trans-national exchange of regional or minority languages in different fields of civil life develops undisturbed. For instance, in the field of education there is a big exchange of text books and teaching materials with those countries which the speakers of certain minority languages consider their native countries. The Council for the National Minorities of the Republic of Serbia has, in several of its sessions, recommended that the Ministry of Education approve, i.e. import text books in minority languages. In this way the import of text books which were used in the previous year is renewed. It is particularly important to point out that at its first constitutional session (08. 10. 2004) the Council recommended the import of text books from the Republic of Croatia for the first three grades of primary school for pupils who attend school in the Croatian language, and which were until then in short supply. The Council also recommended the import of technical books in the Hungarian language as well as religious text books in the Slovak language. The import of text books from Bulgaria was also approved for primary schools.

4.1.10. The Elimination of the Unjustified Treatment of the Use of Minority Languages and the Adoption of Special Measures in Favour of Minority Languages

4.1.10.1. Legislation

The creation of the legal basis for the elimination of any unjustified endangerment, exclusion, restriction or negative treatment relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it is contained in the constitutional provisions regarding equality, as well as in the provisions of the law which protect the use and the right to the use of minority languages (see chapter 3.4. of the Report). Article 21 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia predicts that everybody is equal before the Constitution and law and that everybody enjoys equal legal protection, without discrimination. In the same article the Constitution

of the Republic of Serbia predicts that special measures which the Republic of Serbia may introduce for the sake of achieving the full equality of persons or a group of persons who are essentially in an unequal position to other citizens shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination. Article 76, paragraph 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia predicts a special legal base for undertaking measures for the promotion of equality in favour of persons belonging to national minorities. Pursuant to that provision of the Constitution, special regulations and provisionl measures which the Republic of Serbia may introduce into economic, social, cultural and political life for the sake of achieving full equality between persons belonging to national minorities and citizens belonging to the majority shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination if they are directed towards the elimination of the exceptionally negative living conditions which particularly effect them. The Constitution also predicts the facilitation of the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in the assemblies at the various levels of organising the public authorities (see sections 2.5; 2.6 and 2.7 of the Report). Certain laws predict special measures in favour of persons belonging to national minorities and speakers of minority languages. For instance, article 4 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of Natioanl Minorities predicts that the public authorities may, in accordance with the Constitution and law, adopt regulations, individual legal acts and undertake measures in the aim of ensuring the full and effective equality between persons belonging to national minorities and members of the majority nation, while pursuant to paragraph 2 of the same article, they are obliged to undertake such measures in the aim of improving the position of presons belonging to the Roma national minority. The same law predicts that that for the promotion of the entire educational programme in minority languages, as well as for bilingual teaching, a minimal number of pupils may be prescribed, and that this number may be smaller than the minimal number of pupils which is prescribed by the law for providing appropriate forms of teaching and education in the Serbian language. The Law on the Election of Deputies predicts the repeal of the electoral census for national minority political parties (see section 2.3 of the Report) and article 60, paragraph 6 determines that in those municipalities in which the languages of national minorities are in official use the voting lists shall be printed in those languages. Certain measures for promoting the full and efficient equality of speakers of minority languages are also predicted by sub legal acts. The resolution on measures for the increased participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public administrative authorities predicts that during the filling of working positions on the basis of open competition, the Service for Cadre Management will publish a public competition in the daily newspaper in the languages of national minorities, particularly when the working position is on the territory mostly inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities; that the public administrative authorities for which it is predicted that more than 1/3 of the total number of systemised employees work in regional units which are established for the territory on which, in accordance with the decision of the competent bodies of the local self-government units, the language of one or more national minorities in also in official use, undertake measures to ensure that the rulebook on the internal structure and systematisation of working positions predicts a certain number of working positions for which, as the condition for carrying out the jobs of certain employees, knowledge is needed of at least one of the national minority languages and scripts which are in official use on the territory for which the

territorial unit was established and in accordance with the decision of the units of local self-government from that territory; that during the selection procedure for filling working positions through public competition in the territorial units which require a written test of the professional competence, knowledge and skills of the candidates, the candidates shall be tested or provided with other forms of written tests in the language of the national minority. Article 14 of the Resolution predicts that, if the condition for employment in the public administrative authority, because of the specificity of the work, predicts the completion of a specialised school or training course, during the entry examination, i.e. the qualifying exam for that school in written form, testing shall be provided in an appropriate form in minority languages for those candidates who have completed their entire education in a national minority language.

4.1.10.2. Policy and Practice

In cooperation with the OSCE Mission the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia organised several courses of a bilingual type (for members of the Albanian national minority) for policemen and published open competitions for employment in the media in minority languages. Considering that such a practice was well received and is also in harmony with the Government of the Republic of Serbia's Resolution for the increased participation of persons belonging to national minorities in the public administrative authorities, the Government of the Republic of Serbia's Plan on the Implementation of the Priorities from the European Partnership predicts the continuation of the realisation of courses for policemen which should be provided according to the bilingual principle, as well as the need for the text of the employment competition to be published in minority languages which would also be followed through the local media.

The measures of introducing so called Roma assistants into the teaching process represent a special example of adopting measures in favour of minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions. The Ministry of Education and Sport of the Government of the Republic of Serbia approved the participation of Roma assistants in 20 schools. The main task of the Roma assistants is to provide support in overcoming the language barriers for children of Roma nationality who have chosen to attend schools in the Serbian language which they do not know to a sufficient extent and the establishment of communication and the implementation of mutual initiatives aimed at promoting better cooperation between the parents of children of Roma nationality and pre school and school institutions. The Government of the Republic of Serbia's unique action plan for the education of the Roma predicts the further introduction of Roma assistants into the educational process.

4.1.11. Promoting Mutual Understanding between All Language Groups

4.1.11.1. Legislation

Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia predicts that in the field of education, culture and information Serbia undertakes to promote a spirit of tolerance and inter-cultural dialogue and undertakes efficient measures for the promotion of mutual respect, understanding and cooperation between all people resident on its territory, regardless of their ethnic, cultural, language or religious identity. Article 13, paragraph 7 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities predicts that in the aim of promoting tolerance towards national minorities the curriculum in educational institutions and schools with instruction in the Serbian language should contain educational material which consists of knowledge of the history, culture and position of national minorities, and other contents which favour mutual tolerance and coexistence. Article 3, paragraph 11 of the Law on the Basic Principles of the Educational System predicts that the promotion, among children and pupils, of ethnic and religious tolerance, the strengthening of trust among children and pupils and the prevention of behaviour which violates the fulfilment of the right to diversity also fall within the goals of education in the Republic of Serbia. Article 77, paragraph 3 of the Law on Broadcasting predicts that programmes which are produced and broadcast within the framework of the public broadcasting service must provide diversity and balance (mutual harmonisation or reconciliation) of contents which support the democratic values of a modern society, and particularly respect for human rights and cultural, national, ethnic and political pluralism and thought.

4.1.12. Advisory Bodies

4.1.12.1. Legislation

According to the constitutional and legal solutions, the Republic of Serbia has special bodies responsible for advising the authorities regarding minority languages. Those are the national minority national councils (see 2.12). The representatives of the national minority national councils are members of the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Serbia (see 3.5.1).

4.2. Information about the Implementation of the Charter on Minority Languages which are not Obligations Taken from Part III

Part 3.3.2 of the Report cited the minority languages in the Republic of Serbia as: Albanian, Bosniak, Bulgarian, Vlach, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Croatian and Czech and stated that the state does not deny the possibility of referring to the Bunjevac language as a minority language, until such time as standardisation becomes a condition for the implementation of certain measures. Taking into consideration that the Republic of Serbia has taken on the obligations from Part III regarding the Albanian, Bosniak, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Croatian languages it is necessary to review the information on the situation in the other minority languages in the Republic of Serbia.

4.2.1. The Czech Language

The Czech language has been in official use in the Bela Crkva municipality for several decades, even though the required legal conditions regarding the number of speakers for the introduction of this language into official use have not been fulfilled. The Czech language is also used in the Vršac municipality (the community in Veliko Središte) and in the Kovin Municipality (the community in Gaj). Organizations such as *Matica Češka* and the Czechs from Southern Banat Cultural Educational Association gather speakers of the Czech language. The aforementioned organizations “stand firmly behind the view that during the presentation of the ratification instrument, Serbia should have issued a statement on the implementation of articles 8 and 11 for the Czech language in the Charter on Regional or Minority Languages” and requested that “this be stated in the Report”. Section 3.1.2 of the Report states that the equal protection of all determined languages is one of the main reasons which guided the state in the ratification process and because of which certain provisions from Part III were not accepted for the Czech language. The Republic of Serbia stands behind the view that the implementation of the Charter is a process which may result in determining new languages on which the taken paragraphs and sub paragraphs will be applied. In that sense, the Republic of Serbia follows the current situation regarding the Czech language and points out the implementation of the Charter regarding the Czech language.

According to available data, there is no instruction in the Czech language in primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Serbia. The Czech language is studied in the Department for Slavic Studies at the Philological Faculty in Belgrade. According to the views of the aforementioned organisations which gather speakers of the Czech language “the Czech language was studied in schools until 1972, and without the preservation and study of the native language, culture, tradition and customs there can be no preservation of the national identity either”. The legal basis for the study of the Czech language has been established in the Republic of Serbia, but because of the small number of pupils of Czech nationality in the lower grades, in practice there is no instruction in the Czech language, nor is the Czech Language with elements of the national culture a subject which forms part of the curriculum. According to available data, in the municipality of Bela Crkva, 80 pupils in primary schools claimed affiliation to the Czech national minority in the 2006/2007 school year, 6 of whom were in the first grade. However, there is an interest in learning the Czech language on the part of those pupils who are speakers of the Czech language as well as pupils of other nationalities. According to the poll which was partially carried out in schools on the territory of the Bela Crkva municipality, the interest is varied. In the Kruščica community for instance, 44 pupils from different classes, 24 of whom are of Czech nationality, wish to learn the Czech language with elements of the national culture. In the 2006/2007 school year, a course in the Czech language was organised in the school premises (twice a week, every second week) in that community taught by a teacher from the Czech Republic and financed by the Czech Republic. 30 pupils attend this course. In the Dositej Obradović primary school in Bela Crkva there are 23 pupils of Czech nationality who are in different grades, and during the poll, only a few pupils expressed their intention to study the Czech language with elements of the national culture.

Within the sphere of public information, the Czech language is represented in the electronic and written media and the public authorities undertake certain measures for the preservation and promotion of this language in the sphere of public information. The following tables present the situation and supportive measures taken for the promotion of the Czech language within the sphere of public information.

Broadcaster	The length of the radio programme	Measures to promote or facilitate broadcasting
Public companies Multilingual broadcasting of programmes		
Radio Bela Crkva, Bela Crkva	1 hour a week	Financing from the Municipality's budget in the period 2002/2006. The Provincial Secretariat for Information earmarked the amount of CSD 216,730 for TTO. ⁸ Broadcasting in the Czech language was strengthened by co-financing from the Južnomoravski Region of the Czech Republic and the Provincial Secretariat for Administration, Regulations and National Minorities of the AP Vojvodina.
Multilingual private broadcasters		
Radio Sunce-Glas, southern Banat, Bela Crkva	1 hour a day	In 2005, the Ministry of Culture earmarked CSD 120,000 for an open competition for programmes in the Czech language. In 2007, the Ministry of Culture earmarked CSD 100,000 for the open competition for the Multiculturalism 2007 project.

⁸ Abbreviations used in column 3:

RED DOT –Regular subsidies received by RTV Novi Sad throughout 2002 and 2003

OPR – Resources provided for equipping RTV Novi Sad for the audio-visual coverage of the work of the Executive Council and the Assembly of the AP Vojvodina, funds allocated to the regional media for the establishment and launch of work in 2003 and 2004.

TTO - Funds on the basis of open competition allocated to regional and municipal media for technological development since 2005.

INF - Contracts signed on informing the public about the work of the Executive Council and the Assembly of AP Vojvodina.

UNP - Funds allocated for the improvement of programmes since 2006.

Beneficiary	Project	Measures to promote and facilitate the production and distribution of audio or audio-visual activities
Radio Sunce-Glas southern Banat, Bela Crkva	recording a CD	Co financing by the Ministry of Culture and the Provincial Secretariat for Information

Newspapers	Contents	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures to promote or facilitate the establishment or preservation of newspapers
Newspaper in the Czech language				
The Bilten Bela Crkva		Quarterly	300	Supported by the local authorities through annual support

2 books were published in the Czech language in the Republic of Serbia in 2006.

4.2.2. The German Language

The German language is not in official use in any local self-government unit in the Republic of Serbia because the legal conditions for its introduction into official use have not been fulfilled. Organisations which gather persons belonging to the German national minority and speakers of the German language, such as the German National Alliance, “do not consider the absence of the official use of the German language as an act of discrimination against the German language, because the native languages of other numerically small national minorities are not in official use either... All persons belonging to the German national minority speak the Serbian language as the official language of the state in which they live and find no linguistic barriers to the fulfilment of their rights before the public authorities”.

There is no instruction in the German language, nor is the German language with elements of the national culture the subject on any curriculum in primary and secondary schools in the educational system of the Republic of Serbia. However, as the German National Alliance emphasises “because of the fortunate circumstance that German is one of the world languages, it is present as one of the foreign languages in schools and faculties in Serbia. That represents the opportunity for children of German nationality to study their native language in school in classes of German as a foreign language”. According to available data, there are plans for the Naša Radost pre-school institution in Subotica, if there is sufficient interest from parents, to organize classes in bilingual Serbian-German groups in the 2007/2008 school year.

German is represented in the sphere of public information in the Republic of Serbia in radio programmes. The table below shows the broadcasters of programmes in the German language, the length and frequency of programmes and measures to promote and facilitate broadcasting.

Broadcaster	The length of the radio programme	Measures to promote or facilitate broadcasting
Public companies Multilingual broadcasting of programmes		
Radio Odžaci, Odžaci	2 hours a week	Financing from the Municipality's budget in the period 2002/2006. The Provincial Secretariat for Information earmarked the amount of CSD 370,000 for TTO.
Radio Subotica, Subotica	0.5 hour a week	Financing from the Municipality's budget in the period 2002/2006. The Provincial Secretariat for Information awarded Radio Subotica the amount of CSD 2,107,000 for TTO and INF. The Agency for Human and Minority Rights earmarked the amount of CSD 160,000 in 2007.
Multilingual private broadcasters		
Radio Fedra, Zrenjanin	1 hour a week	In 2006 the Ministry of Culture earmarked CSD 96,000 on the basis of an open competition for Euroradio – a multi lingual radio information programme In 2007 the Ministry of Culture earmarked CSD 96,000 on the basis of an open competition for Euroradio – a multi lingual radio information programme.

The programme in German on Radio Subotica, *Unsere Stimme*, can also be listened to on the internet and according to the German National Alliance, “many Germans outside Serbia also listen to this programme”. The programme is prepared by persons belonging to the German national minority themselves, and the German National Alliance emphasises that “the programme is not prepared by others for German people, but within the German National Alliance in the editorial office in German... In the eight years of broadcasting this programme there has never been any pressure on the editorial policy.” The programme, *Die Banater Deutsche Sendung*, on Radio Fedra, is realised in cooperation with the Banat German Cultural Centre from Zrenjanin and with the support of the Association of Germans from the Danube Basin, from Ulm. The programme covers the cultural inheritance of Germans from Banat and has information blocks. Moreover, the editorial office has mediated in the visits of various delegations from Austria and Germany in Zrenjanin.

The German community is able to freely nurture its language within the sphere of culture. According to the German National Alliance, “there are cultural sections within this organisation which promote the German language in performances and cultural events which they hold in public, outside the Alliance’s headquarters. The Lorelei Choir appears under the same name and with German songs in many public performances. As regards promoting the language within the Alliance ... German courses are organised free of charge for all those interested and this has been going on for ten years without any difficulties. In addition to courses, young people also nurture the German language within the drama section of the German National Alliance, the Junge Nibelungen. The first theatre performance in German to take place in Serbia after the Second World War, which was produced by the German community in Serbia itself, held its premiere in the Children’s Theatre in Subotica on 23rd June 2006. The play was in German and was advertised as such in all media. The Library in the Alliance’s headquarters, with 4,000 books, magazines and newspapers in German, also provides the opportunity to improve one’s language abilities”. 29 books were published in German in the Republic of Serbia in 2006.

4.2.3. The Macedonian Language

The Macedonian language is not in official use in any local self-government unit in the Republic of Serbia because the legal conditions for its introduction into official use have not been fulfilled. The Macedonian Minority National Council stands by the view that, even though the legal obligation does not exist, there are the legal possibilities for the Macedonian language to be introduced into official use in the municipality of Pančevo and is of the opinion that “the part of the law which regulates the introduction of certain languages into official use is inadequate. According to the law, for a language to be introduced into official use the number of persons belonging to the national minority of whom that language is native, must be over 15%. In places where the number of persons belonging to the national minority is less than 15%, the local self-government shall decide on the introduction of that language into official use, thus thanks to the goodwill and understanding of the local self-governments there are cases of national minority languages in official use even though the number of persons belonging to the national minority is 0.56%. There are also other similar examples which the Pančevo municipality should emulate”. The National Council has made the recommendation that “the Republic of Serbia should support talks between the representatives of the local self-government and the representatives of the Macedonian National Minority National Council regarding the introduction of the Macedonian language into official use where the percentage of persons belonging to this minority is less than that predicted by the law.”

There is no instruction in the Macedonian language or study of the native language with elements of the national culture in primary and secondary schools in the educational system of the Republic of Serbia. The Macedonian language is studied at the Philological Faculty in Belgrade and the Philosophy Faculty in Novi Sad. According to information received from the Macedonian National Minority National Council “preparations are currently underway for introducing the Macedonian language with elements of the national culture as a subject on the curriculum in places with a higher concentration of the

Macedonian national community”. According to the poll carried out in schools in the Pančevo municipality 321 pupils in primary schools said they belonged to the Macedonian national minority, 34 of whom are pupils in the first grade. In Jabuka, in the Pančevo municipality, where a large number of persons belonging to the Macedonian national minority are resident, 196 pupils in the primary school are of Macedonian nationality, 22 of whom are in the first grade. Out of 53 pupils of different nationality in the first grade in Jabuka only 3 pupils stated that they would attend classes in the Macedonian language with elements of the national culture. Starting from the idea presented in section 3.1.2 of the Report, that the implementation of the Charter is a process which should encompass and include into its implementation all interested parties, as well as that this process, among other things, may result in the application of the paragraphs and sub-paragraphs from Part III of the Charter to new languages, the Republic of Serbia is prepared, after the introduction of the Macedonian language into the educational process on the basis of the freely expressed desire of pupils, i.e. their parents (which also means one form of the official use of the Macedonian language), and by accepting the results from the promotion of the Macedonian language in the sphere of public information, to consider the possibility of extending the list of languages to which the measures from Part III of the Charter are applied.

The Macedonian language is represented in the sphere of public information in the Republic of Serbia in the electronic and printed media. According to the Macedonian National Minority National Council, a step forward has been made in this field “primarily thanks to the Provincial Executive Council of the AP Vojvodina and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia” with whose help the National Council managed to start two programmes on RTV Pančevo and RTV Novi Sad. The Macedonian National Minority National Council “welcomes and positively appraises every effort on the part of the state to support the fulfilment of its rights”. The tables below show data about the broadcasters, the length and frequency of programmes, and the measures taken by the public authorities to promote and facilitate broadcasting in the Macedonian language.

Broadcaster	The length of the radio programme	Measures to promote and facilitate broadcasting
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
Radio Novi Sad – programme in the Macedonian Language, Novi Sad	0.5 hours a week	In the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information earmarked the amount of CSD 964,134,250 for RED. DOT, OPR, UBP and INF

Broadcaster	The length of the radio programme	Measures to promote and facilitate broadcasting
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
TV Vojvodina – programme in the Macedonian language, Novi Sad	1 hour a month	In the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information earmarked the amount of CSD 964,134,250 for RED. DOT, OPR, UBP and INF

Public companies Multilingual broadcasting of programmes		
Regional RTV Pančevo, TV Pančevo, Pančevo	1 hour a week	Financing from the Municipal budget in 2006. The Ministry of Culture earmarked CSD 300,000 through an open competition for launching programmes in the Macedonian language in the 22.2/2206 period. The Provincial Secretariat for Information earmarked the amount of CSD 2,830,000 for TTO.

Thanks to the support of the aforementioned provincial and public authorities the journalist-publishing house, the Macedonian Information and Publishing Centre, was established, which started the monthly publication of the Macedonian information review, Makedonska Videlina. 14 books were published in the Macedonian language in the Republic of Serbia in 2006.

4.2.4. The Vlach Language

The Vlach language is not standardised and among speakers of the Vlach language there is no agreement on its standardisation. However, in spite of the lack of standardisation there are certain measures within the sphere of information aimed at promoting and facilitating programmes in the Vlach language. The table below shows this data:

Broadcaster	The length of the radio programme	Measures to promote or facilitate broadcasting
Public companies Multilingual broadcasting of programmes		
RTV Zaječar, Radio Zaječar, Zaječar		Financing from the Municipal budget in 2006. The Ministry of Culture earmarked CSD 405,000 through an open competition for the establishment of broadcasting services in the Vlach language, Aici Radio- Zaiceri.

Broadcaster	The length of the radio programme	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting
Public companies Multilingual broadcasting of programs		

STV Negotin, Negotin	News in the Vlach language	In 2007, the Ministry of Culture earmarked CSD 387,600 through an open competition for the establishment of broadcasting services in the Vlach language, Aici Radio- Zaiceri.
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5. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF MINORITY LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OBLIGATIONS FROM ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 2.

5.1.

Article 8.

Education

With regard to education, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used, according to the situation of each of these languages, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State:

Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs:

a)

(iii) to apply one of the measures at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient; or

(iv) if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of pre-school education, to favour and/or encourage the application of the aforementioned measures

b)

(iv) to apply one of the measures at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient;

c)

(iv) to apply one of the measures at least to those pupils who desire that or, if that is applicable, whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient;

d)

(iv) to apply one of the measures at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient;

e)

(ii) to provide facilities for the study of these languages as university and higher education subjects;

f)

(iii) if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of adult education, to favour and/or encourage the offering of such languages as subjects of adult and continuing education;

g) to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language;

5.1.1. Pre-School Education

5.1.1.1. Pre-School Education – Relevant Legal Provisions

Article 7 of the Law on the Basic Principles of the Educational System predicts that educational instruction is realised in the Serbian language, while the educational instruction of persons belonging to national minorities is also realised in the native language. Pursuant to article 31, paragraph 1 of the same law, an institution for pre-school education may be established by the Republic, Autonomous Province, the local self-government unit or other legal or physical entity.

The Bill on Pre-school Education provides for the fulfilment of the right of pre-school children to education, i.e. for children under school age. According to the proposed provision of article 5, the educational instruction of persons belonging to national minorities is carried out in the native language or bilingually, if requested by at least 50% of the children in the educational group, i.e. a mixed educational group from articles 33 and 34 of the Bill which predicts that the number of children enrolled in the educational group depends on age and is:

from 6 months to 1 year of age	7
from 1 to 2 years of age	12

from 2 to 3 years of age	16
from 3 to 4 years of age	20
from 4 to 5.5 years of age	22
from 5.5 years until school age (preschool group)	26

5.1.1.2. Pre-School Education – Practice

In the territory of the Republic of Serbia there are pre-school institutions in which education is provided both in the Serbian language and in the regional or minority languages. Pre-school curriculum for the children aged three to seven is organised and conducted for those pupils whose families so request, in the following regional or minority languages: Albanian, Bulgarian, Bosnian, Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian. The school curriculum is applied in two languages in nationally mixed environments.

The records on the number of children attending classes in respective regional or minority languages, by language, age and number of education groups in the area of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina are maintained by the Provincial Secretariat of Education and Culture.

5.1.1.2.1. Language of Education – H u n g a r i a n

School year 2004/2005

No.	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	ADA	54	80	120	123	19	377
2	APATIN	0	7	24	21	3	52
3	BAČKA TOPOLA	1	48	116	143	13	308
4	BEČEJ	37	87	160	182	24	466
5	ŽITIŠTE	0	4	24	27	3	55
6	ZRENJANIN	20	26	36	54	6	136
7	KANJIŽA	25	95	182	200	29	502
8	KIKINDA	0	13	31	36	5	80
9	KOVAČICA	0	0	3	25	1	28
10	KOVIN	0	7	16	29	2	52
11	KULA	0	3	10	9	1	22

12	NOVA CRNJA Nova Crnja	0	0	14	21	3	35
13	MALI IDOŠ	8	45	63	77	10	193
14	NOVI BEČEJ	0	8	30	27	4	65
15	NOVI KNEŽEVAC	2	17	14	25	4	58
16	CITY OF NOVI SAD	25	50	50	87	11	212
17	ODŽACI	0	0	8	10	1	18
18	PLANDIŠTE	3	7	8	9	1	27
19	SENTA	62	135	146	199	28	542
20	SOMBOR	0	0	29	30	3	59
21	SRBOBRAN	7	12	27	34	4	80
22	SUBOTICA	81	137	224	283	34	725
23	TEMERIN	0	0	46	56	4	102
24	ČOKA	29	30	59	43	11	161
AP VOJVODINA		354	811	1,440	1,750	224	4,355

School year 2005/2006

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2002	2001	2000	1999	groups	children
1	ADA	43	91	114	116	23	364
2	APATIN	0	4	22	21	3	47
3	BAČKA TOPOLA	30	71	158	157	20	416
4	BEČEJ	30	111	149	161	22	451
5	ŽITIŠTE	0	8	21	29	3	58
6	ZRENJANIN	18	33	38	57	6	146
7	KANJIŽA	50	111	204	193	30	558
8	KIKINDA	1	12	36	33	5	82

9	KOVAČICA	0	0	11	14	1	25
10	KOVIN	0	1	22	24	2	47
11	KULA	0	0	12	12	1	24
12	NOVA CRNJA						
	Nova Crnja	0	8	17	14	3	39
	Toba	0	0	0	7	1	7
13	MALI IDOŠ	10	29	78	91	10	208
14	NOVI BEČEJ	1	10	15	24	3	50
15	NOVI KNEŽEVAC	8	8	22	17	4	55
16	CITY OF NOVI SAD	42	69	40	47	11	198
17	ODŽACI	0	0	5	8	1	13
18	PLANDIŠTE	3	8	9	7	1	27
19	SENTA	63	107	177	194	28	541
20	SOMBOR	0	0	20	32	3	52
21	SRBOBRAN	8	9	26	32	4	75
22	SUBOTICA	91	150	230	234	34	705
23	TEMERIN	0	10	44	53	4	107
24	ČOKA	17	41	47	51	10	156
AP VOJVODINA		415	891	1,517	1,628	233	4,451

There are only aggregate data for the school year 2006/2007:

No	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Novi Sad	217
2.	Ada	415
3.	Apatin	51
4.	Bačka Topola	362
5.	Bečej	510
6.	Čoka	171
7.	Kanjiža	595
8.	Kikinda	84

9.	Kovačica	17
10.	Kovin	29
11.	Kula	21
12.	Novi Bečej	50
13.	Novi Knjaževac	57
14.	Odžaci	14
15.	Plandište	30
16.	Senta	578
17.	Sombor	49
18.	Srbobran	77
19.	Žitište	60
20.	Zrenjanin	186
21.	Subotica	749
22.	Nova Crnja	42
23.	Mali Idjoš	222
24.	Temerin	94
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>4,680</i>

Bilingual Education: Serbian and Hungarian

School year 2004/2005

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	ADA	7	0	0	0	1	7
2	BAČKA TOPOLA	45	48	91	116	14	300
3	BEČEJ	46	29	30	24	5	129
4	ŽITIŠTE	0	7	4	11	2	22
5	KIKINDA	0	3	6	4	1	13
6	KOVAČICA	0	22	5	0	1	27
7	NOVI KNEŽEVAC	15	0	0	0	1	15
8	PANČEVO	0	0	6	12	1	18
9	SOMBOR	0	0	15	28	2	43
10	SRBOBRAN	6	11	5	0	1	22
11	SUBOTICA	32	12	17	18	3	79
12	TEMERIN	79	0	0	0	3	79
	AP VOJVODINA	230	132	179	213	35	754

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School year 2005/2006

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2002	2001	2000	1999	groups	children
1	ADA	11	0	0	0	1	11
2	BAČKA TOPOLA	38	63	103	96	14	300
3	BEČEJ	51	42	32	30	7	155
4	ŽITIŠTE	1	2	11	10	2	24
5	KIKINDA	0	2	4	5	1	11
6	KOVAČICA	13	11	3	0	1	27
7	NOVI KNEŽEVAC	0	23	0	0	1	23
8	PANČEVO	0	0	10	15	1	25
9	SOMBOR	0	0	10	42	2	52
10	SRBOBRAN	1	15	5	1	1	22
11	SUBOTICA	41	26	5	4	3	76
13	ČOKA	6	13	0	0	2	19
	AP VOJVODINA	162	197	183	203	36	745

There are only aggregate data on bilingual education in Serbian and Hungarian for the school year 2006/2007:

No	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Bačka Topola	254
2.	Kikinda	7
3.	Novi Kneževac	22
4.	Senta	50
5.	Sombor	39
6.	Žitište	22
7.	Subotica	100
8.	Pančevo	16
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>510</i>

5.1.1.2.2. Language of Education – R o m a

Within the pre-school institution “Vera Gucunja” in Sombor, the Bački Monoštor department, **30 children** aged 3 to 6 attend pre-school in the Roma language.

Bilingual education: Serbian and Roma

School year 2004/2005

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	SOMBOR	0	0	8	10	2	18
	AP VOJVODINA	0	0	8	10	2	18

School year 2006/2007

In the municipality of Zrenjanin, within the “Zrenjanin” pre-school institution, education is conducted in Serbian, but also in the Roma language for fifteen minutes each day.

In the municipality of Subotica, Roma children in the preparatory group before starting school in the “Naša radost” pre-school institution learn in Serbian, but Roma assistants help them to master the programme.

5.1.1.2.3. Language of Education - R o m a n i a n

School year 2004/2005

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	ALIBUNAR	0	5	30	40	5	75
2	BELA CRKVA	0	0	10	0	1	10
3	Vršac - Kuštilj	0	0	10	5	2	15
	Vršac - Straža	1	3	3	5	2	12
	Vršac-Vojvodinci	0	0	7	1	2	8
	Vršac-Markovac	0	4	2	3	1	9
4	ŽITIŠTE	0	0	6	16	1	22
5	KOVAČICA	0	0	16	24	2	40
6	PLANDIŠTE	1	1	4	4	1	10
	AP VOJVODINA	2	13	88	98	17	201

School year 2005/2006

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2002	2001	2000	1999	groups	children
1	ALIBUNAR	1	3	25	42	5	71
2	BELA CRKVA	0	0	5	7	1	12
3	Vršac - Kuštilj	1	4	9	6	1	20
	Vršac - Straža	0	2	6	3	2	11
	Vršac-Vojvodinci	0	2	7	2	1	11
	Vršac-Markovac	0	2	4	3	1	9
4	ŽITIŠTE	0	4	7	9	1	20
5	KOVAČICA	0	0	19	25	2	44
6	PLANDIŠTE	0	0	3	4	1	7
	AP VOJVODINA	2	17	85	101	15	205

School year 2006/2007

No	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Bela Crkva	10
2.	Kovačica	16
3.	Plandište	6
4.	Vršac	72
5.	Žitište	21
6.	Zrenjanin	13
7.	Alibunar	51
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>189</i>

Bilingual Education: Serbian and Romanian

School year 2004/2005

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	ALIBUNAR	8	9	14	11	2	42
2	VRŠAC	0	0	4	7	1	11
3	VRŠAC-Vlajkovac	0	0	0	15	1	15
	AP VOJVODINA	8	9	18	33	4	68

School year 2005/2006

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2002	2001	2000	1999	groups	children
1	ALIBUNAR	0	4	9	6	1	19
2	VRŠAC	0	0	10	13	1	23
3	Vršac- Vlajkovac	0	0	7	8	1	15
4	PLANDIŠTE	0	0	3	9	1	12
	AP VOJVODINA	0	4	29	36	4	69

School year 2006/2007

- In Alibunar Municipality bilingual education is conducted in three groups with *57 children*.

5.1.1.2.4. Language of Education – R u t h e n i a n

School year 2004/2005

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	VRBAS	0	0	0	24	1	24
2	ŽABALJ	0	3	11	7	1	21
3	KULA	26	35	44	35	6	140
	AP VOJVODINA	26	38	55	66	8	185

School year 2005/2006

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2002	2001	2000	1999	groups	children
1	VRBAS	0	2	7	11	1	20
2	ŽABALJ	0	0	7	9	1	16
3	KULA	14	23	45	38	6	120
	AP VOJVODINA	14	25	59	58	8	156

School year 2006/2007

No	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Kula	154
2.	Vrbas	16
3.	Novi Sad	14
4.	Žabalj	14
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>198</i>

Language of education S e r b i a n, Ruthenian is optional

School year 2006/2007

<i>Town</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
Novi Sad	“Radosno Detinjstvo”	10 + 10
Vrbas	“Boško Buha”	20
Kula	“Bambi”	15
Šid, with the settlements of Bačinci, Berkasovo and Bikić Dol (in the preparatory stage)	“Jelica Stanivuković”	15
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>70</i>

5.1.1.2.5. Language of Education – S l o v a k

School year 2004/2005

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	ALIBUNAR	0	0	1	11	1	12
2	BAČ	0	0	6	30	2	36
3	B.PALANKA-Pivnice	0	0	1	17	1	18
	B.PALANKA-Silbaš	0	0	2	12	1	14
4	BAČKI PETROVAC	35	36	105	86	12	262
5	BEOČIN	0	0	7	11	1	18
6	KOVAČICA	13	20	68	98	8	199
7	CITY OF NOVI SAD	27	40	38	38	7	143
8	STARA PAZOVA	22	27	30	44	5	123
	AP VOJVODINA	97	123	258	347	38	825

School year 2005/2006

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN	Total
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		2002	2001	2000	1999	groups	children
1	ALIBUNAR	0	0	3	12	1	15
2	BAČ	0	2	10	25	2	37
3	B.PALANKA-Pivnice	0	0	3	12	1	15
	B.PALANKA-Silbaš	0	0	0	10	1	10
4	BAČKI PETROVAC	23	53	99	102	12	277
5	BEOČIN	0	0	2	9	1	11
6	KOVAČICA	27	18	76	110	9	231
7	CITY OF NOVI SAD	25	35	46	33	5	139
8	STARA PAZOVA	25	27	28	51	5	131
	AP VOJVODINA	100	135	267	364	37	866

School year 2006/2007

No	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Alibunar	11
2.	Bač	29
3.	Bačka Palanka	21
4.	Bački Petrovac	274
5.	Beočin	8
6.	Kovačica	130
7.	Novi Sad	195
8.	Stara Pazova	126
9.	Zrenjanin	12
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	806

Bilingual Education - Serbian and Slovak

School year 2004/2005

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	B.PALANKA-Pivnice	0	0	2	15	1	17
2	ODACI	0	0	3	14	1	17
3	PANČEVO	0	0	4	9	1	13
	AP VOJVODINA	0	0	9	38	3	47

School year 2005/2006

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2002	2001	2000	1999	groups	children
1	B.PALANKA-Pivnice	0	0	2	14	1	16
2	ODŽACI	0	0	6	8	1	14
3	PLANDIŠTE	7	5	4	11	2	27
4	PANČEVO	0	0	9	14	1	23
	AP VOJVODINA	7	5	21	47	5	80

School year 2006/2007

No	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Bačka Palanka - Pivnice	16
2.	Odžaci - Lalić	13
3.	Pančevo	14
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>43</i>

In the municipality of Zrenjanin, in the village Belo Blato, there is a mixed group attached to “Bratstvo–jedinstvo” elementary school with **14 children**, in which education is conducted in Serbian, Hungarian and Slovak.

5.1.1.2.6. Language of Education – C r o a t i a n

School year 2004/2005

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	SUBOTICA	19	8	23	6	3	56
	AP VOJVODINA	19	8	23	6	3	56

School year 2005/2006

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN	Total
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		2002	2001	2000	1999	groups	children
1	SUBOTICA	11	13	10	15	2	49
	AP VOJVODINA	11	13	10	15	2	49

School year 2006/2007

No	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Subotica	10

Bilingual Education- Serbian and Croatian

School year 2004/2005

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2001	2000	1999	1998	groups	children
1	SUBOTICA	0	4	18	36	4	60
	AP VOJVODINA	0	4	18	36	4	60

School year 2005/2006

No	MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF BORN CHILDREN				Total	
		2002	2001	2000	1999	groups	children
1	SUBOTICA	1	5	43	59	7	108
	AP VOJVODINA	1	5	43	59	7	108

School year 2006/2007

No	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Subotica	53

Only aggregate data are maintained for central Serbia, and they refer to the school year 2006/2007.

5.1.1.2.7. Language of Education – A l b a n i a n

Education in Albanian is conducted in three pre-school institutions, in 17 facilities, in the territory of three municipalities:

No	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Bujanovac	303
2.	Medveda	57
3.	Preševo	624
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	984

5.1.1.2.8. Language of Education – B o s n i a n

Attached to the Meshihat of the Islamic community in Novi Pazar there is a pre-school institution in which education is conducted in the *Bosnian language*, with 650 - 700 children.

5.1.1.2.9. Language of Education - B u l g a r i a n

Bilingual Education: Serbian and Bulgarian

For the children of Bulgarian nationality, bilingual education is conducted on the territory of two municipalities:

Number	Municipality	Number of children
1.	Bosilegrad	82
2.	Dimitrovgrad	250
	<i>TOTAL:</i>	332

5.1.1.2.10. Language of Education - R o m a

In the territory of central Serbia education in the Roma language is conducted in the following locations and in the following manner:

- In Obrenovac, within the NGO Razvojni Centar “Rom”, seventy children aged three to five prepare to attend pre-school classes, four hours per day in the Roma language.

- The Division for Pre-school and Primary Education of the Serbian Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the National Council of Roma National Minority is implementing a project “*Improving Access of Roma Children to Pre-School Education*”. The project is managed by the Project Steering Committee comprising : the representatives of the National Council of the Roma National Community, Ministry of Education and Sport, Agency for Human and Minority Rights, OSCE Mission in Serbia, Fund for an Open Society, World Bank and two Roma NGOs (Dečji romski centar (Children Roma Centre) and Forum romske inicijative (Roma Initiative Forum). Objectives of the project are: improved access to quality pre-school education for Roma children; providing quality primary education for a higher number of Roma children, improving academic achievement and reducing the drop-out rate; more active participation of parents of Roma children in the education process; establishing better communication between local Roma communities and local institutions; increasing motivation, sensitivity and professional competency of the teaching staff for the work

with Roma children; overcoming stereotypes and prejudices; developing the environment which respects diversity. The first phase includes **24** educational institutions, while the total planned coverage in the pilot phase is **600 children**. The basic requirements for the participation in the project are the development of preparatory pre-school curriculum in a pre-school institution or in an elementary school and a minimum 40% Roma children in the education group. In the school year 2006/2007, the project was extended and it now includes the total of **42** educational institutions in Serbia and another **700 children** aged 5,5 - 6,5 .

- The Red Cross of the Republic of Serbia is in charge of the project “Open Kindergarten for Roma children”. The basic objective of the project is to encourage and include Roma children in the formal education system, as well as to encourage the continuity of their education. The project is implemented by 30 Red Cross organisations in Serbia, five of which continuously organise activities connected with the customs and culture of the Roma population. Owing to the implementation of this project, volunteer resources of a certain number of organisations have been enriched with volunteers of Roma nationality, who, within the project, have a role of “Roma assistants”, and are a valuable link between the Red Cross and the local Roma community which is vital for successful project development. The role of ”Roma assistants” has been given to the partners from local Roma non-governmental organisations and to the parents of the children beneficiaries of the project, or Roma children attending secondary school. **36** associates of Roma nationality have been engaged for the project, 26 of which are Roma assistants, 9 Roma associates and 1 pedagogue of Roma nationality. Even though educational work is not entirely conducted in the Roma language, owing to Roma assistants, the Roma language has become a significant component in education.

Red Cross	Number of children attending «Open Roma kindergarten»
Smederevo	72
Čukarica	18
Irig	16
Zaječar	26
Aleksinac	34
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>166</i>

Bilingual Education: Serbian and Roma

<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
Preševo	10
Surdulica	83
Vranjska Banja	25
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>118</i>

5.1.2. Primary Education

5.1.2.1. Primary Education - Relevant Legal Provisions

Article 5 Paragraph 1 of the Law on Primary Education stipulates that the curriculum for persons belonging to a national minority shall be implemented not only in Serbian, but in the mother tongue, or bilingually, if at least 15 pupils apply for enrolment in the first grade of primary school. Pursuant to Paragraph 2 of the same Article, the school may implement the curriculum in the mother tongue as well, i.e. bilingually, for less than 15 pupils, with the approval of the Minister of Education. The Minister of Education shall prescribe the manner in which the curriculum is implemented bilingually. Pursuant to Paragraph 5 of the same Article of the Law, should the curriculum be developed in Serbian, the pupils belonging to a national minority can master the syllabus of the mother tongue (minority language) with elements of the national culture. Article 12 of the Law Establishing Particular Competencies of Autonomous Province, among other things, stipulates that the consent for the implementation of the curriculum in the regional or minority language for less than 15 pupils in the territory of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina shall be granted by provincial bodies. The above provisions clearly enable complete primary education in minority languages, and through bilingual teaching, a significant part of primary education is provided in minority languages, or through the syllabus of the mother tongue (minority language) with elements of national culture, it is ensured that the learning of minority language becomes an integral part of the curriculum. The above legal possibilities are implemented in practice for those pupils whose families so request, if the number of pupils is sufficient (15 pupils, or fewer, with the approval of the Minister of Education, or the Secretary of the Province).

5.1.2.2. Primary Education - Practice

On the territory of AP Vojvodina complete primary education, or studying the mother tongue with elements of the national culture, is conducted in the following minority languages:

- Hungarian
- Romanian
- Ruthenian
- Slovak
- Croatian
- Bulgarian
- Roma
- Ukrainian

5.1.2.2.1. Instruction in the Hungarian Language

Complete Instruction in the Hungarian Language

In the school year 2006/2007, in the territory of AP Vojvodina complete instruction in Hungarian is conducted in 27 municipalities, in seventy nine schools.

School year 2006/2007

MUNICIPALITY-SCHOOL	GRADE									Number of schools
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	TOTAL	
1) ADA										
Čeh Karolj"	94	100	116	99	114	107	97	83	810	1
N. Radonjić"	28	35	35	46	44	42	28	38	296	1
TOTAL	122	135	151	145	158	149	125	121	1,106	2
2) APATIN										
J. Arila"	12	14	16	18	17	13	19	20	129	1
K. Ferenc"	5	6	4	7	9	6	7	3	47	1
TOTAL	17	20	20	25	26	19	26	23	176	2
3) BAČKA TOPOLA										
Bratstvo - jedinstvo"	20	15	26	22	23	19	17	18	160	1
*"D. Djerdj"	21	19	22	28	17	19	20	23	169	1
Č. Lajoš"	41	58	58	66	67	69	51	46	456	1
M. Pijade"	16	14	20	15	18	24	17	11	135	1
N. Tesla"	26	24	38	39	24	36	29	32	248	1
*"S. K. Djula"	38	40	54	48	39	41	34	35	329	1
*"18. oktobar"	14	17	20	26	22	19	14	15	147	1
TOTAL	176	187	238	244	210	227	182	180	1,644	7
4) BELA CRKVA										
Dj. Maletić"	1		4	1					6	1
TOTAL	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	6	1
5) BEČEJ										
Š. Mihalj"	57	54	58	62	64	58	50	50	453	1
P. Šandor"	34	34	52	42	38	35	44	25	304	1
S. Đurkić"	17	8	9	10	12	8	15	11	90	1
Z. Gložanski"	11	14	15	13	25	18	19	16	131	1
S. Marković"	28	19	35	27	32	30	21	23	215	1
Š. Mihalj" BPS	44	60	52	46	64	50	48	37	401	1
TOTAL	191	189	221	200	235	199	197	162	1,594	6
6) ŽITIŠTE										
Sv. Sava"	3		3						6	1
M. Crnjanski"	8	12	13	13	18	14	9	15	102	1
N. Tesla'	20	18	20	27	23	19	23	23	173	1
TOTAL	31	30	36	40	41	33	32	38	281	3
7) ZRENJANIN										
Bratstvo - jedinstvo"	4		5	3					12	1
S. Marinković"	25	27	32	22	27	29	25	28	215	1
S. Mihalj"	39	46	71	55	41	51	54	38	395	1
TOTAL	68	73	108	80	68	80	79	66	622	3
8) KANJIŽA										
10. oktobar"	86	89	87	86	82	74	73	81	658	1
J. J. Zmaj"	97	97	111	147	143	133	104	92	924	1
*"K. Ferenc"	37	47	57	49	53	56	47	61	407	1
TOTAL	220	233	255	282	278	263	224	234	1,989	3

9) KIKINDA										
"G. Popov"	8	10	10	6	17	10	13	12	86	1
*"M. Karolj"	5	12	12	14	9	18	16	14	100	1
"Sv. Sava"	11	7	9	14	14	15	11	13	94	1
"F. Klara"	13	11	6	9	8	9	11	8	75	1
TOTAL	37	40	37	43	48	52	51	47	355	4
10) KOVAČICA										
"M. Pijade"	23	27	14	22	27	15	18	21	167	1
TOTAL	23	27	14	22	27	15	18	21	167	1
11) KOVIN										
*"Ž. Zrenjanin"	13	27	19	30	35	26	33	31	214	1
TOTAL	13	27	19	30	35	26	33	31	214	1
12) KULA										
"Veljko Vlahović"		1	1						2	1
"Petefi brigada"	14	9	15	12	14	18	14	17	113	1
TOTAL	14	10	16	12	14	18	14	17	115	2
13) MALI IDJOŠ										
"N. Đurković"	20	18	32	35	22	30	25	33	215	1
"A. Endre"	50	44	62	57	49	41	52	54	409	1
TOTAL	70	62	94	92	71	71	77	87	624	2
14) NOVA CRNJA										
"P. Šandor"	14	21	20	24	19	20	37	18	173	1
TOTAL	14	21	20	24	19	20	37	18	173	1
15) NOVI BEČEJ										
"Dj. Jovanović"	5	1	10	8					24	1
"M. Čiplić"	22	25	32	29	31	31	34	24	228	1
TOTAL	27	26	42	37	31	31	34	24	252	2
16) NOVI KNEŽEVAC										
"J. J. Zmaj"	19	24	30	24	28	22	30	29	206	1
TOTAL	19	24	30	24	28	22	30	29	206	1
17) NOVI SAD										
"N. Tesla"	7	3	8	7	6	7	11	7	56	1
"P. Šandor"	7	9	6	5	9	7	7	12	62	1
"S. Marinković"	4	11	7	14	7	7	8	8	66	1
"J. Arila"	12	10	12	13	13	19	13	13	105	1
"I. Andrić"	8	9	9	10	15	6	9	15	81	1
"Sv. Sava"	6	3	2	6	7	4	6	3	37	1
TOTAL	44	45	44	55	57	50	54	58	407	6
18) ODŽACI										
"J. Arila"	7	10	6	12	5	7	11	5	63	1
TOTAL	7	10	6	12	5	7	11	5	63	1
19) PANČEVO										
"Bratstvo - jedinstvo"		1	7	2			8		18	1
TOTAL	0	1	7	2	0	0	8	0	18	1
20) PLANDIŠTE										
"Dositej Obradović"	7	7	5	6	10	9	11	5	60	1
TOTAL	7	7	5	6	10	9	11	5	60	1
21) SENTA										

"Stevan Sremac"	167	178	247	234	261	231	224	212	1754	1
TOTAL	167	178	247	234	261	231	224	212	1,754	1
22) SEČANJ										
"B. Stefanović"		4		8					12	1
TOTAL	0	4	0	8	0	0	0	0	12	1
23) SOMBOR										
"Bratstvo- jedinstvo" Sombor	11	6	5	11	6	8	12	10	69	1
"Bratstvo - jedinstvo" SM	9	10	7	8	18	9	8	12	81	1
"K. Ferenc"	18	10	17	10	15	18	4	20	112	1
"Bratstvo - jedinstvo" Bezdan	17	20	18	15	15	21	21	13	140	1
P. Šandor"	12	5	8	6	3	5	4	3	46	1
TOTAL	67	51	55	50	57	61	49	58	448	5
24) SRBOBRAN										
"J. J. Zmaj"	29	30	30	35	33	33	42	18	250	1
TOTAL	29	30	30	35	33	33	42	18	250	1
25) SUBOTICA										
"M. Antić"	46	56	59	67	68	62	50	58	466	1
"M. Crnjanski"	8	9	9	10	7	16	15	15	89	1
"V. Karadžić"	7	26	18	19	18	17	12	15	132	1
"Dj. Salaj"	10	7	4	10	14	8	6	14	73	1
"I. G. Kovačić"	16	12	13	13	23	22	23	16	138	1
"S. Ištvan"	62	76	70	86	72	67	55	63	551	1
"J. J. Zmaj"	18	22	23	14	14	24	16	19	150	1
"J. Mikić"	21	12	24	18	18	23	15	11	142	1
"K. Ištvan"	21	18	23	25	20	21	26	21	175	1
"M. Vuković"		2	7						9	1
"S. Marinković"		5	11	9	11	6	5	7	54	1
"10. oktobar"	7	11	8	9	9	7	8	12	71	1
"Majšanski put"	45	54	49	49	44	48	47	40	376	1
"Sv. Sava"		3	4	2				6	15	1
*"Petefi Šandor"	28	47	45	42	42	44	46	37	331	1
"Narodni heroji"	80	50	82	102	103	93	101	88	699	1
TOTAL	369	410	449	475	463	458	425	422	3,471	16
26) TEMERIN										
*"Kokan Imre"	54	46	61	59	81	58	57	54	470	1
"P. Kočić"	13	12	23	22	25	19	27	15	156	1
TOTAL	67	58	84	81	106	77	84	69	626	2
27) ČOKA										
"Dr. Tihomir Ostojić"	13	11	16	11	16	14	13	14	108	1
"J. Popović"	30	24	45	35	33	32	32	30	261	1
"S. Mihalj"	12	12	12	12	14	25	19	20	126	1
TOTAL	55	47	73	58	63	71	64	64	495	3
TOTAL	1,855	1,945	2,305	2,317	2,344	2,222	2,131	2,009	17,128	79

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Number of schools	Number of municipalities	Difference in number of pupils in %
2002/2003	18,732	79	27	
2003/2004	18,525	78	27	-1.11
2004/2005	18,286	78	27	-1.29
2005/2006	17,778	78	27	-2.78
2006/2007	17,128	79	27	-3.66

Hungarian with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF PUPILS	NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES
1. Ada	37	1
2. Bačka Topola	193	1
3. Bečej	93	2
4. Vrbas	124	5
5. Vršac	41	2
6. Zrenjanin	104	3
7. Inđija	67	1
8. Kikinda	95	4
9. Kovačica	90	1
10. Kula	74	1
11. Novi Bečej	62	2
12. Novi Sad	287	11
13. Pančevo	82	2
14. Plandište	5	1
15. Sečanj	77	2
16. Senta	83	1
17. Sombor	143	6
18. Srbobran	20	1
19. Subotica	370	6
20. Temerin	26	1
21. Čoka	15	1
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>2,088</i>	<i>55</i>

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Difference in %
2002/2003	2,101	
2003/2004	2,228	6.04
2004/2005	2,494	11.94
2005/2006	2,175	-12.79
2006/2007	2,088	-4.00

5.1.2.2.2. Instruction in the Romanian Language

Complete Instruction in the Romanian Language

In the school year 2006/2007, in the territory of AP Vojvodina complete instruction in Romanian is organised in 9 municipalities, in eighteen primary schools.

School year 2006/2007

MUNICIPALITY - SCHOOLS	GRADE									Number of schools
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	TOTAL	
1) ALIBUNAR										
"Bratstvo - jedinstvo"	11	7	3	15	12	13	13	13	87	1
*"2. oktobar"	17	12	11	15	12	11	8	11	97	1
"1. maj"	13	21	15	20	16	14	16	12	127	1
*"3. oktobar"	20	21	17	33	20	24	22	14	171	1
TOTAL	61	61	46	83	60	62	59	50	482	4
2) BELA CRKVA										
*"M. Sadovenau"	13	5	16	11	7	9	5	12	78	1
TOTAL	13	5	16	11	7	9	5	12	78	1
3) VRŠAC										
"Branko Radičević" Uljma	15	10	13	6					44	1
"Branko Radičević"	1	3		4					8	1
*"Kornolan Doban"	16	12	8	13	13	19	17	15	113	1
"Olga Petrov Radišić"	16	23	19	20	26	34	31	35	204	1
"Moša Pijade"	4	1	4	2					11	1
TOTAL	52	49	44	45	39	53	48	50	380	5
4) ŽITIŠTE										
"Sveti Sava"	9	11	14	26	24	12	13	14	123	1
TOTAL	9	11	14	26	24	12	13	14	123	1
5) ZRENJANIN										
"Dr. Aleksandar Sabovljević"	9	7	6	9	7	6	7	5	56	1
"Dj. Jakšić"	1	1	2	3					7	1
TOTAL	10	8	8	12	7	6	7	5	63	2
6) KOVAČICA										
"Sveti Georgije"	23	21	24	12	16	13	19	13	141	1
TOTAL	23	21	24	12	16	13	19	13	141	1
7) PANČEVO										
"Aksentije Maksimović"	7	2	4	8					21	1
"Žarko Zrenjanin" BNS	13	10	9	14	15	8	14	14	97	1
TOTAL	20	12	13	22	15	8	14	14	118	2
8) PLANDIŠTE										
"Dositej Obradović"	5	5	5	7	5	7	8	12	54	1
TOTAL	5	5	5	7	5	7	8	12	54	1
9) SEČANJ										
"Ivo Lola Ribar"			3	2					5	1
TOTAL	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	5	1
TOTAL	193	172	173	220	173	170	173	170	1,444	18

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Number of schools	Number of municipalities	Difference in number of pupils in %
2002/2003.	1,499	18	9	
2003/2004.	1,523	18	9	1.60
2004/2005.	1,527	18	9	0.26
2005/2006.	1,480	18	9	-3.08
2006/2007.	1,444	18	9	-2.43

Romanian with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF PUPILS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
1. Alibunar	212	1
2. Bač	40	1
3. Vršac	10	1
4. Zrenjanin	5	1
5. Kovačica	44	1
6. Kovin	106	2
7. Novi Sad	13	1
8. Pančevo	16	2
9. Plandište	8	1
10. Sečanj	15	1
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>469</i>	<i>12</i>

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Difference in %
2002/2003	220	
2003/2004	204	-7.27
2004/2005	270	32.35
2005/2006	362	34.07
2006/2007	469	29.56

According to the opinion of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority on the implementation of the Charter in the field of education, “one of the greatest problems is decreased population, and, consequently, reduced number of pupils” who attend classes in Romanian. “Many parents (especially from mixed marriages) enrol their children in those classes where instruction is in Serbian, many of them have moved abroad, and dispersion has taken its toll”, so that “only about 60 % of Romanian children attend primary school in their mother tongue”. The National Council of Romanian National Minority points out that “schools lack teaching staff for the following courses: history, geography, mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, English”, and “in order to solve this problem the National Council has awarded 23 scholarships...” The biggest problems in education in Romanian, according to the National Council are the following: “textbooks, grade books, student registers, certificates, report books and competition tests and seminars for professional teacher training”. Regarding the subject of mother tongue

with elements of national culture, the National Council indicates that "the proposal of all national councils is that this subject should be introduced as compulsory and not optional".

5.1.2.2.3. Instruction in the Ruthenian Language

Complete Instruction in the Ruthenian Language

In the school year 2006/2007, in the territory of AP Vojvodina complete instruction in Ruthenian is organised in 3 municipalities, in three primary schools.

School year 2006/2007

MUNICIPALITY - SCHOOL	GRADE								TOTAL	
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII		
VRBAS										
"Bratstvo - jedinstvo" Kucura	12	18	11	13	16	20	22	15	127	
TOTAL	12	18	11	13	16	20	22	15	127	
ŽABALJ										
"J.J:Znaj" Djurdjevo	9	11	6	9	12	10	11	8	76	
TOTAL	9	11	6	9	12	10	11	8	76	
KULA										
*"Petro Kuzmjak" Ruski Krstur	41	38	58	46	55	63	52	51	404	
TOTAL	41	38	58	46	55	63	52	51	404	
TOTAL	62	67	75	68	83	93	85	74	607	

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Number of schools	Number of municipalities	Difference in number of pupils in %
2002/2003	722	3	3	
2003/2004	693	3	3	-4.02
2004/2005	669	3	3	-3.46
2005/2006	663	3	3	-0.90
2006/2007.	607	3	3	-8.45

Ruthenian with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF PUPILS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
1. Bačka Topola	48	2
2. Vrbas	87	5
3. Žabalj	6	1

4. Kula	24	2
5. Novi Sad	61	9
6. Sremska Mitrovica	7	1
7. Šid	45	2
<i>TOTAL:</i>	278	22

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Difference in %
2002/2003	269	
2003/2004	326	21.19
2004/2005	283	-13.19
2005/2006	290	2.47
2006/2007	278	-4.14

The National Council of Ruthenian National Minority, in its opinion on the implementation of the Charter in the field of education, points out that “there are textbooks, manuals, literature and other teaching materials, and school (pedagogic) documents are maintained in Ruthenian...” The Council estimates that “the working conditions are enviable, since the schools in almost all communities have been recently built and equipped with modern teaching aids, labs, library, computer equipment etc”. Pointing to the fact that “the number of pupils attending classes in Ruthenian has considerably increased lately ... although this number is not optimal yet”, the Council underlines that “it is necessary to include the study of the Ruthenian language as an optional subject in compulsory education ... and greater importance should be given to ... the parent survey ... at the beginning of the year ... Furthermore, it is necessary to ... engage the school supervisor, i.e. advisor for the Ruthenian language and literature, bearing in mind that his role in pedagogic work of schools with instruction in Ruthenian is significant.” The Society for Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture presents identical views in their report on the implementation of the Charter in the field of education.

5.1.2.2.4. Instruction in the Slovak Language

Complete Instruction in the Slovak Language

In the school year 2006/2007, in the territory of AP Vojvodina complete instruction in Ruthenian is organised in 12 municipalities, in seventeen primary schools.

School year 2006/2007

PRIMARY SCHOOL	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	TOTAL	
1) ALIBUNAR										
*"T. G. Masarik"	11	10	11	16	6	12	11	14	91	1
TOTAL	11	10		16	6	12	11	14	91	1
2) BAČ										

*"J. Kolar"	31	33	43	36	42	34	33	39	291	1
TOTAL	31	33	43	36	42	34	33	39	291	1
3) BAČKA PALANKA										
"15. oktobar"	21	22	31	25	29	27	22	34	211	1
"Braća Novakov"	7	2	8	7					24	1
TOTAL	28	24	39	32	29	27	22	34	235	2
4) BAČKI PETROVAC										
"J. Čajak"	68	42	62	55	59	57	78	61	482	1
"J. A. Komenski"	20	26	20	19	24	21	21	21	172	1
*"J. Marčok"	17	15	30	22	18	30	20	15	167	1
TOTAL	105	83	112	96	101	108	119	97	821	3
5) BEOČIN										
"J. Popović"	9	15	5	9					38	1
TOTAL	9	15	5	9	0	0	0	0	38	1
6) ZRENJANIN										
"Bratstvo "	5	8	12	6	10	11	6	7	65	1
"Bratstvo - jedinstvo"			5	4					9	1
TOTAL	5	8	17	10	10	11	6	7	74	2
7) KOVAČICA										
*"M. Tito"	78	68	95	73	70	73	74	72	603	1
"Mlada pokolenja"	50	41	60	46	47	50	44	64	402	1
TOTAL	128	109	155	119	117	123	118	136	1,005	2
8) INDIJA										
"22. jul"		5	2						7	1
TOTAL	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
9) NOVI SAD										
"Ljudovit Štur"	33	41	53	54	46	41	50	28	346	1
TOTAL	33	41	53	54	46	41	50	28	346	1
10) ODŽACI										
"Nestor Žučni"	6		5	3					14	1
TOTAL	6	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	14	1
11) STARA PAZOVA										
*"Heroj Janko Čmelik"	41	40	39	31	39	52	42	51	335	1
TOTAL	41	40	39	31	39	52	42	51	335	1
12) ŠID										
"Sava Šumanović"	6	3	3	6					18	1
TOTAL	6	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	18	1
TOTAL	403	371	473	412	390	408	401	406	3,275	17

Comparative Data

School year	Regular instruction		Bilingual instruction	
	Number of pupils	Difference in number of pupils in %	Number of pupils	% of decrease of number of pupils compared to previous school year
2002/2003	3,496		57	
2003/2004	3,382	-3.26	34	-40.35
2004/2005	3,428	1.36	16	-52.94
2005/2006	3,347	-2.36		
2006/2007	3,275	-2.15		

The Slovak Language with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF PUPILS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
1. Bačka Palanka	113	5
2. Bačka Topola	7	1
3. Bački Petrovac	12	1
4. Beočin	57	1
5. Vrbas	10	1
6. Zrenjanin	33	2
7. Kovačica	45	1
8. Novi Sad	152	23
9. Pančevo	58	1
10. Plandište	40	1
11. Šid	95	3
<i>TOTAL:</i>	622	40

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Difference in %
2002/2003	741	
2003/2004	677	-8.64
2004/2005	672	-0.74
2005/2006	768	14.29
2006/2007	622	-19.01

5.1.2.2.5. Instruction in the Croatian Language

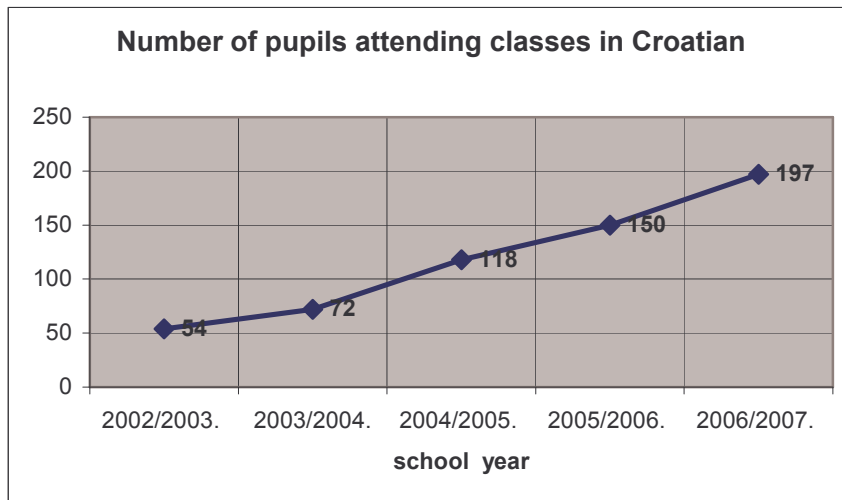
Complete Instruction in the Croatian Language

Complete instruction in Croatian is conducted in one municipality (Subotica), in five primary schools.

School year 2006/2007

MUNICIPALITY- SCHOOL -	GRADE								TOTAL
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	
SUBOTICA									
"V. Nazor"	2	4		1	13				20
"I. Milutinović"	13	8	16	6	11				54
"M. Gubec"	9		7	14					30
"Sveti Sava"		7	5						12
"M. Vuković"	22	9	19	10	21				81
TOTAL	46	28	47	17	59	0	0	0	197

Comparative Data



Croatian with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF PUPILS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
1. Apatin	48	1
2. Sombor	100	2
3. Subotica	214	7
<i>TOTAL:</i>	362	10

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Difference in %
2002/2003	8	
2003/2004	131	1,537.50
2004/2005	314	139.69
2005/2006	351	11.78
2006/2007	362	3.13

5.1.2.2.6. Instruction in the Bulgarian Language

Bulgarian with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF PUPILS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
1. Pančevo	21	1
<i>TOTAL:</i>	21	1

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Difference in %
2002/2003	-	
2003/2004	-	
2004/2005	-	
2005/2006	7	
2006/2007	21	200.00

5.1.2.2.7. Instruction in the Roma Language

The Roma Language with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF PUPILS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
1. Ada	39	1
2. Bač	8	1
3. Bačka Palanka	76	2
4. Žabalj	93	3
5. Zrenjanin	30	2
6. Kanjiža	78	1
7. Kikinda	49	3
8. Novi Bečej	46	2
9. Novi Sad	105	3
10. Odžaci	35	1
11. Sombor	35	4
12. Sremska Mitrovica	79	2
13. Subotica	38	1
14. Titel	12	1
<i>TOTAL:</i>	723	27

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Difference in %
2002/2003	352	
2003/2004	425	20.74
2004/2005	493	16.00
2005/2006	661	34.08
2006/2007	723	9.38

5.1.2.2.8. Instruction in the Ukrainian Language

Ukrainian with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF PUPILS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
1. Vrbas	35	3
2. Kula	47	2
3. Novi Sad	19	2
4. Sremska Mitrovica	17	1
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>8</i>

Comparative Data

School year	Number of pupils	Difference in %
2002/2003	62	
2003/2004	99	59.68
2004/2005	97	-2.02
2005/2006	121	24.74
2006/2007	118	-2.48

The National Council of Ukrainian National Minority, in its opinion on the implementation of the Charter in the field of education, points out the following: "The only institutional form of education in Ukrainian is optional learning of the mother tongue with the elements of national culture." Classes are held once a week, 2x 45 minutes, pupils are of different age and at different levels of knowledge of the language, classes from different schools are grouped in one class, the subject is not compulsory etc. Furthermore, it should be underlined that it is very difficult to harmonise the time of instruction (children go to school both in the morning and in the afternoon), parents have to bring children from distant parts of the town, even from different towns etc. The question arising is what are the possibilities of achieving good results in such conditions. However, the opinion is that this form of education should be fostered and developed. One of the forms of educating small national minority groups in their mother tongue is summer schools. The advantage of summer school is the possibility to organise it for students from all areas, where priority should be given to the children from places with no organised form of learning the mother tongue. "With regard to the summer school of Ukrainian language and culture, the National Council points to the fact that "the curriculum has been developed (for the older and younger group), instructors are both local staff and teachers from Ukraine, special teachers have been engaged for supplementary classes in different fields (religious instruction, history of the region, drawing, literature and theatre), the activity program has been developed for "leisure time". Summer schools have been organised for several years since 1998. In the last

several years 600 hundred pupils have attended these schools and studied in this manner. It can be concluded that the Ukrainian national minority has positive experiences in learning the mother tongue with elements of the national culture through summer schools. However, these schools have not yet been given the institutional form”.

In the territory of central Serbia complete primary education, or studying the mother tongue with elements of national culture is organised in the following minority languages:

- Albanian
- Bosnian
- Bulgarian
- Roma
- Ruthenian
- Slovak

Data are aggregate, and they refer to the school year 2006/2007.

5.1.2.2.9. Instruction in the Albanian Language

Complete Instruction in the Albanian Language

Complete primary education in Albanian is conducted in three municipalities in the south of Serbia.

In Bujanovac Municipality instruction is conducted in six primary schools.

SCHOOL	NUMBER OF PUPILS
O.Š. “Naim Frašeri”	543
O.Š. “Sami Frašeri”	560
O.Š. “Muharem Kadriu”	1,179
O.Š. “Desanka Maksimović”	549
O.Š. “Midjeni”	292
O.Š. “Ali Bektasi”	484
<i>TOTAL:</i>	3,607

In Preševo Municipality instruction is conducted in seven primary schools.

SCHOOL	NUMBER OF PUPILS
O.Š. “15. novembar” Preševo	2,452
O.Š. “A. Krasnica” Miratovac	688
O.Š. “S. Halači” Oraovica	757
O.Š. “Z. Hajsini” Rainci	352
O.Š. “Dituria” Crnotinac	492

O.Š. "Midjeni" Cerevajka	114
O.Š. "9. maj"Reljan	619
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>5,474</i>

In Medveđa Municipality instruction in Albanian is organised in three primary schools.

GRADE	NUMBER OF PUPILS
First	12
Second	7
Third	9
Fourth	12
Fifth	13
Sixth	17
Seventh	14
Eighth	8
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>92</i>

The total number of pupils being taught in Albanian in primary school is **9,173**.

5.1.2.2.10. Instruction in the Bosnian Language

Bosnian with Elements of National Culture

Bosnian with elements of national culture as an optional subject was introduced in the curriculum in the school year 2003/2004. Therefore, pupils from the first to the fourth grade are attending these classes this school year (next school year the pupils of the fifth grade will be learning it too).

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF PUPILS
Novi Pazar	3639
Prijepolje	33
Sjenica	1,200
Tutin	1,825
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>6,697</i>

According to the information of the National Council of the Bosniak National Minority on the exercising of the right to study the mother tongue with elements of national culture, this Council "has attempted several times to actively participate in the process of exercising this minority right through the state education system in the municipalities Prijepolje, Priboj and Nova Varoš, but in these municipalities the subject of Bosnian with elements of national culture has not yet been taught". The Committee for Human Rights and Humanitarian Activities from Priboj emphasises that "on the territory of Priboj municipality.... there are no records of any Bosniak family requesting primary instruction in the Bosnian language for those who would wish to learn. Most of the Bosniak

community are familiar neither with the right to education nor with the mechanism through which this right can be exercised”.

5.1.2.2.11. Instruction in the Bulgarian Language

Complete Instruction in the Bulgarian Language

In the school year 2006/2007, one class was opened in the primary school “Georgi Dimitrov” in Bosilegrad, in which complete instruction is conducted in Bulgarian and classes are attended by *11 pupils*.

Bulgarian with Elements of National Culture

Bulgarian with elements of national culture is learned in the territory of central Serbia in two municipalities: Bosilegrad and Dimitrovgrad.

In Bosilegrad Municipality, in the “Georgi Dimitrov” primary school, instruction is conducted in Serbian, and *711 pupils* attend classes of Bulgarian with elements of national culture, which is an optional subject in this school.

In Dimitrovgrad Municipality, in the “Moša Pijade” primary school, instruction is conducted in Serbian, and *728 pupils* attend classes of Bulgarian with elements of national culture, which is an optional subject in this school.

Therefore, in the territory of central Serbia, a total of *1,439 pupils* are learning Bulgarian with elements of national culture.

5.1.2.2.12. Instruction in the Roma Language

In Surdulica, in four primary schools and two outpost classes the total of 244 pupils from the first to the fourth grade are taught in two languages- the teacher teaches in Serbian, while a Roma assistant helps them master the programme in the Roma language.

The Roma Language with Elements of National Culture

In Obrenovac, a non-governmental organisation, Development centre “Rom” Obrenovac, organises classes of the Roma language with elements of national culture for eighty children from the first to the eighth grade of primary school.

Assistants providing support to the education of Roma children have been engaged in schools in the Republic of Serbia since the second term of the school year 2006/2007, within the activities connected with the Roma Decade in 2005/2015. The role of “Roma assistants” is to communicate with pupils, their parents and school, to provide support to Roma children in mastering the syllabus, overcoming problems in communication with teachers and other children but also to encourage pupils to continue their education. The total of fifty assistants speaking the Roma language have been selected, having necessary

qualifications, as well as the experience in working with Roma children and in implementing projects in education. The Ministry of Education and Sports, OSCE and the Centre for Interactive Pedagogy, with the support of the European Agency for Reconstruction, have organised a series of supplementary trainings and workshops for the assistants, so that eventually twenty assistants and eight mentors entered twenty schools in the whole territory of Serbia.

5.1.2.2.13. Instruction in the Ruthenian Language

Ruthenian with Elements of National Culture

Ruthenian with elements of national culture is an optional subject in Belgrade in primary school “Ćirilo i Metodije”, and the classes are attended by 15 pupils.

5.1.2.2.14. Instruction in the Slovak Language

Slovak with Elements of National Culture

Slovak with elements of national culture is taught in the primary school “Branko Radičević” in Boljevac as optional subject and classes are attended by 39 pupils.

5.1.3. Secondary Education

5.1.3.1. Secondary Education - Relevant Legal Provisions

The Law on Secondary Schools in Article 5. Paragraph 2. stipulates that the curriculum shall be implemented in the minority language, or bilingually, if at least 15 students of the first grade so request. The school may, pursuant to the same Article, Paragraph 3, also implement the curriculum in the minority language, i.e. bilingually for less than 15 students enrolled in the first grade, with the approval of the Minister of Education. The same Article Paragraph 5 stipulates that in the event that education is conducted in Serbian, students belonging to a national minority have a right to learn their mother tongue (minority language) with elements of national culture. Article 12 of the Law on Establishment of Specific Competencies of AP stipulates, inter alia, that the consent for implementing the curriculum in national minority languages for less than 15 students in the territory of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina shall be granted by bodies of the province. The above provisions clearly enable complete secondary education in minority languages, and through bilingual teaching, a significant part of secondary education is provided in minority languages, or through the syllabus of the mother tongue (minority language) with elements of national culture, it is ensured that the learning of minority language becomes an integral part of the curriculum. The above legal possibilities are implemented in practice for those students whose families so request, if the number of students is sufficient (15 students, or fewer, with the approval of the Minister of Education, or the Secretary of the Province).

5.1.3.2. Secondary Education - Practice

Education in secondary schools in the territory of AP Vojvodina is conducted in full or through the study of the subject mother tongue with elements of national culture in the following languages- Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian and Slovak.

5.1.3.2.1. Instruction in the Hungarian Language

Complete Instruction in the Hungarian Language

School year 2004/2005

Complete instruction in Hungarian was conducted in **10 high schools** (two of which are for talented students majoring in mathematics and languages) and these classes were attended by **1,203 students**:

1. High school in Novi Kneževac (41 students)
2. High school in Senta (284 students)
3. High school (boarding) for talented students “Boljai” in Senta (35 students)
4. Zrenjanin High School in Zrenjanin (84 students)
5. High school “Dositej Obradović” in Bačka Topola (163 students)
6. High school “Svetozar Marković” in Subotica (285 students)
7. Philological high school “Deže Kostolanji” in Subotica (60 students)
8. High school “Veljko Petrović” in Sombor (40 students)
9. High school in Bečej (125 students)
10. High school “Svetozar Marković” in Novi Sad (86 students)

School year 2005/2006

Complete instruction in Hungarian is conducted in **9 high schools** (two of which are specialized schools for talented students majoring in mathematics and languages) attended by **1,102 students**:

1. High school in Novi Kneževac (41 students)
2. High school in Senta (313 students)
3. High school of boarding type for talented students “Boljai” in Senta (56 students)
4. Zrenjanin High School in Zrenjanin(92 students)
5. High school “Svetozar Marković” in Subotica (261 student)
6. Philological high school “Deže Kostolanji” in Subotica (96 students)
7. High school “Veljko Petrović” in Sombor (39 students)
8. High school in Bečej (120 students)
9. High school “Svetozar Marković” in Novi Sad (84 students)

School year 2006/2007

Municipality-school	Number of classes	Number of students
NOVI KNEZEVAC		
1. High school	4	43
SENTA		
2. High school	12	303
3. High school for talented students majoring in science and mathematics (boarding type)	4	71
ZRENJANIN		
4. Zrenjaninska high school	4	101
SUBOTICA		
5. High school "Svetozar Marković"	12	270
6. Philological high school "Deže Kostolanji"	7	122
SOMBOR		
7. High school "Veljko Petrović"	3	30
BEČEJ		
8. High school	4	103
NOVI SAD		
9. High school "Svetozar Marković"	4	76
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>1,119</i>

5.1.3.2.2. Instruction in the Romanian Language

School year 2004/2005

Complete Instruction in the Romanian Language

Complete instruction in Romanian in the school year 2004/2005 was also conducted in "Borislav Petrov Braća" high school in Vršac (general type of high school for **69 students**).

Romanian with Elements of National Culture

Instruction of the subject Romanian with elements of national culture, for the students attending classes in Serbian, was conducted in "Borislav Petrov Braća" high school in Vršac for **13 students**.

School year 2005/2006

Complete Instruction in the Romanian Language

Complete instruction in Romanian in the school year 2005/2006 was conducted in “Borislav Petrov Braca” high school in Vršac (general type of high school for **74 students**).

Romanian with Elements of National Culture

Instruction of the subject Romanian with elements of national culture for the students attending classes in Serbian is conducted in “Borislav Petrov Braca” high school in Vršac for **9 students** and in “Mihajlo Pupin” high school in Kovačica for **18 students**.

School year 2006/2007

Complete Instruction in the Romanian Language

Municipality-school	Number of classes	Number of students
VRŠAC		
1. High school “Borislav Petrov – Braca”	4	93
<i>TOTAL:</i>	4	93

Romanian with Elements of National Culture

Municipality-school	Number of students per classes				Total number of students
	I	II	III	IV	
KOVAČICA					
1. High school “Mihajlo Pupin”	7	5	3	3	18
VRŠAC					
2. High school “Borislav Petrov – Braca”	3	3	1	2	9
<i>TOTAL:</i>					27

5.1.3.2.3. Instruction in the Ruthenian Language

Complete Instruction in the Ruthenian Language

School year 2004/2005

Instruction in Ruthenian in the school year 2004/2005 was conducted in “Petro Kuzmjak” high school in Ruski Krstur (general type of high school) in Kula municipality, for **75 students**.

School year 2005/2006

Instruction in Ruthenian in the school year 2004/2005 was conducted in “Petro Kuzmjak” high school in Ruski Krstur (general type of high school) in Kula municipality, for **78 students**.

School year 2006/2007

Complete Instruction in the Ruthenian Language

MUNICIPALITY-SCHOOL	Number of classes	Number of students
KULA		
1. High school “Petro Kuzmjak” u Ruskom Krsturu	4	75
<i>TOTAL:</i>	4	75

Optional Classes of Ruthenian

Novi Sad	Technical school “Jovan Vukanović” (students from other schools attend as well)	21
<i>TOTAL:</i>		21

5.1.3.2.4. Instruction in the Slovak Language

School year 2004/2005

Complete Instruction in the Slovak Language

Complete instruction in Slovak in the school year 2004/2005 was conducted in two high schools of general type with **346 students**:

1. High school (boarding type) “Jan Kolar” in Bački Petrovac (233 students)
2. High school “Mihajlo Pupin” in Kovačica (113 students)

Slovak with Elements of National Culture

Instruction of the subject Slovak with elements of national culture in the school year 2004/2005 was conducted for **63 students** attending classes in Serbian in “Branko Radičević” high school in Stara Pazova for 28 students, “20. oktobar” high school in Bačka Palanka for 14 students and in High school in Kovačica for 21 student.

School year 2005/2006

Complete Instruction in the Slovak Language

Complete instruction in Slovak in the school year 2005/2006 was conducted in two high schools of general type with **367 students**:

1. High school (residential type) “Jan Kolar” in Bački Petrovac (248 students)
2. High school “Mihajlo Pupin” in Kovačica (119 students)

Slovak with Elements of National Culture

Instruction of the subject Slovak with elements of national culture in the school year 2005/2006 was conducted for **34 students** attending classes in Serbian in “Branko Radičević” high school in Stara Pazova for 22 students, and in High school in Kovačica for 12 students.

School year 2006/2007

Complete Instruction in the Slovak Language

MUNICIPALITY-SCHOOL	Number of classes	Number of students
KOVAČICA		
1. High school “Mihajlo Pupin”	4	121
BAČKI PETROVAC		
2. High school “Jan Kolar” (residential)	10	258
<i>UKUKIHO:</i>		<i>14</i>
		<i>379</i>

Slovak with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY-SCHOOL	Number of students per classes				Total number of students
	I	II	III	IV	
KOVAČICA					
1. High school “Mihajlo Pupin”	12				12
STARA PAZOVA					
2. High school “Branko Radičević”	4	5	9	4	22
<i>TOTAL:</i>					<i>34</i>

Secondary education in central Serbia is conducted either in full or by studying the mother tongue with elements of national culture in Albanian and in Bulgarian. The data refer to the school year 2006/2007.

5.1.3.2.5. Instruction in the Albanian Language

In Preševo Municipality, classes in Albanian are attended by **1,041 students** in “Skenderbeg” high school.

5.1.3.2.6. Instruction in the Bulgarian Language

Bulgarian with Elements of National Culture

The High school in Bosilegrad is of general type, but there are two outpost classes of Economic school from Vranje (majoring in sales) and Technical school from Vranje (majoring in electromechanics). The school is attended by **219 students**, instruction is conducted in Serbian, and Bulgarian with elements of national culture is a compulsory subject.

In “Sveti Kirilo i Metodije” high school in Dimitrovgrad, instruction is conducted in Serbian, but classes of Bulgarian with elements of national culture are attended by **330 students**. There are three streams in this high school:

- General
- Tourist trade technician
- Salesman

Therefore, a **total of 549 students** in Serbia attend classes of Bulgarian with elements of national culture.

5.1.4. Technical or Vocational Education

5.1.4.1. Technical or Vocational Education - Relevant Legal Provisions

In the educational system of the Republic of Serbia technical or vocational education is a part of secondary education and the language of instruction is regulated by the Law on Secondary Schools.

5.1.4.2. Technical or Vocational Education - Practice

5.1.4.2.1. Instruction in the Hungarian Language

School year 2004/2005

Complete Instruction in the Hungarian Language

Complete instruction in Hungarian in the school year 2004/2005 was conducted in **23 vocational schools** for **5,534 students**:

1. Technical school in Ada (473 students)

2. Agriculture-technical centre for secondary education "Besedaš Jožef" in Kanjiža (617 students)
3. Secondary school "Dositej Obradović" in Novi Kneževac (86 students)
4. School of economics and commerce in Senta (331 student)
5. Secondary medical school in Senta (276 students)
6. Chemical and food processing secondary school in Čoka (219 students)
7. Medical school in Zrenjanin (112 students)
8. Secondary school of agriculture in Zrenjanin (17 students)
9. Secondary school of electrical and civil engineering "Nikola Tesla" in Zrenjanin (120 students)
10. School of agriculture in Bačka Topola (369 students)
11. Technical school "Šinković Jožef" in Bačka Topola (175 students)
12. Secondary school of economics "Bosa Milićević" in Subotica (324 students)
13. Secondary medical school in Subotica (237 students)
14. School of polytechnics in Subotica (337 students)
15. Secondary school of chemistry and technology "Lazar Nešić" in Subotica (370 students)
16. Technical school in Subotica (622 students)
17. Secondary medical school "Dr Ružica Rip" in Sombor (96 students)
18. Secondary technical school in Sombor (75 students)
19. School of economics and commerce in Bečej (235 students)
20. Technical school in Bečej (156 students)
21. Medical school "7. april" in Novi Sad (78 students)
22. School of electrical engineering "Mihajlo Pupin" in Novi Sad (77 students)
23. Technical school in Temerin (64 students)

Instruction in Hungarian is conducted in one art school - Music school in Subotica (**68 students**).

Hungarian Language with Elements of National Culture

At the request of students, instruction of Hungarian with elements of national culture is conducted for students attending classes in Serbian for **12 students** in Technical school in Temerin.

School year 2005/2006

Complete Instruction in the Hungarian Language

Complete instruction in Hungarian in the school year 2005/2006 was conducted in **24 vocational schools** for **5,629 students**:

1. Technical school in Ada (446 students)
2. Agriculture-technical centre for secondary education "Besedaš Jožef" in Kanjiža (603 students)

3. Secondary school "Dositej Obradović" in Novi Kneževac (90 students)
4. School of economics and commerce in Senta (321 student)
5. Secondary medical school in Senta (280 students)
6. Chemical and food processing secondary school in Čoka (207 students)
7. Medical school in Zrenjanin (117 students)
8. Secondary school of agriculture in Zrenjanin (14 students)
9. Secondary school of electrical and civil engineering "Nikola Tesla" in Zrenjanin (138 students)
10. School of agriculture in Bačka Topola (328 students)
11. Technical school "Šinković Jožef" in Bačka Topola (151 student)
12. Secondary school of economics "Bosa Milićević" in Subotica (321 student)
13. Secondary medical school in Subotica (240 students)
14. School of polytechnics in Subotica (342 students)
15. Secondary school of chemistry and technology "Lazar Nešić" in Subotica (340 students)
16. Technical school in Subotica (613 students)
17. Secondary medical school "Dr Ružica Rip" in Sombor (96 students)
18. Secondary technical school in Sombor (81 student)
19. School of economics and commerce in Bečej (250 students)
20. Technical school in Bečej (141 student)
21. Medical school "7. april" in Novi Sad (108 students)
22. School of agriculture (of residential type) in Futog (10 students)
23. School of electrical engineering "Mihajlo Pupin" in Novi Sad (72 students)
24. Technical school in Temerin (79 students)

Instruction in Hungarian is conducted in one mixed school - High school and The School of economics "Dositej Obradović" in Bačka Topola (**178 students**), and in one art school - Music school in Subotica (**63 students**).

Hungarian with Elements of National Culture

Classes of Hungarian with elements of national culture are organised at the request of the students attending classes in Serbian for **12 students** in Technical school in Temerin.

School year 2006/2007

Complete Instruction in Hungarian

Secondary vocational schools		
MUNICIPALITY-SCHOOL	Number of classes	Number of students
ADA		
1. Technical school	22	433
KANJIŽA		
2. Technical and agriculture secondary school "Besedeš Jožef"	28	538

NOVI KNEŽEVAC		
3. Secondary school “Dositej Obradović”	6	96
SENTA		
4. School of economics and commerce	11	314
5. Secondary medical school	9	290
ČOKA		
6. Chemical and food processing secondary school	10	185
ZRENJANIN		
7. Medical school	4	115
8. Secondary school of agriculture	2	24
9. School of electrical and civil engineering “Nikola Tesla”	5	107
BAČKA TOPOLA		
10. School of agriculture	21	313
11. Technical school “Šinković Jožef”	10	179
SUBOTICA		
12. Secondary school of economics “Bosa Miličević”	11	315
13. Secondary medical school	10	246
14. School of polytechnics	15	313
15. Secondary school of chemistry technology “Lazar Nešić”	16	305
16. Technical school	26	627
SOMBOR		
17. Secondary medical school «Dr Ružica Rip»	4	89
18. Secondary technical school	6	75
BEČEJ		
19. School and economics and commerce	10	238
20. Technical school	7	148
NOVI SAD		
21. Medical school “7. april”	4	114
22. School of agriculture-residential	2	18
23. School of electrical engineering “Mihajlo Pupin”	4	74
TEMERIN		
24. Technical school	6	70
<i>TOTAL:</i>	249	5,226

Other schools		
MUNICIPALITY-SCHOOL	Number of classes	Number of students
BAČKA TOPOLA		
1. High school and school of economics “Dositej Obradović”	8	185

SUBOTICA		
2. Music school	4	73
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>258</i>

Hungarian with Elements of National Culture

MUNICIPALITY-SCHOOL	Number of students per classes				Total number of students
	I	II	III	IV	
TEMERIN					
1. Technical school		6	6		12
<i>TOTAL:</i>					<i>12</i>

5.1.4.2.2. Instruction in the Romanian Language

Complete Instruction in the Romanian Language

School year 2004/2005

Complete instruction in Romanian in the school year 2004/2005 was conducted in School of economics and commerce “Dositej Obradović” in Alibunar for **103 students**.

School year 2005/2006

Complete instruction in Romanian in the school year 2005/2006 was conducted in School of economics and commerce “Dositej Obradović” in Alibunar for **98 students**.

School year 2006/2007

MUNICIPALITY-SCHOOL	Number of classes	Number of students
ALIBUNAR		
1. School of economics and commerce “Dositej Obradović”	4	107
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>107</i>

5.1.4.2.3. Instruction in the Slovak Language

Slovak with Elements of National Culture

School year 2004/2005

Classes of the subject Slovak with elements of national culture in the school year 2004/2005 were organised for **111 students** attending classes in Serbian in: School of economics and commerce “Vuk Karadžić” in Stara Pazova for 40 students, Technical school in Stara Pazova for 53 students and in Technical school “9. maj” in Bačka Palanka for 18 students.

School year 2005/2006

Classes of the subject Slovak with elements of national culture in the school year 2004/2005 were organised for **93 students** attending classes in Serbian in: School of economics and commerce “Vuk Karadžić” in Stara Pazova for 33 students, Technical school in Stara Pazova for 56 students and in Technical “9. maj” in Bačka Palanka for 4 students .

School year 2006/2007

MUNICIPALITY-SCHOOL	Number of students per classes				Total number of students
	I	II	III	IV	
BAČKA PALANKA					
1. Technical school “9. maj”		3	1		4
STARA PAZOVA					
2. School of economics and commerce “Vuk Karadžić”	7	5	8	13	33
3. Technical schools	27	12	11	6	56
<i>TOTAL:</i>					93

Secondary technical or vocational education in central Serbia is organised in Albanian. The data refer to school year 2006/2007.

5.1.4.2.4. Instruction in the Albanian Language

Complete Instruction in the Albanian Language

SCHOOL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	
Secondary technical school “Sezai Suroi” Bujanovac	986	
Technical school	18	
Secondary technical school “Preševo”	827	
<i>TOTAL:</i>		1,831

5.1.5. Higher Education

5.1.5.1. Higher Education - Relevant Legal Provisions

University education in the Republic of Serbia is regulated by the Law on Higher Education. Pursuant to Article 40 an independent higher education institution may be founded by the Republic, or by a legal or a natural person, in accordance with the law. Where the Republic is the founder of an independent higher education institution, the Government shall take the decision on the foundation. Pursuant to Article 6 the autonomy of a university and of other independent higher education institutions shall include, inter

alia, the right to decide on the curriculum. A higher education institution may begin its activities upon acquiring the operating permit. Pursuant to Article 41 of the Law, the operating permit is issued by the Ministry of Education, at the request of a higher education institution. The higher education institution shall enclose with the application for obtaining the operating permit the founding act and proof that requirements for the issuance of the operating permit and for the accreditation of the curriculum have been met. The Ministry shall issue the operating permit at the request of a higher education institution if the Accreditation and Quality Evaluation Commission established by the National Council gives a positive opinion about: 1) content, quality and scope of curriculum for academic, i.e. professional career studies; 2) necessary number of teaching and other staff with necessary qualifications; 3) provided suitable space and equipment, in accordance with the number of students a higher education institution intends to enrol and necessary quality of studies. Pursuant to Article 80, a higher education institution may organise and implement studies, and/or certain parts of studies, and organise the preparation and defence of a doctoral dissertation, in the minority language, in accordance with the Statute. A higher education institution may implement the curriculum in the minority language if such curriculum has been approved and/or accredited.

5.1.5.2. High Education - Practice

5.1.5.2.1. The Albanian Language

At the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade there is a Department of Albanology, and within this department there is a Study Group for the Albanian Language and Literature.

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of studies	Number of enrolled students
2002/2003	20	19
2003/2004	20	19
2004/2005	20	14
2005/2006	20	20
2006/2007	20	12

5.1.5.2.2. The Bosnian Language

At the International Faculty in Novi Pazar at the Department of Philology there is a section for *the Serbian/Bosnian Language and Literature*.

5.1.5.2.3. The Bulgarian Language

Bulgarian is studied at the department for Serbian with South Slavic languages, within the Study Group for Bulgarian Language and Literature of the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade.

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of	Number of enrolled students
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	studies	
2002/2003	20	23
2003/2004	20	14
2004/2005	20	18
2005/2006	20	16
2006/2007	20	8

5.1.5.2.4. The Hungarian Language

Hungarian is studied both at the faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad – Department of Hungarology, Study Group for Hungarian Language and Literature and at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade- Department of Hungarology, Study group for Hungarian Language and Studies.

The Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of studies	Number of enrolled students
2002/2003	30	26
2003/2004	30	30
2004/2005	31	32
2005/2006	30	27
2006/2007	30	26

The Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of studies	Number of enrolled students
2002/2003	20	15
2003/2004	20	17
2004/2005	20	11
2005/2006	20	15
2006/2007	20	14

5.1.5.2.5. The Roma Language

At the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad *the School of Roma Language and Culture* has been organised in the last three years, *The School of Roma Language and Culture*, as part of ACIMSI university studies of the Centre for Gender Studies (women`s studies and research).

The School of Roma Language and Culture is organised in the form of four modules, with a total of 32 classes: language, literature, history, culture, and the classes are taught by professors from various universities in the country and abroad.

In the school year 2004-2005, 48 students enrolled into the School of Roma Language and Culture, 36 of which graduated.

In the school year 2005-2006, 25 students enrolled into the School of Roma Language and Culture, 16 of which graduated.

In the school year 2006-2007, in the winter term, at the Department of Media Studies, the Introduction to Roma Language and Culture was an optional subject. The classes were attended by 46 students.

5.1.5.2.6. The Romanian Language

Romanian can be studied at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad – Department of Romanian Studies, Study group for Romanian Language and Literature and at the Faculty of Philology – The Department for Romanian Language and Literature.

The Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of studies	Number of enrolled students
2002/2003	15	7
2003/2004	30	13
2004/2005	31	4
2005/2006	30	3
2006/2007	30	5

The Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of studies	Number of enrolled students
2002/2003	20	20
2003/2004	20	19
2004/2005	20	12
2005/2006	20	17
2006/2007	20	18

5.1.5.2.7. The Ruthenian Language

Ruthenian is taught at the Department of Ruthenian Studies, Study Group for Ruthenian Language and Literature of the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad.

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of studies	Number of enrolled students
2002/2003	15	4
2003/2004	15	4
2004/2005	15	7
2005/2006	15	6

2006/2007	15	6
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5.1.5.2.8. The Slovak Language

Slovak is taught at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad – Department of Slovak Studies, Study Group for Slovak Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade- and at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade - The Department of Slavistics in Belgrade, The Study Group for Slovak Language and Literature.

The Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of studies	Number of enrolled students
2002/2003	15	3
2003/2004	15	7
2004/2005	15	6
2005/2006	15	9
2006/2007	15	1

The Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of studies	Number of enrolled students
2002/2003	20	16
2003/2004	20	13
2004/2005	20	14
2005/2006	20	15
2006/2007	20	10

5.1.5.2.9. The Ukrainian Language

At the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, at the Department of Ruthenian Studies is studied as compulsory two-term subjects on the second year of studies for the students of this department. This academic year (2006/2007) classes of Ukrainian were attended by 8 students.

At the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade at the Department of Slavistics, there is a Study Group for Ukrainian Language and Literature.

Academic year	Expected number of students to be enrolled in the first year of studies	Number of enrolled students
2002/2003	10	6
2003/2004	20	11
2004/2005	20	15
2005/2006	20	15
2006/2007	20	16

5.1.5.2.10. The Croatian Language

At present there is no study group for Croatian at a faculty in Serbia, although Croatian is studied at the Faculty of South Slavic Philology at the Faculty of Philology in the first, second and fourth year within the subject **Modern Serbian and Croatian language**.

5.1.6. Adult Education

5.1.6.1. Adult Education – Relevant Legal Provisions

The Law on Elementary school regulates adult education within the system of primary education which is compulsory in the Republic of Serbia. Pursuant to Article 94 persons above the age of 15, who do not attend school regularly, and are considered adults according to the law, acquire the right to primary education according to a special curriculum for adults. Provisions of the Law on Primary Schools which regulate the use of minority languages in the education process refer to primary adult education. Public authorities are not directly authorized in other aspects of adult education, but through their curriculum which was adopted for teaching regional or minority languages in secondary school or through selected available text books, encourage studying these languages.

5.1.6.2. Adult Education - Practice

5.1.6.2.1. Primary Adult Education in the Hungarian Language

On the territory of Vojvodina, within the system of primary education, there are only institutions for adult education in Hungarian.

Municipality / school	Number of attendees
Sombor	
Separate department – Bezdán	23
Subotica	45
TOTAL	68

School year	Number of attendees	Difference on the number of students in percentage (%)
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2002/2003	93	
2003/2004	71	-23.66
2004/2005	60	-15.49
2005/2006	67	11.67
2006/2007	68	1.49

5.1.6.2.2. Primary Adult Education in Roma

A project *Functional Primary Education of Adult Roma*, organised by The Ministry of Education and Sports, The Fund for Roma Education and the Institute of Pedagogy and Andragogy is in progress. The project includes Roma aged between 15 and 35 from the whole territory of Serbia, who, by mastering the programme of this project acquire primary education and additional training for work. The teaching is conducted in Serbian, but the curriculum includes a subject Roma language with elements of national culture, chosen by the students of three schools in Vojvodina (Sombor, Ada and Mol), while in the 8 remaining schools (central Serbia) this subject is not taught yet.

5.1.7. Arrangements Concerning Learning History and Culture Associated with Minority Languages

The most important arrangement providing studying of history and culture associated with minority languages in the education system of the Republic of Serbia is the subject mother tongue with elements of national culture. Besides this possibility, pursuant to Article 13 Paragraph 7, the curriculum in educational institutions teaching in Serbian, with the aim of encouraging tolerance towards national minorities, should include classes on history, culture and the position of national minorities.

5.2.

Article 9

Judicial Authorities

1. The Parties undertake, in respect of those judicial districts in which the number of residents using the regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below, according to the situation of each of these languages and on condition that the use of the facilities afforded by the present paragraph is not considered by the judge to hamper the proper administration of justice:

Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs:

a)

in criminal proceedings:

(ii) to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language; and/or

(iii) to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language;

b)

in civil proceedings:

(ii) to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense;

c)

in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters:

(ii) to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense;

d) to take steps to ensure that the application of sub-paragraphs i and iii of paragraphs b and c above and any necessary use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned.

2) The Parties undertake:

a) not to deny the validity of legal documents drawn up within the State solely because they are drafted in a regional or minority language; or

b) not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in a regional or minority language, and to provide that they can be invoked against interested third parties who are not users of these languages on condition that the contents of the document are made known to them by the person(s) who invoke(s) it; or

c) not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in a regional or minority language.

3) The Parties undertake to make available in the regional or minority languages the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of these languages, unless they are otherwise provided.

The judicial districts where the populations which use regional or minority languages justify the measures embraced are listed in section 3.1.3 and in connection with section 2.1.3. of the Report.

5.2.1. Legislation Relevant for the Application of Article 9

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guarantees to persons belonging to national minorities the right to the use of their own languages and scripts, as well as the right, in areas where they make up a significant percentage of the population, to have public authorities, organisations vested with public authority, autonomous province authorities and local self-governments conduct procedures also in their own languages.

Furthermore, under Article 199 of the Constitution, everyone is *entitled to use his or her own language in court proceedings* and in communicating with public authorities or organisations vested with public authority when that person's rights or obligations are being decided on. Lack of knowledge of the language in which proceedings are being conducted may not be an obstacle to the exercise and protection of human and minority rights. Related to these provisions is Article 32 para. 2 of the Constitution concerning the right to a fair trial under which everyone is guaranteed the right to a *translator or interpreter free of charge* if he or she does not speak or understand the language which is in official use in the court. Persons deprived of liberty by a public authority are immediately informed in a language they can understand about the reasons for their deprivation of liberty, about the accusation against them and about their rights, and have a right to notify any person they choose of their deprivation of liberty, without delay (Article 27); under Article 33, persons charged with a criminal offence are entitled to notification, in a language they understand and within the shortest possible time-limit, and in accordance with the law, about the nature of and grounds for the offence of which they are accused and the evidence against them.

Article 3 of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts defines official use of languages and scripts as the use of languages in verbal and written communication between public authorities, as well as in their communication with parties/citizens, as well as in the conduct of procedures for the realisation and protection of the rights, duties and responsibilities of private citizens. Under the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, in territories of local self-government entities where national minorities have traditionally lived, their languages and scripts may be in official use on an equal footing, which implies in particular the use of minority languages in court proceedings and the conduct of judicial proceedings in minority languages (Article 11 paras. 1 and 4). The Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts contains provisions precisely defining in which cases the official use of minority languages in judicial proceedings will take place. First-instance judicial proceedings in which courts rule on the rights and obligations of private citizens are conducted in Serbian, but may also be conducted in the minority language which is in use in the court which is conducting the proceedings. Where a court covers several municipalities, proceedings may be conducted in the minority languages which are in official use in the municipalities covered by that court, for parties to the proceedings who are resident in the municipality where the minority language is in official use. Where only one party is taking part in proceedings, at its request the proceedings will be conducted in the minority language which is in official use in the court conducting the proceedings. Where several parties which use different languages are taking part in proceedings, under the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts the proceedings will be conducted in one of the languages which are in official use in the court conducting the proceedings on which the parties will reach mutual agreement. If the parties fail to agree on the language in which the proceedings will be conducted, that language will be determined by the court before which the proceedings are conducted, unless one party requests that the proceedings be conducted in the Serbian language, in which case the proceedings will be conducted in that language (Article 12).

Determining the language in which the proceedings will be conducted is an anterior question which is under the provisions of the said Law within the purview of the person conducting the proceedings. The court before which the proceedings are conducted has a duty to inform parties about the languages which are in official use in that court's territorial jurisdiction and to ask parties which language they want the proceedings to be conducted in. Until the language of the proceedings is established, proceedings in court will be conducted in Serbian. The manner of determining the language of the proceedings and the language of proceedings chosen will be specified in the record, as prescribed by Article 13 of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts. The record, first-instance proceedings decisions and decisions in connection with those proceedings are drafted, as original texts, in Serbian and in the minority language, if the proceedings were conducted in that minority language (Article 14).

In respect of the exercise of the right to the use of minority languages in courts where their official use is not foreseen, under the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts the court conducting the proceedings has a duty to provide for the use of a minority language in the proceedings, as well as for the submittal in that language of petitions, complaints, appeals, proposals, applications and other submissions, and, if so requested, to ensure the issuance in that minority language of decisions, rulings, verdicts and other acts deciding on rights and obligations. Such a requested is deemed to exist where a submission was made in a minority language (Article 16).

In respect of statements given in minority languages by parties, witnesses, court experts and other persons participating in proceedings before a court where the official use of minority languages is not foreseen, such statements are entered in the record in Serbian. Where requested by parties in the proceedings, the record, or parts of the record, will be translated into those parties' mother tongues, or minority languages. The same will be done if a statement is given in Serbian and a party to the proceedings requests its translation into a minority language. If the official conducting the proceedings has no knowledge or insufficient knowledge of the minority language in which the proceedings are being conducted, the proceedings will be conducted with the help of an interpreter/translator. Under the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the costs of translation and interpretation will be borne by the court before which the proceedings are being conducted (Article 18).

Provisions on the official use of languages in the work of courts are also contained in laws regulating criminal proceedings, civil proceedings and administrative proceedings before courts.

5.2.2. Criminal Proceedings

5.2.2.1. Legislation Dealing with the Application of Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs in Criminal Proceedings

Article 7 of the *Criminal Procedure Code*⁹, which deals with the official use of languages in criminal proceedings and the right to the use of languages, *in the courts having jurisdiction over territory where members of national minorities are living, languages and scripts of national minorities are also in official usage in criminal proceedings and shall be used in accordance with law.* Under Article 8 para. 1 of the Code, *accusatory pleadings, appeals and other written documents shall be submitted to the court in the language that is officially used in court.*

Under Article 9, *criminal proceedings are conducted in a language which is in official use in the court; the parties, witnesses and other persons taking part in the proceedings are entitled to the use of their languages in the proceedings, and where the proceedings are not being conducted in that person's language, interpretation will be provided of that person's and other persons' statements, as well as translation of documents and other written evidence.* The parties, witnesses and other persons will be instructed of this right to translation and interpretation, and may waive their right if they are familiar with the language in which the proceedings are being conducted. The said instruction, as well as statement of the party to the proceedings, will be entered in the record. Translation of the proceedings is conducted by an interpreter.

Where one or more minority languages are in official use in a court, the court will serve summons, decisions and other court communications to persons who used a minority language in proceedings in that same language. Where the proceedings had not been conducted in their mother tongue, such persons may request that communications be sent to them in the language in which the proceedings are being conducted, if they understand and speak that language. Indicted persons who are in detention, serving a custodial sentence or subject to a security measure in a health-care institution will be served translations of communications in the language they had used in the proceedings (Article 10).

⁹ The new Criminal Procedure Code (*RS Official Gazette* No. 46/2006-3), has been in force since 10th June 2006, and will be applied from 1st June 2007, on which date shall expire the aforementioned provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code. Given that this Report covers a period until 1st June 2007, it contains provisions of the old Code. The new Code specifies in Article 8, which concerns the official use of languages in criminal proceedings and the right to the use of one's own language: in courts in whose territories live persons belonging to national minorities, their languages and scripts are also in official use in criminal proceedings, as provided for by law. Inter-court communication and legal assistance in a language which is in official use in the court. Parties, witnesses and other persons participating in proceedings are entitled to use their language in the proceedings. Claims, appeals and other written communications are submitted to the court in the language which is in official use in that court. The court serves summons, decisions and other documents also in the languages of national minorities which are in compliance with the law on the official use in court, and where the intended recipient does not speak Serbian, summons, decisions and other documents are served to that person translated into a language that person understands, speaks and reads. If the proceedings are not being conducted in the language of a party, witness or other person participating in the proceedings, interpretation will be provided of everything said by that person or others, as well as translation of documents and other written evidence. Translation is effected by an interpreter. The person concerned will be informed about the right to translation/interpretation and may waive that right if he/she speaks the language in which the proceedings are being conducted. The record shall reflect that the instruction was given, and the statements(s) made by the person(s) concerned.

Inter-court communication and legal assistance is conducted in a language which is in official use in the court. Where a document is written in a minority language and sent to a court where that language is not in official use, its translation into Serbian will be attached (Article 11).

The Criminal Procedure Code specifies that persons deprived of liberty must be informed forthwith, in a language they speak or understand, thereby also minority languages, about the reasons for their deprivation of liberty and about all the accusations against them, as well as about their right not to say anything and that anything they say may be used as evidence against them, that they may take a defense counsel of their own choosing, that they may communicate with their defence counsel without impediment, and about their right to have their defence counsel present when they are being questioned, to demand that persons of their own choosing are informed without delay about the time, place and all changes of the place of their detention, to demand at any time to be examined by a physician of their own choosing and without delay, and where that physician is not available, by a physician chosen by the authority in charge of the detention, to instigate court proceedings for examining the legality of their deprivation of liberty, and to claim compensation due to unlawful arrest (Article 5).

If necessary, indicted persons and witnesses will be questioned with the help of an interpreter in cases defined by the Criminal Procedure Code. If the interpreter has not previously taken an oath, he will swear that he will faithfully convey the questions posed to the accused and the statements given by the accused on that occasion (Article 95).

Records will be made of all actions undertaken in criminal proceedings during the action, or, if not possible, immediately after it. The person who was questioned, persons whose presence during the undertaking of investigative actions is mandatory, as well as parties to the proceedings, defence counsel and aggrieved parties, if they are present, are entitled to read the record or to demand that it be read to them, and where the services of an interpreter were used, that interpreter has an obligation to sign the record (Article 177).

Under Article 19 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the authority conducting the criminal proceedings covers the costs of the criminal proceedings, which includes the costs of translation and interpretation.

5.2.2.2. Data about the Use of Minority Languages in Criminal Proceedings in the 2002 - 2006 Period¹⁰

- **Hungarian/Romanian/Slovak/Croatian/Ruthenian/**

The District Court in Subotica and the municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Hungarian and Croatian/

¹⁰ Based on reports provided by district courts and regional municipal courts, reports of judges and court secretaries

- In a total of 617 criminal cases accused persons used a minority language, including: the Municipal Court in Ada - 184 cases, the Municipal Court in Bačka Topola - 58 cases, the Municipal Court in Kanjiža - 22 cases, the Municipal Court in Subotica - 148 cases, and the District Court in Subotica - 205 cases.
- A total of 112 proceedings were conducted in a minority language in official use, including: in the Municipal Court in Kanjiža - 6, in the Municipal Court in Senta – 9, and in the Municipal Court in Subotica - 97.
- A total of 301 proceedings conducted in Serbian included verbal testimony or written evidence in a minority language, including: in the Municipal Court in Ada - 32, in the Municipal Court in Bačka Topola - 58, in the Municipal Court in Kanjiža - 6, in the District Court in Subotica - 205.
- Minority languages were used in a total of 423 proceedings conducted in Serbian: in the Municipal Court in Ada - 151 proceedings, in the Municipal Court in Bačka Topola - 256 proceedings, and 16 in the Municipal Court in Kanjiža.

The District Court in Novi Sad and municipal courts in its territorial jurisdiction /Hungarian, Slovak and Ruthenian/

- In a total of 341 cases accused persons used the Hungarian language, including: in the District Court in Novi Sad - three cases, in the Municipal Court in Bečej - 320 cases, and in the Municipal Court in Temerin - 18 cases.
- Seven criminal proceedings were conducted entirely in Hungarian – six in the Municipal Court in Bečej and one in Temerin.
- In 18 proceedings conducted in Serbian before the Municipal Court in Temerin, some participants used minority languages.

Witnesses are interviewed in minority languages, but the District Court in Novi Sad does not have precise data in connection with this practice in its territorial jurisdiction.

The District Court in Zrenjanin and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Hungarian, Slovak and Romanian/

- Accused persons used minority languages in eight cases.
- A total of six proceedings were conducted in their entirety in a minority language.
- A total of seven proceedings were conducted in Serbian, with testimony or written evidence in a minority language.
- In a total of 373 proceedings conducted in Serbian, participants could use a minority language; in these cases the courts paid translation/interpretation costs.

The District Court in Pančevo and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Hungarian, Slovak and Romanian/

- In the District Court in one first-instance criminal case witnesses were questioned in Hungarian; the interpreter waived his fee, which would otherwise have been paid by the court.
- In the Municipal Court in Kovin in one criminal case the accused gave a statement in Hungarian, with the help of an interpreter.
- In the Municipal Court in Bela Crkva one criminal case is being conducted entirely in Romanian (the presiding judge and lay-judges belong to national minorities). In another criminal case before the court the services of an interpreter for the Romanian language were used.
- In the Municipal Court in Kovačica in two criminal cases the accused persons used Romanian, and in another the accused used the Slovak language.
- In the Municipal Court in Kovačica in 831 criminal proceedings conducted in Serbian other participants could use other minority languages in official use.

In a number of cases attorneys did not request the services of an interpreter for the language of their national minority. In some cases conducted in Serbian, testimony was given and written evidence submitted in a minority language which is in official use, but the witnesses were heard with the help of interpreters and the written evidence was translated into Serbian, the costs being borne by the court.

- **The Albanian Language**

The District Court in Vranje and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Albanian and Bulgarian/

- In ten criminal proceedings the defence presented its case in Albanian with the help of certified interpreters. The verdicts issued were not translated into Albanian because no such request was made by the accused or their attorneys (data only for 2006).

The Municipal Courts in Preševo and Bujanovac/Albanian/

In the Municipal Courts in Preševo and Bujanovac a number of criminal proceedings were conducted entirely in Albanian. In other cases testimony was given and written evidence submitted in that language. Claims are accepted in Albanian and judgements served to parties in Albanian. Powers of attorney in Albanian are admitted. Whenever so requested by parties, the courts always allowed defence, testimony and submissions in

Albanian. If the Committee so requests, it is possible to submit detailed data about the application of Article 9 in the work of the Municipal Courts in Preševo and Bujanovac.

- **The Bulgarian Language**

Municipal Court in Bosilegrad /Bulgarian/

- Five criminal cases were conducted in Serbian, and at the request of the accused proceedings and documentation were translated into Bulgarian by a certified interpreter.

In proceedings conducted in Serbian, at the request of the accused, the prosecutor or the defendant, translation into Bulgarian was carried out by a Court Interpreter; the costs were paid by the Court. No testimony was given or written evidence submitted in Bulgarian, but interpretation/translation was carried out by a Court Interpreter.

Municipal Court in Dimitrovgrad /Bulgarian/

- The accused used the Bulgarian language in four criminal proceedings

- **The Roma Language**

The District Court in Vranje and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction

- In one case the accused presented their defence in the Roma language, and the services of a Court Interpreter engaged. The accused and attorneys did not request translation into the Roma language of the court's written communications or the judgement.

5.2.3. Civil Litigation

5.2.3.1. Relevant Legislation for the Implementation of Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs in Civil Litigation

The Law on Litigation regulates the rules of procedure of courts in settling and deciding on civil actions in connection with personal, family, labour, commercial, property and other civil disputes, except where other types of procedures are prescribed by specific law (Article 1). In areas where in accordance with the law regulating the use of languages and scripts a minority language is in official use, litigation may also be conducted in that language. Litigants and other participants in the proceedings are entitled to use their language and script, as provided for by the provisions of that Law (Article 6).

Under Article 96 of the Law on Litigation, which deals with the use of languages in proceedings, litigants and other participants in the proceedings are entitled to use their own language in court hearings and in undertaking verbal procedural actions before the court. Where proceedings are not being conducted in the language of a litigant or other

participants in the proceedings, at their request will be provided interpretation into their language of the statements made at the hearing as well as verbal translation of the documents presented as evidence in the hearing.

Litigants and other participants in the proceedings will be notified about their right to follow the proceedings before the court in their own language with the help of an interpreter. The record will reflect that this notification was made, as well as the statements of the litigants and other participants. Translation of the proceedings is conducted by interpreters.

Summons, decisions and other court communications are served to litigants and other participants in the proceedings in the Serbian language. Where a minority language is in official use in a court, the court will serve its communications in that language to those litigants and other participants in the proceedings who use that language in the proceedings (Article 97 of the Law on Litigation).

Under Article 98 of the Law on Litigation, litigants and other participants in civil litigation submit their claims, appeals and other submissions to the court in the official language in use in that court, as well as in a minority language which is not in official use in the court, if the law so allows. The costs of translation into national minority languages are borne by the court (Article 99 of the Law on Litigation).

In accordance with its obligation under the law, the court will always notify litigants, witnesses and other persons that they are entitled to use their own languages in the proceedings.

The Law on Non-contentious Proceedings defined the rules under which regular courts operate and rule on personal, family, property and other legal matters which are under this or other statute settled in non-contentious proceedings (Article 1 para. 1). Under Article 30 para. 2 of the Law on Non-contentious Proceedings, provisions of the Law on Litigation are also applicable to non-contentious proceedings, unless specified otherwise by that or other statute, which also concerns the official use of languages, i.e., the use of minority languages in the proceedings.

5.2.3.2. Data about the Use of Minority Languages in Civil Matters in the 2002 - 2006 Period¹¹

- Hungarian/Romanian/Slovak/Croatian/Ruthenian

The District Court in Subotica and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Hungarian and Croatian /

- In a total of 1,179 probate proceedings conducted in Serbian there were documents written in a minority language in official use, as follows: in the

¹¹ Based on reports provided by district courts and regional municipal courts, reports of judges and court secretaries

Municipal Court in Ada - 197, in the Municipal Court in Bačka Topola - 40, in the Municipal Court in Kanjiža - 224, in the Municipal Court in Senta – 354, and in the Municipal Court in Subotica - 364.

- A total of 181 powers of attorney were issued in a minority language in official use: in the Municipal Court in Ada - 78, in the Municipal Court in Bačka Topola - five, in the Municipal Court in Kanjiža - 41, in the Municipal Court in Senta - 57.

- The courts certified a total of 4,702 contracts and agreements done in a minority language in official use: in the Municipal Court in Ada – 1,784, in the Municipal Court in Bačka Topola – 1,208, in the Municipal Court in Kanjiža - 48, in the Municipal Court in Senta – 1,148 and in the Municipal Court in Subotica - 514.

- A total of 82 civil proceedings were conducted in a minority language in official use: in the Municipal Court in Ada - seven, in the Municipal Court in Bačka Topola - three, in the Municipal Court in Kanjiža - 11, in the Municipal Court in Senta - 22 and in the Municipal Court Subotica - 39.

- A total of 120 non-contentious proceedings were conducted in a minority language in official use: in the Municipal Court in Ada - six, and in the Municipal Court in Senta - 114.

- A total of 219 testimonies were given and documentary evidence submitted in minority languages in civil proceedings conducted in Serbian: in the Municipal Court in Ada - 205, in the Municipal Court in Bačka Topola – three, and in the Municipal Court in Kanjiža - 11.

- A total of 476 testimonies were given and documentary evidence submitted in minority languages in non-contentious proceedings conducted in Serbian, all in the Municipal Court in Ada.

- A minority language was used in a total of 1,146 civil proceedings which were conducted in Serbian: in the Municipal Court in Ada - 639, in the Municipal Court in Bačka Topola - 272, and in the Municipal Court in Kanjiža - 235.

- Minority languages were used in a total of 904 non-contentious proceedings which were conducted in Serbian, all in the Municipal Court in Ada.

The District Court in Novi Sad and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Hungarian, Slovak and Ruthenian/

- A total of 17 civil proceedings were conducted entirely in the Hungarian language: in the Municipal Court in Novi Sad - three, in the Municipal Court in Bečej – 10, and in the Municipal Court in Temerin - four.

- In one civil (appealate) proceedings conducted in Serbian before the District Court, documents were in a minority language.
- In 35 civil proceedings before the Municipal Court in Temerin, participants in the Serbian-language proceedings also used minority languages.
- In 627 probate proceedings conducted in Serbian there were documents written in a minority language in official use: 600 cases before the Municipal Court in Bečej, and 27 before the Municipal Court in Temerin.
- Powers of attorney were issued in minority languages in two civil proceedings conducted in Serbian before the Municipal Court in Temerin.
- Municipal courts certified a total of 121 contracts and agreements in minority languages: the Municipal Court in Bečej certified 80 and the Municipal Court in Temerin 41.

Witnesses in civil proceedings are heard in minority languages; however, at this time no records are kept on their numbers.

The District Court in Zrenjanin and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Hungarian, Slovak and Romanian/

- A total of 15 civil proceedings were conducted in a minority language in their entirety.
- In 81 civil proceedings conducted in Serbian, witnesses were heard and documentary evidence given in minority languages.
- In a total of 5,589 proceedings conducted in Serbian, participants used a minority language.
- In a total of 5,589 proceedings the court paid translation services for the participants.
- In 741 probate proceedings there were one or more documents done in a minority language.

The District Court in Pančevo and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Romanian, Slovak, Hungarian/

- In a total of eight civil proceedings conducted in Serbian witnesses were heard in minority languages. In the Municipal Court in Kovin in three civil proceedings witnesses were interviewed in Hungarian and Romanian, and in the Municipal Court in Kovačica witnesses spoke Romanian in five cases; in the Kovačica court written evidence in Hungarian was presented in three cases.

- In the Municipal Court in Pančevo, in proceedings conducted in Serbian, in one civil matter at his own request the respondent gave his statement in Hungarian, and in another case an interpreter for Romanian was provided at the request of the plaintiff.
- In the Municipal Court in Kovačica in 1,191 civil proceedings and in nine non-contentious proceedings, all conducted in Serbian, participants used minority languages.
- In 1,814 probate proceedings conducted in Serbian, in the Municipal Court in Kovačica, participants in the proceedings used a minority language.

In a number of proceedings attorneys did not request the services of an interpreter for the language of their national minority. In the Municipal Court in Bela Crkva, although the Romanian language is not in official use, the costs of translation for the participants in proceedings who spoke Romanian were borne by the court, as it also did for conclusion of contracts.

The District Court in Sremska Mitrovica and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Slovak, Ruthenian and Croatian/

- Before the Municipal Court in Stara Pazova, two civil proceedings were conducted in minority languages in their entirety.
- In the same court in one case conducted in Serbian a submission was made in a minority language. Translation costs were covered by the court in full.

- **The Bulgarian Language**

The District Court in Vranje and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Albanian and Bulgarian/

- In the Municipal Court in Bosilegrad in three civil proceedings conducted in Serbian the entire proceedings and all documents were translated into Bulgarian at the request of the litigants; the court covered the costs.

Testimony was given and documentary evidence presented in some proceedings, and translated during the proceedings by an interpreter; no detailed data exists at the moment

Municipal Court in Dimitrovgrad /Bulgarian/

- Respondents in one civil case used Bulgarian.
- Some 57 certificates and 20 powers of attorney in Bulgarian were issued.
- In seven probate proceedings communications were sent to courts in the Republic of Bulgaria in a minority language.

- In one probate case the testament was done in Bulgarian.

The court covered all the translation costs to the national minority language.

5.2.4. Administrative Disputes

5.2.4.1. Relevant Legislation for Implementation of Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs in Proceedings before Courts concerning Administrative Matters

Under Article 1 of the Law on Administrative Disputes, in administrative disputes courts rule on the legality of acts by which public authorities and enterprises and other organisations exercising public authority decide on the rights or obligations of natural persons, legal persons or other parties in individual administrative matters. Under Article 32 of the Law on Administrative Disputes, the court rules *in camera*, but the court may also decide, due to the complexity of the disputed matter, or if it deems it necessary in order to better determine the situation, to hold a hearing. A party may also request a hearing, for the same reasons (Article 33). Given that the said Law does not regulate the use of languages in proceedings, but that Article 59 specifies that provisions of the law regulating litigation apply to matters concerning procedures in administrative disputes which are not regulated by the Law on Administrative Disputes, we direct the reader to the section dealing with the use of minority languages in litigation (section 5.2.3.1. of the Report).

5.2.4.2. Data on the Use of Minority Languages in Proceedings Concerning Administrative Matters in the 2002 - 2006 Period¹²

The District Court in Novi Sad and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction / Hungarian, Slovak and Ruthenian/

- In proceedings conducted in Serbian, documents in minority languages were used in eight administrative matters before the District Court in Novi Sad.

The District Court in Vranje and municipal courts within its territorial jurisdiction /Albanian and Bulgarian/

- The District Court in Vranje handled in 2006 six cases where the complainants were persons belonging to a national minority; in two cases the documents were in Albanian.

¹² Based on reports provided by district courts and regional municipal courts, reports of judges and court secretaries

The District Court in Vranje ruled *in camera* in administrative disputes, which means that no parties were summoned and there was no use of a minority language. Rulings were served in Serbian and there were no requests for a translation into Albanian.

5.2.5. Activities on Improving the Practice of Implementation of Article 9 of the Charter in Court Proceedings

In the Republic of Serbia it is possible to conduct court proceedings in minority languages, but the number of such proceedings has declined in the past few years, the reasons being a shortage of young educated personnel who speak minority languages, existing financial problems, and some other circumstances. One of the perhaps less visible circumstances which does affect the use of minority languages in proceedings is the fact that where proceedings were conducted in a minority language judges have an obligation to translate the record and decisions into Serbian. In court practice it happens that a minority language is used throughout the entire proceedings, but the record and other documents are done in Serbian. It must also be pointed out that, besides the personnel problems, persons belonging to national minorities seldom insist on the use of their own language, especially in areas where they are not the majority population, owing to bilingualism.

The right of speakers of minority languages to the use of their own minority language – mother tongue – with the assistance of certified translators and interpreters, in cases where the proceedings in court are not conducted in their language, is being observed consistently. Given that under the law the costs of translation/interpretation are borne by the authority in charge of the proceedings, the problem occurs because of shortages of funds. In order to provide for a greater participation of minority-language speakers in the work of the judiciary, in co-operation with provincial authorities and court presidents the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia has recommended that organisational and job systematisation plans of certain courts be revised to include the positions of Court Interpreters, and that knowledge of certain minority languages be determined as a condition for employment in certain positions, including court associate, trainee and other clerks, court registry officers, recording clerks, telephone operators and others.

Proceeding from the fact that the practice of conducting court proceedings in minority languages is on the decline, it has been determined that there is a need for a new generation of well-educated professionals capable of bringing more multilingualism into the work of the judiciary. Furthermore, many persons belonging to national minorities do not speak their mother tongues well enough to be able to use their language in a professional capacity. The Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, the Administration and National Minorities of AP Vojvodina organised in 2003 the first seminar on the official use of the Hungarian language in the administration and judiciary whose aim was to provide professional training for law graduates employed in the administration, the legal profession and the judiciary, but also other employed personnel involved in legal matters. Besides the obvious need, there is also a lot of interest in this, and seminars have been organised every year for the Hungarian language, and since 2004 also for the Romanian language; similar languages for other minority languages are being planned. Another

problem lies in the use of the Roma language in court proceedings. Ensuring the full exercise of the rights of the Roma national minority to the use of their own language in court proceedings has led to measures aimed at increasing the number of certified translators/interpreters for the Roma language and the number of Roma lay judges, so that court panels throughout Serbia include some persons belonging to that national minority. In that context, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia has advertised for the employment of permanent court translators/interpreters for the Roma language for central Serbia. The invitation is based on the relevant needs established by district and municipal courts in central Serbia. Given that there was an insufficient number of applicants due to a university-degree requirement, at the initiative of the Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia another invitation for applications was issued, this time specifying secondary-school education as a requirement for employment. The Ministry of Justice, the Agency for Human and Minority Rights and the OSCE Mission in Serbia will organise a seminar to train court interpreters/translators for the Roma language in legal matters.

5.2.6. The Most Important Legislation in Minority Languages

The Law on the Publishing of Laws and other Regulations and General Acts and on the Publication of the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia* does not provide for minority-language publication of laws and general acts at republican level, but an earlier federal law which regulated publication of federal legislation and international agreements provided for their publication in Albanian and Hungarian. This means that numerous former federal statutes which are still in use in the Republic of Serbia, for example the Law of Obligations, Law on Resolving Conflicts between Laws and Regulations of Other Countries etc. are available in Albanian and Hungarian. Under Article 46 para. 3 of the Statute of AP Vojvodina, the Statute, decisions and general acts of the Assembly, Executive Council of AP Vojvodina and provincial administrative organs of authority are published in the *Official Journal of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina* in parallel in Serbian, Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Ruthenian and Croatian – languages which are in official use on the territory of AP Vojvodina. On the level of AP Vojvodina, the Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, the Administration and National Minorities performs translation into minority languages of laws which are of interest to AP Vojvodina and of provincial decisions. The Provincial Secretariat's Service for Translation and Interpretation translates regulations, internal acts and other materials for the Assembly and its working bodies from Serbian into Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Ruthenian and Croatian and vice versa. It also translates regulations, general acts and other materials for the Executive Council and other Provincial administrative organs of authority, from Serbian into the minority languages in official use in the province, and vice versa. Also translated are acts published in the *Official Journal of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*, as well as bulletins and publications of the Assembly and Executive Council, regulations and general acts and other materials for the Secretariat, and texts from daily newspapers, weeklies, periodicals and other publications in the minority languages which are in official use in the province, into Serbian.

Since the adoption of the new Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, its text has been translated into Hungarian, and its translation into and publication in other languages is expected soon. The Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities has been translated into all minority languages. At the initiative of the Bureau for the Execution of Custodial Sanctions of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, the Law on Execution of Penal Sanctions has been translated into Hungarian, Romanian and Albanian, as have been the following relevant regulations: Regulation on House Rules in Penal Institutions and District Prisons, the Regulation on Disciplinary Offences, Measures and Procedure towards Convicted Persons, and the Regulation on Measures of Preserving Order and Security in Institutions for the Execution of Custodial Sanctions.

Keeping in mind that the basic status questions of many returnees on the basis of the re-admission agreements concluded with several countries remain unresolved, the Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia has issued a Guide for Returnees in Albanian, Hungarian, the Roma language and German which contains the translated texts of the most important provisions of the Law on the Identity Card, Law on Primary Schools and Law on Secondary Schools.

5.3.

Article 10

Administrative Authorities and Public Services

Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs:

1. *Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible:*

a)

- (iv) to ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications in these languages;

(v) to ensure that users of regional or minority languages may validly submit a document in these languages;

c) to allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in a regional or minority language.

2. In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:

b) the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages;

c) the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages;

d) the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages;

g) the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.

3. With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible:

c) to allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request in these languages.

4. With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:

c) compliance as far as possible with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of a regional or minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

5. The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.

5.3.1. Submitting Applications to Administrative Authorities in Minority Languages

In the legal system of the Republic of Serbia written and oral communication with the administrative authorities is regulated by the Constitution, the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on Official Use of Languages and

Scripts, Law on General Administrative Procedure and the Decision on More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues concerning Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. In respect of the submittal of applications in minority languages a distinction should be made between submission of petitions and oral and written communication by submitting appeals, requests and other types of applications.

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guarantees in Article 56 that everyone has the right to individually or in concert with others submit petitions and other proposals to the public authorities, organisations vested with public authority, autonomous provincial authorities and local self-government authorities, and to receive an answer from them if so requested. Where that right is exercised by persons belonging to a national minority whose population makes up at least 2% of the total population according to the latest population census, under Article 11 paragraph 7 of the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities they may communicate with the public authorities in their own language and are entitled to a reply in that language.

In respect of submitting written and oral applications, under Article 199 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia everyone has a right to use his or her own language in procedures before public (administrative) authorities or organisations vested with public authority when decisions are taken on that person's rights or obligations. Under paragraph 2 of Article 199, lack of familiarity with the language in which the procedure is being conducted cannot be an obstacle to the exercise and protection of human rights and minority rights. Under Articles 1 and 2 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure, the Law is applied by administrative authorities of the state in direct ruling in administrative procedure on the rights, obligations or legal interests of natural persons, legal persons or other parties, as well as other business stipulated by that Law, as well as by companies and other organisations in exercising public authority with which they have been vested by the Law, in deciding as referred to in Article 1.

The Law on General Administrative Procedure prescribes in Article 16 that in areas where under the law a minority language is in official use administrative procedures are also conducted in the language and script of such minority. Where an administrative procedure is not being conducted in the language of a party, or other participants in the procedure, who are citizens of Serbia, they will be furnished with translation of the procedure into their language through an interpreter, as well as with delivery of summons and other communications in their respective language and script. The areas in which the law provides for official use of minority languages are given in Section 3.1.3. of the Report.

The Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts defines in Article 3 the official use of language and script, including oral and written communication between public authorities and organisation and other parties, i.e., citizens. The provision provides for the possibility of submitting applications in minority languages in procedures being conducted in the minority languages which are in official use. Furthermore, the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts states in Article 16 that in those areas where minority languages are not in official use the authorities or organisations which are conducting procedures

have an obligation to provide for the exercise of the right to submit petitions and applications in minority languages.

The Law on General Administrative Procedure specifies in Article 54 that in the administrative procedure petitions are defined as requests, forms used in automatic data processing, proposals, applications, complaints, objections and other communications which the parties submit to the authorities. Under paragraph 2 of the Article, as a rule petitions are personally delivered or mailed, or verbally put on record, and if not otherwise stipulated, may be delivered by telegram or facsimile. Short and urgent communications may also be conveyed by telephone, if the nature of the matter permits it.

Article 39 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure defines parties as persons on whose request a procedure is initiated, or against whom the procedure is being conducted, or who are entitled to take part in the procedure for the purpose of protecting their rights or legal interests. Under Article 40 of that Law, parties to a procedure may be all physical and legal persons, while state authorities, organisations, settlements, groups of individuals who have no capacity of legal person may be parties if they can be holders of rights and liabilities or legal interests which are decided upon in the procedure. Under Article 41 of the Law, a trade union organisation may also be a party if the procedure concerns any right or legal interest of a member of that organisation. The above provisions of the Law on General Administrative Procedure allow petitions in minority languages to be lodged with public administrative authorities, not just by natural persons but also all other entities allowed by the Law to be parties in a procedure.

Under Article 2 of the Decision on More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues concerning Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, organisational units of the public authorities on the territory of the AP of Vojvodina treat as valid submissions lodged by citizens all those drafted in minority languages which are in official use in the authority's jurisdiction. Under paragraph 3 of that article, where necessary, submissions are translated into Serbian at the expense of the public authority and the translation attached to the case file. Under paragraph 4 of the same article, communications received which are drafted in a language which is in official use will besides a reception stamp also be designated with a marking specifying the language in which the communication was written. Communications drafted by public authorities in one of the languages in official use are also marked with an alphabetical designation specifying the language in which the document is written. Persons belonging to national minorities, or speakers of minority languages, are entitled to an oral or written reply in the language in which they communicated with the authority.

In practice, in some areas a shortage has been reported of standard forms which by their nature represent applications and submissions in the administrative procedure in organisational units of the state authorities in areas where minority languages are in official use. Co-operation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, the Administration

and National Minorities of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina on resolving this problem and ensuring that speakers of minority languages are able to exercise their rights has led to the translation of standard forms (applications for personal IDs, driver's licences and other documents, registration of residence and others) which are filled in by citizens and submitted to organisational units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs into all the minority languages which are in official use on the territory of the AP of Vojvodina. Distribution of the forms to regional police administrations is performed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in accordance with the need for them which has been specified. Citizens are informed about their right to use such forms through the media, notice boards in police stations, and in direct contacts with officials.

5.3.2. Submittal of Documents in Minority Languages to Public Authorities

Under Article 3 of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the issuance of public instruments, as well as other instruments which are of interest for the exercise of the rights citizens are guaranteed by law, is also regarded as 'official usage'. Public instruments, or instruments which are of interest for the exercise of rights, may be defined as equivalent to the term 'document' used in the Charter. The Law on General Administrative Procedure in its Article 154 para. 1 defines a public instrument as a document issued in a prescribed form by a public authority within its jurisdiction, or by an enterprise or other organisation within the public authority with which they have been vested by law, which attests to that which is being certified or specified in it. Under Article 161 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure organs of authority issue certificates and other documents on the facts kept in their official records. Certificates and other instruments attesting to facts of which officials records are kept must comply with the facts contained in the official records. The Law on General Administrative Procedure specifies that such certificates and other instruments have the status of public instrument. Certificates and other instruments about facts of which official records are kept are issued to parties at their oral request, as a rule on the same day when the party requested the issuance of the certificate or other instrument, but no later than 15 days from the date of the request, unless specified otherwise by the regulation on the basis of which the official records are being kept.

The Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities specifies in Article 11 para. 4 that the official usage of minority languages among other things includes the issuance of public instruments and keeping of official records and collections of personal data in the languages of the national minorities and the acceptance of those instruments in those languages as valid. The said provisions make it possible for public and other instruments of interest for the exercise of citizens' rights may be issued in minority languages and that their issuers may be state, provincial and local authorities, as well as enterprises, institutions and organisations vested with public authority. The issuance of certain types of instruments or documents in minority languages is regulated by specific laws. For example, under Article 9 para. 2 of the Law on the Identity Card, the ID card standard form is printed in Serbian as well as minority languages, in accordance with the Law. Under Article 133 para. 4 of the Law on Primary Schools, where tuition in a primary school is conducted in a minority language, the public instruments issued by that

school (which under Article 132 of that Law include the school report book, primary school diploma, certificates of completion of individual grades, transfer certificates and certificates of foreign language examinations) are also issued in the minority language used in tuition. Under Article 100 of the Law on Secondary School, where tuition is conducted in a minority language, the public instruments issued by the school, which under that Law include the school report book, deregistration, various certificates, individual grade certificates and the diploma, may also be issued in the minority language in which classes were conducted. Under Article 99 para. 2 of the Law on Higher Education, public instruments issued by institutions of higher learning (which include the student's book [index], diplomas on higher education degrees and diploma supplements), where tuition is being conducted in a minority language are issued on bilingual forms, in Serbian in Cyrillic script and also in the minority language in which the tuition was conducted.

Under Article 32 of the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, extracts from registers and certificates issued on the basis of registers have the legal status of public instruments. Under Article 2 of the Decision on Multilingual Forms of Excerpts from Registers and the Manner of Their Inscription adopted by the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina, the standard forms of excerpts from registers and certificates are bilingual, in Serbian and the languages and scripts of the national minorities whose languages are in official use on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Under Article 3, if so requested by the applicant, in municipalities in which minority languages are in official use, bilingual extracts from registers and certificates are issued, in Serbian and in the minority language (data on the practice of issuing extracts from registers in the minority languages are given in Section 5.3.4. of the Report).

Documents, within the meaning of Article 10 para. 1. a.iv of the Charter, are also court judgements and administrative decisions in minority languages rendered in procedures which were conducted in minority languages. All the aforementioned forms of public and other instruments, irrespective of the type of issuer and the type of procedure in which they were issued, may be lawfully submitted to state authorities, as is explicitly provided for by the aforementioned provision of Article 11 para. 4 of the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities. In respect of the acceptance of documents of organisational units of the state authorities, The Decision on More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues concerning Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina contains provisions corresponding to those relating to applications.

5.3.3. Drafting Documentation in Minority Languages by the Administrative Authorities

The administrative authorities may conduct administrative procedures in minority languages, from which proceeds that they may also draft administrative decisions and instruments in minority languages.

5.3.4. Submittal of Applications in Minority Languages to Local and Regional Authorities

In connection with the legal regulation of oral and written communication through all forms of applications to local and regional authorities shall apply everything that has been set out in respect of submittal of applications to state authorities (Section 5.3.1. of the Report).

In practice, according to information received from local self-governments, the number of oral and written communications of speakers of minority languages with local authorities is in correlation with the share of minority language speakers in the overall population of local self-government units. Parties are entitled to correspond with the authorities in their own language orally and in writing, and in practice, except for a handful of incidental situations, there are objective possibilities of exercising that right. The use of minority languages is most widespread in communication with local authorities, and all local self-governments exhibit prominent notices informing citizens that they may communicate with the authority in the minority language which is in official use and demand answers in that language. In 2005, the Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, the Administration and National Minorities for the first time invited municipalities where minority languages are in official use to compete for transfer funds (5,000,000 dinars) to be used for upgrading multilingualness and a more efficient exercise of the rights of citizens to the official use of their languages. The funds were allocated for printing bilingual forms used in administrative activities and preparing appropriate computer programmes for use in multilingual environments. In 2006 even more was earmarked for the purpose (5,650,000 dinars), but the funds are still insufficient to meet all the needs.

Local authorities are not able to provide detailed data on communication in minority languages in various situations. Some data do exist, recorded by the type of procedure or the activity of individual local authorities. For these reasons a comprehensive picture of the situation cannot be formed. Some examples can nevertheless be given: in the Municipality of Subotica, in the Department for Personal Status of Citizens, in the 2002 – 2006 period there were a total of 45,117 communications in minority languages (Hungarian and Croatian); in the Municipality of Nova Crnja there are 25 to 30 daily communications by citizens in minority languages; in the Municipality of Bečej about 50% of all citizens' communications with local authorities are in minority languages; in 2006 in the Municipality of Preševo there were a total of 2,804 communications with the local authorities in Albanian. Some insight into submittal of applications to local authorities in minority languages can be gained indirectly on the basis of data about excerpts from registers in minority languages which are accessible to local self-governments in the AP of Vojvodina, as well as in administrative procedures for changing personal names and other types of statistical data given in the following sections of this Report. According to available data, a total of 8,008 excerpts from registers were issued on multilingual forms in Vojvodina in 2005 (1,400 more than in 2004); this includes 3,983 Serbian/Hungarian ones, 1,919 Serbian/Slovak, 29 Serbian/Romanian, 18 Serbian/Ruthenian and 2,059 Serbian/Croatian. Most bilingual excerpts were issued in the Municipality of Subotica – 2,711 (1,881 Serbian/Croatian and

830 Serbian/Hungarian) and Bački Petrovac – 1,363 (Serbian/Slovak). In the same year a total of 2,133 certificates were issued on multilingual forms (536 more than the preceding year); this includes 413 Serbian/Hungarian, 588 Serbian/Slovak, 7 Serbian/Romanian, four Serbian/Ruthenian and 1,395 Serbian/Croatian. Most certificates from registers were issued in the Municipality of Bečej (201 Serbian/Hungarian) and Subotica (35 Serbian/Hungarian and 60 Serbian/Croatian). Most certificates from the Register of Citizens were issued in the Municipality of Subotica (1,029 Serbian/Croatian and 36 Serbian/Hungarian), and in Bački Petrovac (580 Serbian/Slovak). No certificates on multilingual forms were issued in 20 self-government entities where national minority languages are also in official use. Available data for the year 2006¹³ indicate a rise in the number self-administration units where excerpts from registers are being issued on the territory of the AP of Vojvodina, as follows:

- in the Municipality of Zrenjanin: 136 issued from the RB¹⁴, including 109 in Hungarian, two in Romanian and 25 in Slovak, 33 from the RM, including 32 in Hungarian and one in Slovak, 18 from the RD, including 17 in Hungarian and one in Slovak;
- in the Municipality of Subotica: from the RB, 1,253 on Serbian/Hungarian forms and 2,464 on Serbian/Croatian forms, from the RM, 253 on Serbian/Hungarian forms and 420 on Serbian/Croatian forms, from the RD, 287 on Serbian/Hungarian forms and 156 on Serbian/Croatian forms;
- in the Municipality of Sečanj: 21 from the RB, five from the RM and 10 from the RD, all in Hungarian;
- in the Municipality of Bački Petrovac: a total of 1,402 excerpts in Slovak;
- in the Municipality of Žitište: 241 - RB, 51 - RM, 17 - RD, in minority languages;
- in the Municipality of Bečej: 931 excerpts issued in Hungarian;
- in the Municipality of Senta: 252 excerpts issued;
- in the Municipality of Kovin: 42 - RB, nine – RM and one - RD, all in Hungarian;
- in the Municipality of Šid: five excerpts in Slovak issued;
- in the Municipality of Srbobran: eight – RB, one – RM, two – RD;
- in the Municipality of Kikinda: 23 - RB, six – RM;
- in the Municipality of Čoka: total of 65 excerpts issued;
- in the Municipality of Bačka Topola: 282 - RB, 33 - RM, 10 – RD;
- in the Municipality of Kula, in Hungarian and Ruthenian: 102 - RB, 58 – RM and 36 – RD;
- in the Municipality of Vrbas: total of 45 excerpts issued;
- in the Municipality of Bačka Palanka: total of 17 excerpts issued;
- in the Municipality of Vršac: 111 - RB, one - RD, all in Romanian;
- in the Municipality of Sombor: 211 - RB, 423 - RM, 17 - RD, all in Hungarian;
- in the Municipality of Novi Kneževac, 29 excerpts issued;
- in the Municipality of Stara Pazova: total of 12 excerpts issued, all in Slovak;
- in the Municipality of Nova Crnja: five from the RB;
- in the Municipality of Kanjiža: 319 - RB, 64 - RM, and 18 – RD;

¹³ Data for 32 local self-governments are available. Data from other local authorities may be provided if the Committee so requests

¹⁴ RB – Register of Births, RM – Register of Marriages, RD – Register of Deaths

- in the Municipality of Bač: total of 87 excerpts issued;
- in the Municipality of Ada: total of 118 excerpts issued, all in Hungarian;
- in the Municipality of Odžaci: total of 87 excerpts issued, in Hungarian and Slovak;
- in the Municipality of Kovačica: 68 in Slovak, 83 in Hungarian, 28 in Romanian;
- in the City of Novi Sad a total of 370 excerpts were issued;
- in the Municipality of Novi Bečej a total of 62 excerpts were issued; and
- in the Municipality of Apatin: 19 - RB, eight – RM, and three – RD.

According to the Report on the Implementation of the Charter drafted by the National Council of the Bosniak National Minority in the Republic of Serbia; “users of the Bosnian language may lawfully submit in the Bosnian language oral or written requests, documents, texts, forms or applications to the services and public enterprises founded by the Municipalities of Novi Pazar, Tutin and Sjenica”.

Submittal of applications in minority languages to local authorities has been facilitated by the obligations for knowledge of specified minority languages in job systematisation regulations in a number of municipalities in the AP of Vojvodina. Of the total number of municipalities where minority languages are in official use in Vojvodina, nineteen (a majority), prescribe in their internal organisation and job systematisation plans knowledge of a specific minority language as a requirement for the engagement of a certain percentage of employees. Even in the other 16 self-administration units where that is not the case, a certain percentage of officials working with the public or engaged in conducting administrative procedures have knowledge of the minority languages which is in official use locally. Opinions have been voiced in the public that such employment requirements are a breach of constitutional equal employment guarantees, and an action was even filed with the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia for determining the constitutionality of Article 1 of the Statute of the Municipality of Stara Pazova¹⁵. In Decision UI – 171/2002 issued on 5th June 2003,¹⁶ the Court ruled against the petitioner, noting that fixing a minimal number of employees from the ranks of national minorities – thereby also speakers of minority languages – in relation to the total population of the municipality and an equal percentage in relation to the total number of employees, was a matter of the appropriate policy pursued by the Municipality, an estimate of needs and the option of the party which adopted the disputed Statute, i.e., the Municipal Assembly, and that by the disputed provision of the Statute it was simply putting into practice Article 21 of the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, which deals with citizens who satisfy legally-prescribed employment requirements.

¹⁵ Under Article 13 of the Statute, the municipal administration, public institutions and public enterprises founded by the Municipality of Stara Pazova have an obligation in employing staff to take into account ethnic criteria and appropriate participation of national minorities, and knowledge of languages which are spoken in that area, and those institutions have an obligation to determine in their systematisation documents a minimal number of employees who are members of national minorities which may not be less than the share of that minority in the total population and that same percentage in relation to the total number of employees, with an obligation to grant precedence to the employment of national minorities until the aforementioned percentage is reached, provided that the candidate satisfies the prescribed employment requirements.

¹⁶ During the effective period of the former Constitution

The Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina adopted in 2003 a Decision on Foreign-Language and National Minority Language Examinations for Employment in Administrative Authorities under which the examination was established as an instrument for testing knowledge of those languages, for employment in local self-governments and Provincial authorities. The examination certificate acquired in accordance with the said Decision may be used for employment in public authorities where an appropriate level of familiarity with a minority language is designated as a requirement for performing certain jobs, but may also be used for employment in other authorities and legal persons whose internal regulations require knowledge of that foreign language.

Besides the existence of the said measures, the National Council of the Romanian national minority said in its report on the implementation of the Charter that “persons belonging to the Romanian national minority are not represented proportionally in local self-government organs”.

5.3.5. Publication of Regional Documents in Minority Languages

In the legal system of the Republic of Serbia the regional authorities are the authorities of the AP of Vojvodina (see sections 2.6. and 2.10. of this Report). Under Article 46 period, the Para. 3 of the Statute of the AP of Vojvodina, the Statute, decisions and general acts of the Assembly, the Executive Council of the AP of Vojvodina and the Provincial public authorities are published in the *Official Journal of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina* in parallel in the Serbian, Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Ruthenian and Croatian languages – the languages in official use on the territory of the AP of Vojvodina. The provisions relate to general acts. Individual acts, or instruments of the Provincial authorities may be adopted or issued in minority languages which are in official use on the territory of the AP of Vojvodina.

5.3.6. Publication of Local Documents in Minority Languages

The statutes of local self-governing entities where minority languages are in official use regulate publication of local general acts in the official organs of the local self-governments. In that context, given that it gives the local self-government entities the right to determine the minority languages which are in official use, the state permits and encourages local authorities to publish their documents in minority languages. Many local self-governments have decided to provide in their statutes for local documents to be published in their official organs to be published in parallel in the minority languages which are in official use (for example the Municipalities of Novi Kneževac, Sombor, Bački Petrovac, Bečej, Senta, Čoka, Bačka Topola, Kula, Subotica, Kanjiža, Ada, Sjenica, etc). Individual legal acts issued in the administrative procedure by local authorities are issued in the minority language in official use, if the procedure was conducted in that language.

5.3.7. Use of Traditional Minority-Language Place Names

Under Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, in areas where national minorities make up a significant part of the local population, *traditional* local names of communities' streets and geographical features may be written in their minority language.

The Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts specifies in Article 3 that official use of language and script includes the use of language and script in writing the names of geographical locations, including town, street and square names. Under Article 19, in areas where minority languages are also in official use, placenames, including those of towns, streets and squares, names of organs and organisations, traffic signs, various public notices and warnings and inscriptions, are also inscribed in minority languages. Under Article 7 of that Law, placenames and personal names contained in public signs may not be replaced by other names or titles, and are written in the minority language according to the syntax of that language.

The Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities revises somewhat the provision featured in the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts and approves and encourages the use of *traditional* placenames in minority languages. Under Article 11 para. 5, in local self-government entities where a minority language is in official use, the titles of organisations exercising public authority, titles of local self-government entities, placenames, including towns, street and squares, and other geographical features are also written in the minority language, according to its *tradition* and syntax. This provision has also been picked up by the new Constitution, whose provision is given at the beginning of this section.

The Decision on More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues concerning Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina specifies in Article 6 that in areas where minority languages are in official use placenames, including towns, streets and squares, titles of institutions, traffic signs, public notices, warnings and other inscriptions are written in the minority's language according to its syntax and its *tradition*. These names are written below the Serbian name, or to the right of it, in the same form and letter size. Exceptionally, the names of national councils, social organisations, citizens' associations and institutions of national minorities, in territories where that national minority's language is in official use, may also be written before the Serbian-language name. Minority-language names are also written in segments of local self-government entities, in case the minority language is in use only on its territory.

Under Article 7 of the Decision, public authority is transferred to minorities' national councils, which are tasked with determining the said traditional minority-language names for the purpose of their publication. Where a national council does not fix the traditional name, it will be determined by the Executive Council of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in co-operation with local self-governments, national minorities' organisations and experts in the language, history and geography of that national minority.

The Decree on Determining House Numbers, Marking Numbers of Buildings and Marking the Names of Settlements, Streets and Squares issued by the Government of the Republic of Serbia specifies that the organisational unit of the Republican Geodesic Bureau in municipalities or cities, which under the law performs activities in connection with marking placenames and the names of streets and squares, the appearance, type, size, manner of affixing letters and numbers, as well as other details in connection with the plates which carry the inscriptions, is the Property Register Service. Article 3 para. 1 of the Decree specifies that the names of settlements, streets and squares are marked in accordance with the law which regulates the official use of the language and script and the law regulating the protection of the rights and freedoms of national minorities – the section regulating the official use of language and script.

The traditional names of towns, municipalities and settlements in minority languages have been determined by the national councils of the Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak national minorities and published in the *Official Journal of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina* (Nos. 12 and 13/2003). Given that the national council of the Ruthenian national minority did not determine the traditional names of towns and villages in that language within the specified time-limit, the Executive Council issued a Decision on the Determination of Traditional Names of Municipalities and Settlements in the Ruthenian language (*Official Journal of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*, No. 6/06).

The Decision on the Determination of Hungarian Names of Settlements in Vojvodina lists the following traditional names of settlements in *Hungarian* in the local self-administrations where the Hungarian language is in official use:

No.	Municipality name in Serbian ¹⁷	Name of settlement in Serbian	Municipality name in Hungarian	Name of settlement in Hungarian
1.	Ada	Ada	Ada	Ada
	Ada	Mol	Ada	Mohol
	Ada	Obornjača	Ada	Völgypart
	Ada	Sterijino	Ada	Valkaisor
	Ada	Utrine	Ada	Törökfalú
2.	Bač	Báč	Bács	Bács
	Báč	Báčko Novo Selo	Bács	Bácsújlak
	Báč	Bođani	Bács	Bogyán

¹⁷ Please note that for ease of use all placenames given originally in the Cyrillic script in this text have been converted into Latin equivalents. (*Translator's note*).

	Bač	Vajska	Bács	Vajszka
	Bač	Plavna	Bács	Palona
	Bač	Selenča	Bács	Bácsújfalú
3.	Bačka Topola	Bačka Topola	Topolya	Topolya
	Bačka Topola	Bajša	Topolya	Bajsa
	Bačka Topola	Panonija	Topolya	Pannónia
	Bačka Topola	Srednji Salaš	Topolya	Szurkos
	Bačka Topola	Mićunovo	Topolya	Karkatur
	Bačka Topola	Gornja Rogatica	Topolya	Falsóroglatica
	Bačka Topola	Bački Sokolac	Topolya	Cserepes
	Bačka Topola	Krivaja	Topolya	Krivaja
	Bačka Topola	Gunaroš	Topolya	Gunaras
	Bačka Topola	Bogaraš	Topolya	Bogaras
	Bačka Topola	Kavilo	Topolya	Kavilló
	Bačka Topola	Obrornjača	Topolya	Völgypart
	Bačka Topola	Tomislavci	Topolya	
	Bačka Topola	Pobeda	Topolya	
	Bačka Topola	Bagremovo	Topolya	Brazília
	Bačka Topola	Mali Beograd	Topolya	Kisbelgrád
	Bačka Topola	Zobnatica	Topolya	Zobnatica
	Bačka Topola	Karađorđevo	Topolya	
	Bačka Topola	Novo Orahovo	Topolya	Zentagunaras
	Bačka Topola	Njegoševo	Topolya	
	Bačka Topola	Svetičevo	Topolya	
	Bačka Topola	Pačir	Topolya	Pacsér
	Bačka Topola	Stara Moravica	Topolya	Bácskossuthfalva
4.	Bečej	Bečej	Óbecse	Óbecse
	Bečej	Bačko Gradište	Óbecse	Bácsföldvár

	Bečej	Bačko Petrovo Selo	Óbecse	Péterréve
	Bečej	Mileševo	Óbecse	Drea
	Bečej	Radičević	Óbecse	
5.	Bela Crkva	Bela Crkva	Fehértemplom	Fehértemplom
	Bela Crkva	Banatska Palanka	Fehértemplom	Palánk
	Bela Crkva	Banatska Subotica	Fehértemplom	Krassószombat
	Bela Crkva	Vračev Gaj	Fehértemplom	Varázsliget
	Bela Crkva	Grebenac	Fehértemplom	Gerebenc
	Bela Crkva	Dobričevo	Fehértemplom	Udvarszállás
	Bela Crkva	Dupljaja	Fehértemplom	Temesváralja
	Bela Crkva	Jasenovo	Fehértemplom	Jaszenova
	Bela Crkva	Kajtasovo	Fehértemplom	Gajtás
	Bela Crkva	Kaludjerovo	Fehértemplom	Szőlőshegy
	Bela Crkva	Kruščica	Fehértemplom	Körtéd
	Bela Crkva	Kusić	Fehértemplom	Kusics
	Bela Crkva	Crvena Crkva	Fehértemplom	Vöröstemplom
	Bela Crkva	Češko Selo	Fehértemplom	Csehfalva
6.	Čoka	Čoka	Csóka	Csóka
	Čoka	Vrbica	Csóka	Egyházaskér
	Čoka	Jayovo	Csóka	Hódegyháza
	Čoka	Ostojićevo	Csóka	Tiszaszentmiklós
	Čoka	Padej	Csóka	Padé
	Čoka	Sanad	Csóka	Szanád
	Čoka	Crna Bara	Csóka	Feketetó
	Čoka	Banatski Monoštor	Csóka	Kanizsamonostor
7.	Kanjiža	Kanjiža	Magyarkanizsa	Magyarkanizsa
	Kanjiža	Adorjan	Magyarkanizsa	Adorján

	Kanjiža	Velebit	Magyarkanizsa	
	Kanjiža	Vojvoda Zimonjić	Magyarkanizsa	
	Kanjiža	Male Pijace	Magyarkanizsa	Kispiac
	Kanjiža	Martonoš	Magyarkanizsa	Martonos
	Kanjiža	Mali Pesak	Magyarkanizsa	Kishomok
	Kanjiža	Orom	Magyarkanizsa	Orom
	Kanjiža	Doline	Magyarkanizsa	Völgyes
	Kanjiža	Novo Selo	Magyarkanizsa	Újfalu
	Kanjiža	Trešnjevac	Magyarkanizsa	Oromhegyes
	Kanjiža	Totovo Selo	Magyarkanizsa	Tóthfalu
	Kanjiža	Horgoš	Magyarkanizsa	Horgos
8.	Kikinda	Kikinda	Nagykikinda	Nagykikinda
	Kikinda	Banatska Topola	Nagykikinda	Töröktopolya
	Kikinda	Banatsko Veliko Selo	Nagykikinda	Szenhubert
	Kikinda	Bašaid	Nagykikinda	Basahíd
	Kikinda	Iđoš	Nagykikinda	Tiszahegyes
	Kikinda	Mokrin	Nagykikinda	Mokrin
	Kikinda	Nakovo	Nagykikinda	Nákófalva
	Kikinda	Novi Kozarci	Nagykikinda	Nagytószeg
	Kikinda	Rusko Selo	Nagykikinda	Kisorosz
	Kikinda	Sajan	Nagykikinda	Szaján
9.	Kovačica	Kovačica	Antalfalva	Antalfalva
	Kovačica	Debeljača	Antalfalva	Torontálvásárhely
	Kovačica	Idvor	Antalfalva	Udvar
	Kovačica	Padina	Antalfalva	Nagylajosfalva
	Kovačica	Putnikovo	Antalfalva	
	Kovačica	Samoš	Antalfalva	Számos
	Kovačica	Uzdin	Antalfalva	Újozora

	Kovačica	Crepaja	Antalfalva	Cserépalja
10.	Kovin	Kovin	Kevevára	Kevevára
	Kovin	Bavanište	Kevevára	Homokbálványos
	Kovin	Gaj	Kevevára	Gálya
	Kovin	Deliblato	Kevevára	Deliblát
	Kovin	Dubovac	Kevevára	Dunadombó
	Kovin	Šumarak	Kevevára	Emánueltelep
	Kovin	Malo Bavanište	Kevevára	Kisbálványos
	Kovin	Mramorak	Kevevára	Homokos
	Kovin	Pločica	Kevevára	Kevepallós
	Kovin	Skorenovac	Kevevára	Székelykeve
11.	Kula	Kula	Kúla	Kúla
	Kula	Kruščić	Kúla	Veprőd
	Kula	Lipar	Kúla	Lipár
	Kula	Nova Crvenka	Kúla	
	Kula	Ruski Krstur	Kúla	Bácskeresztúr
	Kula	Sivac	Kúla	Szivác
	Kula	Crvenka	Kúla	Cservenka
12.	Mali Idoš	Mali Idoš	Kishegyes	Kishegyes
	Mali Idoš	Lovćenac	Kishegyes	Szikics
	Mali Idoš	Feketić	Kishegyes	Bácsfeketehegy
13.	Nova Crnja	Nova Crnja	Magyarcsernye	Magyarcsernye
	Nova Crnja	Aleksandrovo	Magyarcsernye	
	Nova Crnja	Vojvoda Stepa	Magyarcsernye	
	Nova Crnja	Radojevo	Magyarcsernye	Klári
	Nova Crnja	Srpska Crnja	Magyarcsernye	Szerbecsernye
	Nova Crnja	Toba	Magyarcsernye	Tóba
14.	Novi Bečej	Novi Bečej	Törökbecse	Törökbecse

	Novi Bečej	Bočar	Törökbecse	Bocsár
	Novi Bečej	Kumane	Törökbecse	Kumán
	Novi Bečej	Novo Miloševo	Törökbecse	Beodra
15.	Novi Kneževac	Novi Kneževac	Törökkanizsa	Törökkanizsa
	Novi Kneževac	Banastsko Arandelovo	Törökkanizsa	Oroszlámos
	Novi Kneževac	Đala	Törökkanizsa	Gyála
	Novi Kneževac	Majdan	Törökkanizsa	Majdány
	Novi Kneževac	Rabe	Törökkanizsa	Rábé
	Novi Kneževac	Filić	Törökkanizsa	Firigyháza
	Novi Kneževac	Podlokanj	Törökkanizsa	Podlokány
	Novi Kneževac	Siget	Törökkanizsa	Sziget
	Novi Kneževac	Srpski Krstur	Törökkanizsa	Szerbkeresztúr
16.	Novi Sad	Novi Sad	Újvidék	Újvidék
	Novi Sad	Begeč	Újvidék	Begecs
	Novi Sad	Budisava	Újvidék	Budiszava
	Novi Sad	Bukovac	Újvidék	Bukovác
	Novi Sad	Veternik	Újvidék	Veternik
	Novi Sad	Kač	Újvidék	Káty
	Novi Sad	Kisać	Újvidék	Kiszács
	Novi Sad	Kovilj	Újvidék	Kabol
	Novi Sad	Ledinci	Újvidék	Ledinci
	Novi Sad	Petrovaradin	Újvidék	Pétervárad
	Novi Sad	Rumenka	Újvidék	Piros
	Novi Sad	Sremska Kamenica	Újvidék	Kamenica
	Novi Sad	Stepanovićevo	Újvidék	
	Novi Sad	Futog	Újvidék	Futak
	Novi Sad	Čenej	Újvidék	Csenej

17.	Odžaci	Odžaci	Hódság	Hódság
	Odžaci	Bački Brestovac	Hódság	Szyilberek
	Odžaci	Bački Gračac	Hódság	Szentfülöp
	Odžaci	Bogojevo	Hódság	Gombos
	Odžaci	Deronje	Hódság	Dernye
	Odžaci	Karavukovo	Hódság	Karavukova
	Odžaci	Lalić	Hódság	
	Odžaci	Ratkovo	Hódság	
	Odžaci	Srpski Miletić	Hódság	Militics
18.	Plandište	Plandište	Zichyfalva	Zichyfalva
	Plandište	Banatski Sokolac	Zichyfalva	Biószeg
	Plandište	Barice	Zichyfalva	Szentjános
	Plandište	Velika Greda	Zichyfalva	Györgyháza
	Plandište	Veliki Gaj	Zichyfalva	Nagygáj
	Plandište	Dužine	Zichyfalva	Szécsenfalva
	Plandište	Jermenovci	Zichyfalva	Űrményháza
	Plandište	Kupinik	Zichyfalva	
	Plandište	Margita	Zichyfalva	Nagymargita
	Plandište	Laudanovac	Zichyfalva	Laudon
	Plandište	Markovićevo	Zichyfalva	Torontálújfalú
	Plandište	Miletićevo	Zichyfalva	Rárós
	Plandište	Stari Lec	Zichyfalva	Óléc
	Plandište	Hajdučica	Zichyfalva	Istvánvölgy
19.	Senta	Senta	Zenta	Zenta
	Senta	Gornji Breg	Zenta	Felsőhegy
	Senta	Tornjoš	Zenta	Tornyos
	Senta	Bogaraš	Zenta	Bogaras
	Senta	Kevi	Zenta	Kevi

20.	Sombor	Sombor	Zombor	Zombor
	Sombor	Aleksa Šantić	Zombor	Sári
	Sombor	Bački Breg	Zombor	Béreg
	Sombor	Bački Monoštor	Zombor	Monostorszeg
	Sombor	Bezdan	Zombor	Bezdan
	Sombor	Gakovo	Zombor	Gádor
	Sombor	Doroslovo	Zombor	Doroszló
	Sombor	Kljajićevo	Zombor	Kerény
	Sombor	Kolut	Zombor	Küllöd
	Sombor	Rastina	Zombor	
	Sombor	Ridica	Zombor	Regóce
	Sombor	Svetozar Miletić	Zombor	Nemesmilitics
	Sombor	Stanišić	Zombor	Órszállás
	Sombor	Stapar	Zombor	Sztapár
	Sombor	Telečka	Zombor	Bácsgyulafalva
	Sombor	Čonoplja	Zombor	Csonoplya
21.	Srbobran	Srbobran	Szenttamás	Szenttamás
	Srbobran	Nadalj	Szenttamás	Nádálja
	Srbobran	Turija	Szenttamás	Turia
22.	Subotica	Subotica	Szabadka	Szabadka
	Subotica	Bajmok	Szabadka	Bajmok
	Subotica	Mišićevo	Szabadka	
	Subotica	Bački Vinogradi	Szabadka	Királyhalom
	Subotica	Bikovo	Szabadka	Békova
	Subotica	Gornji Tavankút	Szabadka	Felsőtavankút
	Subotica	Donji Tavankút	Szabadka	Alsótavankút
	Subotica	Ljutovo	Szabadka	Mérges
	Subotica	Hajdukovo	Szabadka	Hajdújárás

	Subotica	Šupljak	Szabadka	Ludas
	Subotica	Đurčin	Szabadka	Györgyén
	Subotica	Kelebija	Szabadka	Kelebia
	Subotica	Mala Bosna	Szabadka	Kisbosznia
	Subotica	Novi Žednik	Szabadka	Ujzsednik
	Subotica	Stari Žednik	Szabadka	Nagyfény
	Subotica	Palić	Szabadka	Palics
	Subotica	Čantavir	Szabadka	Csantavér
	Subotica	Bačko Dušanovo	Szabadka	Dusanovó
	Subotica	Višnjevac	Szabadka	Visnyevác
23.	Temerin	Temerin	Temerin	Temerin
	Temerin	Bački Jarak	Temerin	Járek
	Temerin	Sirig	Temerin	Szőreg
24.	Titel	Titel	Titel	Titel
	Titel	Vilovo	Titel	Tündéres
	Titel	Gardinovci	Titel	Dunagárdony
	Titel	Lok	Titel	Sajkáslak
	Titel	Mošorin	Titel	Mozsor
	Titel	Šajkaš	Titel	Sajkásszentiván
25.	Vrbas	Vrbas	Verbász	Verbász
	Vrbas	Bačko Dobro Polje	Verbász	Kiskér
	Vrbas	Zmajevo	Verbász	Ókér
	Vrbas	Kosančić	Verbász	
	Vrbas	Kucura	Verbász	Kucora
	Vrbas	Ravno Selo	Verbász	Újsóvé
	Vrbas	Savino Selo	Verbász	Torzsa
26.	Vršac	Vršac	Versec	Versec

	Vršac	Vatin	Versec	Versecvat
	Vršac	Veliko Središte	Versec	Nagyszered
	Vršac	Vlajkovac	Versec	Temesvajkóc
	Vršac	Vojvodinci	Versec	Vajdalak
	Vršac	Vršački ritovi	Versec	
	Vršac	Gudurica	Versec	Temeskutas
	Vršac	Zagajica	Versec	Fürjes
	Vršac	Izbište	Versec	Izbiste
	Vršac	Jablanka	Versec	Almád
	Vršac	Kuštilj	Versec	Mélykastély
	Vršac	Mala Žam	Versec	Kiszsám
	Vršac	Malo Središte	Versec	Kisszered
	Vršac	Markovac	Versec	Márktelke
	Vršac	Mesić	Versec	Meszesfalu
	Vršac	Orešac	Versec	Homokdiód
	Vršac	Pavliš	Versec	Temespaulis
	Vršac	Parta	Versec	Párta
	Vršac	Potporanj	Versec	Porány
	Vršac	Ritiševo	Versec	Réthely
	Vršac	Sočica	Versec	Temesszőlős
	Vršac	Straža	Versec	Temesór
	Vršac	Uljma	Versec	Homokszil
	Vršac	Šušara	Versec	Fejértelep
27.	Zrenjanin	Zrenjanin	Nagybecskerek	Nagybecskerek
	Zrenjanin	Aradac	Nagybecskerek	Aradác
	Zrenjanin	Banatski Despotovac	Nagybecskerek	Ernöháza
	Zrenjanin	Belo Blato	Nagybecskerek	Erzsébetlak
	Zrenjanin	Botoš	Nagybecskerek	Botos

	Zrenjanin	Elemir	Nagybecskerek	Elemér
	Zrenjanin	Ečka	Nagybecskerek	Écska
	Zrenjanin	Jankov Most	Nagybecskerek	Jankahíd
	Zrenjanin	Klek	Nagybecskerek	Begafő
	Zrenjanin	Knićanin	Nagybecskerek	Rezsőháza
	Zrenjanin	Lazaravo	Nagybecskerek	Lázárföld
	Zrenjanin	Lukino Selo	Nagybecskerek	Lukácsfalva
	Zrenjanin	Lukićevo	Nagybecskerek	Zsigmondfalva
	Zrenjanin	Melenci	Nagybecskerek	Melence
	Zrenjanin	Mihajlovo	Nagybecskerek	Szentmihály
	Zrenjanin	Orlovat	Nagybecskerek	Orlód
	Zrenjanin	Perlez	Nagybecskerek	Perlasz
	Zrenjanin	Stajićevo	Nagybecskerek	Óécska
	Zrenjanin	Taraš	Nagybecskerek	Tiszatarrós
	Zrenjanin	Tomaševac	Nagybecskerek	Tamáslaka
	Zrenjanin	Farkaždin	Nagybecskerek	Farkasd
	Zrenjanin	Čenta	Nagybecskerek	Csenta
28.	Žitište	Žitište	Begaszentgyörgy	Begaszentgyörgy
	Žitište	Banatski Dvor	Begaszentgyörgy	Udvarnok
	Žitište	Banatsko Višnjićevo	Begaszentgyörgy	Vida
	Žitište	Banatsko Karađorđevo	Begaszentgyörgy	
	Žitište	Begejci	Begaszentgyörgy	Torák
	Žitište	Međa	Begaszentgyörgy	Párdány
	Žitište	Novi Itebej	Begaszentgyörgy	Magyarittabé
	Žitište	Ravni Topolovac	Begaszentgyörgy	Katalinfalva
	Žitište	Srpski Itebej	Begaszentgyörgy	Szerbittabé
	Žitište	Torda	Begaszentgyörgy	Torda

	Žitište	Hetin	Begaszentgyörgy	Tamásfalva
	Žitište	Čestereg	Begaszentgyörgy	Csósztelek

The Decision on the Determination of the Traditional Names of Towns, Municipalities and Settlements in the Romanian Language specifies the following traditional names of towns, municipalities and settlements in the *Romanian language* and syntax:

1.	Alibunar	Alibunar
2.	Banatsko Novo Selo	Satu Nou
3.	Barice	Sân-Ianăș
4.	Torak	Torac
5.	Bela Crkva	Biserica Albă
6.	Deliblato	Deliblata
7.	Dolovo	Doloave
8.	Ečka	Ecica
9.	Glogonj	Glogoni
10.	Grebenac	Grebenat
11.	Jablanka	Jablanca
12.	Jabuka	Iabuca
13.	Jankov Most	Iancaid
14.	Klek	Clec
15.	Kovin	Cuvin
16.	Kištilj	Coștei
17.	Lokve	Sân-Mihai
18.	Mali Žam	Jamul Mic
19.	Malo Središte	Pârneaora
20.	Margita	Mărghita
21.	Markovac	Marcovăt
22.	Mesić	Mesici
23.	Mramorak	Maramorac

24.	Nikolinci	Nicolinț
25.	Omoljica	Omolița
26.	Orešac	Oreșaț
27.	Pančevo	Panciova
28.	Ritiševo	Râtișor
29.	Seleuš	Seleuș
30.	Sočica	Sălcița
31.	Straža	Straja
32.	Uzdin	Uzdin
33.	Sutjeska	Sărcia
34.	Vladimirovac	Petrovasâla
35.	Vlajkovac	Vlaicovăț
36.	Vojvodinci	Voivodinț
37.	Vršac	Vârșeț
38.	Zrenjanin	Zrenianin

According to the Report on the Implementation of the Charter drafted by the National Council of the Romanian national minority, “the traditional names of settlements in Romanian, in areas where the Romanian language is in official use, are not being honoured ... in particular in the case of towns”.

The Decision on the Determination of the Traditional Names of Towns, Municipalities and Settlements in the Slovak Language specifies the following:

Slovak name	Serbian name
Aradáč	Aradac
Báčska Palanka	Bačka Palanka
Báčsky Petrovec	Bački Petrovac
Bajša	Bajša
Begeč	Begeč
Biele Blato	Belo Blato
Bol'ovce	Boljevci
Čelarevo	Čelarevo

Dobanovce	Dobanovci
Erdevik	Erdevik
Hajdušica	Hajdučica
Hložany	Gložan
Jánošík	Janošík
Kovačica	Kovačica
Kulpín	Kulpin
Kysáč	Kisač
Lalit'	Lalić
Lug	Lug
L'uba	Ljuba
Nový Sad	Novi Sad
Ostojićevo	Ostojićevo
Padina	Padina
Pivnica	Pivnice
Selenča	Selenča
Silbaš	Silbaš
Slankamenské Vinohrady	Stankamenački Vinogradi
Stará Pazova	Stara Pazova
Šíd	Šid
Vojlovica (Pančevo)	Vojlovica (Pančevo)
Zreňanin	Zrenjanin

The Decision on the Determination of the Traditional Names of Towns, Municipalities and Settlements in the *Ruthenian* Language specifies the following traditional names in the Ruthenian language:

Serbian	Ruthenian
Bačka Topola	Бачка Тополя
Bački Petrovac	Бачки Петровец

Bela Crkva	Била Церква
Bikić Do	Бикич Дол
Vršac	Вершец
Vrbas	Вербас
Gospođinci	Господнци
Đurđevo	Дюрдьов
Žabalj	Жабель
Indija	Индія
Kucura	Коцур
Kukujevci	Куковци
Kruščić	Крущич
Laćarak	Латяак
Novo Orahovo	Нове Орахово
Odžaci	Оджак
Pivnice	Пиньвиц
Ruski Krstur	Руски Керестур
Sivac	Сивец
Sombor	Зомбор
Sremska Kamenica	Сримска Каменица
Sremska Mitrovica	Сримска Митровица
Sremski Karlovci	Сримски Карловци
Stara Bingula	Стара Бингула
Titel	Титель
Crvenka	Червинка
Čurug	Чурог

The National Council of the Ruthenian national minority said in its report on the Implementation of the Charter that “normative regulation of the official use ... is very good and satisfies the provisions of Article 10 of the Charter”, but that “in opposition to the well-regulated normative regulations stands practice, which does not confirm such good results”. In its report the National Council said that town names in

Ruthenian were being honoured, but that regulations were not being implemented fully in respect of other toponyms.

The Vojvodina Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, the Administration and National Minorities has said in connection with decisions on the traditional names of settlements that “in some municipalities the decisions were not interpreted correctly and their implementation made conditional on acceptance and inclusion in municipal statutes. In such cases the Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, the Administration and National Minorities intervened and communicated that the decisions would have to be applied automatically from their effective dates, that in the official use of minority languages must be used the names specified by the relevant national council, and that no additional verification was necessary. The designated names were universally recognised, save for a few exceptions – opinions are still divided in respect of the traditional Hungarian names of Feketić, Telečka, Debeljača and Kovačica”.

The traditional names used in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Preševo and Medveđa, where the *Albanian language* is in use, are:

Veliki Trnovac - Tërrnoc
Mali Trnovac – Mal Tërrnoci
Preševo – Preshevë
Medveđa – Medvegjë

The traditional names in the Municipalities of Novi Pazar and Tutin, where the *Bosnian language* is in official use, are:

Нови Пазар – Novi Pazar
ТУТИН – Tutin¹⁸

In areas where minority languages are in official use, plaques bearing the names of local self-government organs of authority, organisations and public services are in most cases also inscribed in those languages, the seats of the organ, organisation or public service also being designated with the traditional minority-language placename. With appropriate local assistance, organisational units of the central organs of authority, organisations and institutions have also set up new name-plaques written in minority languages, on which the traditional names of the towns concerned have been inscribed. Nevertheless, the National Council of the Romanian national minority points out that the “names of streets and squares and other toponyms are not inscribed in Romanian”, and the National Council of the Ruthenian national minority has pointed out that the names of streets or public enterprises have not been inscribed in Ruthenian in Novi Sad, Žabalj, Šid and Bačka Topola, while the Municipality of

¹⁸ Although the names are in fact identical, the ‘Serbian’ version is the one in the official Cyrillic script and the ‘Bosnian’ one in the Latin script used by that minority. Elsewhere in this text all names given originally in Cyrillic have been converted into Latin equivalents for ease of use. (*Translator’s note*)

Vrbas was the most consistent in implementing regulations on the official use of languages and scripts.

5.3.8. Submittal of Documents in Minority Languages to Public Services

Public services in the Republic of Serbia are regulated by the Law on Public Services, whose Article 1 defines public services as institutions, enterprises and other legally-defined organisational forms which perform activities which provide for the exercise of citizens' rights or the fulfillment of the needs of citizens and organisations, as well as the exercise of other legally-defined interests in specific areas.

Article 3 of the Law on Public Services stipulates that institutions are formed in order to provide for the exercise of rights enshrined in law and the exercise of other legally-defined interests in the following areas: education, science, culture, physical culture, secondary-school and university students' welfare, health care, social protection, social care for children, social insurance, animal health care. Enterprises are formed to perform activities determined by law in the following fields: public information, PTT traffic, energy, roads, public utilities and other areas defined by law. Both institutions and enterprises may be formed for the performance of activities defined by law relating to public information in the national minority languages.

Institutions, enterprises and other organisational forms for performing the aforementioned activities may be founded by the republic, autonomous province, city, municipality and other legal and natural persons, (Article 4 of the Law on Public Services). Public services perform activities defined in this Law in a manner which ensures regular, good-quality and equitable exercise of the rights of citizens and organisations and satisfaction of users' needs. Public services regulate the manner of providing services and their use by the users, in accordance with the law. (Article 8 of the Law on Public Services). The Law on Public Services contains no explicit provisions on the language in which citizens may communicate with public services for the purpose of exercising their rights and obligations, but given that public services, in deciding on the rights and obligations of citizens, organisations and all users of their services and performing all other activities determined by law, operate according to the Law on General Administrative Procedure and the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts, this means that verbal and written requests may also be submitted in minority languages.

A number of municipalities in which minority languages are in official use have adopted special decisions, instructions on application of the law and other regulations dealing with the use of the languages and scripts of national minorities in public services founded by the municipality;¹⁹ various inscriptions, instructions and other public notices should also be written in minority languages.

5.3.9. Employment of Minority Language Speakers in Public Services

Under Article 5 of the Decision on More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues concerning Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory

¹⁹ The Municipalities of Subotica, Kanjiža, Sečanj...

of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, In areas where minority languages are in official use, organs, organisations and public services which provide commercial services to citizens in the electrical energy sector, natural gas, public utilities and postal and telecommunications services provide to the consumers of their services and products standard forms of invoices, various certificates and notices in connection with their services in multilingual form – in Serbian and one or more minority languages. An indirect consequence of this provision is the employment of minority language speakers in these public services.

In some municipalities (Subotica, Kanjiža, Senta, Preševo) public enterprises which provide utility services have begun sending their customers bills and other notices which are also in the minority language in local use. Public services in areas where minority languages are in official use, or where the number of their speakers in the overall population is considerable, have a large number of employees who speak minority languages.

Under a number of international agreements employees of public services in certain areas must speak minority languages. Under Article 10 para. 3 the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on Border Control and Procedures in Railway Traffic, service and railway staff of each country must be sufficiently familiar with the language in official use in the neighbouring country to be able to perform their jobs. Identical provisions exist in Article 9 para. 1 of the Agreement between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the Regulation of Border Railway Transport, and in Article 10 para. 3 of the Agreement between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on the Regulation of Border Railway Transport. Customs co-operation agreements concluded with Romania and Hungary specify that requests for assistance are submitted in the language of the petitionee, i.e., the official language of the other country, thereby indirectly creating a need to engage the services of persons speaking those two minority languages in the Republic of Serbia.

5.3.10. Use and Adoption of Family Names in Minority Languages

Article 79 of the Serbian Constitution specifies that persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to use their personal and family names in their own languages. Under Article 64 of the Constitution, every child is entitled to a personal name and an entry in the Register of Births, while Article 344 of the Family Law, which deals with choosing personal names for children, specifies that parents have a right to have their child's name inscribed in the Register of Births also in the mother tongue and script of one or both parents. Under the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to freely choose and use the personal name and names of their children, as well as to the inscription of those personal names in all public instruments, official records and collections of personal data according to the language and script of the person belonging to the national minority (Article 9 para. 1). The Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths specifies in

Article 2 that these Registers are kept by municipal administrative organs in charge of administrative affairs, or the competent Provincial authority. Under the Law on the Identity Card, names and surnames are entered in identity cards in the form in which they were inscribed in Birth Certificates. Data about the names and surnames of persons belonging to national minorities are entered in parallel in the Serbian language and script. Other particulars are inscribed in Serbian and in the minority language in accordance with the law (Article 9 paras. 3 and 4). Under Article 117 of the Instruction on Administration and Forms of Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, data are entered in Registers, excerpts and certificates from Registers in the minority language, in accordance with regulations in force. However, the Instruction does not define bilingual public document standard forms and records forms for the areas where minority languages are in official use, for which reason the AP Vojvodina regulated the matter more precisely by adopting the Decision on More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues concerning Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the Decision on Multilingual Forms for Certificates of Births, Marriages and Deaths and on the Method of Making Entries in the Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Article 3 of the Decision on More Specific Regulation of Certain Issues Concerning Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina specifies that persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to have their personal and family names entered in all records in their original form – using the script and syntax of their language. Where personal names of persons belonging to national minorities are entered in the records referred to in para. 1 of this Article in their original form, that personal name will be inscribed identically in all public instruments (personal documents, excerpts from Registers, etc.) which are issued to those persons, irrespective of the language and script of the public instrument. This does not exclude parallel inscription of personal names in the Serbian language and script. The Decision on Multilingual Forms for Certificates of Births, Marriages and Deaths and on the Method of Making Entries in the Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths specifies in Article 6 that inscriptions in excerpts from Registers and certificates of the personal names of persons belonging to national minorities are made in their minority languages, and the name then also entered in parentheses in Serbian. Under the Decision, in municipalities where minority languages are also in official use, if so requested, municipal administrations issue excerpts from Registers on bilingual forms. Personal names are inscribed in the form in which the original entry was made. Where an applicant's personal name is entered in a Register only in Serbian, the Registrar will instruct the person that he or she may request that his or her name be entered in the Register in its original form following the completion of a shortened or full personal name change administrative procedure, after which completion the Registrar will issue a new excerpt.

After the said Decision became effective, the Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, the Administration and National Minorities drafted a set of instructions for implementation of the Decision and organised a series of seminars for administrative officials employed on these activities. Several municipalities then revised their job organisation and

systematisation plans to contain familiarity with minority languages in official use as a requirement for hiring a certain percentage of employees, as well as the number of staff who work with the public of conduct administrative procedures and have knowledge of minority languages which are in official use.

According to data released by the Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, the Administration and National Minorities, in 2003, from a total of 1,243 first-instance administrative procedures for changing personal names, 17 were conducted in minority languages (Ada - 14, Bačka Topola - one and Kanjiža - two), all in Hungarian. Of 229 procedures for changing personal name inscriptions in Registers of Births, 97 were conducted in minority languages - 94 in Hungarian and three in Croatian. The Hungarian-language breakdown is as follows: Ada - five, Kanjiža - three, Kikinda - one, Zrenjanin - 15, Žitište-one and 69 in Subotica, where the Croatian procedures also took place. Of the total of 1,290 procedures for changing personal names in 2005, 37 were conducted in minority languages (36 in Hungarian and one in Romanian). Some 45 of the total of 151 administrative procedures for changing inscriptions of personal names were conducted in minority languages (44 in Hungarian and one in Croatian).

According to data made available by local administrative authorities, *the number of entries in Registers* in minority languages featuring the use of family names in minority languages is as follows:

In the Municipality of Subotica, the number of entries in Registers of Births (RB) was as follows: 362 in Hungarian and 61 in Croatian, in Registers of Marriages (RM) 178 in Hungarian and one in Croatian, and in Registers of Deaths (RD) 197 in Hungarian. In the Municipality of Kanjiža, the figures were: RB 10, RM 47 and RD 34, all in Hungarian. In the Municipality of Ada: RB 22, RM 38 and RD 80, all in Hungarian. In the Municipality of Kula: RB one, RM eight, RD 10, in Hungarian and Ruthenian. In the Municipality of Bačka Topola: RB 136, RM 41 and RD 10, in Hungarian, Slovak and Ruthenian. In the Municipality of Kikinda there were four entries in the RM in Hungarian. In the Municipality of Zrenjanin there were five entries in the RB in Hungarian and two in Slovak, one in the RM in Hungarian, two in the RD in Hungarian. In the Municipality of Novi Bečej there were two Register entries in Hungarian, and in the Municipality of Srbobran one in the RB in Ruthenian. In the Municipality of Vrbas there were 28 inscriptions into Registers in Hungarian and Ruthenian, and in the Municipality of Bečej 34 in Hungarian. In the Municipality of Žitište: RB 17 and RM seven, in Hungarian and Romanian. In the Municipality of Sombor: RB three and RM four, all in Hungarian. In the Municipality of Novi Kneževac there were five Register entries in Hungarian, and in the Municipality of Sečanj one entry in the RB, also in Hungarian. In the Municipality of Beočin: RB two, RM four and RD seven, in Slovak. In the Municipality of Stara Pazova: RB five and RM two.

In most municipalities weddings are conducted in minority languages if so requested, which means that all records and entries in Marriage Registers are also made and kept in those languages; this includes use and adoption of family names in the minority languages.

5.4.

Article 11

Media

1. The Parties undertake, for the users of the regional or minority languages within the territories in which those languages are spoken, according to the situation of each language, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:

Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs:

a)

(iii) to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages;

b)

(ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;

c)

(ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;

d) to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the regional or minority languages;

e)

(i) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages;

f)

(ii) to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the regional or minority languages;

2. The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language. The exercise of the above-mentioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

3. The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of the users of regional or minority languages are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media.

5.4.1. Radio and Television – Relevant Public Service Legislation

Radio and TV broadcasting is regulated in Serbia by the Broadcasting Law. Under Article 4 para 1.1 of the Broadcasting Law, broadcasting is a general term covering radio and television as electronic mass communication media realised through analogue or digital transmission of text, speech, still and moving pictures in the form of programmes

intended for the broad public conveyed to appropriate receiving equipment by radio waves and cable distribution systems. Under Article 4 para 1.9, broadcasting organisations, or broadcasters, are natural or legal persons duly registered for the activity of producing and broadcasting radio or television programmes and, as provided for by the Law, holding broadcasting licences. The provision defines public broadcasting service as the production, purchase, processing and broadcasting of informative, educational, cultural and artistic, children's, entertaining, sports and other radio and television programmes which are of general interest to the public, and aimed in particular at realising citizens' human and civil rights, exchanging ideas and opinions, cultivating political, sexual, ethnic and religious tolerance, and preserving national identity. Under Article 76 of the Law, the public broadcasting service is made up of the republican and provincial public broadcasting services which produce and broadcast radio and TV programmes and have specific responsibilities in the realisation of the general interest in the area of the public broadcasting service, determined by that Law.

5.4.2. Radio and TV Broadcasting in Minority Languages – Relevant Regulations

Under Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to full, timely and impartial information in their own languages, which includes a right to express, receive, convey and exchange information and ideas. The Broadcasting Law places on the public broadcasting services an obligation to, with the aim of realising the general interest, produce and broadcast programmes intended for all segments of society, without discrimination, taking care, especially as regards specific social groups such as, *inter alia*, minority and ethnic groups, to respect linguistic and dialectal standards of the majority population, but in an appropriate measure also of the national minorities, i.e., ethnic groups, in the area in which the programmes are being broadcast, and also to provide for the fulfilment of the needs of the public for programme content which express the cultural identities of both peoples and national minorities, i.e., ethnic groups, through an opportunity to follow certain programmes in their own languages and scripts in the areas where they live and work. These provisions enable entities which carry public broadcasting service programmes to offer some content in regional or minority languages. Under Article 72 of the Broadcasting Law, broadcasters have an obligation to produce and broadcast programmes in the Serbian language, or to provide for Serbian translations when broadcasting programmes produced in foreign languages; this provision does not concern broadcasters producing and broadcasting programmes intended for the national minorities, as well as parts of the programmes produced by the public broadcasting service institutions which satisfy the needs of national minorities for information in their own languages. The aforementioned provisions make it possible for radio and TV broadcasts in minority languages to be produced by broadcasters who are not part of the public broadcasting service. Furthermore, under Article 5 of the Public Information Law, for the purpose of realising the right of national minorities and ethnic communities to public information in their own languages and to the fostering of their own cultures and identities, the Republic, Autonomous Province and local self-government provide part of the funds and other resources needed by the public media in the languages of national minorities and ethnic communities. Article 11 of the Law defines the public media as newspapers, radio

programmes, television programmes, news agency services, Internet and other electronic versions of the said media, and other public information resources which use words, pictures and sound to publish ideas, information and opinions intended for public distribution and an unspecified number of users. Under Article 14 of the Public Information Law, the founder of the legal person who is the founder of a public medium may be any domestic or foreign physical or legal person, as provided for by law, but the following may not be founders of media, either directly or indirectly: the state and autonomous territorial entity, as well as institutions, enterprises and other legal persons with majority state ownership, or entirely or predominantly funded from public resources, unless specified otherwise by a specific law regulating the area of broadcasting. The above provisions of the Public Information Law provide for various measures by which the state and other public authorities can encourage or facilitate the regular broadcasting of radio and television content in minority languages.

5.4.2.1. Encouragement and Facilitation of Radio and TV Programmes in Minority Languages

The following tables contain data²⁰ about measures aimed at encouraging or facilitating the broadcasting of radio programmes in minority languages, both in the public broadcasting service, by broadcasters who are public enterprises²¹, and by privately-owned stations.

The Albanian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
RTV Bujanovac Radio Bujanovac, Bujanovac	6.5 hours daily	Funded from Municipal budget (100%). In 2006, Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a public competition 325,935.60 dinars for purchase of equipment to realise the <i>RTV Bujanovac – Multi-ethnic Medium</i> project. In 2007 Ministry of Culture granted by public competition 321,980 dinars for technical equipment.
RTV Preševo, Radio Preševo, Preševo	12.5 hours daily	80% funded from Municipal budget
Radio Medveđa, Medveđa	two hours a week and news 1x daily	Funded from Municipal budget. In 2006 Ministry of Culture granted by public competition 80,000 dinars for realisation of a serial dealing with the life stories of displaced persons on both sides of the line

²⁰ Data collected from republican, provincial and local authorities, as well as a poll taken by the Serbian Governmental Agency for Human and Minority Rights in the February – April 2007 period.

²¹ Local and regional public enterprises are set to be privatised.

Private broadcasters Broadcasting only in Albanian		
Radio Spektri, Bujanovac	24 hours daily	-
Radio Aldi, Preševo	24 hours daily	-
Radio M, Medveđa	24 hours daily	-

The Bosnian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Regional RTV Radio Novi Pazar, Novi Pazar	30% of 7.5 hours daily	funding from Municipal budget
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio sto plus, Novi Pazar	five hours daily	-
Radio Amaro, Sjenica	12 hours daily	-

The Bulgarian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Srbija Republican Public Service		
Radio Niš – Bulgarian Language Programme, Niš	until 2005: 3 hours a week, from 2005: 15 min. daily	-
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Bosilegrad, Bosilegrad	7.5 hours daily	funding from Municipal budget
RTV Caribrod Radio Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad	4-5 hours daily	funding from Municipal budget
Radio Surdulica, Surdulica	three hours a week	funding from Municipal budget

The Hungarian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
Radio Novi Sad – Hungarian Language Service, Novi Sad	24 hours daily	In 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP, INF ²²
Public enterprises Broadcasting only in Hungarian		
Radio Subotica Hungarian Language Service, Subotica	24 hours daily	funding from Municipal budget, in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted the Hungarian Service 144,000 dinars on the basis of a competition; in the 2002/2006 period, the Period the Provincial Secretariat for Information gave Radio Subotica a total of 2,107,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Private media broadcasting only in Hungarian		
Radio Zeppelin, Mužlja, Zrenjanin Municipality	24 hours daily	in the 2002/2006 period, the Period the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 160,000 dinars for TTO
Radio IIM, Totovo Selo, Kanjiža Municipality	24 hours daily	-
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Apatin, Apatin	15 minutes a day	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2005/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 450,000 dinars for TTO
RTV Radio BaP, Bačka Palanka	two hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Period the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 300,000 dinars for TTO
		funding from Municipal budget,

²² Abbrev. used in column No. 3:

RED, DOT. – in 2002 and 2003 RTV Novi Sad received **regular subsidies**

OPR. – in 2003 and 2004 funds provided for **equipping** RTV Novi Sad for radio and video coverage of the work of the Executive Council and Assembly of AP Vojvodina, while funds were provided for the regional electronic media for establishment and launch

TTO – from 2005 regional and municipal media received funds after competing for **Technical and Technological Development**

INF – contracts concluded on **informing** the public on the work of the Executive Council and Assembly of AP Vojvodina

UNP – **project development funds**, provided since 2006

Radio Srednja Bačka, Bačka Topola	12 hours a day	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 410,360 dinars for Hungarian-language programmes and for launching programmes in Slovak, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 417,100 dinars, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 2,224,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Radio Vrbas, Vrbas	five hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 4,300,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin	one hour a day	funding from Municipal budget, in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 432,000 dinars, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 670,000 dinars
RTV Inđija Radio Inđija, Inđija	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget
RTV Kovačica Radio Kovačica, Kovačica	1.5 hours daily	funding from Municipal budget (70%)
Radio Kovin, Kovin	one hour a day	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 100,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Kula, Kula	one hour a day	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 1,563,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Radio Novi Bečej, Novi Bečej	25 hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 100,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Odžaci, Odžaci	two hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 370,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Sečanj, Sečanj	one hour per week	funding from Municipal budget, in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 250,000 dinars for programmes in Hungarian and Romanian, in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 160,500 dinars for programmes in Hungarian and Romanian, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 447,000

		dinars for TTO and INF
Radio Sombor, Sombor	two hours daily	funding from Municipal budget, in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 289,800 dinars for the 'Cross Culture' broadcast, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 410,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Srbobran, Srbobran	eight hours daily	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 772,600 dinars for TTO
Radio Temerin, Temerin	five hours daily	funding from Municipal budget, in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 288,000 dinars the 'Minority Rights, European Experiences and Serbo-Hungarian Links in History' project, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 450,000 dinars for TTO
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Ada, Ada	88 hours a week	-
Radio Bačka Topola, Bačka Topola	12 hours daily	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 636,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Radio sunce – Glas južnog banata, Bela Crkva	20 minutes a week	in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 100,000 dinars for the 'Multiculturalism 2007' project
Radio Bečej, Bečej	four hours a day	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 50,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Vidra, Bečej	3.5 hours a day	-
Radio Patak, Vršac	1.5 hours a week	agreement on commercial co-operation with the Municipality concluded
Radio Fedra, Zrenjanin	daily news, one hour a week	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 96,000 dinars for the 'Euroradio' multilingual radio – information broadcasts, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 96,000 dinars for the 'Euroradio' multilingual radio
Panda radio, Kanjiža	17 hours daily	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 100,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Bus, Kovin	1.5 hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 340,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Blue, Odžaci	0.5 hours a week	-
City Radio,	six hours daily	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 408,000

Subotica		dinars for TTO
Paligo Radio (Radio Palić), Subotica	two hours a week	-
Sity Folk Radio, Subotica	one hour a day	-
Yu Eco Radio, Subotica	2-3 hours daily	-
Radio 90, Hajdukovo, Subotica Municipality	2-3 hours daily	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 50,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Alfa Mini Radio, Subotica	2-3 hours daily	-

The Roma Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Srbija Republican Public Service		
Radio Belgrade – the Roma language Service, Belgrade	0.5 hours daily	-
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
Radio Novi Sad – the Roma language Service, Novi Sad	2.5 hours daily	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Bela Crkva, Bela Crkva	one hour, irregularly	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 216,730 dinars for TTO
RTV Bujanovac Radio Bujanovac, Bujanovac	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget 100%, in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 325,935.60 dinars for purchase of equipment for realising the ‘RTV Bujanovac – Multi-ethnic Medium’ project in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 321,980 dinars for technical equipment
RTV Indija Radio Indija, Indija	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget
Radio Kovin, Kovin	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 100,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Kruševac, Kruševac	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in 2005. The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 250,000 dinars for the

		'Romano alav' project
Radio Novi Bečej, Novi Bečej	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 100,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Odžaci, Odžaci	two hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 370,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Sombor, Sombor	1.5 hours weekly	funding from Municipal budget, in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 289.800 dinars for the 'Cross Culture' broadcasts, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 410,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Srbobran, Srbobran	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 772.600 dinars for TTO
Radio Surdulica, Surdulica	three hours a week	funding from Municipal budget
RTV Trstenik Radio Trstenik, Trstenik	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget 60%, in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 380,000 dinars for the 'Lačo đe' broadcast
Private media broadcasting only in the Roma language		
Radio Romano Vilo, Bor	24 hours a day	-
Radio Ašunen Romalen, Zrenjanin	24 hours a day	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 100,000 dinars for UNP
Radio Romano Alav, Kruševac	24 hours a day	in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 300,000 dinars for the 'My Homeland, My Country' broadcast
Radio Rom, Obrenovac	24 hours a day	-
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
RTV Khrlo e Romengo Radio Khrlo e Romengo, Belgrade	10 hours a day	in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 400,000 dinars for technical equipment
Radio Srce, Belgrade		in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 300,000 dinars for the 'Belgrade Has a Heart, Too' broadcast
Radio Točak, Valjevo	12 hours a day	-
Radio Gipson, Vranje	12 hours	-
OK Radio, Vranje	one hour a week, only in 2006	in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 300,000 dinars for the 'Šunen e romen' broadcast

Radio D-65, Deronje	two hours per week	-
Radio Amaro, Zaječar	3.5 hours a day	-
RTV Belle Amie Radio Belle Amie, Niš	news twice daily	-
Radio Blue, Odžaci	0.5 hours a week	-
Romski Radio, Požarevac	17 hours a day	-
Radio Leo, Surdulica	12 hours a day	-
Radio Gong, Trgovište	has stopped broadcasting	in 2005. The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 600,000 dinars for the promotion and integration of the Roma community in the information system

The Romanian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
Radio Novi Sad - Romanian Language Service, Novi Sad	44 hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Bela Crkva, Bela Crkva	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 216,730 dinars for TTO
Radio Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin	1.5 hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 432,000 dinars, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 670,000 dinars
RTV Kovačica Radio Kovačica Kovačica	1.5 hours a day	funding from Municipal budget (70%)
Radio Kovin, Kovin	two hours a day	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 100,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Sečanj, Sečanj	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 250,000 dinars for programmes in Hungarian and Romanian, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 160,500 dinars for programems in Hungarian and Romanian, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial

		Secretariat for Information provided 447,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Private media broadcasting only in Romanian		
Radio Viktorija, Vršac	24 hours a day	commercial co-operation agreement with the Municipality, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 60,000 dinars, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 200,000 dinars for TTO
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Far, Alibunar	four hours a day	in 2007 The Ministry of Culture awarded by competition 40,000 dinars for the 'Vcultural Mosaic' in Romanian, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 420,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Sunce –Glas južnog Banata, Bela Crkva	one hour a week	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 100,000 dinars for the 'Multi-culturalness 2007' project
Radio Patak, Vršac	1.5 hours a week	commercial co-operation agreement with the Municipality,

The Ruthenian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
Radio Novi Sad – Ruthenian Language Service, Novi Sad	5 hours + 25 minutes a day	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Srednja Bačka, Bačka Topola	0.5 hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 410,360 dinars for programmes in Hungariana dn launching broadcasts in Slovak, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 417,100 dinars, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 2,224,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Radio Vrbas, Vrbas	five hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 4,300,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Kula,	one hour a day	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial

Kula		Secretariat for Information provided 1,563,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Radio Šid, Šid	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 428,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
Multiradio, Novi Sad	0.5 hours a week	in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 396,000 dinars for the 'Studentski magazin' programme
Radio Blue, Odžaci	0.5 hours a week	-

The Slovak Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
Radio Novi Sad – Slovak Language Service, Novi Sad	until 2005: 5.5 hours a day, since 2005: five hours a day	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Bačka, Bač	five hours a week	funding from Municipal budget (51%), in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 1,844,964.40 dinars for TTO
RTV Radio BaP, Bačka Palanka	two hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 300,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Srednja Bačka, Bačka Topola	0.5 hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 410,360 dinars for programmes in Hungarian and launching a Slovak service, in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 417,100 dinars, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 2,224,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Radio Bački Petrovac, Bački Petrovac	24 hours a day	funding from Municipal budget, in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 30,000 dinars for support for Slovak-language information broadcasts, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 100,000 dinars for broadcasts in Slovak, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 738,000 dinars for TTO
		funding from Municipal budget,

Radio Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin	1.5 hours a week	in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 432,000 dinars, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 670,000 dinars
RTV Indija Radio Indija, Indija	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget
RTV Kovačica Radio Kovačica, Kovačica	five hours a day	funding from Municipal budget (70%)
Radio Kisač, Novi Sad	33 hours a week	funding from budgets of the City and the Kisač Local Community, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 180,000 dinars for INF
Radio Odžaci, Odžaci	two hours a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 370,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Stara Pazova, Stara Pazova	five hours a day	funding from Municipal budget, in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 30,000 dinars for children's radio programmes in Slovak and 30,000 dinars for the 'We Live Together' broadcast in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 35,000 dinars
Radio Šid, Šid	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 428,000 dinars for TTO
Private media broadcasting only in Slovak		
Slovensky radio, Padina		-
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Far, Alibunar	two hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 420,000 dinars for TTO
Radio Sunce – Glas Južnog Banata, Bela Crkva	20 minutes a week	in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 100,000 dinars for the 'Multi-culturalness 2007' project
Radio D-65, Deronje	three hours a week	-
Radio Fedra, Zrenjanin	daily news, one hour a week	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 96,000 dinars for the 'Euroradio' multilingual radio – information broadcasts, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 96,000 dinars for 'Euroradio' multilingual radio
Radio Blue,	0.5 hours a week	-

Odžaci		
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The Ukrainian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
Radio Novi Sad – Ukrainian Language Service, Novi Sad	six hours a month	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Vrbas, Vrbas	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 4,300,000 dinars for TTO
RTV Indija Radio Indija, Indija	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 200,000 dinars for the “Differences are Our Value’ Ukrainian-language programme
Radio Kula, Kula	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 1,563,000 dinars for TTO and INF
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Rojal, Sremska Mitrovica		-

As the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority has said in its report on the implementation of the Charter: “ Only Radio Novi Sad’s service, which has ... lately been considerably expanded, is professionally and financially regulated”.

The Croatian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Radio Bačka, Bač	0.5 hours a week	funding from Municipal budget (51%), in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 1,844.964.40 dinars for TTO
RTV Indija Radio Indija, Indija	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget,
Radio Subotica,	two hours a day	funding from Municipal budget, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 500,000 dinars for a series of radio drama programmes in

Subotica		Croatian, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted Radio Subotica a total of 2,107,000 dinars for TTO and INF
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5.4.2.2. The Practice of Encouraging and Facilitating TV Programmes in Minority Languages

The following tables contain data about measures which encourage or facilitate broadcasting of television programmes in minority languages, both in the public broadcasting service and by broadcasters who are public enterprises²³ or privately-owned.

The Albanian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
Public enterprises broadcasting only in Albanian		
RTV Preševo TV Preševo, Preševo	9.5 hours a day	funding from Municipal budget (80%)
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
RTV Bujanovac TV Bujanovac, Bujanovac	three hours a day	funding from Municipal budget (100%)
Private media broadcasting only in Albanian		
TV Spektri, Bujanovac	24 hours a day	-
TV Aldi, Preševo	15 hours a day	-

The Bosnian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Regionalna RTV TV Novi Pazar, Novi Pazar	30% of 17 hours a day	funding from Municipal budget, in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 1,022,175 dinars for technical equipment
TV Tutin, Tutin	eight hours a day	funding from Municipal budget

The Bulgarian Language

²³ Local and regional public enterprises are set to be privatised

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
RTV Caribrod TV Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad	one hour a day	funding from Municipal budget, in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 366,390 dinars for technical equipment, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 525,000 dinars for technical equipment

The Hungarian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
TV Novi Sad – Hungarian language Service, Novi Sad	12 hours a day	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134.250 dinars to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF ²⁴
Private media broadcasting only in Hungarian		
TV Mozaik, Novi Sad	24 hours a day	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 300,000 dinars for a documentary series, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 2,450,000 dinars for TTO
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
Express-channel cable TV, Bačka Topola	one hour a day	funding from Municipal budget
TV Bačka, Vrbas	various reports in Hungarian	funding from Municipal budget
Info TV, Kanjiža	one hour a day	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 600,000 dinars for TTO

²⁴ Abbrev. used in column No. 3:

RED. DOT. – in 2002 and 2003 RTV Novi Sad received **regular subsidies**

OPR. – in 2003 and 2004 funds provided for **equipping** RTV Novi Sad for radio and video coverage of the work of the Executive Council and Assembly of AP Vojvodina, while funds were provided for the regional electronic media for establishment and launch

TTO – from 2005 regional and municipal media received funds after competing for **Technical and Technological Development**

INF – contracts concluded on **informing** the public on the work of the Executive Council and Assembly of AP Vojvodina

UNP – **project development funds**, provided since 2006

RTV Kovačica TV Kovačica, Kovačica	eight hours a day	funding from Municipal budget (70%), in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 360,000 dinars for subtitling shows in minority languages and Serbian, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 4,310,785 dinars for TTO and INF
CINK Info kanal, Novi Knežavac	10 hours a day	funding from Municipal budget (80%), in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 521,600 dinars for TTO and INF
Regional RTV Pančevo TV Pančevo, Pančevo	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 2,830,000 dinars for TTO
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
Cable TV, Ada	4-6 hours a week	-
TV Banat, Vršac	daily information broadcasts and programme 0.5 hours a week	commercial and technical co-operation agreement with the Municipality
TV Santos, Zrenjanin	0.5 hours a day	in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 200,000 dinars for the 'Hungarian Magazine' broadcast
TV Odžaci, Odžaci	0.5 hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 1,912,300 dinars for TTO and INF
Super TV, Subotica	two hours a day, except Sundays	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 6,440,000 dinars for TTO and INF
YU ECO TV, Subotica	35% of the 24 daily programme	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 15,534,000 dinars for TTO, INF and UNP
TV K23, Subotica	two hours a day	-
City TV, Subotica	two hours a day	-
KDS Info Kanal, cable TV Subotica	two hours a day	-

The Roma Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
TV Novi Sad – the Roma language Service, Novi Sad	four hours a week and two hours a month	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF

Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
RTV Bujanovac TV Bujanovac, Bujanovac	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget 100%
RTV Valjevo TV Valjevo, Valjevo	four hours a month	In 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 360,000 dinars for information broadcasts to the Roma population in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 360,000 dinars for the 'Ej Romalen' broadcast
Regional RTV Pančevo TV Pančevo, Pančevo	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 2,830,000 dinars for TTO
RTV Krajina, TV Krajina, Negotin	0.5 hours a week (since 2007)	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 200,000 dinars for the 'Bibijaku djive' broadcast
RTV Trstenik TV Trstenik, Trstenik	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 250,000 dinars for the 'Lačno đe' broadcast
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
RTV Khrlo e romengo TV Khrlo e romenego, Belgrade	40% of 11.5 hours a day	in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 387,000 dinars
RTV Nišava TV Nišava, Niš	seven hours a day	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 600,000 dinars for the 'From A to Z' broadcast and in 2006 another 275,401 dinars for TV production expenses in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 440,000 dinars
RTV Belle Amie TV Belle Amie, Niš	news broadcasts twice daily	-
Pi kanal, Piot	one hour a month	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 450,000 dinars for the 'Pralipe' broadcast
YU ECO TV, Subotica	two hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 15,534,000 dinars for TTO, INF and UNP

The Romanian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
TV Novi Sad – Romanian Language Service, Novi Sad	5.5 hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF
Public enterprises		

Multilingual broadcasting		
RTV Kovačica TV Kovačica, Kovačica	eight hours a week	funding from Municipal budget (70%), in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 360,000 dinars for subtitling shows in minority languages and Serbian, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 4,310,785 dinars for TTO and INF
Regional RTV Pančevo TV Pančevo, Pančevo	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 2,830,000 dinars for TTO
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
TV Banat, Vršac	Daily information broadcasts and programme 0.5 hours a week	commercial and technical co-operation agreement with the Municipality

In its report on the implementation of the Charter, the National Council of the Romanian National Minority said that Romanian-language broadcasting was taking place only on RTV Vojvodina's public service. "The duration of the broadcasts has been increased, but without appropriate staffing and technical improvements ... Romanian-language broadcasts territorial coverage is exceptionally poor - reception is very poor in southern Banat, and two-thirds of all ethnic Romanians cannot receive them at all".

The Ruthenian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
TV Novi Sad – Ruthenian Language Service, Novi Sad	40 minutes a day	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
TV Bačka, Vrbas	Various reports in Ruthenian	funding from Municipal budget
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
TV Odžaci, Odžaci	0.5 hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 1,912,300 dinars for TTO and INF
Sremska TV, Šid	0.5 hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 13,920,000 dinars for TTO, INF and UNP

In its opinion given in the report on the implementation of the Charter, the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority said that stations broadcasting in Ruthenian had a variety of problems, including “equipment shortages – there is a shortage of computers, even in the stations with extensive influence on public opinion (Radio Novi Sad and TV Novi Sad), digital voice recorders, still cameras, etc.” The Council also pointed to problems like the “unfavourable age structure of journalists” and “as another objective problem ... also poor reception of radio and TV signals carrying broadcasts in Ruthenian, especially in Srem”.

The Slovak Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
TV Novi Sad – Slovak Language Service, Novi Sad	5.5 hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars and RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF
Private media broadcasting only in Slovak		
TV Petrovac, Bački Petrovac	24 hours a day	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 585,000 dinars for INF
Public enterprises Multilingual broadcasting		
RTV Kovačica TV Kovačica	24 hours a week	funding from Municipal budget (70%), in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 360,000 dinars for subtitling shows in minority languages and Serbian, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 4,310,785 dinars for TTO and INF
Regional RTV Pančevo TV Pančevo, Pančevo	one hour a week	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 2,830,000 dinars for TTO
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
TV Odžaci, Odžaci	0.5 hours a week	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 1,912,300 dinars for TTO and INF
Sremska TV, Šid	0.5 hours a week	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 200,000 dinars for the ‘Slovak Magazine’ broadcast, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 13,920,000 dinars for TTO, INF and UNP

The Ukrainian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
TV Novi Sad – Ukrainian Language Service, Novi Sad	one hour a month	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF

In its opinion in the report on the implementation of the Charter, the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority said that “information broadcast by means of television, the most powerful medium, far from satisfies the interests and needs of [ethnic] Ukrainians, either by the volume, frequency or status of the broadcasts. Ukrainian-language broadcasts are an integral part of the Ruthenian Language Service and outside the reach of the [ethnic] Ukrainians, their institutions and organisations, who cannot influence the broadcasts’ programming, staffing and editorial policies – this needs to be rectified.”

The Croatian Language

Broadcaster	Daily programme duration	Measures to encourage or facilitate broadcasting of programmes
RDU Vojvodina Provincial Public Service		
TV Novi Sad – Croatian Language Service, Novi Sad	one hour a month	in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 964,134,250 dinars to RDU Vojvodina for RED, DOT, OPR, UNP and INF
Private media Multilingual broadcasting		
YU ECO TV, Subotica	two hours a week	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 127,774 dinars for technical equipment for the ‘TV Tjednik’ broadcast in Croatian, in the 2002/2006 period, the Provincial Secretariat for Information provided 15,534,000 dinars for TTO, INF and UNP

5.4.3. The Practice of Encouraging or Facilitating the Production and Distribution of Audio and Audiovisual Products in Minority Languages

Since 2003, based on Article 5 of the Public Information Law, annual public competitions have been organised for co-funding public media and programmes in minority languages. In this way budget funds are employed to stimulate the production and distribution of audio and audio-visual products; one of the requirements for participation in the competition is broadcasting of the co-funded programme in a medium, or its distribution.

The following tables contain data about measures aimed at encouraging or facilitating the production and distribution of audio or audio-visual products.

The Bosnian Language

Beneficiary	Project	Measures to encourage or facilitate production and distribution of audio or audio-visual products
National Council of the Bosniak National Minority	Internet presentation of the Bosniak National Council, internet presentation	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 440,000 dinars in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 440,000 dinars

The Bulgarian Language

Beneficiary	Project	Measures to encourage or facilitate production and distribution of audio or audio-visual products
RTV Bell amie, Niš	series of TV broadcasts in Bulgarian	in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 310,000 dinars
RTV Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad	purchase of camera, tapes and computer for non-linear editing	in the 2002 - 2006 period financial support from the Ministry of Culture, National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority and the local self-government

The Hungarian Language

Beneficiary	Project	Measures to encourage or facilitate production and distribution of audio or audio-visual products
Minority associations in the Municipality of Bač	linking up with possible investors, drafting projects	financial support from the Municipality of Bač
KUD 'Večera Šandor', Bačka Palanka (Cultural and Artistic Society)	'Dunakanjaraj' TV broadcast 'Dunakanjaraj' TV broadcast	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 165,000 dinars in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 120,000 dinars
Radio Sunce – Glas Južnog Banata, Bela Crkva	publishing a CD	co-funding by Ministry of Culture and the Provincial Secretariat for Information

Agencija Tisa, Bečež	utility information on the SAT-TRAKT cable TV	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 327,000 dinars for TTO and INF
NGO TELEDOM, Novi Itebež	internet presentation of the local newspaper	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 30,000 dinars for TTO
Unit Graphics, Novi Sad	Web portal	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 150,000 dinars for UNP
<i>Magyar Szó</i> , Novi Sad	‘A New Website for New Generations’	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 300,000 dinars
NGO Beo dra, Novo Miloševo	Novo Miloševo internet presentation in Serbian and Hungarian	in the 2002/ 2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 150,000 dinars for UNP
Cultural and artistic societies in the Odžaci area	production of video cassettes, CDs	financial support form the Municipality of Odžaci
NGO Pannonia Alap, Subotica	independent TV production	in the 2002/ 2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 500,000 dinars for UNP

The Roma Language

Beneficiary	Project	Measures to encourage or facilitate production and distribution of audio or audio- visual products
‘Phralipe’ Citizens’ Association, Novi Sad	‘Roma Women and the Media’, radio broadcast	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 239,200 dinars
The ‘Rom’ development centre, Obrenovac	‘Equal Chances’ radio broadcast ‘Naš radio Rom Radio’ (‘Roma Radio is Our Radio’)	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 250,000 dinars in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 450,000 dinars
Roma Media Centre, Senta	Web portal	in the 2002/ 2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 400,000 dinars for TTO
NGO ‘Rani Bašno’	Web portal	in the 2002/ 2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 100,000

		dinars for TTO
Regional office of the National Council of the Roma National Minority, Šabac	‘Amaro Them’ radio broadcast	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture awarded by competition 250,000 dinars
Alliance of Roma Associations and TV Šabac, Šabac	‘Amaro them’ broadcast in the Roma language	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 250,000 dinars

The Romanian Language

Beneficiary	Project	Measures to encourage or facilitate production and distribution of audio or audio-visual products
Radio Sunce – Glas Južnog Banata, Bela Crkva	production of CD	co-funded by the Ministry of Culture and the Provincial Secretariat for Information

The Ruthenian Language

Beneficiary	Project	Measures to encourage or facilitate production and distribution of audio or audio-visual products
National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority	‘Evropska diližansa’ radio broadcast	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 97,328 dinars
NIU ‘Руске слово’, Novi Sad	Ruthenpress Agency	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 260,550 dinars
	Ruthenpress Agency	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 300,000 dinars

The Slovak Language

Beneficiary	Project	Measures to encourage or facilitate production and distribution of audio or audio-visual products
Minority associations in the Bač Municipality area	linking up with possible investors, drafting projects	financial support from the Municipality of Bač
Cultural and artistic societies in the area of the Municipality of Bački Petrovac	production of CD and audio cassettes	financial support from the Municipality of Bački Petrovac
Cultural and artistic societies in the area of the Municipality of Odžaci	production of CD and audio cassettes	financial support from the Municipality of Odžaci

The Croatian Language

Beneficiary	Project	Measures to encourage or facilitate production and distribution of audio or audio-visual products
NIU 'Hrvatska riječ', Subotica	'TV Tjednik' – TV broadcast in Croatian	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 400,000 dinars

5.4.4. The Practice of Encouraging or Facilitating the Creation and Preservation of at Least One Newspaper in Each Minority Language

Under the Public Information Law, printed media in minority languages are regularly receiving assistance from the budget (30-100% of the funds needed); this includes 11 newspapers in all the languages recognised under the Charter (two in the Roma language). The minority-language newspapers which are funded regularly are either weeklies, fortnighlies or monthlies (except the daily in Hungarian). In the process of implementing the Charter, in accordance with the competence of the public authority, comparison of obligations assumed under the Charter and the existing situation has been made and brought to light shortcomings such as the absence of a single daily newspaper in Albanian or Bosnian; this has been rectified by setting aside funds from the budget for the launch and regular publication of *Perspektiva*, in Albanian, and *Bošnjačka riječ*, in Bosnian, from April 2006.

Among measures to promote dissemination of information in minority languages are financial and other incentives for supplements for women, children and young people, as well as other specialised editions.

In the tables below are listed data on measures aimed at encouraging or facilitating the establishment and preservation of printed media in minority languages:

The Albanian Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in Albanian				
<i>Perspektiva</i> , Bujanovac	information, culture, politics	weekly	3,000	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture co-financed with 4,300,000 dinars (80% of funds requested)
<i>Diellori</i> , Bujanovac	children's monthly (since 2007)	monthly, during the school year	5,000	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 900,000 dinars
<i>Bilten</i> ,				in 2006 the Ministry of

Medveđa				Culture granted on the basis of a competition 300,000 dinars
<i>Hapi</i> , Vranje	informative magazine	irregular		-
<i>Filloristi</i> , Preševo	school newspaper	during the school year		funded by '15. novembar' Primary School, Preševo
<i>Cicerraku</i> , Crnotince	school newspaper	during the school year		funded by '22. decembar' Primary School, Crnotince

The Bosnian Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in Bosnian				
<i>Bošnjaka riječ</i> , Novi Pazar	science, culture, information	quarterly	1,000	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture co-financed with 1,460,000 dinars (60% of requested funds)
<i>Kolibri</i>	children's paper	monthly	500-1,000	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 240,500 dinars
<i>Šer</i>	homour	monthly	500	
<i>Revija Sandžak</i> , Novi Pazar	culture, social issues	monthly	2,000-5,000	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 240,000 dinars
<i>Glas islama</i> , Novi Pazar	religious	monthly	2,000	-

The Bulgarian Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in Bulgarian				
<i>Bratstvo</i> , Niš	information	weekly	2,000	financed from Republican budget, (in 2006 NIU 'Bratstvo' given 30,000,000 dinars - 100% of funds requested)
<i>Drugarče</i>	children's monthly	monthly, during the school year	1,500	financed from Republican budget, (in 2006 NIU 'Bratstvo' given 30,000,000 dinars - 100% of funds requested)
<i>Most</i>	culture, art, social issues	two-monthly	800	financed from Republican budget

The Hungarian Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in Hungarian				
<i>Magyar Szó</i> , Novi Sad	information	daily, except Sundays	10,000	in the 2002/ 2006 period subsidies from Provincial Secretariat for Information of 168,289,700 dinars (20%)
<i>Hét Nap</i> , Subotica	family weekly	weekly	6,000-7,500	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted by competition 413,773 dinars for IT, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted by competition 85,820 dinars for photo equipment, in the 2002/2006 period subsidies from Provincial Secretariat for Information of 69,236,850 dinars (60%)
<i>Községi Napló</i> , Bačka Topola	municipal affairs (published until 2006)	fortnightly	4,500	financed from Municipal budget
<i>Igaz Szó</i> , Kovin	supplement of privately-owned <i>Moj Kovin</i>	monthly	350-400	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information gave 130,000 dinars for TTO ²⁵
<i>Szó Beszéd</i> , Mali Idoš	information	monthly	700	-

²⁵ Abbrev. used in column No. 3:

RED. DOT. – in 2002 and 2003 RTV Novi Sad received **regular subsidies**
 OPR. – in 2003 and 2004 funds provided for **equipping** RTV Novi Sad for radio and video coverage of the work of the Executive Council and Assembly of AP Vojvodina, while funds were provided for the regional electronic media for establishment and launch
 TTO – from 2005 regional and municipal media received funds after competing for **Technical and Technological Development**
 INF – contracts concluded on **informing** the public on the work of the Executive Council and Assembly of AP Vojvodina
 UNP – **project development funds**, provided since 2006

<i>Muzslyai Újság,</i> Mužlja, Municipality of Zrenjanin	information	quarterly		in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted 200,000 dinars on the basis of competition, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted 100,000 dinars on the basis of a competition
Cserneyei Újság, Nova Crnja	information	quarterly	800	-
<i>Képes Ifjúság,</i> Novi Sad	young people's weekly	weekly	10,000	in the 2002/2006 period subsidies of the Provincial Sec. for Information of 19,050,530 dinars
<i>Híd,</i> Novi Sad	culture, science, social issues	quarterly		-
<i>Mezőskalács,</i> Novi Sad	children's monthly	monthly	6,500	-
<i>Jó Pajtás,</i> Novi Sad	children's weekly	weekly	2,300	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted 200,000 dinars on the basis of competition, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 200,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Symposion,</i> Novi Sad	culture	once in four months	500	-
<i>Aracs,</i> Novi Sad	culture			in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 150,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Létünk,</i> Novi Sad	culture	quarterly	500	-
<i>Családi Kör,</i> Novi Sad	family weekly	weekly	23,000-25,000	-
<i>Kisoroszi Hirmondó,</i> Rusko Selo, Kikinda Municipality				in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 120,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Dunatáj,</i> Sombor	information	weekly	500	-
<i>Üzenet,</i> Subotica	culture		400	-

<i>Új Kép,</i> Subotica	education	monthly, during the school year	1,500	-
<i>Temerini Újság,</i> Temerin	information	weekly	1,100	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted 116,160 dinars on the basis of a competition
<i>Községi Hírlap,</i> Temerin	information	monthly	2,500	financed from budget of Bačka Topola Municipality
<i>Jó Gazda,</i> Temerin	agricultural issues	monthly	2,000	-
<i>Tordai Újság,</i> Torda, Žitište Municipality	information	two-monthly	750	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted 50,000 dinars on the basis of a competition, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 75,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Új Kanizai Újság,</i> Totovo Selo, Kanjiža Municipality	information	fortnightly		-
<i>Fecske,</i> Feketić	information	monthly		in 2005 the Ministry of Culture 11,790 dinars on the basis of a competition, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 50,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Reformatus Elet,</i> Feketić	religious issues	monthly	2,000	-
Multilingual newspapers				
<i>Községi Körkép</i> <i>Opštinska</i> <i>panorama,</i> Ada	information Hungarian/Serbian 28/13-16/12-15 pages	monthly	1,200	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted 64,060 dinars on the basis of a competition for tech. equipment, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 44,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Bečejski mozaik,</i> Bečej	information Serbian / Hungarian 16/14/2 pages	weekly	1,700	-
<i>Zrenjanin,</i>	information Serbian / Hungarian/	weekly	12,000	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006

Zrenjanin	Romanian / Slovak 48/45-47/ 1 weekly /1 monthly /1 monthly			period the provincial Sec. for Information granted 1,100,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Zrenjaninske novine, Zrenjanin</i>	information supplement in Hungarian	weekly	10,000	-
<i>Kovinske novine, Kovin</i>	information Serbian / Hungarian / Romanian 20/19/ 0.5 /0.5 pages	monthly	1,500	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 160,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Kulska komuna, Kula</i>	information Serbian / Hungarian / Ruthenian 16/14/ 1 /1 pages	fortnightly	2,000	funding from Municipal budget
<i>Novokneže- vačke novine, Novi Kneževac</i>	information Serbian / Hungarian 12/8/ 4 pages	fortnightly	1,500	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 177,000 dinars for INF
<i>Čokanska hronika, Čoka</i>	information Serbian / Hungarian 12/6/6	monthly	2,000	funding from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 270,000 dinars for TTO

The Roma Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in the Roma language				
<i>Them, Novi Sad</i>	information	fortnightly	1,500	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted subsidies totalling 26,550,800 dinars
<i>Chavorrengo Them, Novi Sad</i>	children's monthly	monthly, during the school year	1,500	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted subsidies totalling 2,860,000 dinars
Multilingual newspapers				
<i>Romano Nevipe, Belgrade</i>	magazine, supplement for women and	monthly	3,500	in 2006 the Ministry of Culture co-financed with 5,614,600 dinars

	children the Roma language/Serbian			(100% of requested funds)
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The Romanian Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in Romanian				
<i>Libertatea</i> , Pančevo	information	weekly	3,000	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 350,350 dinars, in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 380,000 dinars, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 250,000 dinars to the publishing house for the 'Multi-culturalism Trends' project, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information provided subsidies totalling 70,201,570 dinars
<i>Lumina</i> , Pančevo	literature, art, culture	irregular	300	-
<i>Tineretea</i> , Pančevo	young people's monthly	monthly	650	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information provided subsidies totalling 6,012,120 dinars
<i>Bucuria Copilor</i> , Pančevo	children's monthly	monthly, during the school year	1,200	in the 2002/ 2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information provided subsidies totalling 6,012,120 dinars
<i>Tibiscus</i> , Uzdin	culture	monthly	1,200	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 108,000 dinars, in 2006 the Ministry of Culture granted on the

				basis of a competition 50,000 dinars, in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 50,000 dinars, in the 2002/2006 period Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 95,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Semanatorul,</i> Vršac	religious issues			-
<i>Stražerul,</i> Vršac	religious supplement			-
Multilingual newspapers				
<i>Opštinske novosti,</i> Alibunar	information Serbian / Romanian / Slovak 24/21/2/1 pages, (not published since 2006)	monthly	1,200	funded by Municipality, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information gave 102,741 dinars for TTO
<i>Vršačka Kula,</i> Vršac	information Serbian / Romanian 15/14/1 pages	fortnightly	1,500	funded from Municipal budget
<i>Zrenjanin,</i> Zrenjanin	information Serbian / Hungarian / Romanian / Slovak 48/45-47/1 weekly/ 1 monthly / 1 monthly	weekly	12,000	funded from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 1,100,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Kovinske novine,</i> Kovin	information Serbian / Hungarian / Romanian 20/19/0,5/0.5 pages	monthly	1,500	funded from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 160,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Огледало -</i> <i>Oglinda,</i> Sečanj	culture Serbian / Romanian	quarterly	1,000	-

In its Report on implementation of the Charter, the National Council of the Romanian National Minority stressed that “the tradition begun in the 19th and in particular the beginning of the 20th century has led to the Romanians being the leaders among the minorities in respect of local printed media. Virtually every village periodically issues its newspaper or other publication, which is also the case for most [ethnic] Romanian organisations. Their main problem is resolving the systemic funding problems. Modest funds are provided by Local Communities, the National Council of the Romanian National Minority and other sponsors. Founding rights of the Pančevo-based publishing house NIU Libertatea have been transferred to the National Council of the Romanian National Minority. The Executive Council of AP Vojvodina continues to subsidise the

publication of the weekly *Libertatea*, but there is either no money at all or very little for [other] publishing activities, as well as for the literary, artistic and cultural magazine *Lumina*. The National Council of the Romanian National Minority also emphasised that in contrast to other areas “in the area of publication of books and magazines the Vojvodina Romanians’ situation is much better. Besides the Pančevo-based NIU *Libertatea* there are four other publishing houses. Over 50 periodicals are being published, and almost every village has its own newspaper – the village of Torlak has no less than five”.

The Ruthenian Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in Ruthenian				
<i>Руске слово</i> , Novi Sad	information	weekly		in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information provided subsidies totalling 70,201,570 dinars
<i>Заградтка</i> , Novi Sad	children’s monthly	monthly, during the school year	1,300	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information provided subsidies totalling 6,012,120 dinars
<i>Мак</i> , Novi Sad	youth monthly	monthly		in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information provided subsidies totalling 6,012,120 dinars
<i>Шветлоич</i> , Novi Sad	literature, culture, art	quarterly	400	-
<i>Календар-Алманах</i> , Novi Sad		annual	2,500	-
<i>Русин</i> , Ruski Krstur		3-4 per year		-
<i>Дзвони</i> , Ruski Krstur	religious issues	monthly	1,000	in the 2002/ 2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 155,000 dinars for TTO
Multilingual newspapers				
<i>Kulska komuna</i> , Kula	information Serbian / Hungarian /	fortnightly	2,000	funded from Municipal budget

	Ruthenian 16/14/1/1 pages			
<i>Glas saveza,</i> Novi Sad	Organ of the Alliance of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in SaM, Ruthenian/Ukrainian 60/30/30	annual	300	-

In its Report on implementation of the Charter, the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority stressed that “the ‘Руске слово’ publishing house has major problems in funding all its publishing activities”.

The Slovak Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in Slovak				
<i>Hlas L'udu,</i> Novi Sad	information	weekly	4,600	in 2006 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 180,000 dinars for the supplement <i>Obzory</i> , in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information provided subsidies totalling 70,023,914 dinars
<i>Petrovske noviny,</i> Bački Petrovac	information	fortnightly	2,000	funded from Municipal budget
<i>Klasy,</i> Kovačica	information	quarterly	300	-
<i>Vzlet,</i> Novi Sad	youth monthly	monthly	1,600	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information provided subsidies totalling 6,012,120 dinars
<i>Zornička,</i> Bački Petrovac	children's monthly	monthly, during the school year	1,950	in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information granted 100,000 dinars for TTO
<i>Novi život,</i> Bački Petrovac	literature, culture	monthly	500	-
<i>Evanjelicky Hlasnik,</i>	religious issues	monthly		-

Novi Sad				
Multilingual newspapers				
<i>Opštinske novosti</i> , Alibunar	information Serbian / Romanian / Slovak 24/21/2/1 (not published since 2006)	monthly	1,200	funded from Municipal budget, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information granted 102,741 dinars for TTO
<i>Naša reč</i> , Bački Petrovac	information Slovak / Serbian	monthly	4,500	funded from Municipal budget
<i>Zrenjanin</i> , Zrenjanin	information Serbian / Hungarian / Romanian / Slovak 48/45-47/1 weekly/ 1 monthly / 1 monthly	weekly	12,000	funded from Municipal budget, in 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information gave for TTO 1,100,000 dinars

The Ukrainian Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in Ukrainian				
<i>Ридне Слово</i> , Novi Sad	information	monthly		in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 180,000 dinars for technical equipment, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Sec. for Information gave subsidies totalling 2,400,000 dinars
<i>Українське слово</i> , Novi Sad	culture	quarterly	500	in 2007 The Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 100,000 dinars
Multilingual newspapers				
<i>Glas Saveza</i> , Novi Sad	Organ of the Alliance of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in SaM, Ruthenian/Ukrainian 60/30/30	annual	300	-

The National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority has pointed out that “the ‘Ридне слово’ Ukrainian-language publishing house was founded in 2005.” The

institution, whose founder is the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority in Serbia, is registered for the production of all types of publications in Ukrainian. Its informative publication *Ридне слово* is regularly financed by the Vojvodina Provincial Secretariat for Information and has since July 2005 been issued on a monthly basis. “*Ридне слово* mainly satisfies needs and interests for printed information in the Ukrainian language and script”. The National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority said that “as far as printed media are concerned, it is necessary to provide for the regular monthly publication of a children’s and youth-oriented newspaper, as well as periodical publication of a magazine for literature, art and science.”

The Croatian Language

Newspaper	Content	Frequency of publication	Circulation	Measures of encouraging or facilitating the establishment or preservation of the paper
Newspapers in Croatian				
<i>Hrvatska riječ</i> , Subotica	information	weekly	1,500	in 2007 the Ministry of Culture granted the publishing house on the basis of a competition 200,000 dinars for youth-oriented content, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information gave subsidies totalling 41,523,400 dinars
<i>Hrcko</i> , Subotica	children’s supplement	monthly, during the school year	1,500	in 2005 the Ministry of Culture granted on the basis of a competition 476,100 dinars, in the 2002/2006 period the Provincial Secretariat for Information gave subsidies totalling 2,950,000 dinars
<i>Klasije naših ravni</i> , Subotica	literature, art, science	two-monthly	500	-
<i>Glasnik pučke kasine 1878</i> , Subotica	politics, culture, public life	monthly	300	-
<i>Miroljub</i> , Sombor	society, culture	quarterly	900	-

5.4.5. Implementation of Existing Measures of Financial Support for Audiovisual Production in Minority Languages

Since 2003 annual public competitions have been held for co-funding public media and programmes in minority languages which also cover audiovisual products. Besides the registered media, independent producers are also entitled to participate in the competition.

5.4.6. Removing Obstacles to the Free Flow of Information in Minority Languages

5.4.6.1. Relevant Legislation

Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guarantees to persons belonging to national minorities the right to express, receive, convey and exchange information and ideas, while Article 80 para. 3 specifies that persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to unimpeded links and co-operation with compatriots outside the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Under Article 1 para. 2 of the Public Information Law, the right to public information encompasses in particular freedom of expressing opinions, freedom of collecting, researching, publishing and disseminating ideas, information and opinions, freedom of printing and distributing newspapers and other public media, freedom of producing and broadcasting radio and television programmes, freedom of receiving ideas, information and opinions, and the freedom to establish legal persons involved in public information activities, while Article 15 specifies that the distribution of domestic and foreign media is free. Under Article 17 of that Law, the competent district court may, acting on a proposal of the public prosecutor, prohibit the distribution of an information if it determines that it is necessary in a democratic society for the purpose of preventing: incitement to the violent overthrow of the constitutional order, violation of the territorial integrity of the Republic, propagation of war, direct incitement to violence or advocating racial, ethnic or religious hatred which represents incitement to discrimination, hostility of violence, and the publication of the information represents a threat of an immediate serious irreparable consequence whose occurrence cannot be prevented in other ways. Freedom of re-broadcasting and direct reception of radio and TV programmes is in compliance with obligations and rules of the European Convention on Trans-Border Television and the Directive on Television without Frontiers.

5.4.6.2. Existing Practice

The Albanian Language

Re-Broadcasting Radio and TV Programmes

Radio / TV	Duration of re-broadcast programmes	Areas from which programmes are re-broadcast
RTV Preševo TV Preševo, Preševo	14.5 hours daily	Kosovo and Metohija, Albania
TV Aldi, Preševo	nine hours daily	Kosovo and Metohija, Albania

Distribution of Printed Media Produced in Neighbouring Countries

Municipality	No. of papers, circulation	Areas in which newspapers were published
Bujanovac	eight daily newspapers, 20-60 several magazines, 20-60	Kosovo and Metohija

The Bosnian Language

Re-Broadcasting Radio and TV Programmes

Radio / TV	Duration of re-broadcast programmes	Areas from which programmes are re-broadcast
Regional RTV TV Novi Pazar, Novi Pazar	<i>seven hours a day</i>	Bosnia and Herzegovina
TV Tutin, Tutin	<i>three hours a day</i>	Bosnia and Herzegovina

In its opinion in the report on the implementation of the Charter, the National Council of the Bosniak National Minority said that “Serbia guarantees the freedom of direct reception of radio and television programmes broadcast from neighbouring countries in the Bosnian language and is not opposed to the re-broadcasting of radio and television programmes from neighbouring countries in the Bosnian language. Serbia is not opposed to the free flow of information in the Bosnian language in the printed press.”

The Bulgarian Language

Re-Broadcasts of Programmes from Neighbouring Countries through Cable Distribution Systems

Municipality	TV	Country
Bosilegrad	several TV programmes	Bulgaria
Dimitrovgrad	BTV, K1, BBT, TV folklor, TV 7	Bulgaria

The Hungarian Language

Re-Broadcasts of Programmes from Neighbouring Countries through Cable Distribution Systems

Municipality	TV	Country
Ada	Magyar Televizio 1 and 2 (24 hours), Duna Televizio (24 hours), Televizia 2 (6-24 hours), RTL Club programme (6-24) HIR Televizio (6-24), ATV Televizio (6-24), Halozat Televizio (6-24)	Hungary
Apatin	satellite programme	Hungary

Bečej	ten programmes	Hungary
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Distribution of Printed Media Produced in Neighbouring Countries

Municipality	Importer	Country
Ada	Forum, Novi Sad	Hungary
Bečej	Elegance Poress, Subotica	Hungary

The Slovak Language

Re-Broadcasting Radio and TV Programmes

Radio / TV	Duration of re-broadcast programmes	Areas from which programmes are re-broadcast
Radio Novi Sad – Slovak Language Service, Novi Sad	<i>1-1.5 hours monthly</i>	Slovakia
Naša TV, Bački Petrovac	satellite programme	Slovakia
TV Petrovac, Bački Petrovac		Slovakia

The Croatian Language

Re-Broadcasts of Programmes from Neighbouring Countries via Cable Distribution Systems

Municipality	TV	Country
Apatin	HRT	Croatia

5.4.7. Representation of the Interests of Users of Minority Languages

Under the Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, national councils of the national minorities institutionally provide for the interests of the users of minority languages in the area of information in the minority languages. In the allocation of budget funds which support information media in minority languages, the opinions of the national councils are both necessary and one of the main criteria in the process.

Under Article 38 of the Statute of Serbian Public Broadcasting Service, the Programme Board has an obligation to take into consideration the opinions and recommendations of the national councils in respect of programmes in minority languages.

Representation of the interests of users of minority languages is also provided for by the Broadcasting Law, whose Article 23 specifies that the Board of the Republican Broadcasting Agency is elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia from candidates nominated by authorised propounders, who include domestic NGOs and citizens' associations involved in the protection of the rights of national minorities.

In its opinion in the report on the implementation of the Charter, the National Council of the Bosniak National Minority said that “although Serbia has as a signatory of the Charter assumed an obligation to protect or take into consideration the interests of users of regional or minority languages in bodies which may be formed as provided for by law and are responsible for guaranteeing media freedom and pluralism, the Managing Board of the Public Broadcasting Service of Serbia contains no representative of the minorities, although they make up almost 18% of Serbia’s overall population”.

5.5.

Article 12

Cultural Activities and Facilities

Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs:

1. *With regard to cultural activities and facilities – especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies – the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:*
 - a) to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;
 - b) to foster the different means of access in other languages to works produced in regional or minority languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities;
 - c) to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities;
 - f) to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;
2. *In respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.*

5.5.1. Encouraging Expression and Access to Works in Minority Languages

5.5.1.1. Encouraging Expression and Access to Works in the Albanian Language

5.5.1.1.1. Libraries

Under Article 10 para. 1.2 of the Law on Activities of the Public Interest in the Field of Culture, and in connection with Article 18 paras. 1.14 and 1.15 of the Law on Local Self-Government (see section 2.7 of the Report), funds required by libraries founded by municipalities are provided from the municipal budget. Municipalities finance the work of libraries which contain books in the Albanian language and where persons belonging to the Albanian national minority are employed, as follows:

- The ‘14. novembar’ Library, Bujanovac: 20,000 books (of a total of 57,000), seven of the 12 employees are ethnic Albanians;
- The ‘Petar Petrović Njegoš’ Municipal Library, Medveđa: 2,895 books (from a total of 35,684);
- Municipal Library, Preševo: 6,000 books (from a total of 19,000), seven employees are ethnic Albanians.

Encouraging expression in and diverse access to literary works in Albanian produced in the Albanian language is conducted by the purchase of books for libraries. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia co-finances the purchase of books in minority languages for libraries in multilingual areas.

The table below contains examples of such funding for the Albanian language in 2005 and 2006:

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia	‘14. novembar’, Bujanovac	purchase of books in Albanian	239,000.00
The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia	‘Petar Petrović Njegoš’, Medveđa	purchase of books in Albanian	50,000.00

5.5.1.1.2. Theatres

Amateur theatrical performances in the Albanian language are assisted with funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia and municipal budgets (for theatres founded by the municipality), as well as funds provided on the basis of competitions for funds for various activities and theatrical performances in minority languages.

Performances in Albanian are staged by an amateur theatrical group which is part of the KUD [cultural and artistic society] ‘Abdula Krašnica’ based in Preševo. The groups stages five performances for adults and children every year.

Following a competition for projects and programmes which by their high standard contribute to the development and presentation of art and culture in 2006, ‘KUD Abdula Krašnica’ received from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia 200,000.00 dinars for equipment and choreography, whereby expression in the Albanian language was encouraged and access provided to theatrical performances in Albanian.

A theatrical festival entitled ‘Days of Albanian Comedy’ takes place in Preševo.

The state provides backing for the organisation of festivals and other gatherings of theatrical groups performing in the Albanian language: in 2006, 300,000.00 dinars were provided for the ‘Days of Albanian Comedy’ festival.

5.5.1.1.3. Cultural Events

Apart from the ‘Days of Albanian Comedy’ festival, two other important Albanian-language cultural events are a poetry festival and the ‘Night with the Stars’ rock music festival.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia co-financed a number of cultural events of the Albanian national minority which helped encourage expression in and access to works in the Albanian language and in connection with the Albanian language (examples from the 2004-2006 period):

<i>Town</i>	Beneficiary	Purpose	Amount
Bujanovac	The ‘Kolo’ cultural and artistic society	International festival of folklore and young painters	250,000.00
Medveđa	The ‘Cultural centre’ citizens’ association	The ‘New Hopes’ project	150,000.00

5.5.1.2. Encouraging Expression and Access to Works in the Bosnian Language

5.5.1.2.1. Libraries

Under Article 10 para. 1.2 of the Law on Activities of the Public Interest in the Field of Culture, and in connection with Article 18 paras. 1.14 and 1.15 of the Law on Local Self-Government, funds needed by libraries founded by municipalities are provided from the municipal budget. Municipalities finance the work of libraries which contain books in the Bosnian language, as follows:

- The ‘Dositej Obradović’ Library, Novi Pazar: 705 books;
- The ‘Muhamed Abdagić’ Library, Sjenica: 100 books;

- The 'Dr Ejup Mušović' National Library, Tutin: 320 books.

Encouraging various forms of expression in the Bosnian language and enabling access to literary works in the Bosnian language is also effected by the publishing activities of the said libraries: the 'Dr Ejup Mušović' national library in Tutin has published two books of collected poems.

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of SaM provided to the 'Dositej Obradović' library in Novi Pazar assistance of 200,000.00 dinars in 2005.

5.5.1.2.2. Cultural Centres and Cultural Homes

The public authorities are helping the work of the Bosniak minority's cultural centres by way of activities in connection with the Bosnian language. In 2005, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of SaM helped the Novi Pazar Cultural Centre with 472,000.00 dinars and the Bosniak Cultural Centre with 60,000.00 dinars. In 2006, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of SaM and the Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia also provided 150,000.00 dinars for the Moslem Cultural Center in Subotica.

5.5.1.2.3. Theatres

Theatrical activities in the Bosnian language are supported and developed with funds provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia and from municipal budgets (for theatres founded by municipalities), as well as funds provided on the basis of competitions for funds for various activities and theatrical performances in minority languages.

An amateur theatre named the 'Regional Theatre' is active in Novi Pazar, as part of the 'Oslobođenje' Cultural Centre; so far it has produced two plays in Bosnian.

5.5.1.2.4. Publishing (Literary Works)

The Tutin-based Centre for Bosniak Studies has published a number of books in the Bosnian language, including: 'Bosanski jezik sa elementima nacionalne kulture' (*The Bosnian Language with Elements of the National Culture*), 'Kulturna baština Bošnjaka' (*The Bosniak Cultural Heritage*), 'Posebna izdanja' (*Special Editions*), 'Lektira' (*Reading*), 'DVD izdanja' (*DVD Editions*) and 'Bošnjačka književnost' (*The Bosniak Literature*).

5.5.1.2.5. Cultural Events

The most important cultural events at which expression in the Bosnian language is encouraged and access to works in that language advanced are as follows: the Sandžak Literary Meetings, the 'Bajramski koncert ilahija i kasida' Bairam concert, the SBONI –

Festival of Bosniak Folklore, the artists' colony 'Sandžak – Inspiration for Artists', the FESS Sandžak Festival of Sevdalinka Songs, the 'Sopoćanska viđenja' cultural event, the October gathering of Writers in Novi Pazar; part of the funding for these events comes from public sources.

According to the Report on the Implementation of the Charter drafted by the National Council of the Bosniak National Minority, in the cultural sphere "the state of Serbia participates partially in areas where the Bosnian language is in use through several projects ... the state is not obstructing the organisation of any cultural activity in the Bosnian language on the territory where the Bosnian language is in use".

5.5.1.3. Encouraging Expression and Access to Works in the Bulgarian Language

5.5.1.3.1. Libraries

Pursuant to the provision contained in article 10, paragraph 1, point 2 of the Law on Activities of Public Interest in the Field of Culture, and in connection with article 18, paragraph 1, points 14 and 15 of the Law on Local Self-Government, the funds for the work of libraries whose founder is the municipality shall be provided from the municipal budget. Municipalities finance the work of libraries which hold books in the Bulgarian language and which employ persons belonging to the Bulgarian national community. Those are:

- The Hristo Botev National Library, Bosilegrad: 9,777 books;
- The Detko Petrov National Library, Dimitrovgrad: 8,240 books, out of 6 employees 5 speak Bulgarian as their native language;
- The Gligorije Vozarević Library, Sremska Mitrovica: 9 books.

Encouraging forms of expression in the Bulgarian language and facilitating access to artistic works in the Bulgarian language through the work of libraries is carried out through the publishing activities of the aforementioned libraries. Therefore the Hristo Botev National Library, from Bosilegrad published a collection of poetry by Bulgarian authors and the Detko Petrov National Library from Dimitrovgrad – 3 publications and 2 bilingual publications (Bulgarian and Serbian).

5.5.1.3.2. Museums and Galleries

The City Gallery in Dimitrovgrad is the organiser of the International Painting Colony, the Poganovski Monastery, whose most regular participants are Bulgarian artists.

Cooperation has been established with cultural institutions from the Republic of Bulgaria, such as the Association of Bulgarian Painters, the Capital Library from Sofia and similar. The work of the Gallery is co-financed by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia.

In addition to encouraging expression in the Bulgarian Language, access to artistic works in the City Gallery is facilitated by the name of the Gallery being written bilingually (in Serbian and Bulgarian) and the names of authors and names of exhibits in the catalogues are also written in two languages.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia co-finances the work of the City Gallery in Dimitrovgrad.

5.5.1.3.3. Theatres

The Hristo Botev Theatre in Dimitrovgrad performs in the Bulgarian language. Every year the Theatre holds 1 premiere in the Bulgarian language (the Balkan Syndrome in 2002, the Old Village at the End of the World in 2003, the Sight in 2004 and Hamlet in the Village of Donja Paskashia in 2005). In 2005 the Youth Stage held the premiere of the Cheers in the Bulgarian language. The stage in Dimitrovgrad was host to 6 theatres with performances in the Bulgarian language.

The International Theatre Festival, the Balkan Theatre Fest, was held in Dimitrovgrad in 2005 and 2006. A total of 25 plays were performed at this festival, 13 of which were in the Bulgarian language.

5.5.1.3.4. Publishing (Literary Works)

The Bratstvo Journalist-Publishing House publishes editions in the Bulgarian language. Therefore 1 book was published in 2002; 1 book in 2003; 2 books in 2004; 3 books in 2005 and 4 books in 2006 which included the selected works of Detko Petkov in 3 volumes.

5.5.1.4. Encouraging Expression and Access to Works in the Hungarian Language

5.5.1.4.1. Libraries

Pursuant to the provision contained in article 10, paragraph 1, point 2 of the Law on Activities of Public Interest in the Field of Culture, and in connection with article 18, paragraph 1, points 14 and 15 of the Law on Local Self-Government, the funds for the work of libraries whose founder is the municipality shall be provided from the municipal budget. Municipalities finance the work of libraries which hold books in the Bulgarian language.

Libraries in 28 municipalities in Vojvodina have over half a million books in the Hungarian language, which accounts for 15.65% of the total number of books in the library network in Vojvodina.

The following libraries have books in the Hungarian language:

- the Savraš Gabor Library in Ada: 27, 015 books;
- the National Library in Apatin: 10,298 books (15% of the total number of books are in the Hungarian language)
- the Vuk Karadžić Library in Bač: 220 books;
- the Veljko Petrović National Library in Bačka Palanka, 6,072 books;
- the National Library in Bačka Topola, new books purchased – 6,216, 9 out of 13 employees are persons belonging to the Hungarian national minority;
- the National Library in Bečej: 39,887 books (out of a total of 98,010), out of a total of 3,298 library members 1,466 are persons belonging to the Hungarian national minority; 11 out of a total of 18 employees, are persons belonging to the Hungarian national minority;
- the Danilo Kiš National Library in Vrbas: 8,061 books (7,61%);
- the City Library in Vršac: 5,338 books;
- the Branko Radičević Library in Žitište, 9,709 books, 1,838 new books were purchased during the period 2002 – 2006;
- the City Library in Zrenjanin: 15,320 books;
- the Dr. Đorđe Natošević National Library in Inđija: 1,138 books;
- the Serbian library in Irig: 179 books;
- the Jožef Atila Library in Kanjiža: 37,326 books (out of a total of 56,265 books);
- the Jovan Popović National Library in Kikinda: 33,212 books (18.1%), 4 out of the 18 expert employees in the library are persons belonging to the Hungarian national minority;
- the Municipal Library in Kovačica: 3,331 books;
- the Vuk Karadžić Library in Kovin: 7,624 books;
- the National Library in Kula: 5,558 books in the Hungarian language, two librarians whose native language is Hungarian;
- the National Library in Mali Idoš: 18,667 books (out of a total of 29,396);
- the National Library in Novi Bečej: 12,405 books (21% of the total number of books)
- the Branislav Nušić National Library in Novi Kneževac: 13,072 books;
- the City Library in Novi Sad: 17,600 books, 2,146 books were purchased during the period 2002-2006;
- the Branko Radičević National Library in Odžaci: 1,200 books;
- the National Library in Plandište: 41 books;
- the City Library in Senta: 40,734 books (85% of the total number of books);
- the Karlo Bijelicki City Library in Sombor: 62,774 books (18.7%), 200 new books were purchased in 2004, 371 in 2005 and 504 in 2006;
- the Gligorije Vozerević Library in Sremska Mitrovica: 8 books;

- the National Library in Srbobran: 8,267 books and 62 books in the Homeland Section;
- the City Library in Subotica: 93,516 books (out of a total of 271,332);
- the Sirmaj Karolj Library in Temerin: 17,000 books;
- the Stojan Trumić National Library in Titel: 219 books;
- the Čoka Cultural Educational Centre – the Čoka Library: 7,187 books (out of a total of 20,245).

In addition to financing the work of public libraries from the budgets of municipalities which are the founders of libraries, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also co finances the purchase of books in the Hungarian language for libraries in multilingual environments thus facilitating access to literary works in the Hungarian language. Therefore in 2005 and 2006 the purchase of books in Hungarian for the municipal library in Kovačica in the amount of CSD 252,000 was co financed.

The publishing activities of libraries in the Hungarian language are also financed.

The Matica Srpska Library in Novi Sad issues the annual bibliography of books in Vojvodina (all of the titles published in Vojvodina during the year) which, in addition to other languages, is also printed in Hungarian.

As well as co financing the purchase of books in minority languages for libraries in multilingual environments, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also co finances the publishing of books and the organisation of events. Examples of such financing in 2005 and 2006 for the Hungarian language are shown in the table below:

<i>Institution</i>	Library	Purpose	Amount
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	City Library in Subotica	The publication of <i>Kostolanje Dežea</i>	40,000.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	City Library in Subotica	The organisation of the <i>Days of Kostolanje Dežea</i> event	40,000.00

Access to artistic works in Hungarian is also facilitated through the use of the book reserves in the City Library in Novi Sad. The sign displaying the name of the library on the central building of the City Library is written in Hungarian and library membership cards are also printed in the Hungarian language.

5.5.1.4.2. Cultural Centres and Cultural Homes

Publishing activity in the Hungarian language is also developed through cultural centres. The *Turzo Lajoš* Cultural-Educational Centre in Senta published 14 books in Hungarian and 2 bilingual CDs during the period 2002–2006. 4 publications in the “Beautiful Vojvodina Hungarian Book” open competition were presented with an awarded.

In order to provide the material conditions for nurturing and promoting the use of national minority languages the building and adaptation of important cultural buildings which present the cultural contents in several languages is also co financed. Projects for the on-going repairs, maintenance and equipping of cultural objects in multinational environments as well as those in non-developed or less developed municipalities are also co financed.

In the period 2005–2006 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of AP Vojvodina provided funding for cultural activities in the Hungarian language by allocating funds to the following cultural centres:

<i>Place</i>	User	Purpose	Amount
Kanjiža	The CNESA Educational-Cultural Institution	Work on the project for the <i>Jožef Nađ</i> regional creativity centre	1,000,000.00
Kula	The <i>Senteleki</i> Hungarian Educational Society in Sivac	Reconstruction of the building	500,000.00
Subotica	The Hungarian Folklore Centre	Co financing of the purchase of the premises for the Centre's headquarters	300,000.00
Torda	The Torda Local Community in the Žitište municipality	Reconstruction of the building and purchasing equipment for the loudspeaker system for the Cultural Centre	800,000.00
Feketić	The Feketić Local Community	Reconstruction of the Cultural Centre	2,300,000.00

5.5.1.4.3. Museums and Galleries

Pieces and exhibits are presented in the Hungarian language is in museums and galleries. The City Museum in Bečej purchased several pieces which have links with the Hungarian language and the speakers of this language during the period 2002 – 2005:

- 15 Hungarian coins, 159 Austro-Hungarian coins and 10 Hungarian war coins for the archaeological collection;
- the documentary film in the Hungarian language about the preparator Antal Laslo, a copy of the painting, the Martyrs from Arad, and 15 identity cards issued in the Austro-Hungarian Empire for the historical collection;
- 51 objects proved to be used by persons belonging to the Hungarian nationality for the ethnological collection;
- a large number of paintings by artists of Hungarian nationality as well as several portraits of citizens of Hungarian nationality from Bečej for the painting collection.

Access to the artistic pieces in the museum was facilitated by the publication of 14 bilingual publications (monographs, catalogues etc.) in Hungarian and Serbian. The invitations and posters for exhibitions are printed bilingually, as well as the accompanying legends on exhibitions.

41 books and catalogues are housed in the Vojvodina Theatre Museum in Novi Sad. The legacy of the actor Jenea Ferenci (posters, photographs, personal documents and decorations); the legacy of the marionette maker Šandor Hartig (marionettes, busts, sketches); presents from individuals (30 posters in Hungarian); historical documents from premieres in professional theatres in Vojvodina (posters, programmes, monographs); texts for the almanac of theatres in Vojvodina (texts in minority languages translated into Serbian) and the names of plays and the names of authors and actors in the original in the Hungarian language are all housed in the Vojvodina Theatre Museum in Novi Sad.

Access to the exhibits in the Vojvodina Theatre Museum was facilitated by the recording of the names of all authors in the register in minority languages including Hungarian. The museum custodian speaks Hungarian.

The project, Theatrical Culture on Vojvodina Soil from Ancient Times until Today, was launched in 2003 and editorial offices were established in minority language as part of that project. The editorial staff for theatrical culture in Hungarian also organised a debate on “Remembering Local Hungarian National Theatre”. 2005 saw the exhibition, Homage to the First Theatre Stage 1945/46, in Subotica, dedicated to the Hungarian National Theatre’s first season in Subotica.

The magazine for theatrical culture, Vojvodina’s Stage, which is published by the Vojvodina Theatre Museum, publishes texts in minority languages with translations into Serbian. The Vojvodina Theatre catalogue is written in 7 languages including Hungarian.

The collections in the City Museum in Subotica mainly belong to the Hungarian cultural inheritance. 70% of the archives and 50% of the publications in the history department are in Hungarian and German. Most exhibits in the ethnological department come from the Hungarian national circle. The fine arts department includes a Gallery of Hungarian Artists from Vojvodina from the period 1830-1930. The material in the natural history and archaeological collection is mostly in Hungarian.

Access to exhibits in the City Museum in Subotica is provided in the Hungarian language. The name of this institution is written in Hungarian and the entrance to the City Museum and official premises have been marked with multilingual signs. The directions at the entrance to the Secretariat of the Museum are in the Hungarian language and they inform the public that they can officially communicate in Hungarian and receive certain documents in that language too. Telephone calls are also answered in Hungarian.

All City Museum publications (catalogues, invitations, collections etc.) are published in the Hungarian language. The signs on the standing exhibits are written in Hungarian and the signs on exhibits which the Museum organises as part of special exhibitions are also

written in Hungarian, including guest exhibitions (from other museums, but not from abroad). The guide and employees who work in the museum speak Hungarian.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture, through open competition during 2005 and 2006, financed various forms of access to the artistic peaces in the Hungarian language and those linked to the Hungarian language:

<i>Place</i>	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Bačka Topola	Cultural Centre	Co financing the catalogue for the Blacksmith-Cartwright Museum	75,000.00
Stara Moravica	The Adi Endre Cultural-Artistic Society	Spring meetings for Vojvodina's Hungarian cultural creators	40,000.00
Subotica	City Museum	Interactive exhibition on the occasion of 120 years since the birth of Kostolanji Deže	60,0000.00

5.5.1.4.4. Archives

The State's activities regarding the management of the archives through the financing and co financing of the activities of the inter-municipal archives are directed towards gathering, processing, preserving, presenting and securing access to the archive materials. The central institution for the protection of the archive materials on the territory of the Republic of Serbia is the Archives of Serbia in Belgrade, and on the territory of Vojvodina the Archives of Vojvodina in Novi Sad. The activities which the state finances are: the digitalisation of the archive material, archive networking, publishing archive materials and information about archive material (guides) and exhibitions which are, for the most part, also presented in the Hungarian language.

The archive materials in the Hungarian language in archives in Serbia are presented in the table below:

<i>Archive</i>	<i>Archive Material</i>
<i>Historical Archives, Zrenjanin</i>	<i>The archive funds from 1918 are predominantly in the Hungarian language (60 archive funds)</i>
<i>Archives of Vojvodina, Novi Sad</i>	The major part of materials from the period 1861-1918, the entire materials from the period 1941-1945
Historical Archives, Senta	33% of the archive materials
Historical Archives, Sombor	86 funds out of the total of 551 funds

The Srem Historical Archives, Sremska Mitrovica	Parts of the archive fund, <i>Magistrat Trgovišta-Ruma</i> (1771-1918), <i>Šidsko Vlastelinstvo</i> (1777- 1895)
Historical Archives, Subotica	around 10% of the whole archive materials

Access to the archive materials in the Historical Archives in Subotica in the Hungarian language is facilitated in such a way that the name of the institution, seal, internal records completed by both members of the public and researchers, certificates (issued on the basis of facts from the archive materials), and other documents issued by the Historical Archives in Subotica may also be obtained in Hungarian. Those employees who receive visitors and researchers speak Hungarian.

In 2005 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture co financed the publishing of the *Ex Pannonia* gazette of the Historical Archives in Subotica, and the organization of the Archive Days event and scientific meeting on the occasion of the 500 year anniversary of the Senta Historical Archives in Senta in 2006.

5.5.1.4.5. Theatres

Theatres are supported and promoted through financing from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, the budget of the AP Vojvodina, municipal budgets (for theatres founded by the municipality) as well as open competitions for granting funds for certain activities and theatre plays in minority languages.

The number of theatres which perform in Hungarian on the territory of Vojvodina is as follows:

Professional theatres	4
Amateur theatres	30

The regular activities of amateur theatres are financed by municipalities.

The funds granted for plays in Hungarian by the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture on the basis of open competitions in 2005 and 2006 are:

<i>Place</i>	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Bačka Topola	The <i>Mara</i> Amateur Troup, the Cultural Centre	2 theatre plays	30,000.00
Kanjiža	The <i>Kanjiški</i> Artistic Workshop, <i>Kanjiški Krug</i> Kanjiški	The musical, <i>The Last Landscape</i> , directed by Jožef Nađ	100,000.00
Kikinda	The <i>Eđešeg</i> Cultural-Artistic Society	The multimedia performance, <i>Madam Butterfly</i>	40,000.00

Kruščić	The Košut Lajoš Cultural-Artistic Society	Theatre play	10,000.00
Novi Sad	The <i>Salašarsko</i> Theatre Салашарско позориште	Premieres of 2 theatre plays	700,000.00
Novi Sad	The Novi Sad Theatre	3 theatre plays	350,000.00
Sombor	The Berta Ferenc Pocket Theatre	Theatre play	50,000.00
Subotica	The National Theatre	Plays: <i>Emma; Moliere/ Kepmutatok cselszove; Erintetlen; Ibusur</i>	2,308,343.00
Subotica	The National Theatre	Plays: <i>Alom Lako; Murlin murlo; Zazora; Szulamit Zoltan Tibor</i>	2,094,200.00
Subotica	The Kostolanji Deže Theatre	Performances of <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> and <i>Waiting for Godo</i>	350,000.00
Subotica	The Children's Theatre	The children's comedy <i>Besedeš Ištvan</i> by Verebeš Erne	140,000.00
Šid	The Đura Kiš Cultural-Educational Society	<i>The Battle for Stalingrad</i>	40,000.00

The state provides support for a large number of professional and amateur theatre festivals and events with performances in minority languages. The most important theatre event is the Festival of Professional Theatres from Vojvodina.

The most important amateur theatre events are: The Festival of Serbian Amateur Theatres in Kula, the Vojvodina Festival of Amateur Theatres in Stara Pazova, the Vojvodina Festival of Experimental Stages in Subotica, the Vojvodina Festival of Small Stages in Rusko Selo, the Festival of Amateur Theatres from the Villages of Vojvodina – FEDRAS in Sečanj, The Festival of Amateur Theatres of Vojvodina's Hungarians (held in a different place in Vojvodina with a majority Hungarian population every year), the Children of Vojvodina *May Games* Festival of Stage Creativity in Sečanj and the *Sirmium lux verbi* Oratory Festival in Sremska Mitrovica.

The support provided by the Provincial authorities for theatre events which are organised in the Hungarian language is presented in the table below:

<i>Place</i>	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	The Children's Theatre in Subotica	The Theatre Festival in Eger	50,000.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	The Novi Sad Theatre	The Vojvodina Hungarian playwrights Competition	100,000.00

Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	The Feketić Cultural-Artistic Society, Feketić	The Festival of Vojvodina Hungarian Amateur Theatre Companies	200,00.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	The Edšeg Cultural-Artistic Society, Kikinda	The Vojvodina Amateur Theatre Festival	160,000.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	The Cultural Alliance of Vojvodina's Hungarians	The Vojvodina Amateur Theatre Festival	80,000.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	The Petefi Šandor Cultural-Artistic Society, Novi Sad	The Children's Theatre Festival	30,000.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	The Society of Vojvodina's Hungarian Reciters, Subotica	The Provincial Qualifying Recitation Competition	80.000.00

5.5.1.4.6. Publishing (Literary Works)

Specialized publishing houses are engaged in publishing in Hungarian. The most important publishers in Hungarian in the territory of the AP of Vojvodina are:

The „Forum – Publishing Activity“ public enterprise which published, in the period 2002-2006, 110 titles in Hungarian with a total of 53,850 copies printed: 15 books of poetry, 15 novels, 11 books by non-fiction writers, 38 studies and essays, 8 books for children, 1 art monograph, 6 books in the fields of ethnography and folklore study, while the remaining publications are monographs, bibliography and lexicons.

Publications of the Forum publishing house of Novi Sad won the following awards:

- In 2002, literary awards „Hid“, „Sirmai Karoly“ and „Fine Book 2002“, as well as the award “Božur”(Paeony) for translation;
- In 2003, literary awards „Šinko Ervin“ and „Marai Sándor“, as well as the award “Koncz István” of the Society of Vojvodina Writers;
- In 2004, literary award “Hid«, the Paladium Foundation award and the award »Fine Book of Vojvodina«;
- In 2005, literary awards “Hid” and “Fine Book”, as well as the award “Koncz István” of the Writers of Vojvodina Society;
- In 2006, literary award „Sirmai Karoly”.

The publishing house Magyar Szó of Novi Sad that publishes editions in Hungarian published 3 books in 2002; in 2004 - 3 editions, one of which is a spelling manual; in 2005 – 2 books, one being a Serbian-Hungarian Dictionary of technical terms in the field of law; in 2006 - 3 books.

The publishing house „Agape“ of Novi Sad, a private company, publishes books in Hungarian (also a small number in Croatian, Slovak and Ruthenian). The total number of publications is as follows: in 2002 - 20 titles; in 2003 - 18; in 2004 - 16; in 2005 - 12 and in 2006 - 15 titles.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina is co-finances the publishing activity of professional publishing houses as regards publications in Hungarian. The financial resources allocated in 2005 and 2006 are shown in the table below:

<i>Publishing house</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
„Forum – Publishing Activity“	Co-financing of publishing activity in Hungarian	10,750,000.00
Magyar Szó Public Enterprise	Purchase and installation of printing machines	3,500,000.00

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also financed projects of other publishers in the field of publishing activity in Hungarian:

<i>Place</i>	<i>Name of institution</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Novi Sad	Learned Society of Vojvodina Hungarians	Publishing activity	200,000.00
Novi Sad	Learned Society of Vojvodina Hungarians	Publishing of a book by Dr Gizela Gulyas	80,000.00
Novi Sad	Hungarian Culture in Yugoslavia Society	Publication of 4 separate books	160,000.00
Senta	Citizens' Association Zetna	Publication of a book by István Konez	40,000.00
Subotica	Learned Society for Hungarian Studies	Co-financing of publication of the book entitled Layers and Use of the Hungarian Language	40,000.00
Subotica	Ethnological Society „Kis Lajos“	Preparation of the edition entitled Vojvodina Ethnological Bibliography	60,000.00
Subotica	Ethnological Society „Kis Lajos“	Publication of Vojvodina Ethnological Bibliography	90,000.00
Subotica	Ethnological Society „Kis Lajos“	Preparation of Vojvodina Hungarian Fairy Tales	60,000.00
Subotica	Ethnological Society „Kis Lajos“	Wireless Connection to the Internet	20,000.00
Subotica	Vojvodina Christian Youth	Publication of a book by Rudolf Njeis	20,000.00
Subotica	Open University	Publication of a book entitled Diary of Geza Csat from 1903-1905	20,000.00
Temerin	Hungarian Cultural-Artistic Society „Karoly Sirmai“	Publication of a Collection of Children's Poetry	40,000.00
Torda	Tordians' Club	Publication of a Monograph of Painter István Fejes	80,000.00
Feketić	Cultural-Artistic Society	Publication of a book entitled „Family in the	

	Feketić	Whirlpool of Narcotic Drugs“	248,000.00
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Creative works in Hungarian become accessible to the readership at large also through translation. Thus the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture helped the Publishing House „Agora“, Zrenjanin, by allocating RSD 40,000 for the translation from Hungarian into Serbian of a book entitled „Red lion“.

5.5.1.4.7. Film and Audiovisual Production

Within the limited resources for financing domestic film production, film and audiovisual production in the Hungarian language is encouraged. Thus in 2005 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture co-financed:

<i>Place</i>	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Kanjiža	Film Production Shop Cinema	Shooting of a documentary in Hungarian entitled Geography	300,000.00
Novi Sad	Cultural-Artistic Society Megakorp	Shooting of a documentary in Hungarian entitled Arač	100,000.00
Novi Sad	Cultural-Artistic Society Megakorp	Shooting of a documentary in Hungarian entitled Hunyadi Janos	100,000.00
Novi Sad	Promo Art	Co-financing of shooting of short films in Hungarian	30,000.00
Novi Sad	Novi Sad Theatre	Recording of the Repertory of Mezei Szilard for the purpose of producing a disc	30,000.00
Subotica	Theatre for Children Gyermekszinhaz	Recoding on discs of theatre performances mounted in the past 10 years	100,000.00

The Government also supports the organization of film festivals at which films in Hungarian are presented thus making it possible for these productions to be accessible to the public at large. Thus, in 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina co-financed the organisation of film festivals or the participation of Hungarian associations in those festivals.

Place	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Subotica	Youth of Vojvodina	Festival entitled Days of Hungarian Film 2006	300,000.00
Subotica	City Library	Days of Film Production of Vojvodina Hungarians	30,000.00
Subotica	Suboticafilm	Festival entitled Days of Hungarian Film 2005	250,000.00

5.5.1.4.8. Cultural Heritage Related to the Hungarian Language

Immovable property representing cultural heritage may be associated with minority languages by way of signs, explanations, legend/key, catalogues, etc.

Institutes for Protection of Cultural Heritage are also concerned with the protection of immovable cultural heritage financed from public sources. Cultural heritage is classified depending on its as follows: simply items cultural heritage, items of cultural heritage of great interest and items of cultural heritage of special interest. In addition, there is immovable property representing cultural heritage under preliminary protection, i.e. subject to the procedure of establishing it as cultural heritage.

The following items of cultural heritage related to the Hungarian language are under the protection of the Inter-Municipal Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage, Subotica, which covers nine municipalities in northern Vojvodina:

- Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Mother of God in Bačka Topola – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Chapel in the Roman Catholic cemetery in Pačir – item of cultural heritage;
- Reformed Church and Rectory in Pačir – item of cultural heritage;
- Hungarian Reformed Church in Stara Moravica – item of cultural heritage;
- Roman Catholic Church St. George in Novi Kneževac – item of cultural heritage;
- The site of the battle near Senta in Senta – well known sight of special interest;
- The Church of the Holy Trinity in Bajmok – item of cultural heritage;
- Tomb of Bela Farkas in Palić – well known sight;
- Memorial Fountain in Palić – item of cultural heritage;
- Waters dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Roman Catholic chapel in Subotica – item of cultural heritage;
- Chapels in the Bajsko cemetery in Subotica – item of cultural heritage;
- Tomb of Istvan Ivany in Subotica – well known sight of great interest;
- Tomb of Ferenc Gal in Subotica – well known sight of great interest;
- Tomb of Erne Lany in Subotica – well known sight of great interest;
- Memorial of Dr Babian Malagurski in Subotica – well known sight;
- National Theatre in Subotica – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Jewish Cemetery in Subotica – item of cultural heritage;
- Roman Catholic Church of St. Theresa of Avila in Subotica – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Memorial to the Fallen Fighters and Victims of Fascism in Subotica – item of cultural heritage;
- Synagogue in Subotica – item of cultural heritage of special interest;
- Town Hall in Subotica – item of cultural heritage of special interest;
- Franciscan Convent in Subotica – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Yellow House in Subotica – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Roman Catholic Church in Sanad – item of cultural heritage;
- Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity in Čoka – item of cultural heritage of special interest.

The following items of cultural heritage related to the Hungarian language are under the protection of the Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage in Pančevo:

- Minorite Convent in Pančevo, Pančevo municipality – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Church of St. Ann, Weifert’s Chapel in Pančevo, Pančevo municipality – item of cultural heritage under preliminary protection (not classified yet);
- Roman Catholic Church of St. Gerhard de Sangredo in Vršac, Vršac municipality – item of cultural heritage under preliminary protection;
- Roman Catholic Church of St. Theresa of Avila in Kovin, Kovin municipality – item of cultural heritage under preliminary protection.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture supports financially projects which contribute to the safe-keeping, presentation, affirmation and record-keeping of items of cultural heritage of the Hungarian minority, as well as to the conservation and restoration of immovable items of cultural heritage, which may also imply the use of the Hungarian language, i.e. access to items of cultural heritage in the Hungarian language:

Place	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Kupusina	Cultural-Artistic Society Sándor Petöfi	Unveiling of Memorial Bust of Sándor Petöfi	30,000.00
Subotica	Inter-Municipal Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage	Printing of the periodical „Zaštitar“	230,000.00
Subotica	Inter-Municipal Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage	Co-financing of putting up a plaque in memory of Imre Harkai on the native home in Bačka Topola	15,000.00
Subotica	Inter-Municipal Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage	Publishing of a publication entitled Development of Urban Planning and Architecture 1918-1941	300,000.00
Subotica	Social organization Arač	Putting up of a memorial plaque of Vojvodina actor Laszlo Pataki	30,000.00

5.5.1.4.9. Cultural-Artistic Societies

The activities of cultural-artistic societies of national minorities are financed from municipal budgets of municipalities on whose territory they have been founded. They may also be financed by donations and budget resources of the Province and those of the Republic of Serbia. There are 140 associations and cultural-artistic societies of national minorities fostering the Hungarian language in the AP of Vojvodina.

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture supported the work of associations and cultural-artistic societies of national minorities and various events which promote the use of Hungarian, such as:

- co-financing of the work and regular activity of the following cultural-artistic societies: KUD “Petöfi Sándor”, Dobrodol, KUD „Petöfi Sándor”, Kać, KUD „Mora Ferenc“, Čoka, KUD „Petöfi Sándor“, Šatrinici, KUD „Tiski cvet“, Titel, KUD „Petöfi Sándor“, Maradik, KUD „Vecera Sándor“, Bačka Palanka, KUD „Srem“, Sremska Mitrovica, KUD „Petöfi Sándor“, Budisava;

- participation of the Society of Poetry Reciters of Vojvodina Hungarians from Subotica in the qualifying competition of poetry reciters of the Province and organisation of a Poetry Reciters' Shop;
- participation of the Cultural-Artistic Society „Petöfi Sándor“, Nikinci, in the Srem Festival of Hungarian folklore art;
- marking of the 60th anniversary of the Cultural-Artistic Society „Petöfi Sándor“, Zrenjanin;
- the event Week of the Hungarian Language in Vojvodina organised by the Vojvodina Society for the Hungarian language, Novi Sad;
- project entitled Days of Hungarian Culture of the Cultural-Artistic Society „Fehér Ferenc“, Rumenka;
- participation of Vojvodina Hungarian Youth, Subotica, in the event Days of Preserving Tradition;
- participation of the Culture Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians, Subotica, in the event Days of Vojvodina Hungarians Culture;
- participation of the Cultural-Artistic Society „Petöfi Sándor“, Novi Sad in the Camp of Genuine Creativity, Novi Sad;
- subsidizing of the Srem Festival of Cultural-Artistic Societies organised by the Union of Hungarian Civil Organizations of Southern Bačka and Srem;
- competition in poetry reciting and public speaking skill of the Cultural-Artistic Society „Petöfi Sándor“, Budisava.

5.5.1.4.10. Cultural Events

The most important cultural events of the Hungarian national community are: Durindo and Djendjesbokreta – festival of folk music and folklore; Festival of Children's Folklore Ensembles „Koketanc“; Children's Festival of Folk Music „Szolj sip szolj“; Linguistic Days Szarvas Gabor; Festival of Songs in Senta; Ethnic Story-Telling Competition „Kálmány Lajos“; Days of Culture of Vojvodina Hungarians; Festival of Amateur Theatre Ensembles of Vojvodina Hungarians; Days of Hungarian Film-Making; Days of Kosztolanyi Dezsö; Get Together of Folklore Dancers and Cottage Industry Fair „Vajdasagi Tanchaztalalkozo es Kirakodovasar“; Folklore Festival – International Competition „Neptancosok orszagos bemutatato szinpada“; VIVE – Festival of Hungarian Urban Songs and Csardas.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina co-financed, through announcements on a regular basis, various programme-based activities, projects, festivals and meetings of professional and non-professional institutions, non-governmental organisations, associations, informal groups and independent artists, important for safeguarding the national identity and for the development of cultural and artistic creativity in Hungarian. Thus, in the announcement for the allocation of funds in 2003 the amount of RSD 2,990,000.00 was allocated for the Hungarian language and the Hungarian minority; in 2004 - 3,743,000.00, in 2005 – 3,650,000.00 and in 2006 – RSD 4,250,000.00.

5.5.1.5. Encouragement of Expression and Access to Works in the Roma Language

5.5.1.5.1. Libraries

In accordance with the provision of Art. 10, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 2 of the Law on the Activities of General Interest in the Field of Culture, in conjunction with Art. 18, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Law on Local Self-Government, resources for the operation of libraries founded by municipal authorities are provided from the municipal budget. Municipalities finance the work of libraries which have books in the Roma language in their book stocks. These are the following libraries:

- „14 November“ Library, Bujanovac: 10 books (out of a total of 57,000);
- City Library, Novi Sad: 42 books, in the period 2002-2006, 42 books were purchased;
- Branko Radičević“ People’s Library , Odžaci: 10 books;
- “Gligorije Vozarević“ Library, Sremska Mitrovica: 3 books.

A small number of books in the Roma language in the libraries founded by local self-governing authorities is the consequence of the small number of works published in the Roma language.

5.5.1.5.2. Theatres

Theatre activity is supported and promoted through funding from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, the budget of the AP of Vojvodina, municipal budgets (for theatres founded by municipal authorities), as well as through advertisements for the allocation of funds for individual activities and theatre performances in minority languages.

In 2005, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia allocated to the Roma Association “Pravale”, Belgrade, the amount of RSD 450,000.00 for the implementation of the project Roma Rota Theatre, on the basis of the public call for projects/programmes that contribute by their quality to the development and presentation of art and culture.

The number of theatres mounting performances in the Roma language on the territory of the AP of Vojvodina is shown in the table below:

Professional theatres	-
Amateur theatres	3

The regular activity of amateur theatres is financed by municipalities.

Upon the requests submitted following the advertisements of the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture in 2005 and 2006 resources for mounting productions performed in the Roma language were allocated as follows:

<i>Place</i>	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Mokrin	Association of Roma Mokrin	Stage piece „Kulaj“	5,000.00
Novi Karlovci	Theatre Suno e Rromengo	Theatre performance „Appearances can be misleading“	500,000.00
Novi Sad	Association of Roma Students	Performance „Happier Childhood“	15,000.00

The Government supports the organization of a large number of festivals, events and meetings of professional and amateur theatres with theatre performances in minority languages .

The most important events relating to amateur theatres are: Festival of amateur theatres of Serbia in Kula, Festival of amateur theatre societies of Vojvodina in Stara Pazova, Festival of experimental theatres of Vojvodina in Subotica, Festival of off-stage theatre productions of Vojvodina in Rusko Selo, Festival of amateur theatres of Vojvodina villages – FEDRAS in Sečanj, Festival of creative works of Vojvodina children May Games in Indjija, Festival of poetry reciters of Vojvodina in Sečanj, Festival of public speaking skill „Sirmium lux verbi” in Sremska Mitrovica.

Financial resources allocated by the Republic of Serbia to theatrical events performed in the Roma language are shown in the table below:

<i>Government institution</i>	Institution	Purpose	Amount
Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia	National Council of the Roma National Minority	Festival of amateur theatre productions of Roma	270,000.00
Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia	National Council of the Roma National Minority	Children’s Festival	100,000.00

5.5.1.5.3. Publishing (Literary Works)

The publishing house „Otkrovenje“, Belgrade, published in 2005 a „Grammar of the Roma Language“ by Rajko Đurić, PhD, in the Roma and Serbian languages. The book contains phonetics, morphology, syntax and grammar of the Roma language and is intended for all those desirous to study the Roma language more thoroughly as well as to primary- and secondary-school pupils, teachers and linguists.

“Politika” - Publishing Activity published in 2006 a book by Rajko Đurić entitled History of Roma, before and after Auschwitz. That same year the book was presented at the Belgrade Book Fair and aroused so much interest at the Fair that the first edition was almost sold out. This sociological-historical study came as the result of the author’s thirty years of research.

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also sponsored projects in the field of publishing activity in the Roma language:

Place	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Vršac	Roma Society „Rromane jakha“	Publication of a book by Dragica Kaldaraš entitled Poems for Children	30,000.00
Deronje	Association of Roma Teachers	Publication of a book by Rajko – Ranko Jovanović entitled „I would like to be“	30,000.00
Novi Sad	Publishing house „THEM“	Financing of publishing activity	125,000.00

5.5.1.5.4. Cultural Heritage Related to the Roma Language

Immovable property representing cultural heritage may be related to minority languages by way of inscriptions, explanations, legends/keys, catalogues, etc.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina co-finances projects which contribute to the preserving, presenting, affirming and record-keeping of cultural heritage of the Roma minority, as well as to the conservation and restoration of immovable cultural assets. Thus, for instance, the Secretariat allocated RSD 200,000.00 to the Institute for Culture of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, for covering the costs of the erection of a memorial of the well known Romologist and writer Trifun Dimić.

5.5.1.5.5. Cultural-Artistic Societies

The activity of cultural-artistic societies of national minorities is funded from the budgets of municipalities on whose territories they have been founded. They may also be financed from donations and budget resources of the Province and those of the Republic of Serbia. There are 30 associations and cultural-artistic societies of national minorities in the AP of Vojvodina that foster the Roma language.

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture helped the activity of the associations and cultural-artistic societies of the Roma minority and diverse events which promote the use of the Roma language, such as:

- co-financing of the work and regular activity of the Roma Citizens' Association, Sivac, the Cultural-Educational Society „Romano Suno“, Deronje;
- celebration of the tenth anniversary of the existence of the Roma Cultural Centre „Beli golub“(White dove), Apatin;
- multi-medial cultural event of Roma organised by the Roma Cultural-Educational Society „Sunce“;
- Roma cultural event „Gypsy Fires“ organised by the Cultural-Artistic Society „Rom“.

5.5.1.5.6. Cultural Events

In the period 2004-2006, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia co-financed individual cultural events organised by persons belonging to the Roma minority:

<i>Place</i>	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Belgrade	Humanitarian Association "Roma heart"	Children's Art Camp „World Made to Measure for Children“	70,000.00
Kraljevo	Non-Governmental Roma Organisation "Blue flower"	Festival of Cultural Achievements of the Roma of Kraljevo	200,000.00
Medveđa	Roma Centre Medveđa	Cultural Achievements of Roma in the field of Music	213,000.00
Niš	National Council of the Roma National Minority	Festival of Cultural Achievements of Roma	100,000.00
Niš	National Council of the Roma National Minority	Central celebration on the occasion of the World Day of Roma	170,000.00
Niš	National Council of the Roma National Minority	Festival of Creativity of Young Roma Talents in the field of Music	110,000.00
Niš	National Council of the Roma National Minority	Festival of Folklore of the Roma of Serbia	975,000.00
Novi Sad	Citizens' Association „Phralipe – Novi Sad“	Cultural Gatherings of Roma Youth of Serbia	100,000.00
Novi Sad	Citizens' Association „Phralipe – Novi Sad“	Event „Young for the Young“	100,000.00
Novi Sad	Roma Association „New Vistas“	Cultural event „Hyacinths“	615,000.00

Events relating to Roma achievements in the field of visual arts are financed separately. Thus, in the period 2004-2006, the following events of Roma creativity in the field of visual arts were co-financed by the Ministry of Culture of Serbia:

Place	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Đurđevo	Citizens' Association of Roma „Progress“	Visual Arts Colony „Gypsy Man and His Dream“	95,000.00
Obrenovac	Development Centre Rom Obrenovac	Visual Arts Colony „Star Chariot“	25,000.00
Trstenik	Association of Visual Artists of Roma of Serbia	Visual Arts Colony of the Association of Visual Artists of Roma of Serbia	28,000.00

In the course of 2006 the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and Montenegro and the Agency for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia supported the activities of cultural societies, in particular the events of interest to the Roma national minority at which the Roma language is used by, allocating RSD 651,000.00. The table below contains details relating to the events at which the Roma language was used:

<i>Place</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Belgrade	„Holocaust of Roma of Serbia/Montenegro“	260,000.00
Belgrade	World Day of Roma	113,000.00
Belgrade	World Congress of Roma	30,000.00

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina, through regular announcements, co-financed programmes, projects, festivals, etc. of professional and non-professional institutions, non-governmental organisations, associations, informal groups and independent artists of importance for the preservation of national identity and for the development of cultural and artistic creativity in the Roma language. Thus, following the 2003 announcement for the allocation of financial resources for the Roma language and the Roma minority, the amount of RSD 120,000.00 was allocated, in 2004 – 500,000.00, in 2005 – 500,000.00 and, finally, in 2006 – RSD 560,000.00.

5.5.1.6. Encouragement of Expression and Access to Works in the Romanian Language

5.5.1.6.1. Libraries

In accordance with the provision of Art. 10, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2 of the Law on the Activities of Public Interest in the Field of Culture, with reference to Art. 18, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 14 and 15 of the Law on Local Self-Government, financial resources for the work of libraries founded by municipal authorities are provided from the municipal budget. The operation of libraries whose book stocks include books in the Romanian language is funded by municipalities. These are the following libraries:

- „Vuk Karadžić“ Municipal Library, Alibunar: 9,640 books;
- City Library, Vršac: 3,085 books;
- „Branko Radičević“ Library, Žitište: 4,792 books; in the period 2002- 2006, 151 new books were purchased;
- People’s City Library , Zrenjanin: 78 books;
- Municipal Library, Kovačica: 2,893 books;
- „Vuk Karadžić“ Library, Kovin: 3,168 books;
- City Library, Novi Sad: 3,357 books; in the period 2002 - 2006, 3,099 books were purchased;

- People's Library, Plandište: 114 books.

Besides financing the work of public libraries from the budget of the municipalities which have founded those libraries, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture co-finances the purchase of books in Romanian for libraries in multi-linguistic communities. Thus, in 2005 and 2006, the purchase of books in Romanian for the Municipal Library, Kovačica, was supported with the amount of RSD 252,000.00.

The publishing activity of libraries in Romanian is also financed.

The library of the Matica Srpska, Novi Sad, publishes annually a Bibliography of books in the AP of Vojvodina (all titles published in Vojvodina in the course of one year), which is printed also in the Romanian language.

Access to creative works in Romanian is made easier also in respect of the use of book stocks of the City Library in Novi Sad. Thus, for instance, a sign has been put up on the main building of the City Library with the name of the Library in Romanian. Also, member cards in Romanian are in use.

5.5.1.6.2. Cultural Centres and Cultural Homes

In order to provide material conditions to facilitate the fostering and promoting of the use of minority languages, construction and adaptation of significant cultural facilities is financially supported, in particular those used for presenting cultural contents in several languages. Projects of current repair, maintenance and equipment of cultural establishments in multi-linguistic communities, as well as in underdeveloped or less developed municipalities is also helped financially.

In the period 2005-2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina helped to ensure material conditions for cultural activities in the Romanian language by allocating RSD 2,500,000.00 to the municipality of Vršac as a financial contribution to the project of restoration of the Culture Home in Straža.

5.5.1.6.3. Museums and Galleries

The presentation of creative works in the Romanian language has been made possible in museums and art galleries.

In the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina in Novi Sad, printed matter in Romanian kept there includes 16 books and catalogues. The following art collections are also kept in the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina: historical documents relating to the first night of theatre productions mounted in professional theatres of Vojvodina (billposters, playbills, monographs); texts for the Almanac of Vojvodina theatres (texts in minority languages translated into Serbian), titles of theatre plays performed, names of authors of productions and actors and actresses in the original in Romanian.

Access to the exhibits in the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina has been facilitated in such a way that the names of authors in the name register of all the Museum's editions have been written in the original in minority languages, consequently in Romanian as well.

The project entitled Theatre Culture in Vojvodina from its beginnings to the present day was initiated in 2003 and an editorial board whose members use the Romanian language has been set up within the project.

A periodical called Vojvodina Stage published by the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina carries texts in minority languages accompanied by a translation into Serbian. A catalogue of theatres of Vojvodina written in seven languages, including Romanian, has been published.

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture, through public advertisements, financed various ways of access to creative works in Romanian or associated with the Romanian language:

<i>Place</i>	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Kovačica	Culture Home Doine and Gallery of Primitive Art in Uzdin	Standing costs, Visual Art Colony and Week of Culture	190,000.00
Novi Sad	Romanian Society for Ethnography and Folklore	Conservation and Restoration of the Ethnographic Museum of Vojvodina Romanians	140,000.00
Novi Sad	Association of Applied Arts Artists and Designers of Vojvodina	Exhibition of paintings by the academic painter Doru Bosioc	27,000.00
Opovo	People's Library	Mounting of exhibition of paintings by Pal Decea	20,000.00
Uzdin	Cultural-Artistic Society „Tibiscus“	Adding new exhibits to the Local Museum of Uzdin	15,000.00

5.5.1.6.4. Theatres

Theatre creativity is supported and promoted through the funding from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, that of the AP of Vojvodina, from municipal budgets (for theatres founded by municipalities), as well as through advertised public calls for the allocation of financial resources for individual activities and theatre productions performed in minority languages.

The number of theatres whose productions are performed in Romanian on the territory of Vojvodina is shown in the table below:

Professional theatres	1
Amateur theatres	12

The regular activity of amateur theatres is financed by municipalities.

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture, upon requests submitted following announced public calls, allocated to the National Theatre „Sterija“ in Vršac RSD 2,700,000.00 for programme-based activities and the mounting of 2 new theatre productions in the Romanian language.

The Government supports the organizing of a large number of festivals and of other forms of meeting of professional and amateur theatres with performances in minority languages. The Festival of professional theatres of Vojvodina is the most important theatrical event.

The major events of amateur theatres are: Meeting of Amateur Theatres of Serbia in Kula, Meeting of Amateur Theatre Companies of Vojvodina in Stara Pazova, Festival of Experimental Stages of Vojvodina in Subotica, Festival of Off-Stage Performances of Vojvodina in Rusko Selo, Festival of Amateur Theatres of Vojvodina Villages – FEDRAS in Sečanj, Theatre Days of Vojvodina Romanians (every year in a different place with majority Romanian population), Festival of Stage Performances of Vojvodina Children „May Games“ in Inđija, Festival of Vojvodina Poetry Reciters in Sečanj, Festival of Public Speaking Skill „Sirmium lux verbi“ in Sremska Mitrovica.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture financially supports the hosting of theatre events in Romanian. Thus, in 2006, the Secretariat allocated the amount of RSD 355,000.00 to the Alliance of Romanian Amateur Theatres for the event Theatre Days of Romanians.

5.5.1.6.5. Publishing (Literary Works)

The Newspaper-Publishing Institution „Libertatea“, Pančevo, specializes in publishing books in Romanian. In 2002, 17 books were published in Romanian, one of which is a translation from Serbian; in 2003 - 22 books, including an anthology of Romanian poetry in Serbia; in 2004 - 18 books; in 2005 - 11 books; in 2006 - 16 books altogether.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina co-finances the publishing activity in Romanian of professional publishing houses. In 2005 and 2006, the following amounts were allocated:

<i>Publishing house</i>	Purpose	Amount
Newspaper–Publishing Institution „Libertatea“	Co-financing of publishing activity	990,000.00
Newspaper–Publishing Institution „Libertatea“	Project entitled One Publishing Year in One Day (2005 and 2006)	55,000.00
Newspaper–Publishing Institution „Lebertatea“	Publication of 9 separate books	390,000.00

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also financed projects of other publishers in the field of publishing in Romanian:

<i>Place</i>	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Vršac	Literary Municipality of Vršac	Publishing of a book by Eugean Cinc - „Romanian Music Opuses in the 20th Century“	80,000.00
Novi Sad	Romanian Society for Ethnography and Folklore	Co-financing of a book entitled Encyclopedia of Romanians in Vojvodina	183,000.00
Novi Sad	Publishing House „Prometheus“	Publishing of a book entitled Harmonia Caelestis	100,000.00
Novi Sad	Matica srpska	Uzdin - Monograph of the Village	50,000.00
Pančevo	Romanian Literary-Artistic Society „Andrej Šaguna“	Publication of 3 books: „Romanians of Pančevo“, „Vistas of Venetian Colours“ and Monograph on Cultural Life of Romanians in Pančevo	90,000.00
Uzdin	Cultural – Artistic Society „Tibiscus“	Publishing of 7 separate books	265,000.00

5.5.1.6.6. Film and Audiovisual Production

The Government also helps to organise film festivals at which films in Romanian are shown thus making it possible for these films to become accessible. For instance, in 2005 and 2006 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture financially supported the Romanian Society for Ethnography and Folklore, Novi Sad, by allocating the amount of RSD 74,000.00 to enable its participation in the Fourth International Festival of Documentary Ethno-Folk Films in Tork.

5.5.1.6.7. Cultural Heritage Associated with the Romanian Language

Immovable property representing cultural heritage may be associated with a minority language through signs, explanations, legend/key, catalogues, etc.

The Institutes for Protection of Cultural Heritage financed from public sources are concerned with the protection of cultural heritage. Depending on its significance cultural heritage is classified as: simply cultural heritage, cultural heritage of great interest and cultural heritage of special interest. In addition, there is also immovable property under preliminary protection, i.e. those items that are subject to the procedure of establishing their quality of being items of cultural heritage.

The following items of cultural heritage associated with the Romanian language are under the protection of the Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage, Pančevo:

- Romanian Orthodox Church in Uzdin, municipality of Kovačica – item of cultural heritage of special interest;
- Romanian Orthodox Church in Banatsko Novo Selo, municipality of Pančevo – item of cultural heritage of great interest;

- Romanian Orthodox Church of St. Theodor Tiron in Kuštilje, municipality of Vršac – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Romanian Orthodox Church of St. Nicolas in Ritiševo, municipality of Vršac – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Romanian Orthodox Church of Assumption of Our Lord in Grebenac, municipality of Bela Crkva – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Romanian Orthodox Church of St. Elias the Prophet in Kovin, municipality of Kovin – item of cultural heritage under preliminary protection;
- Water dedicated to the Putting Up of the Holy Cross in Uzdin, municipality of Kovačica – item of cultural heritage under preliminary protection.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture co-finances projects which contribute to the preserving, presenting, affirming and registering of items of cultural heritage of the Romanian national minority, to the conservation and restoration of immovable items of cultural heritage, which may also imply the use of the Romanian language and/or access to items of cultural heritage in Romanian. Thus the Inter-Municipal Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage in Subotica was allocated the amount of RSD 300,000.00 earmarked for publishing a book entitled Development of Town Planning and Architecture 1918-1941 in Romanian as well.

5.5.1.6.8. Cultural-Artistic Societies

The activity of cultural-artistic societies of national minorities is financed from the budget of the municipality on whose territory they have been founded. They may also be financed by donations and budget resources of the Province or by those of the Republic of Serbia. There are 35 associations and cultural-artistic societies in the AP of Vojvodina which foster the Romanian language.

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture helped the work of associations and cultural-artistic societies of national minorities and various events at which the use of Romanian is promoted, such as:

- participation of the cultural-artistic society Tibiscus, Uzdin, in the Festival of Romanian Poetry Reciters “Blagodeti“, the International Festival of Poetry called „Putevi klasja“, the Festival of Literary Creativity „Todor Krecu“ and in the Meetings of Writers writing the Banat dialect of Romanian.;
- a poll with the theme „The state in the national culture of Vojvodina Romanians“ undertaken by the Romanian Society for Ethnography and Folklore, Novi Sad;
- scientific conference „Banat – Historical and Cultural Past“ of the Romanian Society for Ethnography and Folklore, Novi Sad;
- Festival of Satire and Humour hosted by the Cultural Society „Vikentije Petrovic Bokaluc“, Tork.

5.5.1.6.9. Cultural Events

The most prominent events of the Romanian national minority are: International

Festival of Poetry „Putevi Klasja“, International Symposium „Famous People of Banat“, Theatre Days of Romanians, Festival of Entertainment Music “Singing Youth“, Festival of Romanian Music and Dances from Vojvodina.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina co-financed, by way of regular advertisements for the allocation of funds, various programme-based activities, projects, festivals and meetings of professional and non-professional institutions, non-governmental organizations, associations, informal groups and independent artists, of importance for the preservation of the national identity and for the development of cultural and artistic creativity in the Romanian language. For instance, in the 2003 public call for the allocation of funds for the Romanian language and the Romanian minority, the amount of RSD 1,565,000.00 was allocated; in 2004 – 1,700,000.00, in 2005 – 1,650,000.00 and in 2006 – RSD 1,650,000.00.

According to the Report on the Implementation of the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages prepared by the National Council of the Romanian National Minority „there are numerous cultural events in the AP of Vojvodina organised by various associations or institutions of Romanians. Also, in one calendar year it often happens that the dates of holding two events with similar or different programmes overlap. There is no doubt that in the case of the Romanian minority all cultural events, even the most important ones, such as the Festival of Romanian Music and Folklore or the Theatre Days of Romanians, suffer from the shortage of resources for the organization of cultural events and from a lack of regular finance. Partial solutions are not sufficient. In addition to subsidies from the budget, it is always necessary to appeal to additional sponsors and donors.“

5.5.1.7. Encouragement of Expression and Access to Works in Ruthenian Language

5.5.1.7.1. Libraries

Under the provision of Art. 10, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2 of the Law on the Activities of General Interest in the Field of Culture, with reference to Art. 18, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 14 и 15 of the Law on Local Self-Government, resources for the work of libraries founded municipalities are provided from the municipal budget. Municipalities finance the operation of libraries whose holdings include books in the Ruthenian language and in which persons belonging to the Ruthenian national community are employed:

- People’s Library, Bačka Topola: new acquisitions - 75 books;
- People's Library „Danilo Kiš“, Vrbas: 2,847 books (2.68%);
- People's Library, Kula: 4,489 books, employs 1 librarian whose mother tongue is Ruthenian;

- City Library, Novi Sad: 340 books, in the period 2002-2006, 9 newly purchased books;
- Library „Gligorije Vozarević”, Sremska Mitrovica: 62 books;
- People’s Library „Simeon Piščević“, Šid: 392 books.

The publishing activity of libraries in the Ruthenian language is financed by the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture.

The Library of Matica Srpska, Novi Sad, publishes annually a Bibliography of Books in in the AP of Vojvodina (all titles published in Vojvodina in the course of one year) which is printed also in Ruthenian.

Access to creative works in Ruthenian has been facilitated also in respect of the use of the holdings available in the City Library in Novi Sad. Namely, a sign with the name of the Library in Ruthenian has been put up on the main building of the City Library. Member cards in Ruthenian are used.

5.5.1.7.2. Museums and Galleries

The museums and galleries have made possible the presentation of books in Ruthenian. Thus the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina in Novi Sad safekeeps printed matter in minority languages, i.e. books and catalogues, 1 item of which is in Ruthenian. The Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina also safe-keeps the following art collections: historical documents relating to the opening nights of productions performed in the professional theatres of Vojvodina (billposters, playbills, monographs) in the past; texts for the Almanac of Theatres of Vojvodina (texts in the languages of national minorities translated into Serbian), titles of theatre plays, names of authors of productions and of actors and actresses in the original in Ruthenian.

Access to the exhibits of the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina has been facilitated by having the names of authors in the name register of all editions of the Museum written in the original in minority languages and in Ruthenian as well.

The project entitled Theatrical Culture in Vojvodina from its beginnings to the present day was initiated in 2003 and an editorial board for the Ruthenian language has been set up within the project.

A periodical devoted to theatrical culture entitled Vojvodina Stage published by the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina carries texts in minority languages accompanied by Serbian translations thereof. A catalogue entitled Theatres of Vojvodina written in 7 languages, including Ruthenian, has also been published.

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture financed through advertisements various ways of accessing creative works in the Ruthenian language or associated with it:

<i>Place</i>	<i>Name of institution</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Vrbas	Art colony „Nyaradi“	Days of Visual Arts Creativity in Ruski Krstur	50,000.00
Novi Sad	Society for the Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture	Activity of the Club of Visual Artists and Visual Arts Colony „Stevan Bodnarov“	15,000.00

5.5.1.7.3. Archives

The activities of the public authorities with respect to archives management through financing and co-financing of programme-based activities of inter-municipal archives are aimed at collecting, collating, safe-keeping, presenting archival material and ensuring access to it. The central institution for the protection of archive material in the territory of the Republic of Serbia is the Archive of Serbia based in Belgrade, and in the territory of the AP of Vojvodina the Archive of Vojvodina based in Novi Sad. The activities co-financed by the public authorities are: digitalizing of archival material, networking of archives, publicising of archival material and means of information on archival material (guidebooks) and mounting exhibitions with the purpose of presenting the most valuable archival material in Ruthenian.

The archival material in Ruthenian kept in individual archives in Serbia is shown in the table below:

<i>Archive</i>	<i>Archival material</i>
Historical Archive „Srem“ (Sirmium), Sremska Mitrovica	„Primary School – Bikić Do“ (1941-1981), „Ruthenian church - Šid“ (1811-1916)

5.5.1.7.4. Theatres

Theatrical creativity is supported and promoted through financing from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, the budget of the AP of Vojvodina, municipal budgets (for theatres founded by municipalities), as well as through announced public calls for the allocation of funds for individual activities and theatre productions in minority languages.

The number of theatres which mount performances in Ruthenian in the territory of the AP of Vojvodina is shown below:

Professional theatres	1
Amateur theatres	15

The regular activity of amateur theatres is funded by municipal authorities.

In 2005 and 2006, resources allocated upon requests submitted following the calls announced by the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture for performances in Ruthenian are shown in the table below:

<i>Place</i>	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Vrbas	Cultural- Artistic Society „Karpati“(Carpathians)	Children’s play „Yellow Riding Hood”	110,000.00
Novi Sad Сад	Ruthenian Cultural-Educational Society	Theatre performance of the Drama Studio	50,000.00
Ruski Krstur	Ruthenian National Theatre	Opening night of 5 performances „First Lady“, „Far Away Star“, „Illusions“, „Big Bird“	5,080,000.00
Ruski Krstur	Culture Home Ruski Krstur	Performances “Baron Münchhausen”, „Orwell’s1984”	90,000.00

The Government supports the holding of a large number of festivals and meetings of professional and amateur theatres with performances in minority languages. The Festival of Professional Theatres of Vojvodina is the most prominent theatre event.

The major events relating to amateur theatres are: Festival of Amateur Theatres of Serbia in Kula, Festival of Amateur Theatre Societies of Vojvodina in Stara Pazova, Festival of Experimental Stages of Vojvodina in Subotica, Festival of Off-Stage Performances of Vojvodina in Rusko Selo, Festival of Amateur Theatres of Vojvodina Villages – FEDRAS in Sečanj, Drama Memorial „Petro Riznić - Đađa“ in Ruski Krstur, Stage Performances of Vojvodina Children „May Games” in Inđija, Festival of Vojvodina Poetry Reciters in Sečanj, Festival of Public Speaking Skill „Sirmium lux verbi” in Sremska Mitrovica.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture supported financially the theatre event Festival of Monodrama by allocating RSD 70,000.00 to Matica Rusinska in Ruski Krstur.

According to the Report on the Implementation of the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages prepared by the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority there are certain problems in the field of theatre activity.

„At the beginning of 2003 the AP of Vojvodina made efforts to encourage the organized theatre activities of persons belonging to national minorities by founding national theatres of the Ruthenian, Slovak and Romanian national minorities, financing their work by way of projects. Such a general approach without an in-depth analysis of cultural needs of national pointed to the following deficiencies at the very outset:

- organisational and technical conditionality of theatre work (adequate and functional stage, technical equipment of theatres, necessary professionals in the managing, artistic, technical and general affairs sectors);

- postproduction (presentation of theatre activity to persons belonging to one's own national community and to those belonging to other national communities, presentation of work at meetings, domestic and international festivals);
- encouragement of play writing in the language of the minority national community, training of professionals needed for the functioning of theatre activity (at present there do not exist actors' classes in the Slovak, Romanian and Ruthenian languages at the Art Academy in Novi Sad, although one of the arguments in support of its foundation was the education and training of personnel for the needs of theatre activity in the languages of minority national communities). It should be mentioned that the provincial authorities made a recommendation that conditions should be created at the Art Academy for opening classes in the languages of minority national communities because there do not exist conditions at this institution for expansion, primarily due to a lack of space."

5.5.1.7.5. Publishing (Literary Works)

The Newspaper-Publishing Institution „Ruske Slovo“, Novi Sad, is concerned with publishing books in Ruthenian. The said institution publishes 10-12 titles annually in the field of fiction, historiography and publicist writing. At the Book Fair in Novi Sad in 2003 this publishing house was awarded for the project of publication of selected works of the academician Julian Tamas.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina co-finances the publishing activity of professional publishing houses in Ruthenian. In 2005 and 2006 the allocated amounts are shown in the table below:

Publishing house	Purpose	Amount
Newspaper-Publishing Institution „Ruske slovo“	Co-financing of publishing activity	1,150,000.00
Newspaper-Publishing Institution „Ruske slovo“	Publishing of 3 separate books	80,000.00

In 2005 and 2006 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also financed projects of other publishers in the field of publishing in Ruthenian:

Place	Name of Institution	Purpose	Amount
Novi Sad	Library of Matica Srpska	Publication of Monograph of Ruthenians in Yugoslavia 1918- 1980	200,000.00
Novi Sad	Society for the Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture	Publishing of the publication Ruthenians in Novi Orahovac	15,000.00
Novi Sad	Society for the Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture	Collection of works Studia Ruthenica, nos. 10 and 11	60,000.00

Novi Sad	Society for the Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture	Collection of texts for pre-school children „Swallows”, no. 2	15,000.00
Ruski Krstur	Matica Rusinska	Publication of a book containing 12 monodramas	40,000.00

Works in Ruthenian become accessible to readership at large also by way of translation. Thus the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture helped the Publishing House „Prometheus“, Novi Sad, by allocating RSD 160,000 for the translation of a book by Mihailo Fejes entitled „Ruthenians“ from Ruthenian into Serbian.

5.5.1.7.6. Film and Audiovisual Production

Within the limited possibilities for financing domestic film production, making of films and other audiovisual works in Ruthenian is encouraged and supported. Thus in 2005 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture assisted the Ruthenian Cultural-Educational Society, Novi Sad, with the amount of RSD 50,000.00 intended for the production of an audio and multi-medial disc commemorating the 70th anniversary of birth of the composer Jakim Sivč.

5.5.1.7.7. Cultural-Artistic Societies

The activity of cultural-artistic societies of national minorities is financed from the budget of the municipalities on whose territory they have been founded. They may also be financed from donations and budget resources of the AP of Vojvodina and those of the Republic of Serbia. In the AP of Vojvodina there are 15 associations and cultural-artistic societies fostering Ruthenian.

In 2005 and 2006 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture supported financially the work of associations and cultural-artistic societies of national minorities as well as various events promoting the use of Ruthenian, such as the event that promotes the original folklore creativity of Ruthenians and that of other ethnic communities in Vojvodina – Cultural-Artistic Society „Žatva“(Harvest), Kucura.

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of Serbia/Montenegro allocated RSD 200,000.00 to Matica Rusinska in 2005.

According to the Report on the Implementation of the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages drawn up by the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority in the sphere of culture, 15 cultural institutions, cultural artistic-societies and associations of Ruthenians are active: Culture Home Ruski Krstur, Ruski Krstur; Ruthenian National Theatre „Petro Riznič Đađa“, Ruski Krstur; Cultural-Artistic Society „Žatva“, Kucura; Cultural-Educational Society „Đura Kiš“, Šid; Cultural-Artistic Society „Taras Ševchenko“, Đurđevo; Cultural-Artistic Society „Karpati“(Carpathians), Vrbas; Ruthenian Cultural-Artistic Society, Novi Sad; Cultural-Artistic Society „Petro Kuzmjak“, Novo Orahovo; Ruthenian Society in Subotica, Subotica; Workers' Cultural-Artistic Society „Havrijil Kostelnik“, Kula; Ruthenian Society in Sremska Mitrovica,

Sremska Mitrovica; BEOBUR (Belgrade Society of Ukrainians and Ruthenians), Belgrade; Matica Rusinska, Ruski Krstur; Society for the Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture, Novi Sad; Alliance of Ruthenians and Ukrainians, Novi Sad.

5.5.1.7.8. Cultural Events

The most important cultural events of the Ruthenian national community are: Festival of Ruthenian Culture „Red Rose”; Kostelnik’s Autumn; Drama Memorial of Petro Riznič Đađa; Festival of Original Folklore Creativity of Ruthenians „Kucurska žatva“ (Kucura Harvest), Festival of Children’s Creative Works „Veselinka“.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina, through regular public calls for the allocation of funds, co-financed programme-based activities, projects, festivals and meetings of professional and non-professional institutions, non-governmental organizations, associations, informal groups and independent artists of importance for preserving the national identity and for the development of cultural-artistic creativity in Ruthenian. Thus, upon requests for the allocation of funds following the advertisement, in 2003 – RSD 1,080,000.00, in 2004 – 1,300,800.00, in 2005 – 1,250,000.00 and in 2006 – RSD 1,250,000.00 were allocated for the Ruthenian language and the Ruthenian minority.

According to the Report on the Implementation of the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages prepared by the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority there are 12 traditional cultural events of Ruthenians in Serbia in the sphere of culture: „Ružin Vrt“(Rose Garden); Festival of New Ruthenian Folk Songs held in Novi Sad in February every year; „Maftej Vinaj’s Spring“; Seminar for Primary School Teachers in the field of poetry reciting and literary evening devoted to Ruthenian poets held in Subotica in the course of the first weekend in April every year; Drama Memorial „Petro Riznič Đađa“; Festival of Theatre Performances for Children and Adults, held in Ruski Krstur in April every year; „Veselinka“- Festival of children’s creative works (dances, songs, visual arts shop), held in Novi Sad in June every year; Festival of Ruthenian culture „Red Rose“ (visual art exhibition, new compositions for children, children’s songs and folklore, competition for the finest women’s or men’s voice, new compositions – pop and folk, Ruthenian folklore festival, guest performances of groups from abroad) held in Ruski Krstur in the course of the first weekend in July every year; Visual Arts Colony „Nyaradi“, held in Kucura in the first half of July every year; „Žatva“, festival of Ruthenian original folklore creativity held in Kucura in the latter half of July every year; Visual Arts Colony „Stevan Bodnarov“, for children and adults, exhibition held in Gospođinci in August (September) every year; „Da se ne zaboravi“(May it not be forgotten), festival of original choral associations held in Đurđevo in August every year; Festival of Monodrama, held in Novi Sad in October (November) every year; „Kostelnik’s Autumn“, meetings with writers in schools, academic panels in the field of the language and literature, promotions of new books, presentation of literary works of the young, recitals of choral and classical music, visual arts exhibitions, books..., held in Ruski Krstur, Kula, Vrbas, Subotica, Novi Sad and Kucura in October-November every year; Days of Mikoli M. Kočiš, linguistic days,

meetings devoted to the writer, linguist and pedagogue Mikoli M Kočiš, held in Novi Sad on 1st December every year, while an academic conference is held and papers presented at the conference are published in the collection „Studia Ruthenica“.

The National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority points out that „although the institute of public calls has been introduced in recent years, financial resources allocated for programme-based activities of national minorities are in utter disproportion with the overall budget resources earmarked for culture”, adding that:

„The current financing of cultural-artistic societies, cultural institutions, events and festivals of national interest is effected from the funds of local self-government authorities, those of the Provincial Secretariats and partly (a very small percentage) from the funds of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia. The continuous reduction of the percentage of funds referred to above has as its result:

- reduced cultural activities of national minorities, even in their being suspended, in particular those of cultural-artistic societies;
- subsidizing instead of financing of programme-based work of cultural-artistic societies, the explanation being that these societies are citizens' associations, and that the obligation of local self-government authorities is to finance only institutions established by them;
- at present the allocation of funds by the provincial authorities is effected in accordance with the recommendations of the Councils of National Minorities, but the available funds are far below the existing needs for these purposes. (The Provincial Secretariats determine the upper limit for that purpose while the National Councils re-distribute the allocated funds and determine priorities). Hence it is practically impossible to meet all the specific needs without a considerably greater participation of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia or without a much higher percentage of funds earmarked for these purposes.“

5.5.1.8. Encouraging of Expression and Access to Works in the Slovak Language

5.5.1.8.1. Libraries

Under Article 10, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2 of the Law on the Activities of General Interest in the Field of Culture, in conjunction with Article 18, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 14 and 15 of the Law on Local Self-Government, financial resources intended for the work of libraries established by municipalities are provided from the budgets thereof. Municipalities finance the activities of libraries whose book stocks include also books in the Slovak language, such as:

- Municipal library “Vuk Karadžić“, Alibunar: 1,152 books;
- People's library “Vuk Karadžić“, Bač: 800 books;

- Library “Stefan Homola“, Bački Petrovac: 60% of total book stock, acquired new books in the Slovak language: in 2002 - 901, in 2003 - 559, in 2004 - 500, in 2005 - 1,031 and in 2006 - 584;
- People’s library “Veljko Petrović“, Bačka Palanka: 4,912 books;
- Library “Jovan Grčić Milenko“, Beočin: 1,660 books;
- People’s library “Danilo Kiš“, Vrbas: 49 books (0.04%);
- City people’s library, Zrenjanin: 41 books;
- Municipal library, Kovačica: 11,361 books;
- City Library, Novi Sad: 7,642 books; in the period 2002-2006 acquisitions included 578 books;
- People’s library “Branko Radičević“, Odžaci: 2,200 books;
- People’s library “Dositej Obradović“, Stara Pazova: 7,016 books; 4 of its staff of 10 speak Slovak as their mother tongue;
- People’s library “Simeon Piščević“, Šid: 431 books.

In addition to funding public libraries through the budgets of the municipalities that have established them, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also co-finance the buy-ups of books in the Slovak language for libraries in multi-linguistic communities, thus ensuring access to literary works in Slovak. In 2005 and 2006 purchases of books in Slovak were co-financed as shown in the table below:

Institution	Library	Purpose	Amount
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	Municipal Library, Kovačica	Purchase of books including those in Slovak	252,000.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	Library “Stefan Homola“, Bački Petrovac	Purchase of books	38,300.00

The funding also covers the publishing activity of libraries in the Slovak language. The Library of Matica Srpska, Novi Sad publishes every year a Bibliography of Books in the Province of Vojvodina (all titles published in Vojvodina in the course of one year) that is also printed in Slovak.

Access to creative works in Slovak has been facilitated also in respect of the use of the book stocks of the Novi Sad City Library. Thus the name of this library on the sign that appears at its main building is also inscribed in Slovak. Member cards for the library are printed in Slovak as well.

5.5.1.8.2. Cultural Centres and Cultural Homes

In order to ensure material conditions for fostering and promoting the use of languages of national minorities, co-financing includes the building and refurbishing of major cultural facilities where various cultural contents are presented in several languages. Also co-financed are projects involving ongoing repair works, maintenance and equipping of cultural establishments in multi-linguistic communities, as well as in underdeveloped or less developed municipalities.

In the period from 2005-2006 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of the AP of Vojvodina helped to provide material conditions for cultural activities in Slovak by allocating resources to cultural centres and culture homes to carry out repair or reconstruction works:

<i>Place</i>	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Bačka Palanka	Bačka Palanka Municipality	Adaptation of the building housing the Cultural-Artistic Society Pivnice	300,000.00
Kovačica	Kovačica Municipality	Repair work on Culture Home “3rd October“ (Slovak)	330,000.00
Kovačica	Kovačica Municipality	Maintenance of and supplies for the Culture Home “3rd October“	365,000.00
Pivnice	National Council of the Slovak National Minority	Adaptation of the building housing the Cultural-Artistic Society Pivnice	378,000.00
Stara Pazova	Local Community of Stara Pazova	Adaptation of the building housing the Slovak Centre	500,000.00
Šid	Šid Municipality	Repairs to the building housing the Slovak Cultural-Educational Society in Erdevik	620,810.00

5.5.1.8.3. Museums and Galleries

Museums and galleries have enabled the presentation of works in Slovak. For instance, the printed matter in minority languages in the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina in Novi Sad includes 17 books and catalogues in Slovak. The Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina also prides itself on the following art collections: historical documents from the opening nights of performances staged at the professional theatres in Vojvodina (billposters, playbills, monographs); texts prepared for the Theatrical Almanac of Vojvodina (texts in the languages of national minorities translated into Serbian), titles of plays, names of playwrights and actors and actresses in the original in the Slovak language.

Access to exhibits at the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina has been made easier by the names of all playwrights and other authors figuring in the name register of all editions published by this Museum, being written in their original in minority languages including Slovak.

The project entitled “Theatrical Art in Vojvodina from Its Beginnings to the Present Time” was started in 2003 and resulted in the establishment of a Slovak language Section.

A theatrical art periodical “Vojvodina Stage”, which is published by the Theatrical Museum of the AP of Vojvodina, carries articles in minority languages with the Serbian translations thereof. A catalogue detailing theatres of Vojvodina, written in seven languages, including Slovak, was published. The catalogue prepared for the Exhibition “The Theatrical Road of Petrovac” was produced in two languages, Slovak and Serbian, as well as the legend/key below the photographs included in it.

Within the framework of its international cooperation, the Theatrical Museum of Vojvodina signed a cooperation agreement in Bratislava (Slovakia) and agreed on a joint exhibition with the Theatre Institute and the National Museum in Bratislava, entitled “The Life of Slovaks outside Matica Slovačka”.

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture financed through advertisements various ways of accessing creative works in Slovak or in connection with that language:

<i>Place</i>	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Bački Petrovac	Vojvodina Slovak Theatre	Co-financing of the conservation of items belonging to the collection from the Theatrical Museum	50,000.00
Bački Petrovac	Vojvodina Slovak Theatre – Zuska Medvedova Gallery	Eighth Biennale of Slovak Visual Artists	65,000.00
Gložan	Cultural-Educational Society “Jednota“	Second Biennale of Works of Young Visual Artists	45,000.00
Kovačica	Art Gallery Babka	Catalogue for the exhibition of Panonian miniatures	130,000.00
Kovačica	Culture Home “3rd October“	Running expenses of and contributions to the October Salon at the Gallery of Primitive Painting	845,000.00

5.5.1.8.4. Archives

Governmental activities, aimed at running archives by financing or co-financing of programme-based activities between municipal archives, are focused on the collection, collation, storing, presentation and ensuring of access to archival materials. The main institutions charged with protecting archival materials in the Republic of Serbia are the Archive of Serbia based in Belgrade and, in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the Archive of Vojvodina based in Novi Sad. Activities co-financed by the public authorities are the following: digitalizing of archival material, networking of

archives, publicizing of archival material and information on archival material (guidebooks) and exhibitions presenting the most valuable archival material in Slovak.

The table below describes the archival material in Slovak held by some of the archives in Serbia:

<i>Archive</i>	<i>Archival material</i>
Historical Archive "Srem" (Sirmium), Sremska Mitrovica	"Slovak Evangelical Augsburg Church Community of Stara Pazova" (1795-1899)

5.5.1.8.5. Theatres

Theatrical art is sponsored and promoted through the budgets of the Republic of Serbia, the AP of Vojvodina or municipal budgets (where local communities have established theatres) as well as by advertising calls for the allocation of funds earmarked for individual activities or theatre productions in minority languages.

The numbers of theatres mounting shows in Slovak in Vojvodina are as follows:

Professional theatres	1
Amateur theatres	20

Regular activities of amateur theatres are funded by municipalities.

Funds allocated for theatre performances in Slovak upon requests submitted following the calls announced by the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture in 2005 and 2006 were as follows:

<i>Place</i>	<i>Name of institution</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Bački Petrovac	Vojvodina Slovak Theatre	First Nights of the plays "The Fly", "Bilora Comedia Erudita", "Pirates", "Arabian Night", "Guilt"	5,000,000.00
Bački Petrovac	VHV Theatre	Production "Strange Girl"	50,000.00
Vojlovica	Local organisation of Matica Slovačka	Play "Janošik"	50,000.00
Erdevik	Slovak Cultural-Educational Society Erdevik	Play "Emilio Karbalido"	50,000.00
Kovačica	Culture Home "3 rd October"	First Nights of theatre productions	100,000.00

The Government provides support for many festivals and meetings of both professional and amateur theatres with productions staged in minority languages. The Festival of Vojvodina Professional Theatres is the most important such event.

The major events of amateur theatres are: Meeting of Amateur Theatres of Serbia in Kula, Meeting of Amateur Theatre Companies of Vojvodina in Stara Pazova, Festival of Vojvodina's Experimental Stages in Subotica, Festival of Off Main Stage Productions of Vojvodina in Rusko Selo, Festival of Amateur Theatres of Vojvodina (FEDRAS) in Sečanj, Meeting of Slovak Amateur Theatres of Vojvodina (alternatively held in Bački Petrovac, Stara Pazova and Kovačica), Festival of Stage Performances of Vojvodina Children "May Games" in Inđija, Competition of Poetry Reciters of Vojvodina in Sečanj, Festival of Public Speaking Skill „Sirmium lux verbi" in Sremska Mitrovica.

Financial support provided by provincial authorities to theatrical events organised in the Slovak language:

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	Amateur Theatre "Janko Čeman"	DIDA Theatre Festival	100,000.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	Culture Homee "Mihalj Babinka", Padina	Festival of Slovak Amateur Theatres	150,000.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	VHV Theatre, Bački Petrovac	Festival of Slovak Amateur Theatres	150,000.00
Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture	Slovak Cultural-Artistic Society "Janko Čmelik", Stara Pazova	Festival of Children's Drama Art	50,000.00

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also co-financed the acting studies project for the Vojvodina Slovak Theatre in Bački Petrovac.

5.5.1.8.6. Publishing (Literary Works)

The joint stock company "Culture" printing business in Bački Petrovac does publishing in the Slovak language. In the period 2002-2006 it published 75 books written in Slovak, 8 books by Slovak writers have been translated into Serbian and one Slovak writer's book has been published in English.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also appears as co-financier of the publishing activity of professional printing houses in Slovak. The allocated funds in 2005 and 2006 were as follows:

<i>Publisher</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
"Culture" printing business, joint stock company	Co-financing of publishing activity	1,150,000.00
"Culture" printing business, joint stock company	Publication of 5 separate books	160,000.00

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also financed publishing projects in Slovak of other publishers in 2005 and 2006, namely:

Place	<i>Name of institution</i>	Purpose	Amount
Bački Petrovac	Matica Slovačka	Publishing of an Atlas of Slovak Folk Culture	40,000.00
Bački Petrovac	Matica Slovačka	Publishing of a book by Pal Bakoš	
Gložan	Local committee of the Matica Slovačka	Publishing of a book entitled “Gložan 1756-2006”	100,000.00
Padina	Culture Home “Mihal Babinka”	Publishing of a book by Pavle Povolni	10,000.00

Literary works in Slovak are also made available to more readers through their translations. Thus, for instance, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture provided RSD 50,000 to the publisher “Agora“, Zrenjanin, to have the book “A Man with Prosthesis” by Jan Hruškovski translated into Serbian.

5.5.1.8.7. Cultural Heritage Relating to the Slovak Language

Immovable property representing cultural heritage may relate to minority languages through inscriptions, explanatory notes, legends/keys, catalogues, etc.

Protection of immovable items of cultural heritage is entrusted to the cultural heritage institutes funded from public sources. According to their significance, items of cultural heritage have been classified as simply items of cultural heritage, items of cultural heritage of great interest and items of cultural heritage of special interest. Moreover, there are also items of cultural heritage under preliminary protection or those being subject to a procedure to determine their heritage status.

The Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage in Pančevo has placed under its protection an item of heritage in connection with the Slovak language. It is the Slovak Evangelical Church in Kovačica, which is a heritage item under preliminary protection.

5.5.1.8.8. Cultural-Artistic Societies

Activities of cultural-artistic societies of national minorities are funded from the budgets of the municipalities where they have been established. They may also be funded through donations or budgetary resources of the AP of Vojvodina or the Republic of Serbia. In the AP of Vojvodina there are 20 associations and cultural-artistic societies fostering the Slovak language.

In 2005 and 2006, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture helped the work of associations and cultural-artistic societies of national minorities as well as various events promoting the use of the Slovak language, such as:

- hosting of the Padina Days of Culture by the “Mihal Babinka” Culture Home in Padina;
- the event called World Mother Tongue Day, organised by the International Ethnos Centre and the Babka Gallery in Kovačica;
- the event “Slovak Folk Festivities” sponsored by the Matica Slovačka in Bački Petrovac.

5.5.1.8.9. Cultural Events

The most important cultural events of the Slovak national community are: Folklore Festival “Dance, Dance“, Children’s Folklore Festival “Zlata Brana“, Meetings under Linden Trees, Gold Key Slovak Music Festival, International Festival of Lead Singing Artists “A Meeting in the Pivnice Field“, Padina Culture Days, Biennale of Slovak Visual Artists in Serbia.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture, by way of public announcements on a regular basis, has co-financed programmes, projects, festivals and events of professional and non-professional institutions, non-governmental organisations, associations, informal groups and independent artists that are important to preserve the national identity and develop the cultural and artistic creative work in Slovak. For instance, under an announcement made in 2003, RSD 1,480,000.00 were allocated for the Slovak language and the Slovak minority, whereas these allocations were RSD 1,760,000.00 in 2004, RSD 1,300,000.00 in 2005 and RSD 1,750,000.00 in 2006, respectively.

5.5.1.9. Encouraging of Expression and Access to works in the Ukrainian Language

5.5.1.9.1. Theatres

Theatrical art is supported and promoted through budgetary resources of the Republic of Serbia, the AP of Vojvodina and those of the municipalities (for theatres established by these municipalities), as well as on the basis of public announcements for the allocation of funds earmarked for individual activities and for theatre performances in minority languages.

The number of theatres mounting productions in Ukrainian in the territory of Vojvodina is as follows:

Professional theatres	-
Amateur theatres	1

Regular activities of amateur theatres are funded by municipalities.

5.5.1.9.2. Cultural Events

According to the Report on the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, prepared by the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority, as far as culture is concerned “the Ukrainian national community of Serbia organises a number of cultural events such as: the Festival of Ukrainian Culture “Kalina“, Taras Shevchenko’s Days, Ivan Franko’s Days, Ceremonies Commemorating the Fallen Fighters of the Third Ukrainian Front held simultaneously in Sombor and Bezdan, Commemoration of Victims of Famine in Ukraine, Festival of Children’s Creative Works, 17th of May as the Day of the Ukrainian National Community in Serbia, 14th of October as Ukrainian Heroes’ Day, celebration of major church feasts, observance of various anniversaries, literary evenings, art exhibitions, lectures given and Ukrainian festive occasions, i.e. balls.

The events of general interest to the Ukrainian national community are traditional Taras Shevchenko’s Days and the Festival of Ukrainian Culture “Kalina” which are accorded absolute priority. In the town of Kula, Taras Shevchenko’s Days figure among the programmes funded by the municipality on a regular basis as a programme of general national interest. The same treatment is expected in other local communities. However, apart from minimal one-off interventions there have apparently been no attempts to systematically address these needs.

The holding of the “Kalina” Ukrainian Culture Festival has been initiated by the National Council of Ukrainians.

The National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority has suggested that ‘in order to deal with some of the needs of cultural societies regarding the import of national costumes, music instruments and other equipment necessary for the work of these societies, it is suggested that, at the recommendation of the National Council or other authoritative institutions, such items be exempted from customs formalities, thus enabling a more efficient work of the cultural societies‘.

5.5.1.10. Encouraging of Expression and Access to Works in the Croatian Language

5.5.1.10.1. Libraries

Under Article 10, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2 of the Law on the Activities of General Interest in the Field of Culture, in connection with Article 18, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 14 and 15 of the Law on Local Self-Government, the funds earmarked for the operation of libraries established by municipalities are provided from the budgets thereof. It is the municipalities that finance the libraries including in their book stocks also books in Croatian. The City Library in Subotica prides itself on a stock of 242 books in Croatian out of a total of 271,332 books.

In addition to financing the operation of public libraries through the budgets of the municipalities which have established them, the Provincial Secretariat for Education and

Culture also co-finances the purchase of books written in Croatian intended for libraries in multi-linguistic communities, improving in this way access to literary works in Croatian. For example, in 2005 and 2006 the co-financed procurement of books in the Croat language for the Croatian Reading Hall in Subotica amounted to RSD 32, 000.00.

The funding also includes the publishing activity of libraries in Croatian. In the period 2002-2006, the Croatian Reading Hall in Subotica published a number of books about history, theory of literature and poetry as well as children’s books within the picture book edition.

5.5.1.10.2. Museums and Galleries

The presentation of works in Croatian has also been made possible in museums and galleries. The Subotica City Museum, for instance, has collections of exhibits the content of which belongs to Croatian cultural heritage, as well. Its history section has 30% of all archived items and 50% of printed matter in either Serbian or Croatian.

Also, the Subotica City Museum has made possible access to works in Croatian. The name of this institution is written in Croatian, in Latin script, too. Entrance to the Museum and its office premises all bear signs in Croatian, as well. Advice in Croatian, existing at the entrance to the Museum’s Secretariat, explains to visitors that they may address their queries to the Museum also in Croatian and that they may receive relevant documents also in that language. Telephone enquiries are answered in Croatian, too. All Museum’s publications (catalogues, invitations, record of collections, etc.) are printed in Croatian, as well. Signs for the exhibitions staged by the Museum within theme presentations are also written in Croatian, including visiting exhibitions (on loan from other museums or from abroad). Both the Museum’s guide and all those working on its permanent or theme exhibitions speak Croatian.

5.5.1.10.3. Archives

Governmental activities related to the running of archives through the financing or co-financing of projects of inter-municipal archives are focused on the collection, collation, storing, presentation and accessibility of archival material. The main institutions responsible for the protection of archival material are the Archive of Serbia based in Belgrade and the Archive of Vojvodina, in the territory of that province, based in Novi Sad. The activities co-financed by the public authorities include: digitalizing of archival materials, archives networking, publication of archival material and information about archival materials (guidebooks) and exhibitions presenting the most valuable archival material in Croatian.

Archival materials in Croatian safe-kept by some of the archives in Serbia are described in the table below:

<i>Archive</i>	<i>Archival material</i>
	“Roman Catholic Junior Public School - Maradik“ (1880-1914),

Historical Archive "Srem"(Sirmium), Sremska Mitrovica	"Croatian Savings and Advance Loans Cooperative – Sremska Mitrovica" (1882-1947), "Croatian Sokol - Ruma" (1906-1929).
Historical Archive, Subotica	Approx. 10% of overall archival material

Access to archival material in Croatian held at the Historical Archive in Subotica has been facilitated by the fact that the name of the institution, its seal, its own record books filled in by visitors or researchers, certificates (based on facts contained in the archival material) and other documents issued by it may be used or obtained in Croatian. Its staff receiving visitors or researchers use the Croat language.

In 2005 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture co-financed the publishing of the journal "Ex Pannonia" of the Historical Archive in Subotica and the organisation of the event Archival Days in 2006.

5.5.1.10.4. Theatres

Theatrical art is supported and promoted through budgetary financing provided by the Republic of Serbia, the AP of Vojvodina and municipalities (for theatres established by municipalities), as well as on the basis of public calls for the allocation of funds earmarked for individual activities or for theatre performances in minority languages.

The number of theatres putting up performances in Croatian in Vojvodina is shown below:

Professional theatres	-
Amateur theatres	2

5.5.1.10.5. Publishing (Literary Works)

The newspaper-publishing enterprise "Hrvatska Riječ" from Subotica publishes every year in Croatian some 10 books by Croatian authors coming from the territory of the Republic of Serbia, namely novels, short stories, collections of poems and monographs.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture co-finances the publishing activity of professional publishing enterprises in Croatian in Vojvodina. In 2005 and 2006 the allocated funds were as follows:

<i>Publisher</i>	Purpose	Amount
Newspaper- publishing enterprise "Hrvatska Riječ"	Co-financing of publishing activity	525,000.00
Newspaper-publishing enterprise "Hrvatska Riječ"	Publication of a monograph	30,000.00

In 2005-2006 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture also financed publishing projects of other publishers in Croatian, notably:

Place	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Subotica	Matica Hrvatska	Co-financing of the publication of “Winged Guy“	50,000.00
Subotica	Croatian Reading Hall	Publication of a book about the cultural history of Croats	100,000.00

In the course of 2005 the newspaper-publishing enterprise “Hrvatska Riječ“ received RSD 200,000.00 from the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of Serbia/Montenegro.

5.5.1.10.6. Cultural Heritage Related to the Croatian Language

Immovable property representing cultural heritage may relate to minority languages by way of signs, explanations, legends/keys, catalogues, etc.

Protection of items of immovable cultural heritage is entrusted also to cultural heritage institutes which are funded from public sources. According to their significance, items of cultural heritage are classified as: items of cultural heritage, items of cultural heritage of great interest and items of cultural heritage of special interest. Furthermore, there are also items of heritage under preliminary protection or those subject to a procedure to determine their heritage status.

The following heritage related to the Croat language is under the protection of the Inter-Municipal Heritage Institute based in Subotica, which covers nine municipalities in northern Vojvodina:

- Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption in Bačka Topola – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Memorial Drinking Fountain in Palić – item of cultural heritage;
- Waters dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady, Roman Catholic Chapel in Subotica – item of cultural heritage;
- Chapel at the Bajsko cemetery in Subotica – item of cultural heritage;
- Roman Catholic Church of St. Theresa of Avila in Subotica – item of cultural heritage of great interest;
- Town Hall in Subotica – item of cultural heritage of special interest;
- Franciscan Convent in Subotica – item of cultural heritage of great interest.

5.5.1.10.7. Cultural-Artistic Societies

Activities of cultural-artistic societies of national minorities are financed through the budgets of municipalities where they have been established. They may also be financed by donations or from budgetary resources of either the Province or the Republic of Serbia. In the AP of Vojvodina there are 26 associations and cultural-artistic societies fostering the Croat language.

In 2005-2006 the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture helped the work of national minority associations and cultural-artistic societies, as well as various events promoting the Croat language, such as:

- Meeting of Poets “Lira Naiva“ hosted by the Croatian Reading Hall in Subotica;
- Celebration of Days of Matica Hrvatska in Subotica.

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of Serbia/Montenegro and the Office of Human and Minority Rights allocated in 2005 and 2006 to the Croatian cultural-educational society “Matija Gubec“ RSD 160,000.00 and to the Croatian Community RSD 250,000.00, respectively.

5.5.1.10.8. Cultural Events

Major cultural events of the Croatian national community are the following: Kolonija Slamarki, Matica Hrvatska Days, Poets’ Meeting “Lira Naiva“, Balint Vujkov Dužijanac’s Days.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture of Vojvodina, through regular public announcements, co-financed programmes, projects, festivals and events of professional and non-professional institutions, non-governmental organisations, associations, informal groups and independent artists, which are important for the preservation of the national identity and for the development of cultural and artistic creativity in Croatian. Thus, upon the announcement made in 2003, the Croat language and the Croatian minority received RSD 315,000.00, in 2004 they received RSD 500,000.00, in 2005 - RSD 500,000.00 and in 2006 - 560,000.00, respectively.

5.5.2. Promotion of Access of Minority Languages to Creative Works Produced in Other Languages

5.5.2.1. Promotion of Access of the Hungarian Language to Creative Works Produced in Other Languages

5.5.2.1.1. Translations

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture financed translations for the purpose of publishing:

Place	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
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Senta	Civic association "Zenta"	Translation from Serbian into Hungarian of the book "Searching for Wild Chestnut Trees Street" by Boško Krstić	40,000.00
Subotica	Ethnological society "Kiš Lajoš"	Translation from Serbian into Hungarian of the book "The Balkan Peninsula and South Slav Lands" by Jovan Cvijić	200,000.00

5.5.2.2. Promotion of Access of the Roma Language to Creative Works Produced in Other Languages

5.5.2.2.1. Translations

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture financed translations for publishing purposes:

Place	Name of institution	Purpose	Amount
Deronje	Roma Teachers' Association	Translation from Serbian into Roma language of "Selected Poems" by Miroslav Antić	30,000.00
Deronje	Cultural-educational society "Romano Suno"	Translation from Serbian into Roma language of "Life of St. Petka"	15,000.00

5.5.2.3. Promotion of Access of the Romanian Language to Creative Works Produced in Other Languages

5.5.2.3.1. Translations

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture financed translations for publishing purposes. For instance, the literary community of Vršac received RSD 60,000.00 for translation from Serbian into Romanian of the book "Patriots".

5.5.2.4. Promotion of Access of the Ruthenian Language to Creative Works Produced in Other Languages

5.5.2.4.1. Translations

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture financed translations for publishing purposes. Thus, for instance, the Apostolic Exarchate for Greek Catholics in Ruski Krstur received RSD 24,500.00 as co-finance for the translation of the New Testament.

5.5.2.5. Promotion of Access of the Slovak Language to Creative Works Produced in Other Languages

5.5.2.5.1. Translations

The Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture financed translations for publishing purposes. For example, the Slovak Forum (FORS) in Novi Sad received RSD 50,000.00 for the translation from Serbian into Slovak of the book “Little Serbian Eschathology“.

5.6.

Article 13

Economic and Social Life

Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs:

1. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, within the whole country:

c) to oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities.

5.6.1. Opposing Practices Designed to Discourage the Use of Minority Languages

In the legal system of the Republic of Serbia there are no laws nor regulations containing any provisions prohibiting, making difficult or discouraging the use of minority languages with regard to economic and social activities.

The public authorities have been pursuing activities to revive the use of minority languages in economic and social life, which is the most effective way of preventing and opposing the practices that would be designed to discourage the use of minority languages with regard to economic and social activities. The Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Minorities has launched the project “Return to good business practices - reviving multilingualism” the objective of which is to revive multilingualism in the economic and business sphere. Based on the established criteria which included consistency in inscribing names, inscriptions and information

multilingually and interest of the economic entity concerned in using the relevant languages, the “Sunflower” awards were conferred on the most outstanding economic entities which competed regionally and locally. All the participants that were short-listed but failed to receive the “Sunflower” award were given acknowledgments.

5.7.

Article 14

Transfrontier Exchanges

Selected Paragraphs and Subparagraphs:

The Parties undertake:

- a) to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education;*
- b) for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to felicitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.*

5.7.1. Application of Bilateral and Multilateral Arrangements

Thanks to succession, the Republic of Serbia is Party to the international multilateral and bilateral treaties which, inter alia, also regulate the use and protection of regional or minority languages. These are multilateral agreements in the field of human and minority rights, bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities and agreements on cultural and educational co-operation mentioned in sections 3.2. and 4.1.9. of the Report. The Republic of Serbia has been implementing its commitments under the mentioned

agreements in good faith and stands ready to conclude such agreements with other interested countries as well.

5.7.2. Facilitation of Co-Operation with Regional and Local Authorities

The Republic of Serbia is not opposed to international cross-border regional and local co-operation. Such co-operation between the competent authorities of AP Vojvodina and many local self-governments has been evolving smoothly and contributing to good-neighborly relations between the Republic of Serbia and the neighboring states.