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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

SERBIA

Republic of Serbia

**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL
OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Fourth Periodical Report submitted
to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
pursuant to Article 15 of the Charter**

Belgrade, October 2017

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Article 15 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as the “Charter”), which was ratified by the Law on Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Official Gazette of Serbia and Montenegro – International Treaties, No. 18/05), the Republic of Serbia hereby submits the Fourth Periodical Report on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as the “Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter”) for the period 2013-2015, drawn up in accordance with the Revised Outline for three-year periodical reports (MIN-LANG (2009) 8), which was adopted at the 1056th meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held on 6 May 2009.

2. The Fourth Periodical Report on the Implementation of the Charter was drawn up by the Office for Human and Minority Rights. The following state authorities participated in the compiling of the Report: the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa, as well as the provincial authorities of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina: the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities – National Communities and the Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities.

3. All local self-government units where a minority language is in official use were invited to participate in the compiling of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter and the following responded to the invitation: Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bela Crkva, Beočin, Bečej, Bujanovac, Vrbas, Vršac, Dimitrovgrad, Žabalj, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Kula, Mali Idoš, Medveđa, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Kneževac, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Pančevo, Plandište, Preševo, Prijepolje, Senta, Sečanj, Sjenica, Sombor, Srbobran, Sremska Mitrovica, Stara Pazova, Subotica, Temerin, Titel, Tutin, Čoka and Šid. Local self-government units which conduct projects in the area of cross-border collaboration were also invited, with Kladovo and Priboj responding. Contributions to the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter were also subsequently provided by Vranje, Indija and Surdulica. All administrative districts which cover those municipalities where a minority language is in official use responded to the invitation to take part in the compiling of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, namely: Jablanički, Južnobački, Južnobanatski, Pirotski, Pčinjski, Raški, Severnobački, Sevenobanatski, Srednjobanatski, Sremski, Zapadnobački and Zlatiborski administrative districts.

4. Contributions to the compiling of the Report were also provided by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the Regulatory Authority of Electronic Media, the Republic Geodetic Authority, the High Judicial Council and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Public enterprises were also consulted during the compiling of the report, with the following

taking part: PE Electric Power Industry of Serbia, EPS Distribution, PE Post of Serbia, PE Srbijagas and Telekom Srbija. The following public services also took part: PMI Radio Television of Serbia and PMI Radio Television of Vojvodina. Out of the seven cultural institutions (cultural institutes) which had been invited, the following responded: the Cultural Institute of Vojvodina, the Hungarian Cultural Institute of Vojvodina, the Romanian Cultural Institute of Vojvodina and the Vojvodina Slovak Cultural Institute. Contributions to the compiling of the report were also provided by the University of Belgrade (the Faculty of Philology, the Teacher Education Faculty - Branch Unit Vršac); the University of Novi Sad (the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Civil Engineering, the Faculty of Economics, the Academy of Arts and the Teachers' Training Faculty in Hungarian in Subotica); the University of Kragujevac (the Faculty of Philology and Arts); the State University of Novi Pazar; the Higher Vocational School For The Education Of Teachers in Novi Sad, the Preschool Teacher Training College "Mihailo Pavlov" – Vršac and the Subotica Tech College of Applied Sciences.

5. All national councils of national minorities were invited to provide information and contributions to the Report. Data regarding the use of minority languages in certain areas relevant for implementation of the Charter were submitted by the national councils of Bunjevac, Vlach and German national minorities.

6. The following associations of citizens were invited to participate in the compilation of the report which gather members of national minorities or engage in protection of rights of national minorities: Albanian Cultural Association Perspektiva, Bujanovac; Human Rights Committee, Bujanovac; Writers' Association Feniks, Preševo; Cultural Centre DamaD, Novi Pazar; Association for Spiritual, Cultural and Scientific Affirmation of Bosniaks Ašik Junus Centre, Novi Pazar; Association for Science, Culture and Art of Bosniaks IKRE, Prijepolje; Association Matica Bugara u Srbiji, Bosilegrad; Civic Association Cultural and Information Centre for Bulgarian minority Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad; Association for the Bulgarian Language, Literature and Culture, Novi Sad; Bunjevac Cultural Centre Tavankut, Donji Tavankut; Bunjevac Cultural Centre Lemeški Bunjevci, Svetozar Miletić, Sombor; Bunjevačka Matica, Subotica; Vlach Forum, Bor; Vlach Association Primovara, Zlot; Paulj Matejić Vlach Community, Melnica; Gergina Association, Negotin; Association for the Hungarian language Sarvaš Gabor, Ada; Teachers' Association of the Hungarians in North Bačka, Subotica; Cultural Association of Hungarians in Vojvodina - Vajdasági Magyar Művelődési Szövetség, Subotica; Scientific Association for Hungarology Research, Hungarian Cultural Centre Nepker Kula, Kula; Adult Education Association of Hungarians in Vojvodina, Bačka Topola; Association for Hungarian Language and Reading Club Koosa Janos, Novi Sad; Association of Macedonians in Vojvodina Makedonsko Sonce, Novi Sad; Macedonian Association "Aleksandar Makedonski", Belgrade; Macedonian Cultural Centre Blaže Koneski, Pančevo; German Association Donau, Novi Sad; German People's Union, Subotica; Coalition of Roma NGOs and associations of coalitions Anglunipe – Napredak, Belgrade; Romanian Community in Serbia, Vršac; Society for the Romanian Language in Vojvodina – Republic of Serbia, Vršac; Literary and Artistic Society Tibiskus, Uzdin; Ruthenian Cultural Centre, Novi Sad; Society for the Ruthenian Language, Literature and

Culture, Novi Sad; Matica Rusinska, Ruski Krstur; Matica Slovačka u Srbiji, Bački Petrovac; Slovak Cultural Centre Pavel Jozef Šaferik, Novi Sad; Slovak Society of Vojvodina, Novi Sad; Cultural and Education Society Karpati, Vrbas; Society for Preserving the Ukrainian Culture Kolomejka, Sremska Mitrovica; Society for the Ukrainian Language, Literature and Culture Prosvita, Novi Sad; Matica Češka, Bela Crkva; Cultural and Educational Association The Czechs of South Banat, Bela Crkva; Češka Beseda Bela Crkva, Bela Crkva; Croatian Cultural and Educational Society Jelačić, Petrovaradin; Matica Hrvatska, Subotica; Croatian Cultural Society Šid, Šid. Contributions were provided by the Society for Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture, Novi Sad, Vlach Cultural Forum, Bor; Gergina Association, Negotin; Albanian Cultural Association Perspektiva, Bujanovac; Macedonian Cultural Centre Blaže Koneski, Pančevo; Matica Slovačka in Serbia, Bački Petrovac.

7. In addition to the regulations listed in the previous reports, the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter is also underlied by the following national regulations:

- Law on Ministries (Official Gazette of RS, No. 44/14, 14/15, 54/15, 96/15 – new law and 62/17);
- Law on Primary Education (Official Gazette of RS, No. 55/13);
- Law on Secondary Education (Official Gazette of RS, No. 55/13);
- Law on Adult Education (Official Gazette of RS, No. 55/13);
- Law on Textbooks (Official Gazette of RS, No. 68/15);
- Law on Seats and Territorial Jurisdictions of Courts and Public Prosecutors' Offices (Official Gazette of RS, No. 101/13) – applied as of 1 January 2014;
- Law on Employees in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units (Official Gazette of RS, No. 21/16);
- Law on Public Information and Media (Official Gazette of RS, No. 83/14, 58/15 and 12/16 - authentic interpretation);
- Law on Electronic Media (Official Gazette of RS, No. 83/14 and 6/16 – new law);
- Law on Electronic Media (Official Gazette of RS, No. 83/14, 103/15 and 108/16);
- Decision on Establishment of the Council for National Minorities (Official Gazette of RS, No. 32/15, 91/16 and 78/17);
- Rulebook on Criteria and Procedure for Enrolment of Roma Students in Secondary Schools under more Favourable Conditions with a view to Achieving Full Equality (Official Gazette of RS, No. 12/16);
- Regulation on criteria for classification of jobs and criteria for description of jobs of officials in autonomous provinces and local self-government units (Official Gazette of RS, No. 88/16);
- Rulebook on the Manner of Registration and Keeping Register of National Councils (Official Gazette of RS, No. 72/14);
- Rulebook on the Manner of Keeping Special Voters List of National Minorities (Official Gazette of RS, No. 72/14 and 81/14);
- Provincial Assembly Decision on the manner and criteria for allocation of budget funds for national councils of national minorities (Official Gazette of AP Vojvodina, No. 54/14);

- Provincial Assembly Decision on the allocation of budget funds to organisations of national minorities – national communities (Official Gazette of AP Vojvodina, No. 14/15);
- Provincial Assembly Decision on providing funds for co-financing newspapers that publish information in the languages of national minorities–national communities (Official Gazette of AP Vojvodina, No. 54/2014).

8. In the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the term “minority language” is used synonymously with the term “national minority language”.

9. All data on the financial support provided by state and provincial bodies which are presented in the tables of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter refer to the relevant three-year period (2013-2015) and are expressed in RSD, unless specified otherwise.

10. Any terms used in this report in the masculine gender also denote the feminine gender.

2. PART I.

2.1. Information on the general demographic situation

11. The Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter presented the results of the 2011 census relevant for the implementation of the Charter. According to the census, the Republic of Serbia had 7,186,862 inhabitants. Relative to the previous census (2002), the total number of citizens was lower, with the decline affecting both Serbs as the majority nation and members of national minorities. During this period, population increase was recorded among persons of Bosniak, Gorani, German, Muslim, Roma, Russian, Ashkali, Greek, Egyptian and Turkish ethnicities. According to the data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the estimated number of citizens in the Republic of Serbia¹ in 2015 was 7,095,383. The number of live births was 65,657, while the number of deaths was 103,678 persons, meaning the population growth was negative at -38,021 persons. These figures result from negative demographic effects which had accumulated over a longer time period. Thus, between 2005 and 2015 the population shrank by 383,000 persons on the basis of population growth alone. The population growth rate was -5.3%. The lowest negative population growth rate was recorded in the Belgrade region (-1.7‰), while the highest negative natural growth rate was recorded in the Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia (-8.3‰). Out of the total number of municipalities/cities (169) in the Republic of Serbia, the population growth rate in 2015 is positive in only seven: Tutin, Novi Pazar, Preševo, Sjenica, Novi Sad, Petrovaradin and Surčin. According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the depopulation trends characterised by a negative growth rate and a negative population growth which had been reported in the Vojvodina Region in the early 1980s and subsequently spread to other parts of Serbia in the early 1990s are still ongoing and will continue well into the future, judging by the indicators and population projections.

12. In the light of these figures and population trend estimates, authorities of the Republic of Serbia would like to note that the population decline, which has also reduced the number of speakers of minority languages, does not affect the status of minority languages. As already noted on a number of occasions, the Republic of Serbia aims to strengthen protection and promote minority languages and the cultures they represent. This is reflected in continuous performance of activities and measures for promotion of legislation and consistent enforcement in practice.

2.2. Legislative changes after the third cycle of monitoring of the implementation of the Charter

13. Since the third cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Charter, new regulations have been passed to promote the use and protection of minority languages. Relevant legislative provisions pertinent to the implementation of the Charter are presented below.

¹ Since 1998, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has not had data for AP of Kosovo and Metohija and consequently these are not included in the data relating to the Republic of Serbia (total).

14. **The Law on Primary Education** (2013) regulates primary education as part of an integrated education system. Article 9 explicitly states that the primary task of a school is to enable good quality education for every child and student, under equal conditions, regardless of where the school is located, i.e. where the education is provided, and that persons who are conducting educational-upbringing work and other persons employed in the school will particularly promote equality among all students and actively combat all types of discrimination and violence. Article 12 of that Law, which pertains to the language of education, specifies that the curriculum is to be taught in Serbian. The same Article sets out in paragraph 2 that the curriculum may also be taught in the language and script of a national minority for members of that national minority or bilingually if at least 15 students opt for it during enrolment in first grade, while schools are authorised to teach the curriculum in the language and script of a national minority or bilingually for fewer than 15 students enrolled in the first grade based on an approval from the ministry in charge of education affairs. A statutory duty is also imposed on schools to also teach pupils Serbian if they teach the curriculum in the language and script of a national minority, as well as to teach the national minority language with elements of the national culture as an elective subject to pupils who are members of a national minority if the curriculum is taught in Serbian. The stated objectives of primary education (Article 21) include *inter alia*: respect for and promotion of the Serbian language and one's own mother tongue, the tradition and culture of the Serbian people, of national minorities and of ethnic communities and other nations, development of multiculturalism, respect for and preservation of national and global cultural heritage; and development of and respect for racial, national, cultural, linguistic, religious, gender and age equality and tolerance.

15. **The Law on Secondary Education** (2013) regulates secondary education as part of the integrated education system. If the curriculum is taught in the language of a national minority or in a foreign language, the Law provides for mandatory teaching of Serbian to pupils. To complete secondary school, pupils must pass the final examination and/or graduation. The provisions governing the use of language in secondary education are identical to those governing the teaching of the curriculum in primary schools.

16. **Law on Adult Education** (2013) governs primary education and lifelong learning of adults² as part of the integrated education system in the Republic of Serbia. Adult education takes the forms of formal and non-formal education and informal learning that can be performed by a primary or secondary school or another organisation if it is registered as an education provider and if it is approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. The Law provides for equal opportunity as one of the principles of this form of education. Article 3 defines the principle of equal opportunity as the inclusion in education and acquiring of education regardless of age, gender, developmental difficulties and disorders, disability, racial, national, social, cultural, ethnic and religious affiliation,

²In terms of this Law, the adults are persons older than 15 who acquire primary education according to the program for primary education of adults, persons older than 17 who acquire secondary education according to the program for adults and persons older than 18 who are included in other forms of non-formal education and informal learning.

language, sexual orientation, place of residence, financial status or health and other personal characteristics. The objectives of adult education include *inter alia* the development of democracy, interculturality and tolerance (Article 4). As regards the use of language, the Law provides that adult education is to be taught in Serbian, while members of national minorities may also receive adult education in their minority language or bilingually if at least 50% of participants or candidates opt for that option during enrolment in the programme. When applying for recognition of prior learning, members of national minorities have the right to choose whether the procedure will be conducted in their mother tongue or in the Serbian language.

17. According to the **Law on Textbooks** (2015), a the textbook in the language and script of a national minority is defined as: a textbook published in the territory of the Republic of Serbia; textbook which is a translation of a textbook approved in the Serbian language; a supplement used in the teaching of an adapted part of the curriculum for subjects relevant for the national minority; or a textbook in the language and script of a national minority published in a foreign country which is approved pursuant to that Law. The provisions of the Law pertaining to textbooks apply *mutatis mutandis* to supplements used in the teaching of subjects relevant for a national minority. The publisher must prepare manuscripts of the textbook for all primary school subjects and the didactic material for the preparatory preschool program in Serbian and in the language of the national minority (Article 2, paragraph 2). In accordance with its legal status and within its financial means, for several decades the Institute for Textbooks has been providing textbooks for speakers of minority languages in accordance with the applicable textbook plans for the education of national minority pupils in their first languages and for the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of the National Culture, as well as national supplements for subjects relevant for the national minorities. Each textbook intended for speakers of minority languages must pass the procedure of approval in the Ministry of Education or the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities – National Communities of AP Vojvodina, with the latter in charge of those national minorities whose national councils are established in the territory of the AP of Vojvodina. If the textbooks in question are textbooks which are translated from Serbian into a minority language, the Law provides that the translation must be pre-approved by the national council of the relevant national minority, which guarantees quality of the translation. Textbooks which are originally written in the language of a national minority are commissioned from authors who are members of the relevant national minority and the textbook must be quality-approved by the national council of the relevant national minority. All published textbooks are available in the sales network of the Institute for Textbooks at a price equal to that of the corresponding textbook in Serbian.

18. **The Law on the Seats and Territorial Jurisdictions of Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices** (2013), *inter alia*, establishes basic and higher courts, determines their seats and their territories of jurisdictions and departments of the Administrative Court of

which they exercise their competence³. According to Article 3 of that Law, the basic courts include: 1) the Basic Court of Aleksinac, for the territory of the municipalities of Aleksinac, Ražanj and Sokobanja, with the Court Unit in Sokobanja, 2) the Basic Court of Arandelovac, for the territory of the municipalities of Arandelovac, Rača and Topola, with the Court Unit in Topola, 3) the Basic Court of Bačka Palanka, for the territory of the municipalities of Bač and Bačka Palanka, 4) the First Basic Court of Belgrade, for the territory of the city municipalities of Vračar, Zvezdara, Palilula, Savski venac and Stari grad, 5) the Second Basic Court of Belgrade, for the territory of town municipalities of Voždovac, Grocka, Rakovica and Čukarica, 6) the Third Basic Court of Belgrade, for the territory of the city municipalities of Zemun, New Belgrade and Surčin, 7) the Basic Court of Bečej, for the territory of the municipalities of Bečej and Novi Bečej, with the Court Unit in Novi Bečej, 8) the Basic Court of Bor, for the territory of the municipality of Bor, 9) the Basic Court of Brus, for the territory of the municipalities of Aleksandrovac and Brus, with the Court Unit in Aleksandrovac, 10) the Basic Court of Bujanovac, for the territory of the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo, 11) the Basic Court of Valjevo, for the territory of the municipality of Osečina and for the town of Valjevo, 12) the Basic Court of Velika Plana, for the territory of the municipalities of Velika Plana and Smederevska Palanka, with the Court Unit in Smederevska Palanka, 13) the Basic Court of Veliko Gradište, for the territory of the municipalities of Veliko Gradište and Golubac, 14) the Basic Court of Vranje, for the territory of the municipality of Trgovište and for the town of Vranje, 15) the Basic Court of Vrbas, for the territory of the municipalities of Vrbas, Kula and Srbobran, with the Court Unit in Kula, 16) the Basic Court of Vršac, for the territory of the municipalities of Bela Crkva, Vršac and Plandište, with the Court Unit in Bela Crkva, 17) the Basic Court of Gornji Milanovac, for the territory of the municipality of Gornji Milanovac, 18) the Basic Court of Despotovac, for the territory of the municipalities of Despotovac and Svilajnac, with the Court Unit in Svilajnac, 19) the Basic Court of Dimitrovgrad, for the territory of the municipality of Dimitrovgrad, 20) the Basic Court of Zaječar, for the territory of the municipality of Boljevac and for the town of Zaječar, 21) the Basic Court of Zrenjanin, for the territory of the Municipalities of Žitište and Sečanj and for the town of Zrenjanin, 22) the Basic Court of Ivanjica, for the territory of the Municipalities of Ivanjica and Lučani, 23) the Basic Court of Jagodina, for the territory of the municipality of Rekovac and for the town of Jagodina, 24) the Basic Court of Kikinda, for the territory of the municipalities of Kikinda, Nova Crnja, Novi Kneževac and Čoka, with the Court Unit in Novi Kneževac, 25) the Basic Court of Knjaževac, for the territory of the municipality of Knjaževac, 26) the Basic Court of Kragujevac, for the territory of the municipalities of Batočina, Knić, Lapovo and for the town of Kragujevac, 27) the Basic Court of Kraljevo, for the territory of the municipality of Vrnjačka Banja and for the town of Kraljevo, with the Court Unit in Vrnjačka Banja, 28) the Basic Court of Kruševac, for the territory of the municipalities of Varvarin and Čićevac and for the town of Kruševac, with the Court Unit in Varvarin, 29) the Basic Court of Kuršumlija, for the territory of the municipalities of Blace and Kuršumlija, 30) the Basic Court of Lazarevac, for the territory of the town municipality of Lazarevac, 31) the Basic Court of Lebane, for the territory of the

³ This summary of the new judicial network includes only those types of courts which are relevant for the implementation of the Charter.

municipalities of Bojnik, Lebane and Medveđa, 32) the Basic Court of Leskovac, for the territory of the municipalities of Vlasotince and Crna Trava and for the town of Leskovac, with the Court Unit in Vlasotince, 33) the Basic Court of Loznica, for the territory of the municipalities of Krupanj, Ljubovija and Mali Zvornik and for the town of Loznica, with the Court Unit in Ljubovija, 34) the Basic Court of Majdanpek, for the territory of the municipality of Majdanpek, 35) the Basic Court of Mionica, for the territory of the municipalities of Ljig and Mionica, 36) the Basic Court of Mladenovac, for the territory of the city municipalities of Barajevo, Mladenovac and Sopot, with the Court Unit in Sopot, 37) the Basic Court of Negotin, for the territory of the municipalities of Kladovo and Negotin, with the Court Unit in Kladovo, 38) the Basic Court of Niš, for the territory of the municipalities of Gadžin Han, Doljevac and Svrljig and for the town of Niš, 39) the Basic Court of Novi Pazar, for the territory of the municipality of Tutin and for the town of Novi Pazar, with the Court Unit in Tutin, 40) the Basic Court of Novi Sad, for the territory of the municipalities of Bački Petrovac, Beočin, Žabalj, Sremski Karlovci, Temerin and Titel and for the town of Novi Sad, 41) the Basic Court of Obrenovac, for the territory of the town municipality of Obrenovac, 42) the Basic Court of Pančevo, for the territory of the municipalities of Alibunar, Kovačica and Opovo and for the town of Pančevo, with the Court Unit in Kovačica, 43) the Basic Court of Paraćin, for the territory of the municipalities of Paraćin and Čuprija, with the Court Unit in Čuprija, 44) the Basic Court of Petrovac na Mlavi, for the territory of the Municipalities of Žagubica and Petrovac na Mlavi, with the Court Unit in Žagubica, 45) the Basic Court of Pirot, for the territory of the municipalities of Babušnica, Bela Palanka and Pirot, 46) the Basic Court of Požarevac, for the territory of the municipalities of Žabari, Kučevo and Malo Crniće and for the town of Požarevac, with the Court Unit in Kučevo, 47) the Basic Court of Požega, for the territory of the municipalities of Arilje, Kosjerić and Požega, 48) the Basic Court of Priboj, for the territory of the municipality of Priboj, 49) the Basic Court of Prijepolje, for the territory of the municipalities of Nova Varoš and Prijepolje, with the Court Unit in Nova Varoš, 50) the Basic Court of Prokuplje, for the territory of the municipalities of Žitorađa, Merošina and Prokuplje, 51) the Basic Court of Raška, for the territory of the municipality of Raška, 52) the Basic Court of Ruma, for the territory of the municipalities of Irig, Pećinci and Ruma, 53) the Basic Court of Senta, for the territory of the municipalities of Ada, Kanjiža and Senta, 54) the Basic Court of Sjenica, for the territory of the municipality of Sjenica, 55) the Basic Court of Smederevo, for the territory of the municipality of Kovin and for the town of Smederevo, with the Court Unit in Kovin, 56) the Basic Court of Sombor, for the territory of the municipalities of Apatin and Odžaci and for the town of Sombor, 57) the Basic Court of Sremska Mitrovica, for the territory of the town of Sremska Mitrovica, 58) the Basic Court of Stara Pazova, for the territory of the municipalities of Inđija and Stara Pazova, with the Court Unit in Inđija, 59) the Basic Court of Subotica, for the territory of the municipalities of Bačka Topola and Mali Idoš and for the town of Subotica, with the Court Unit in Bačka Topola, 60) the Basic Court of Surdulica, for the territory of the municipalities of Bosilegrad, Vladičin Han and Surdulica, with the Court Units in Bosilegrad and Vladičin Han, 61) the Basic Court of Trstenik, for the territory of the municipality of Trstenik, 62) the Basic Court of Ub, for the territory of the municipalities of Lajkovac and Ub, 63) the Basic Court of Užice, for the territory of the municipalities of Bajina Bašta and Čajetina and for the town of Užice, with the Court Unit in Bajina Bašta, 64) the Basic Court of Čačak, for the

territory of the town of Čačak, 65) the Basic Court of Šabac, for the territory of the municipalities of Bogatić, Vladimirci and Koceljevo and for the town of Šabac, with the Court Unit in Bogatić and the Court Unit in Koceljevo for the territory of the municipalities of Koceljevo and Vladimirci, 66) the Basic Court of Šid, for the territory of the municipality of Šid.

19. Article 4 of the Law provides for the establishment of the following higher courts: 1) the Higher Court of Belgrade, for the territory of the First, Second and Third Basic Court of Belgrade, the Basic Court of Lazarevac, the Basic Court of Mladenovac and the Basic Court of Obrenovac, 2) the Higher Court of Valjevo, for the territory of the Basic Court of Valjevo, the Basic Court of Mionica and the Basic Court of Ub, 3) the Higher Court of Vranje, for the territory of the Basic Court of Bujanovac, the Basic Court of Vranje and the Basic Court of Surdulica, 4) the Higher Court of Zaječar, for the territory of the Basic Court of Bor, the Basic Court of Zaječar and the Basic Court of Knjaževac, 5) the Higher Court of Zrenjanin, for the territory of the Basic Court of Bečej, the Basic Court of Zrenjanin and the Basic Court of Kikinda, 6) the Higher Court of Jagodina, for the territory of the Basic Court of Despotovac, the Basic Court of Jagodina and the Basic Court of Paraćin, 7) the Higher Court of Kragujevac, for the territory of the Basic Court of Aranđelovac and the Basic Court of Kragujevac, 8) the Higher Court of Kraljevo, for the territory of the Basic Court of Kraljevo and the Basic Court of Raška, 9) the Higher Court of Kruševac, for the territory of the Basic Court of Brus, the Basic Court of Kruševac and the Basic Court of Trstenik, 10) the Higher Court of Leskovac, for the territory of the Basic Court of Lebane and the Basic Court of Leskovac, 11) the Higher Court of Negotin, for the territory of the Basic Court of Majdanpek and the Basic Court of Negotin, 12) the Higher Court of Niš, for the territory of the Basic Court of Aleksinac and the Basic Court of Niš, 13) the Higher Court of Novi Pazar, for the territory of the Basic Court of Novi Pazar and the Basic Court of Sjenica, 14) the Higher Court of Novi Sad, for the territory of the Basic Court of Bačka Palanka and the Basic Court of Novi Sad, 15) the Higher Court of Pančevo, for the territory of the Basic Court of Vršac and the Basic Court of Pančevo, 16) the Higher Court of Pirot, for the territory of the Basic Court of Dimitrovgradu i The Basic Court of Pirot, 17) the Higher Court of Požarevac, for the territory of the Basic Court of Veliko Gradište, the Basic Court of Petrovac na Mlavi and the Basic Court of Požarevac, 18) the Higher Court of Prokuplje, for the territory of the Basic Court of Kuršumlija and the Basic Court of Prokuplje, 19) the Higher Court of Smederevo, for the territory of the Basic Court of Velika Plana and the Basic Court of Smederevo, 20) the Higher Court of Sombor, for the territory of the Basic Court of Vrbas and the Basic Court of Sombor, 21) the Higher Court of Sremska Mitrovica, for the territory of the Basic Court in Ruma, the Basic Court of Sremska Mitrovica, the Basic Court of Stara Pazova and the Basic Court of Šid, 22) the Higher Court of Subotica, for the territory of the Basic Court of Senta and the Basic Court of Subotica, 23) the Higher Court of Užice, for the territory of the Basic Court of Požega, the Basic Court of Priboj, the Basic Court of Prijepolje and the Basic Court of Užice, 24) the Higher Court of Čačak, for the territory of the Basic Court of Gornji Milanovac, The Basic Court of Ivanjica and the Basic Court of Čačak, 25) the Higher Court of Šabac, for the territory of the Basic Court of Loznica and the Basic Court of Šabac.

20. Article 8 of the Law provides for the establishment of the following units of the Administrative Court include: 1) the Court Unit in Kragujevac, for the territories of the Higher Courts in Jagodina, Kragujevac, Kruševac, Kraljevo, Novi Pazar, Užice and Čačak, 2) the Court Unit in Niš, for the territories of the Higher Courts in Vranje, Leskovac, Niš, Prokuplje and Pirot, 3) the Court Unit in Novi Sad, for the territories of the Higher Courts in Zrenjanin, Novi Sad, Sombor, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica and Šabac.

21. **The Law on Notaries** (2015) established a public notary system which includes specific arrangements for the use of minority languages when drawing up and recognising the validity of wills and other documents. Among other things, public notaries are authorised to draw up, certify and issue public documents on legal affairs, statements and facts underlying the relevant rights and to certify public documents. Pursuant to Article 18 of this Law, public notaries draw up public documents in Serbian as the official language, using the Cyrillic script, while in the territories of those local self-government units where the language and script of a national minority is in official use, notarial documents can be drawn up in Serbian, using the Cyrillic script or in the language and script of a national minority or in both languages and scripts, as requested by the client.

22. **The Law on Public Information and Media** (2014) sets forth for the first time that the public interest in the area of public information is the provision of truthful, unbiased, timely and complete public information to members of national minorities in their mother tongue and the preservation of cultural identity of the national minorities living in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The Law imposed a duty for the first time, not only on the Republic of Serbia and the Autonomous Provinces, but also on local self-government units, to hold competitions every year to improve the quality of information provided to members of national minorities. This has given the media in minority languages access to budget funding through project co-financing arrangements. Detailed provisions set out a transparent and non-discriminatory procedure for the allocation of such funding. The Law set the final date for mandatory privatisation of the remaining publicly-owned media (end of October 2015), which should put all media outlets in an equal position in the market. An exception was made for public service broadcasters and media outlets founded by national councils of national minorities. The Law provides for affirmative action in the privatisation process for the benefit of the media which broadcast or publish content in minority languages. In addition to the fact that buyers of minority-language media outlets are not allowed to change the core business activity of the companies they purchase for five years of the day of execution of the equity sale agreement, buyers of such media outlets are also required by law to keep a specific share of programming in specific minority languages, based on the programming schedule their media outlet had during the twelve months before the entry of this law into force. This is to ensure that buyers of public enterprises which had broadcast or published some of their content in minority languages continue allocating the same share of their programming to such content, so members of national minorities can continue accessing information in this way. The Law provides for the establishment of the Media Register, which will provide transparency regarding publishers and broadcasters, including those that provide content in minority languages.

23. **The Law on Public Media Services** (2014) provides for the establishment of two media services, the Public Media Institution “Radio Television of Serbia” and the Public Media Institution “Radio Television of Vojvodina”. One of the reasons for their establishment was to afford higher protection for the right to information exercised by national minorities. This Law also guarantees and ensures a sufficient and stable source of funding the public media services. Public media services have a duty to act in the public interest through the choice of their programming, which *inter alia* means they must satisfy citizens’ needs for programming which will help national minorities preserve and express their cultural identity and ensuring that national minorities also have access to content in their own mother tongue and script.

24. **The Law on Electronic Media** (2014) introduced a novelty which can be of importance for the protection and advancement of the right to use minority languages. Namely, it authorises national councils of national minorities to nominate members of the Council of the Regulatory Authority of Electronic Media by mutual agreement.

2.3. Official use of minority languages in courts

25. The new Law on the Seats and Territorial Jurisdictions of Courts and Public Prosecutors’ Offices which came into force as of 1 January 2014 provided for the establishment of 66 basic courts, instead of the previous 34 basic courts. The main criteria underlying the establishment of the new network of courts included the distance citizens had to travel to reach the previous seats of courts and the need to provide access to justice for all citizens, which meant that access to justice in minority languages would have to be facilitated for members of national minorities and/or speakers of minority languages.

26. Depending on the respective areas over which they have jurisdiction, the following basic and higher courts allow the official use of minority languages in addition to Serbian:

Minority languages	Seat of the Basic Court in:	Seat of the Higher Court in:
<i>Albanian</i>	Bujanovac, Lebane	Vranje, Leskovac
<i>Bosnian</i>	Novi Pazar, Prijepolje, Sjenica	Novi Pazar, Užice
<i>Bulgarian</i>	Dimitrovgrad, Surdulica	Vranje, Pirot
<i>Hungarian</i>	Bačka Palanka, Bečej, Vrbas, Vršac, Zrenjanin, Kikinda, Novi Sad, Pančevo, Senta, Smederevo, Sombor, Subotica	Zrenjanin, Novi Sad, Pančevo, Sombor, Subotica
<i>Macedonian</i>	Vršac	Pančevo
<i>Romanian</i>	Vršac, Zrenjanin, Pančevo, Smederevo	Zrenjanin, Pančevo, Smederevo
<i>Ruthenian</i>	Vrbas, Novi Sad, Subotica, Šid	Novi Sad, Sombor, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica
<i>Slovak</i>	Bačka Palanka, Vršac, Zrenjanin, Novi Sad, Pančevo, Sombor,	Zrenjanin, Novi Sad, Pančevo, Sombor,

	Subotica, Šid	Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica
<i>Croatian</i>	Subotica	Subotica
<i>Czech</i>	Vršac	Pančevo

27. Depending on the respective areas over which they have jurisdiction, the following units of the Administrative Court allow the official use of minority languages in addition to Serbian:

Minority language	Units of the Administrative Court
<i>Albanian</i>	Unit in Niš
<i>Bosnian</i>	Unit in Kragujevac
<i>Bulgarian</i>	Unit in Niš
<i>Hungarian</i>	Unit in Novi Sad
<i>Romanian</i>	Unit in Novi Sad
<i>Ruthenian</i>	Unit in Novi Sad
<i>Slovak</i>	Unit in Novi Sad
<i>Croatian</i>	Unit in Novi Sad

28. Official use of a minority language in courts means it is also possible to conduct the entire first-instance criminal and civil proceedings in a minority language.⁴ However, it should be emphasised that, regardless whether a minority language is officially used in a court of law or not, parties to a proceeding have the right to use a minority language in any court in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, as explained in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter. In practice there have been no hindrances in the application of the provisions governing the use of minority languages spoken by parties to the proceeding, as evident from the fact that no complaints were filed in this reporting cycle.

2.4. Privatisation of the media

29. The basic concept on which new media laws were developed is that media cannot be financed from public revenues or founded by the state or other entities that are fully or partially financed from public revenues. As already explained, an exception was allowed for media outlets founded by national councils of national minorities. Namely, although national councils of national minorities are funded mainly from public revenues, the Law allows them to form media outlets. This provision effectively excluded the minority-language media outlets and/or institutions established by national councils from privatisation.

30. Privatisation was mandatory for public enterprises which create content intended for all citizens, including members of national minorities and/or speakers of minority languages. As already noted, the Law provides for a number of safeguards designed to mitigate the effects of media privatisation on the exercise of the right of national minorities to be

⁴ The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter contain detailed descriptions of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts, which addresses also this issue.

informed. To allow for a successful privatisation of media outlets, Amendments to the Law of Public Information and Media extended the final date for the privatisation of media outlets through equity sale from 1 July to 31 October 2015. Any media outlets that had not been privatised by that date were privatised through distribution of the publisher's/broadcaster's equity to its employees without consideration.

31. The privatisation covered 76 public enterprises, including 44 (57.9% of the total number) whose programme schedule studies included programmes broadcast in minority languages. As of October 2016, 51 of those 76 media outlets were privatised, 24 were not privatised and the privatisation procedure was still ongoing in one case. Since privatisation is a process that has been completed only recently, it is still not possible to assess the effects of that process on the situation of minority-language media outlets. It is essential to ensure that the change of ownership structure of media outlets does not affect the government's duty to protect the public interest in the field of public information and the right of members of national minorities to truthful, unbiased, timely and complete public information in their mother tongue and the preservation of their cultural and linguistic identity and one of the ways to achieve this is through co-financing of projects in the field of public information.

2.5. National councils of national minorities

32. In the elections for national councils of national minorities held on 26 October 2014, 17 national councils were elected by direct vote (Albanian, Ashkali, Bosniak, Bulgarian, Bunjevac, Vlach, Greek, Egyptian, Hungarian, German, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Slovenian, Ukrainian and Czech national minorities), while the councils of Macedonian, Croatian and Montenegrin national minorities were elected in electoral assemblies. Upon establishment, the national councils continued exercising the powers conferred on them by the law. Some national councils continued their efforts to standardise the languages spoken by the people they represent, which is a prerequisite for the state to be able to involve them in all spheres of social life. The activities undertaken by the national councils in this context are presented in the following paragraphs.

33. The ongoing multiannual field research on the **Bunjevac** language and its standardisation was continued in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter. For the purposes of language standardisation, recording the written history of the Bunjevac people and scientific classification of the Bunjevac literature and the centuries old printed material, the National Council of the Bunjevac national minority launched an initiative to form a lectorate for the Bunjevac language and culture at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. Although scientific and professional capacities required for the lectorate to operate are available, the initiative was not implemented due to financial constraints. The process of standardising the Bunjevac language was continued by passing the decision on standardisation of the Bunjevac language (2016), which will be implemented by the National Council in cooperation with the competent institutions of the Republic of Serbia. A working team for the standardisation has been formed to work on a Bunjevac dictionary, a grammar of the Bunjevac language and orthography of the Bunjevac language.

34. The National Council of the Vlach national minority passed a decision on the standardisation of the **Vlach language** in its session held on 26 September 2015. In the same year, the Vlach-Serbian Dictionary “Vorbarj” and the Serbian-Vlach Dictionary were published by the National Council. The National Council believes the process of standardisation of the Vlach language could be completed in the next four years.

2.6. Novelties expected during the following cycle of monitoring of the implementation of the Charter

35. The position of minority languages in the following monitoring cycle will be influenced by the **Action Plan for the Realisation of the Rights of National Minorities**, which was developed as part of Serbia’s EU accession process. It was developed by a multi-departmental working group comprised of relevant state and provincial bodies, representatives of national councils of national minorities, the Council of Europe and civil society organisations. The basic framework for the development of this mid-term strategic document was provided by the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Report of the Expert Mission of the European Commission for National Minorities. The Action Plan contains strategic objectives set in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention, which address the identified deficiencies in implementation of rights of the national minorities. Achievement of the objectives is defined through activities involving changes to the normative and institutional frameworks, administrative capacity building and the required improvement of practices and awareness-raising efforts. The Action Plan consists of 11 Chapters: Personal Status Position; Prohibition of Discrimination; Area of Culture and Media; Freedom of Religion; the Use of Language and Script; Education; Democratic Participation; Appropriate Representation of the Representatives of National Minorities in the Public Sector and Public Enterprises; National Councils of National Minorities; Economic Status of Members of Minority Communities and International Cooperation. The Action Plan specifies in detail the implementing bodies for each activity and the specific source of funding for its execution. The Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Action Plan for the Realization of the Rights of National Minorities on 3 March 2016.

36. Amendments to the Law on National Councils of the National Minorities may also influence the status of minority languages in the Republic of Serbia. As stated in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, this Law governs three main groups of issues: the powers of national councils, the election of national council members and the method of funding the activities of the national councils. Execution of the powers conferred on the national councils, as a form of minority self-government which involves decision-making and participation in decision-making in the fields of education, culture, public information and official use of language and script, will be governed by special laws. A Decision of the Constitutional Court (2014) ruled that certain provisions of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were unconstitutional and implementation of the Law has been plagued with a number of difficulties due to a lack of harmonisation with other regulations, which

prompted the amendments. To that end, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, as the ministry responsible for drafting regulations in the field of human and minority rights, formed a Working Group tasked with preparing the Draft Law amending the Law on National Councils of National Minorities. The Working Group includes representatives of national councils of national minorities. To identify the direction of the amendments to this Law, a Round Table was held on 5 December on the topic of “National Councils/Minority Self-Governments in the Legal System of the Republic of Serbia”, which involved representatives of the national councils, relevant ministries and departments of the Government, independent state bodies, NGOs and international organisations. It was an opportunity to present an analysis of the legislation governing the national councils, was presented with special emphasis on their financing.

2.7. Implementation of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council Europe (CM/RecChL(2016)3)

37. In the assessment of the implementation of the Charter in the third monitoring cycle, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recommended to Serbian authorities to take into account all observations and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and the said priority questions.

Recommendation 1: strengthen teacher training and provide adequate teaching materials for all regional or minority languages.

38. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, efforts were continued to improve the training of teachers for teaching in minority languages. The competent institutions - the Institute for the Advancement of Education and the Pedagogical Institute of Vojvodina - approve the continual professional development programmes for teachers, educators and teaching assistants. According to the applicable Rulebook on Continual Professional Development of Teachers, Educators and Teaching Assistants, the Institute for the Advancement of Education has a duty to hold a competition once every two years to approve the continual professional development programmes and to post the Catalogue of Applicable Programs on the Institute’s website. The Catalogues for 2014/15 and 2015/16 list 53 professional development programmes relevant for the teachers and associates who teach in national minority languages. The new Catalogue of Professional Development prepared by the Institute that will apply from September 2016 in the next two school years lists 122 programmes relevant for teachers and teaching assistants who teach in national minority languages.

39. Identifying the issue of teacher training for minority language teaching as an important segment of proper education of the speakers of those languages, in 2015 the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invited six native countries of the national minorities living in the Republic of Serbia – Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia and Albania – to cooperate in the education of their respective national minorities. In addition to the cooperation in the field of

teacher training, it would also encompass initial education, as well as to provision of textbooks and teaching materials. Final drafting of memorandums of understanding is underway with Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, as the countries which stated their willingness to cooperate in this area of education.

40. As regards the provision of textbooks for teaching in minority languages, Serbia is making tremendous efforts to achieve this goal. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development issues the annual Catalogue of Textbooks, which lists, among other things, the selected and available textbooks in the languages/dialects of national minorities. The tables below provide an overview of the textbooks available in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter.

Textbooks for teaching in minority languages

School year	Albanian	Bosnian	Bulgarian	Hungarian	Romanian	Ruthenian	Slovak	Croatian
2013/14	44	18	31	132	118	124	118	52
2014/15	44	28	31	132	120	124	119	93
2015/16	53	69	31	133	120	125	120	94

Textbooks for the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture

School year	Bulgarian	Hungarian	Ukrainian	Czech	Macedonian	Slovak	Bunjevac dialect	Vlach dialect
2013/14	1	3	2	1	0	4	2	0
2014/15	1	3	9	1	0	6	8	0
2015/16	3	3	9	1	1	7	8	1

41. The new Law on Textbooks, which clearly sets out the duties of all stakeholders in the process of publishing textbooks and adequate teaching materials, should contribute *inter alia* to more efficient provision of textbooks for teaching in minority languages. During 2016, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the Institute for Textbooks, as the public publisher, and eight national councils of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian), signed tripartite agreements/MoUs for the provision of textbooks for primary education in the languages on national minorities. The agreements define the number of publications of textbooks for teaching, specifically: in Albanian - 35 textbooks and 8 integral supplements; in Bosnian - 14 textbooks and integral supplements; in Bulgarian - 11 textbooks (translations from Serbian); in Hungarian - 7 textbooks (out of which one translation from Serbian); in Romanian - 6 textbooks (two translations from Serbian); in Ruthenian - one textbook; in Slovak - two textbooks (one translation from Serbian), in Croatian - 17 textbooks (9 translations from Serbian). According to these agreements, priorities in terms of the missing textbooks should be listed and provided in advance of every school year, to ensure the body of textbook literature in minority languages is supplemented at a pace that makes full use of the available resources. The extent of implementation of those agreements will be presented in the next report on the implementation of the Charter.

Recommendation 2: provide teaching of/in languages covered only by Part II of the Charter at all appropriate levels.

42. The education system of the Republic of Serbia enables teaching in minority languages in practice and studying of minority languages at all levels of education. According to the data of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, in the school year 2015/16, the entire preschool education was available in seven minority languages (Albanian, Bosnian, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian) in 40 local self-government units (Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bela Crkva, Bečej, Beočin, Bujanovac, Vrbas, Vršac, Žabalj, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Kula, Mali Idoš, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Kneževac, Novi Sad, Novi Pazar, Odžaci, Pančevo, Plandište, Preševo, Senta, Sjenica, Sombor, Srbobran, Stara Pazova, Subotica, Temerin, Tutin and Čoka) through 43 education institutions. Teaching is provided through 356 teaching groups for 4,035 children. Bilingual preschool education is conducted in Serbian and in 8 minority languages (Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Roma, Romanian, Slovak and Croatian) in 14 local self-government units (Alibunar, Bačka Palanka, Bečej, Vršac, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, kruševac, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Pančevo, Plandište, Sombor and Subotica) at 18 institutions and 39 teaching groups covering 443 children.

43. According to the data of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, in the school year 2015/16, the entire primary education was available in eight minority languages (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian) in 46 LSGUs (Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bela Crkva, Bečej, Beočin, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vrbas, Vršac, Žabalj, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Indija, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Kula, Mali Idoš, Medveđa, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečaj, Novi Kneževac, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Pančevo, Plandište, Preševo, Prijepolje, Senta, Sečanj, Sjenica, Sombor, Srbobran, Stara Pazova, Subotica, Temerin, Tutin, Čoka and Šid) at 159 primary schools and 2,012 departments, covering 32,758 primary school pupils in total. Pupils who attend school in Serbian are able to study minority languages by choosing the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture. According to the data of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, in the school year 2015/16, 14 minority languages were taught using this education model (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Bunjevac, Vlach, Hungarian, Macedonian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Croatian and Czech) in 49 LSGUs (Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bela Crkva, Bečej, Beočin, Bor, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vrbas, Vršac, Dimitrovgrad, Žabalj, Žagubica, Žitište, Zaječar, Zrenjanin, Indija, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Kula, Medveđa, Negotin, Novi Bečaj, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Pančevo, Plandište, Preševo, Prijepolje, Senta, Sečanj, Sjenica, Sombor, Srbobran, Sremska Mitrovica, Stara Pazova, Subotica, Temerin, Tutin, Čoka and Šid) at 245 primary schools, in 466 classes, and 10,232 pupils were included.

44. According to the data of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, in the school year 2015/16, the entire secondary education was available in eight languages (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian) in 27 LSGUs (Ada, Alibunar, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bečej, Beočin, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vršac, Dimitrovgrad, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kovačica, Kula, Medveđa, Novi Kneževac, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Preševo, Prijepolje, Senta, Sjenica, Sombor, Subotica, Temerin, Tutin i Čoka) at 51

secondary schools, in 494 classes, involving 10,430 secondary school pupils. Pupils who attend school in Serbian are able to study minority languages by choosing the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture. According to the data for the school year 2015/16, five minority languages are taught (Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian and Slovak) in 18 LSGUs (Ada, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bečej, Bosilegrad, Dimitrovgrad, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kovačica, Novi Kneževac, Novi Sad, Senta, Sombor, Stara Pazova, Subotica, Temerin, Čoka i Šid) at 28 secondary schools, in 84 classes, involving 1,167 students.

45. In university institutions, teaching is available in minority languages, including: in Albanian language (the Faculty of Economics and Faculty of Law in Niš, Departments in Medveđa and Faculty of Economics in Subotica, the University of Novi Sad, Department in Bujanovac); in Hungarian (the Faculty of Philosophy, the Department for Hungarology; the Teacher's Training Faculty in Subotica; the Academy of Arts (the Acting Department) in Novi Sad; the Higher Professional School for the Education of Teachers in Novi Sad; the Subotica Technology College of Applied Sciences; in Romani (the Preschool Teacher Training College in Vršac) in Romanian (the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, the Department of Romance Languages; the Teacher Education Faculty in Belgrade, the Teaching Department in Vršac; Preschool Teacher Training College in Vršac; in Ruthenian (the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, the Department for Ruthenian Language); and in Slovak (the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, the Department of Slovak Language; the Higher Professional School for the Education of Teachers).

46. The faculties of the University of Belgrade, Kragujevac and Novi Sad have departments for the study of the following languages: Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Czech, while the higher education institution in Novi Pazar also has study courses for Bosnian:

- *The Albanian language* is studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, at the Study Group for Albanian Language, Literature and Culture;
- *The Bosnian language* and literature is studied at the State University of Novi Pazar, Department for Philological Sciences, Study Program Serbian Literature and Language;
- *The Bulgarian language* is studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, at the Study Group for Bulgarian Language, Literature and Culture;
- *The Hungarian language* is studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, at the Study Group for Hungarian Language, Literature and Culture;
- *The German language* is studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, at the Study Group for German Language and Culture, at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, Department for German Studies, Study Group for German Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philology and Art in Kragujevac, Department for German Studies, Study Group for German Language and Literature;
- *The Romanian language* is studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, at the Study Group for Romanian Language, Literature and Culture;

- *The Slovak language* is studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, at the Study Group for Slovak Language, Literature and Culture;
- *The Ukrainian language* is studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, at the Study Group for Romanian Language, Literature and Culture;
- *The Czech language* is studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, at the Study Group for Czech Language, Literature and Culture;

47. Many requirements are still not met to ensure all minority languages covered by the Charter (15) can be taught and studied at all levels of education. Some of them are not met due to objective reasons, including: lack of teaching staff, lack of qualified authors for textbooks and teaching materials, non-existence of standardised language in the case of certain minority languages, lack of opportunities for education in certain minority languages at the university level etc. The Republic of Serbia strives, in cooperation with the national councils of national minorities as the holders of powers in the field of education, to improve the education for the speakers of minority languages, as explained not only in the Fourth Report, but also in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter.

Recommendation 3: establish an adequate offer of Romani in education.

48. Standardisation of Romani (2013) should contribute to an increased offering of teaching and studying in that language. However, due to the lack of professional teaching staff, the process of introducing the study and/or teaching in Romani in the education system at all levels will be gradual and time-consuming. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, a curriculum and syllabus were adopted for the elective subject Romani with Elements of National Culture in primary schools, which enabled the study of that language as of 2015/16 in schools in the territory of Central Serbia. This means that Romani with elements of national culture can now be studied in the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia, since courses in that language are already available in the AP of Vojvodina. Since 2015, undergraduate study courses of Romani have been available at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, which will educate future experts and teaching staff. More detailed information on the measures undertaken to promote Romani at all education levels is provided in section 4.5.1.1 of this report.

Recommendation 4: strengthen the use of all regional or minority languages in administration.

49. The Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter explained in detail the legal framework governing the use of minority languages in communication with administrative bodies at all levels of government, which allows speakers of minority languages to communicate in their own language. As already stated, in the Republic of Serbia there is no legal requirement to keep centralised registries which would record the number of communications by speakers of minority languages in their native language to administrative bodies, so this information is not available. Partial insight into the use of minority languages vis-à-vis the administration was provided by surveys conducted in the previous years, which were presented in the previous report on the implementation of the Charter. The surveys have

shown that most of the communications by speakers of minority languages sent to administrative bodies were seen at the level of local self-governments, while the intensity of communication with provincial authorities varied depending on the body concerned. Oral or written submissions to national authorities in minority languages were very rare. The situation regarding communication with the administration was similar in this reporting cycle, although it should be noted that there have been no hindrances in the implementation of the regulations governing the official use of minority languages, since no violations have been identified in practice through inspections.

50. Staff capacity building for the tasks relevant for the exercise of the right to use minority languages in the administrations of autonomous provinces and LSGUs will be boosted by implementation of the Law on Employees in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units (2016) and its secondary legislation. Those regulations set forth *inter alia* that autonomous provinces, LSGUs or cities/municipalities where the language and script of a national minority is in official use, must demand the knowledge of the language and script of the relevant national minority a specific requirement for any jobs involving direct oral and written communication with citizens.

51. In 2016, the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities – National Communities conducted an online survey/collection of data from LSGUs and provincial bodies and organisations. This data collection exercise included also data concerning communication (oral and written) with citizens. Survey results will be presented in the net report on the implementation of the Charter.

Recommendation 5: continue to promote awareness and tolerance in Serbian society at large vis-à-vis the regional or minority languages and the cultures they represent.

52. The Republic of Serbia is firmly committed to promoting awareness and tolerance in the Serbian society at large vis-à-vis the regional or minority languages and the cultures they represent, as noted in all previous reports on the implementation of the Charter. Taking into account the multiethnicity and multilingualism of its society, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the Republic of Serbia continued making efforts to promote awareness of diversity, including linguistic diversity of the Serbian society, and to promote tolerance of minority languages and the cultures they represent. Numerous projects were implemented by authorities at all levels of government, the civil sector and international organisations during this period. Round tables, conferences, seminars, workshops etc. were held to promote tolerance and multicultural dialogue.

53. Within their financial means, state authorities participated in the co-financing of the projects which raised awareness and tolerance towards minority languages. Thus, the Ministry of Culture and Information co-financed 41 projects in the area of public information, in the total amount of RSD 12,015,917.00, as well as 18 projects in the area of culture with RSD 2,540,000.00. During this period, there was an upward trend in the number of media publishers, associations and other legal entities applying with projects to promote awareness

and tolerance in the Serbian society vis-à-vis minority languages and the cultures they represent. Some of the projects for which funding was allocated included: Information from Multi-ethnic Environment; Serial Programme “*Riznica*” – Permeation of Cultures; Fostering Diversity against Intolerance: preservation of one’s own identity and respect for others’ identity; Strengthening Investigative Journalism in Nationally Mixed Areas; National Customs of Serbs, Vlachs and Roma in Gornja Resava; “*FAMNAZ*” – Alternative Music Festival in the languages of national minorities; Unity in Diversity; Managing Cultural Development; Musical “*Jednakost Različitosti*”; International festival of national minority folklore “*Ajd povedi ajd zaigraj*” etc. Thanks to funding received from the Republic budget, in 2015 Media Art Content doo was able to launch its project “*Govorite li mrnjao*” (“*Do You Speak Meow?*”), a puppet TV show in Serbian intended to help children learn minority languages. This educational series is intended for children aged 4-7 and its objective is to teach its viewers the most elementary skills of conversation in Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak. The Ministry also co-financed the project “Chronicle of National Minorities: Through Media Content to Full Integration and Improved Communication between National Minorities and the General Public”, implemented by the Migration Research Association. The project achieved the greatest impact through its news programme “Chronicle of National Minorities”, which was broadcast in minority languages and in Serbian on Pink TV, a media outlet with national coverage.

54. In the same period, the Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP Vojvodina co-financed 7 projects in the area of public information, in the total amount of RSD 5,656,937.00, and one project in the area of culture (2014) with RSD 715,000.00, to foster multiculturalism and mutual understanding between the national communities in Vojvodina.

3. PART II

3.1. Implementation of Article 7 of the Charter - Objectives and principles

55. Since the Committee of Experts concluded in the previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter had been implemented, the authorities of the Republic of Serbia will not provide information regarding those obligations in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, but are willing to provide it should the Committee of Experts so demand.

Paragraph 1

In terms of regional or minority languages, within territories in which those languages are used and in accordance with the situation of each of those languages, member countries build their politics, legislation and practice on the basis of the following objectives and principles:

- c necessity for decisive action so as to improve regional or minority languages and preserve them*

56. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, activities were presented of the Republic of Serbia in the legislative sphere so as to improve the use of minority languages in all areas of social life, as the main method of their preservation. In addition to this, information is presented on the formation of relevant bodies – national councils of national minorities entrusted by law with certain public authorities in the area of culture, education, reporting and official use of the language and script. The legally established system for financing national councils of national minorities at all levels of government was also presented, as well as the manner of allocating the identified funds from the Republic budget. Additional explanations in terms of the manner of allocation of funds from the Republic budget are presented in detail in the Comments of the Republic of Serbia on the Report of the Committee of Experts on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Serbia, (comments given on pages 3 and 4 of the Report of the Committee of Experts).

57. According to the available means, funding was provided during the period referred to in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter from the budgets of the Republic of Serbia and AP Vojvodina for the activities of the national councils are provided and allocated.

58. The following table presents data on the amounts of funds provided for the work of national councils of national minorities from the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

NATIONAL COUNCIL	2013	2014	2015
Albanian national minority	13,233,963.00	13,233,963.00	12,490,999.00
Ashkali national minority	2,875,887.00	3,834,517.00	3,599,660.00
Bosnian national minority	24,851,206.00	24,851,206.00	26,256,638.00
Bulgarian national minority	8,512,506.00	8,512,506.00	7,761,553.00
Bunjevac national minority	6,014,169.00	6,014,169.00	6,972,774.00
Vlach national minority	7,749,279.00	7,749,279.00	7,378,940.00

Greek national minority	3,867,530.00	322,294.00	3,572,471.00
Egyptian national minority	3,851,029.00	3,851,029.00	3,699,266.00
Union of Jewish Municipalities	4,039,787.00	4,039,787.00	3,615,862.00
Hungarian national minority	61,384,884.00	61,384,884.00	61,422,735.00
Macedonian national minority	6,678,437.00	6,678,437.00	7,029,376.00
German national minority	4,430,358.00	4,430,358.00	4,092,021.00
Roma national minority	22,200,078.00	22,200,078.00	22,092,023.00
Romanian national minority	14,515,839.00	14,515,839.00	13,651,862.00
Ruthenian national minority	8,708,259.00	8,708,259.00	9,339,131.00
Slovak national minority	18,271,250.00	18,271,250.00	18,629,439.00
Slovenian national minority	4,836,680.00	4,836,680.00	3,942,456.00
Ukrainian national minority	5,014,076.00	5,014,076.00	4,626,892.00
Croatian national minority	13,324,549.00	13,324,549.00	13,115,041.00
Czech national minority	4,681,604.00	4,681,604.00	4,039,749.00
Montegrin national minority	-	-	7,671,109.00
Total funds	240,000,000.00	240,000,000.00	245,000,000.00

59. Funds are provided from the provincial budget for financing the work of national councils of national minorities with the registered seat in the territory of AP Vojvodina. These funds are allocated for the financing of regular and developmental activities of national councils of national minorities on the basis of the Provincial decision on the manner and criteria of allocation of budgetary funds for national councils of national minorities (2014).

60. The following table presents data on the total financing of national councils of national minorities from the budget of AP Vojvodina (regular and development-related activities).

NATIONAL COUNCIL	2013	2014	2015
Ashkali national minority	550,000.00	550,000.00	600,000.00
Bunjevac national minority	2,428,000.00	2,449,622.59	2,555,751.31
Greek national minority	550,000.00	550,000.00	-
Egyptian national minority	550,000.00	550,000.00	600,000.00
Hungarian national minority	23,792,000.00	23,804,047.06	25,644,944.61
Macedonian national minority	2,456,000.00	2,516,722.93	2,534,731.44
German national minority	1,820,000.00	1,876,717.21	1,893,076.45
Romanian national minority	4,870,000.00	4,775,667.36	4,839,392.02
Ruthenian national minority	3,236,000.00	3,180,631.96	3,206,601.63
Slovak national minority	6,638,000.00	6,636,560.16	6,819,080.11
Ukrainian national minority	1,954,000.00	1,947,108.31	1,940,453.24
Croatian national minority	4,230,000.00	4,245,814.19	4,401,638.48
Czech national minority	1,926,000.00	1,917,108.24	1,901,769.32
Total funds	55,000,000.00	55,000,000.00	54,000,000.00

61. At the level of local self-government units, budget funds are allocated to those national councils of national minorities which represent national minorities with at least 10% of the total population in the population of a local self-government unit, or whose language is on official use in the territory of local self-government. Data on the amount of financing of national councils of national minorities from the budget of the local self-government unit are not available, since there is no legal obligation to keep such records.

d creation of conditions for facilitating and/or encouraging regional or minority languages in speech and writing, in public and private life.

62. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter presented the policy of the Republic of Serbia regarding minority languages. Passing of new regulations and their continuous monitoring and elimination of detected deficiencies that hinder their implementation contributes continually to facilitating and/or strengthening the use of minority languages in the areas treated by the Charter. Relevant parts of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter present the measures and activities undertaken to promote the use of spoken and written minority languages, in both public and private life.

f adoption of regulations that would, in adequate method and means, provide study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages.

63. In accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Serbia, there are three models for teaching minority languages in primary and secondary schools. As already explained, the teaching may be performed in the language of minority, bilingually or in Serbian with the possibility to learn a minority language with elements of national culture as an elective subject. Data on practice of study minority languages are contained in the corresponding parts of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter.

64. The legal threshold of 15 students for teaching in a minority language is flexibly used in practice, since smaller groups can also be taught with the approval of the education authorities. The Comments of the Republic of Serbia on the Report of the Committee of Experts on Implementation of the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages in Serbia, (comments regarding Chapter 4 of the Report of the Committee of Experts) explain the government's position regarding the conclusion that the legal threshold of 15 students is too high for the requirements of the Charter.

65. Promoting awareness on the importance of education in minority language is the responsibility of national councils of national minorities. Educational authorities successfully cooperate with national councils of national minorities. The cooperation is primarily reflected in providing adequate and timely information on procedures in the area of teaching in a minority language. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development informs school administrations in the last trimester of the school year about the need to conduct surveys among students and parents for the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture for the following school year. All 17 school administrations together with primary schools in their territory conduct the surveys, so that the Ministry may get a comprehensive picture on the need to introduce this subject into curriculum.

66. Except for conducting surveys among parents and students, for the school year 2016/17, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development prepared a single survey list in the procedure of selection of elective subjects, as well as a single methodology on the basis of which the list of available subjects is formed for every grade and each school. In accordance with the regulations governing the primary school curriculum, on the basis of written statements of the parents and in accordance with the regulations used by school and by the decision of the school, in addition to a compulsory elective subject

(religious education and civic education), the students have chosen one of the planned elective subjects. The subjects are classified into two tables. The first table (Table A) consists of subjects that the schools may offer on the basis of their abilities, i.e. availability of teaching staff. The school will adopt a decision regarding which subjects from Table A will be offered for each grade. The second table (Table B) consists of subjects whose realization will be possible at the level of a larger number of schools so as to provide availability of teaching of minority language with elements of national culture to all students in areas where members of certain minorities live. Selection of subjects from Table B that will be offered is adopted by the manager of school administration in agreement with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development for each primary school.

g facilitating that those people who do not speak regional or minority languages, and who live in the area where those languages are spoken, may learn them should they desire to do so.

67. Teaching in the minority language of study of minority language in primary and secondary education is available not only to the speakers of minority languages, but also to all interested students who do not speak those languages. When it comes to adult education however, the Law on Adult Education gives the possibility to all adults to attend classes in a minority language or study mother tongue with elements of national culture, regardless of whether they speak minority languages or not. As already specified, adult education in a minority language is carried out if more than 50% of the registered persons apply for classes in that language. During realization of the program of the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture, schools may form a group at the level of cycles, i.e. a group with pupils from 1-4 grade (first educational cycle) and/or group of pupils from 5-8 grade (students of secondary educational cycle). The group must have at least 15 pupils, and the approval of the relevant minister must be provided for a smaller number. Realization of this elective subject in primary school is financed from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, expenses of realization in secondary schools and schools for education of adults may be borne by the national council of the national minority, LSGU or the teaching may be organised through a project activity.

h enhancement of study and research of regional or minority languages at universities or similar institutions.

68. In addition to studying minority languages at universities in the Republic of Serbia, there is a possibility to study and research them. It was established by the regulations of the Republic of Serbia that scientific and research work, in addition to universities, may be realized in other scientific and research organisations. Systematised data on the research of minority languages are not available, but on the basis of information of certain higher education institutions which took part in the development of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, existence of such possibility may be illustrated. Broader information on study and research of minority languages which are not included in Part III of the Charter is available in section 3.2

- i* *enhancement of appropriate forms of transnational exchange, in those areas to which this Charter is related, for regional or minority languages which are used in the identical or similar form in two or more states.*

69. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter it was specified that the Republic of Serbia is a signatory of bilateral treaties with countries using languages in the identical or similar form to minority languages present in Serbia, in the area relevant for implementation of the Charter. In the continuation of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, information is provided on signed international agreements, and agreements that should be signed which refer to languages which are not covered by Part III of the Charter. For languages covered by Part III of the Charter, information will be presented within implementation of Article 14 of the Charter.

70. A treaty between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Czech Republic on cooperation in the area of culture, education, science, youth and sports was signed in 2016. Provisions of Article 14 of that Treaty specify that contracting parties, in accordance with legal regulations in their countries, must provide to members of Serbian nationality in the Czech Republic and Czech national minorities in the Republic of Serbia conditions for preserving and developing their mother tongue, historical heritage and culture.

71. Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Germany on cooperation in the area of education, science, culture, media, youth and sports is expected to be concluded in the following period. Draft Agreement, inter alia, within paragraph 11 which refers to expansion of knowledge of culture and enhancement of language teaching, specifies that the parties: will seek to provide to all interested parties broad access to the language, culture, literature, society and history of the other country, including languages and cultures which are not in majority in the territory of the parties; will provide strong support for adequate public and private initiatives and institutions, and that they may agree on additional regulations on the basis of the Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. According to the notice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the text of the Draft Agreement is in the stage of harmonization with the representatives of the German Government.

72. As the successor of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia and Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia is a party to several bilateral agreements on protection of national minorities which contain provisions significant for the transnational cooperation in the areas of social life in which minority languages are used. One of them is the Treaty between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia on the protection of Serbian and Montenegrin national minority in the Republic of Macedonia and the Macedonian national minority in the Republic of Serbia (2005) which in Article 3 sets out that the parties should acknowledge to members of national minorities the right to use mother tongue orally and in writing in both private and public life, and the right to have their personal names signed in public documents and official documents and in native language and script. Article 4 of the Agreement stipulates that the Parties will encourage educational cooperation and exchange in regard to education of national minorities - particularly through exchange of experts, school programs,

textbooks and other teaching material, by granting scholarships and by participation of teachers in seminars dedicated to professional development, as well as cooperation of schools and mutual visits of students and teachers. Establishment of the Mixed Intergovernmental Commission is planned for monitoring that agreement. To this day however, that Commission did not have a single session, although the Serbian side has appointed its representatives.

73. The Republic of Serbia does not have concluded agreements with any country in which Bunjevac or Vlach language are used in the identical or similar form. Also, it does not possess information on the established transnational exchange of national councils of Bunjevac and Vlach national minority with institutions of other states.

Paragraph 3

Member countries undertake to adequately enhance mutual understanding among all linguistic group within the country and to especially include respect, understanding and tolerance relative to regional or minority languages within the educational process, and to encourage the media to follow the same objectives.

74. Legal regulations and its implementation in practice, especially in the area of education, media and culture, which is represented within the previous reports and this report on the implementation of the Charter, also contributes to raising awareness and increase in tolerance for multilingualism. By different activities, the authorities encourage tolerance and intercultural dialogue among speakers of all languages which exist in its territory. One of those activities is co-financing of projects in the area of media and culture. More detailed information on co-financing of projects which affirm multilingualism in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter is provided in section 2.7 of this report.

Paragraph 4

In determining its politics in relation to regional or minority languages, member countries take into account the needs and desires of those groups of population which use those languages. They should be encouraged to establish, if necessary, appropriate bodies that would advise the authorities on all matters regarding regional or minority languages.

75. As already explained on several occasions, national councils of national minorities are established for the purpose of exercising the right of members of national minorities to cultural autonomy in certain areas of social life. Authorities at all levels of government are obliged to consult national councils in the area of culture, education, reporting and official use of languages and scripts. In that manner, it is made possible to take into account the needs and desires of population groups who use minority language.

76. The Council for National Minorities was established for monitoring and considering the status of realizing rights of national minorities and status of international relations in the Republic of Serbia. It consists of the members of Republic authorities competent for the areas relevant for the status of national minorities and presidents of all national minority councils, including the President of the Association of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia with the status of the national council. Pursuant to the Decision on the Establishment of the National

Minority Council (2015), that body has the task to: monitor and consider the status of realization of rights of national minorities and the state of international relations in the Republic of Serbia; proposes measures for enhancing full and effective quality of the members of national minorities; monitors realization of cooperation of the national councils of national minorities with state authorities, and authorities of the autonomous province and local self-government units; considers labour conditions of the national councils of national minorities and proposes measures in that area; monitors realization of international obligations of the Republic of Serbia in the area of realization of rights of the members of national minorities; discusses international agreements related to the status of national minorities and protection of their rights in the procedure of their conclusion; discusses draft laws and other regulations important for realization of rights of national minorities and provides its opinion thereof to the Government, and confirms symbols, signs and holidays of national minorities at the proposal of national councils of national minorities. By adoption of the Action Plan for the Realization of the Rights of National Minorities (2016), the National Minority Council also received a new task. The Council was entrusted with monitoring activities from the Action Plan with the aim of realization of both full inclusion of national minorities into the process of monitoring and full coordination of the work of state bodies and ensuring the highest level of support for carrying out the planned activities.

3.2. Information on implementation of the Charter for minority languages for which the obligations arising from Part III of the Charter have not been undertaken

77. Since the Republic of Serbia has assumed commitments under Part III pertaining to Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romani, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Croatian languages, the following paragraphs contain the information on Bunjevac, Vlach, Macedonian, German and Czech languages.

3.2.1. Bunjevac speech

78. Although Bunjevac language has not been standardised yet, the Republic of Serbia has introduced measures in certain areas in which the standardisation of language is not a condition for its usage, in order to encourage or facilitate the usage of this language. The following paragraphs give an overview of the usage of the Bunjevac language in those areas of social life.

79. Education for speakers of the Bunjevac language is organised at the elementary school level, by studying Bunjevac speech with elements of national culture. The table below contains data on the number of school and students who attend classes of the Bunjevac speech with elements of national culture, organised in two local self-governments (Sombor and Subotica).

School year	Number of units of local self-government	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2013/14	2	11	21	357

2014/15	2	12	25	409
2015/16	2	12	21	429

80. Radio program in Bunjevac language is broadcasted by three radio stations: Radio Novi Sad, Radio Subotica and Bunjevac Radio (in Subotica), in the total duration of 158 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis. TV program is broadcasted by three TV stations: RTV Vojvodina (Novi Sad), YU ECO TV and K23 (from Subotica), in the total duration of 10 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis. The following newspapers are printed in Bunjevac language: biweekly *Bunjevac newspapers*, *Tandrčak* and *Bocko* in Subotica; magazines *Bunjevac calendar* in Subotica and *Festivalski bilten* in Bajmok, as well as two magazines for culture: *Bunjevački pregled* in Novi Sad and *Rič bunjevačke matice* in Subotica.

81. Informative programs in minority languages are financially funded from the national and provincial budgets, by co-funding projects based on competitions. Ministry of Culture and Information has supported the following projects of public information programs in Bunjevac language via competitions.

Year	User	Project	Amount of funds
2013	Bunjevački omladinski centar (Bunjevac youth centre)	Establishment of children journalist group	160,000.00
2014	Bunjevački omladinski centar (Bunjevac youth centre)	Establishment of children journalist group	300,000.00
2015	Bunjevački media centar doo (Bunjevac media centre)	Publishing of youth magazine in Bunjevac language <i>Bocko</i>	610,000.00
	Bunjevački media centar doo (Bunjevac media centre)	Internet portal <i>Bunjevacka ric</i>	200,000.00

82. Provincial secretariat for culture, public information and relations with religious communities AP Vojvodina has allocated the following funds for facilitation of improvement of public information programs in Bunjevac language: Journalistic - publishing institution *Bunjevački informativni centar*, Subotica and Bunjevački media centre doo Subotica each received 300,000.00 RSD (2014); Association of citizens *Bunjevački media centar* Sombor – 250,000.00 RSD (2015), and Bunjevački media centar doo Subotica 178,371.00 RSD (2015).

83. The budget of AP Vojvodina is used to fund magazines of significance for the province, among which there are magazines in Bunjevac language. The table below contains data on funds allocated to those magazines.

Founder	Media	2013	2014	2015
NIU Bunjevački informativni centar	<i>Bunjevačke novine</i>	7,185,000.00	7,185,000.00	7,185,000.00
	<i>Tandrčak</i>	1,980,000.00	1,980,000.00	1,980,000.00
Total		9,165,000.00	9,165,000.00	9,165,000.00

84. Competent national and provincial bodies have co-funded projects in the field of culture pertaining to the Bunjevac language.

85. The table below contains an overview of projects from the field of culture pertaining to the Bunjevac language, co-funded from the budget of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Year	Area	Number of projects	Funds
2013	Visual arts	1	25,000.00
	Multidisciplinary	1	75,000.00
	Magazines	1	100,000.00
2014	Visual arts	1	50,000.00
	Multidisciplinary	1	100,000.00
	Cinematography	1	100,000.00
	Literature	2	100,000.00
	Magazines	2	150,000.00
2015	Multidisciplinary	3	400,000.00
	Literature	1	50,000.00
	Magazines	1	100,000.00

86. Projects pertaining to literary events, publications, scientific works and magazines in culture pertaining to the Bunjevac language, supported by funds from the national budget, are listed in the table below.

Year	User	Project	Funds
2013	Bunjevačka matica Subotica	Bimonthly magazine for science, culture and creative work <i>Rič bunjevačke matice</i>	100,000.00
2014	Bunjevačka matica Subotica	Book of poetry	50,000.00
	Bunjevačka matica Subotica	7th review <i>Bunjevačka lipa rič</i>	50,000.00
	Bunjevačka matica Subotica	Bimonthly magazine for science, culture and creative work <i>Rič bunjevačke matice</i>	100,000.00
	Association of citizens Bunjevci Novi Sad	Online portal of magazine <i>Bunjevački prigled</i>	50,000.00
2015	Bunjevačka matica Subotica	8th review of young creators <i>Bunjevačka lipa rič 2015</i>	50,000.00
	Bunjevačka matica Subotica	Bimonthly magazine for science, culture and creative work <i>Rič bunjevačke matice</i>	100,000.00

87. Projects in the field of culture pertaining to the Bunjevac language have been allocated a total of 1,565,000.00 RSD (2013), 1,690,000.00 RSD (2014) and 1,381,250.00 RSD (2015) from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

88. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities AP Vojvodina has supported projects from the following areas of culture, pertaining to the Bunjevac language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creation supported by the project	Number of approved projects	Approved funds
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2013	Publishing	2	430,000.00
	Magazines/Publications	3	235,000.00
	Other cultural events	11	900,000.00
2014	Publishing	2	555,000.00
	Magazines/Publications	3	385,000.00
	Other cultural events	11	750,000.00
2015	Publishing	1	292,500.00
	Magazines/Publications	2	288,750.00
	Other cultural events	11	650,000.00

89. Funds were allocated for co-funding of projects such as: publication of magazine *Rič bunjevačke matice* (Bunjevačka matica), publication of children magazine *Bocko* (Bunjevački omladinski centar), *Bunjevačka dužionica* (Association of citizens *Bunjevačko kolo*), Days of Bunjevac culture Bajmok (*Bunjevački kulturni centar Bajmok*), Festival of Bunjevac folk creations (KUD Bunjevka) and similar.

90. Bunjevac language is not in official use in any local self-government units. In addition to having not yet been standardised, introduction of Bunjevac in official usage has not been supported by the law, taking into account the fact that in no units of local self-government the number of the Bunjevac national minority members does not exceed 15%. Out of 16.706 members of the Bunjevac national minority (census 2011), 93,45% are concentrated in two cities (Subotica - 13.553 and Sombor - 2.058), but in no units of local self-government do they make more than 15% of the total population.

3.2.2. Vlach speech

91. Although Vlach language has not been standardised yet, the Republic of Serbia has introduced measures in certain areas in which the standardisation of language is not a condition for its use, in order to encourage or facilitate the use of this language. The following paragraphs give an overview of the usage of Vlach language in those areas of social life.

92. In the field of education, during school year 2013/14, a pilot project was launched in seven elementary schools and it included studies of Vlach speech with elements of national culture as a facultative class. Per suggestion of the National council of the Vlach National Minority, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development has adopted an education plan and program of Vlach speech with elements of national culture for classes from first to fourth grade of elementary school, which enabled organisation of regular classes. According to data from school administrations, in one implemented survey, 500 questioned parents/students stated that they were interested in studying Vlach speech with elements of national culture. However, it was not possible to organise classes for all interested, taking into account that Vlachs live on the territory of 20 municipalities in the Republic of Serbia. Therefore, during the school year of 2015/16, the classes have been organised in seven schools, in seven local self-governments (Bor, Žagubica, Zaječar, Majdanpek, Malo Crniće, Negotin and Petrovac na Mlavi).

93. The table below contains data on the number of students attending classes of Vlach speech with elements of national culture.

School year	Number of units of self-government	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2013/14	-	-	-	-
2014/15	5	5	5	84
2015/16	7	7	15	194

94. In the following period, the National Council will suggest an education plan and program for classes from fifth to eighth grade, in order to complete the process at the elementary school level. As far as pre-school education is concerned, the National Council, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, plans to make preparations and take first steps to introduce Vlach speech starting from the school year 2017/18.

95. The National Council of Vlach National Minority does not plan to take measures to introduce classes of Vlach speech with elements of national culture in high schools until this class has been made available to all interested students at the elementary school level, education plan and programs for classes in all grades of elementary schools are adopted, and schoolbooks have been provided.

96. Higher education for studying Vlach language has not been organised yet because this language has not been standardised. However, studying and research of Vlach language is conducted within scientific and research institutions. Research pertaining to Vlach language is set to be published in a book *A Vlach Idiolect of Eastern Serbia* by Orsat Ligorja PhD, cooperator on the project Etymological Dictionary of Serbian Language of the Department for Language and Literature at the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts SANU and Institute for Serbian Language SANU and Nikola Golubović. In cooperation of the National Council of Vlach National Minority and Department for Ethnology and Anthropology of the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, an initiative has been made to implement multidisciplinary scientific and research project in the area of Vlach language and culture, titled *Problems of contemporary Vlach culture in Serbia*. The project has not been implemented yet, but its implementation will begin once the financial funds have been secured.

97. Radio program in Vlach language is broadcasted by four radio stations: Radio F kanal, Zaječar, Radio Zvižd, Kučevo; Radio Hit, Salaš and Radio Saška radio, Mosna, in the total duration of 152 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis. TV program is broadcasted by six TV stations: RTV Bor, Bor; TV Homolje, Žagubica; TV F kanal, Zaječar; TV Kučevo, Kučevo; TV Kladovo, Kladovo and TV Istok, Salaš, in the total duration of 185 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis.

98. Informative programs in minority languages are financially supported from the national budget, by co-funding projects based on competitions. The following projects in

Vlach speech have been supported in the reported time by competitions for co-funding of the Ministry of Culture and Information:

Year	Project applicant	Project title	Type of media	Amount of funds
2013	Od Mlava - medija	News in Vlach language	TV	320,000.00
	Radio distributive company Saška radio doo	People speak so as not to forget-Lumja vorbjašće sa nu zaujće	Radio	285,659.00
	Istok company doo	Sedmica - Saptamana	TV	400.000,00
	Timočka televizija i radio AD	Vlach mosaic	Radio and TV	336,650.00
2014	Radio distributive company Saška radio doo	Speak and listen so as not to forget – Vorbim š sa askultam ka sa nu zaujtam	Radio	300,000.00
	Istok company doo	Sedmica - Saptamana	TV	800,000.00
	RTV Majdenpek AD	Vlachs of Majdanpek	Radio	240,000.00
	RTV Kladovo	Informative program in Vlach language and Paths of Vlach culture	TV	340,000.00
2015	Agency for business activities, audio and visual production, trade and translation Slike života	Images of life - Light in the East	Production	921,600.00
	Radio Magnum 18 doo	Ворбим са нуњи зojтам - We speak so we wouldn't forget	Radio	300,000.00
	NIPD Reč naroda AD	Proud Vlachs - intercultural Braničevo	Print	300,000.00

99. The table below contains an overview of projects from the field of culture pertaining to Vlach language, co-funded by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Year	Area	Number of projects	Funds
2013	Multidisciplinary	1	50,000.00
	Music	2	200.000.00
2014	Multidisciplinary	1	50,000.00
	Music	2	350,000.00
2015	Multidisciplinary	1	100,000.00
	Music	2	300,000.00

100. Vlach language is not in official use in any units of local self-government in the Republic of Serbia. Although certain units of local self-government have the necessary legal number of members of Vlach national minority of 15%, due to the process of standardisation of Vlach language that is ongoing, there are no conditions for its introduction in official usage.

3.2.3. Macedonian language

101. Studying of Macedonian language with elements of national culture has been organised since the school year of 2010/11 in elementary school in Jabuka (territory of AP Vojvodina). Per the initiative of the National Council of Macedonian National Minority, starting with the school year of 2015/16, this model of elementary education has been organised, in cooperation with the competent ministry, in Leskovac as well (central Serbia territory).

102. The table below contains data on the number of students who attend classes of Macedonian language with elements of national culture.

School year	Number of units of local self-government	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2013/14	1	1	2	10
2014/15	1	2	3	29
2015/16	2	3	5	81

103. Starting with the school year of 2016/17, Macedonian language with elements of national culture can be studied by students of elementary schools in Vladičin Han and Vranje (central Serbia territory), on which there will be more information in the next report.

104. The National Council of Macedonian National Minority has no current plans for organising studies of Macedonian language at pre-school and high school levels of education.

105. Macedonian language in the Republic of Serbia is studied at the Faculty of Philology at the University of Belgrade and Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, as a facultative class in study departments of Serbian language and literature.

106. Radio program is broadcasted by three radio stations: Radio Novi Sad, Naksi radio 016 from Leskovac and Radio fokus plus from Vranje, in the total duration of 12 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis. TV program is broadcasted by the public service RTV Vojvodina and TV Pančevo, in the total duration of 4 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis. There are two printed media published in Macedonian language, biweekly *Македонска виделина* and tri monthly magazine for children *Суница*, both in Pančevo. Macedonian informative and publishing centre from Pančevo publishes a magazine for culture *Видело*.

107. In this reporting period there were no submitted projects in the area of public information in Macedonian language at the competitions for co-funding of media in minority languages published by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

108. Budget of AP Vojvodina is used to support magazines of provincial significance, among which is *Македонска виделина*. The table below contains the amounts of funds allocated for support of that biweekly magazine.

Year	Amount
2013	5,709,900.00
2014	5,709,900.00
2015	5,709,900.00

109. Competent national and provincial bodies have co-funded projects in the field of culture pertaining to Macedonian language as well.

110. The table below contains an overview of projects in the field of culture pertaining to Macedonian language, co-funded by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Year	Area	Number of projects	Funds
2013	Multidisciplinary	2	150,000.00
	Music	1	50,000.00
	Magazines	2	100,000.00
2014	Multidisciplinary	4	300,000.00
	Music	1	50,000.00
	Magazines	3	200,000.00
2015	Multidisciplinary	4	400,000.00
	Cinematography	1	100,000.00
	Magazines	2	150,000.00

111. Projects pertaining to literary events, publications, publishing of scientific works and magazines in culture pertaining to Macedonian language, supported with the funds from national budget, are listed in the table below.

Year	User	Project	Funds
2013	Journalist - publishing institution Makedonski informativni i izdavački centar doo Pančevo	Children magazine <i>Сунуца (Duga)</i>	50,000.00
	Journalist - publishing institution Makedonski informativni i izdavački centar doo Pančevo	Magazine for literature, culture and art <i>Видело</i>	50,000.00
2014	Journalist - publishing institution Makedonski informativni i izdavački centar doo Pančevo	Children magazine <i>Сунуца</i>	50,000.00
	Journalist - publishing institution Makedonski informativni i izdavački centar doo Pančevo	Magazine for literature, culture and art <i>Видело</i>	100,000.00
	Journalist - publishing institution Makedonski informativni i izdavački centar doo Pančevo	Children magazine <i>Алка</i> in three languages	50,000.00

112. In 2015 there were no projects pertaining to literary events, publications, scientific works and magazines in culture pertaining to Macedonian language submitted at competitions of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

113. The table below contains the amount of allocated funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina for projects in the field of culture pertaining to Macedonian language.

Year	User	Project	Funds
2013	Association of Macedonians <i>German, Glogonj, Pančevo</i>	Days of Macedonian culture (literary nights in Pančevo, Glogonj, Jabuka and Kačarevo)	30,000.00
	Centre for protection and affirmation of Macedonian tradition and uniqueness	Recording of CD of group <i>Toše Proeski</i>	30,000.00
	Association <i>Vardar Kačarevo</i>	7th <i>Собор на зајдари</i> - 7th <i>Sabor gajdaša Kačarevo</i> 2013	30,000.00
	National council of Macedonian national minority	Days of Macedonian culture <i>Sebi u pohode</i>	80,000.00
	Association of citizens of Macedonian national community in Jabuka - <i>Ilinden - Jabuka</i>	Review of folklore of national minorities in municipality of Pančevo	30,000.00
2014	Association of Macedonians <i>German, Glogonj, Pančevo</i>	Days of Macedonian culture	50,000.00
	Association of citizens of Macedonian national minority <i>Kiril and Metodij</i>	8th Days of Macedonian culture in Novi Sad	50,000.00
	Association <i>Vardar Kačarevo</i>	8th <i>Sabor gajdaša Kačarevo</i> 2014	50,000.00
	Macedonian youth forum	Creative children workshop and performance	40,000.00
	National council of Macedonian national minority	7th Days of Macedonian culture <i>Sebi u pohode</i>	60,000.00
	Association for protection and preservation of Macedonian customs	<i>Vodici</i>	50,000.00
2015	Macedonian youth forum	Youth cultural and artistic initiative <i>Macedonia in my eyes</i>	90,000.00
	Association of citizens members of Macedonian national community in Serbia <i>Osogovo</i>	Days of Macedonian culture - literary nights	70,000.00
	Association of Macedonians <i>German, Glogonj, Pančevo</i>	Days of Macedonian culture - literary nights	70,000.00
	Association of citizens of Macedonian national minority <i>Kiril and Metodij</i>	9th Days of Macedonian culture in Novi Sad	50,000.00
	Centre for protection and affirmation of Macedonian tradition and uniqueness	Recording of CD of group <i>Toše Proeski</i>	50,000.00
	Association <i>Vardar Kačarevo</i>	Programs in 2015	70,000.00

114. At the competition of Provincial secretariat for culture, public information and relations with religious communities for co-funding of publishing activities in languages of national minorities in AP Vojvodina in 2015, the following three projects of the publisher NIU Macedonian informative and publishing centre doo were supported: publishing of the book by Kliment Džambazovski *Construction for the history of Macedonian people from the Archives of Serbia* and publishing of magazines *Суница* and *Алка*, in the total amount of 250.000.00 RSD.

115. Macedonian language is in official use in the territory of the municipality of Plandište and in the settlement Jabuka (city of Pančevo).

3.2.4. German language

116. Pre-school education is organised in two languages, in Serbian and German language, in one pre-school institution in Novi Sad. The table below contains data on the number of children attending the classes.

School year	Number of units of local self-government	Number of pre-school institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2013/14	1	1	4	105
2014/15	1	1	4	102
2015/16	1	1	4	105

117. Bilingual education work in Hungarian and German language is organised in one pre-school institution in Subotica. The table below contains data on the number of children attending the classes.

School year	Number of units of local self-government	Number of pre-school institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2013/14	1	1	3	70
2014/15	1	1	3	72
2015/16	1	1	3	72

118. German language in the Republic of Serbia is treated as a foreign language and as such is studied in the educational system at all levels of education. In line with that, schoolbooks are printed for all levels of education. In order to have this language studied as a Mother tongue with elements of national culture, and as such presented to parents during surveys for selection of facultative classes in elementary schools, an education plan and program for such classes must be adopted. In the period covered in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the National Council of German National Minority did not initiate a procedure for introducing this class into the education system. During 2016, however, the Council has undertaken activities on introduction of class German language with elements of national culture in elementary schools, and a team of professors of German language who will prepare the education plan and program has been engaged, on which more information will be presented in the next report.

119. On the territory of AP Vojvodina, in the school system, a model of bilingual education has been organised, including Hungarian-German model of bilingual classes, and has been in implementation in one elementary school in Subotica since the school year of 2011/12. The table below contains data on the number of students attending this model of education.

School year	Number of units of local self-government	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2013/14	1	1	2	40
2014/15	1	1	4	98
2015/16	1	1	4	102

120. At the high school level, bilingual classes are organised in three high schools - gymnasiums, Serbian-German model in Niš and Novi Sad and Hungarian-German model in Subotica. The table below contains an overview of the organised bilingual model at the high school level of education.

School year	Number of units of local self-government	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2013/14	3	3	6	150
2014/15	3	3	9	225
2015/16	3	3	9	225

121. German language is studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad and Faculty of Philology and Arts in Kragujevac. The tables below contain data on the number of students that study in the cited institutions of higher education.

Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of enrolled students in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2013/14	81	363
2014/15	81	385
2015/16	92	398

Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad

School year	Number of enrolled students in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2013/14	50	166
2014/15	50	166
2015/16	50	168

Faculty of Philology and Arts in Kragujevac

School year	Number of enrolled students in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2013/2014	30	157
2014/2015	30	163
2015/2016	30	162

122. In addition to studying minority languages at the universities in the Republic of Serbia, there is a possibility of their research. At the Faculty of Philology and Arts at the University of Kragujevac, two projects pertaining to German language have been

implemented. Project *Literature, language and didactics in German - Serbian dialogue* (2011-2013) gathered the Faculty of Pedagogy from Ludwigsburg, Germany and Faculty of Philosophy from Novi Sad, and it was funded by the Foundation for Culture of Sub Danube Swabians in the Province of Baden-Württemberg. Project *Towards socially constructive grammar: new approach in narrative theory and methodology* (2015-2016) gathered the Institute for Slavistics from Berlin and Institute for Balkans SANU from Belgrade, and it has been funded by the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD.

123. Broadcast of programs in German language is done via electronic media - radio program is broadcasted by three radio stations: Radio Novi Sad, Q Radion, Kula and Radio Marija, Subotica, in the total duration of 7 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis. TV program in German language has not yet been broadcasted on any TV stations. National Council of German National Minority has expressed its desire to have TV program in German language broadcasted and has therefore planned activities, on which there will be more information in the next report. As far as the printed media is concerned, the National Council has not initiated foundation of newspapers in German language so far. Cultural Centre of Sub Danube Swabians *Karlovitzi* from Sremski Karlovci publishes a magazine *Fenster* several times a year, and Association *Maria Theresiopolis* from Subotica publishes a trilingual magazine *Guck Mal* several times a year.

124. Informative programs in minority languages are financially supported from the national and provincial budget by co-funding projects based on competitions. Ministry of Culture and Information has supported one project in German language at the competitions for co-funding projects in the area of public information in minority languages in 2015, with the amount of 700.000,00 RSD. The funds were allocated to the Foundation for protection of national heritage of Sub Danube Swabians *Our Home*, for the purposes of publication of magazine *Fenster*.

125. Provincial secretariat for culture, public information and relations with religious communities has approved in 2015 funds for the Association of Germans from Kula, for implementation of the project *Radio shows in German language in Kula and Backa Palanka*. The project was supported with 114.750,00 RSD. Funds in the amount of 55.000,00 RSD were allocated from the budget of AP Vojvodina in 2014 for the purposes of co-funding the publication of magazine *Fenster*.

126. Competent national and provincial bodies have co-funded projects in the field of culture pertaining to German language as well. The Ministry of Culture and Information has co-funded one project in 2015 in the field of cultural activity of national minorities with the amount of 200.000,00 RSD.

127. The table below contains the amount of funds allocated from the budget of AP Vojvodina for projects in the field of culture pertaining to German language.

Year	User	Project	Funds
2013	German association <i>DONAU</i> Novi Sad	Days of culture of German national community	60,000.00
	Cultural centre of Sub Danube Swabians <i>KARLOWITZ</i>	12th Kugloff festival	30,000.00
	Association of Germans Kula	Radio show <i>Deutsches wort</i> in German language	60,000.00
2014	Centre for education, tolerance and multiculturalism	Comic book art in APV in the beginning of 20th century in daily magazines in German language	96,000.00
	Cultural centre of Sub Danube Swabians <i>KARLOWITZ</i>	13th Kugloff festival	84,000.00
2015	German association <i>Maria Theresiopolis</i>	Procurement of costumes for German choir <i>Regenbogen</i>	80,000.00
	Association of Germans Kula	Days of German culture and gastronomy	50,000.00
	Humanitary association of Germans <i>Gerhard</i>	Creation of costumes for performance of dances of Sub Danube Swabians	120,000.00

128. German language is not in official use in any units of local self-government, taking into account that it has not reached a threshold of 15% of members of German national minority. Wider explanations on the lack of possibilities to introduce German in official usage are contained in the Comments of the Republic of Serbia on the Report of the Committee of Experts on implementation of European Charter for Regional and Minority languages in Serbia (comment given on Paragraph 3 of the Committee of Experts Report).

3.2.5. Czech language

129. Study of Czech language with elements of national culture is organised for students of elementary schools. The table below contains data on the number of students attending classes of Czech language with elements of national culture.

School year	Number of units of local self-government	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2013/14	2	4	10	56
2014/15	2	4	6	56
2015/16	2	4	8	63

130. According to the statements of the National Council of Czech National Minority, there are currently no possibilities to organise education in Czech language at the pre-school level, or to introduce class Czech language with elements of national culture in high schools, because there is no overview of realistic needs and possibilities of organising such classes, and there are no adequate educational plan and program adopted.

131. Czech language is being studied at the Faculty of Philology Belgrade. The table below contains data on the number of students who study in that institution of higher education.

Faculty of Philology Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in first year	Number of students enrolled in all four years
2013/14	15	74
2014/15	14	71
2015/16	19	76

132. Radio programs in Czech language are broadcasted by the Radio Bela Crkva, in the duration of 8 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis. There are no TV programs in Czech language broadcasted on any TV stations. During 2013, around 40 half-an-hour bilingual shows *Besede Češke* were broadcasted by TV Banat in Vrsac. The shows were funded by the National Council of Czech National Minority and were cancelled due to the lack of funds. The National Council is a publisher of bilingual newspaper in Serbian and Czech languages *Češka Beseda*, that has been published on a monthly basis in Bela Crkva since 2016.

133. TV Banat project for production and broadcast of radio and TV program - continuation of series *Besede Češke* was supported at the competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information for co-funding projects in the area of public information in languages of national minorities in 2013, with the amount of 150.000,00 RSD.

134. Competent national and provincial bodies have co-funded projects in the field of culture pertaining to Czech language. The table below contains an overview of projects in the field of cultural activity of national minorities pertaining to Czech language, co-funded by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Year	Area	Number of projects	Funds
2013	Multidisciplinary	1	25,000.00
	Literature	1	75,000.00
	Music	1	25,000.00
2014	Multidisciplinary	1	100,000.00
2015	Multidisciplinary	1	200,000.00

135. Project of the National Council of Czech National Minority - Historical Monograph Karel Shovanec, *History of the Czech settlement Fabijan in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia* was co-funded with 75.000,00 RSD from the national budget.

136. Projects in the field of culture pertaining to Czech language were funded with the following amounts from the budget of AP Vojvodina (Provincial secretariat for culture, public information and relations with religious communities):

Year	User	Project	Funds
2013	National Council of Czech National Minority	Event Czech culture without limits 2013	150,000.00
2014	School plus <i>Dositej Obradovic</i>	Cultural heritage of Czechs in Banat	100,000.00
2015	School plus <i>Dositej Obradović</i>	Workshops for children and youth and exhibition <i>Multimedia image of Czech culture</i>	70,000.00

3.3. Activities in implementation of recommendations of the Committee of Experts pertaining to the Article 7 of the Charter

137. In the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, Committee of Experts has given the following recommendation pertaining to the Article 7 of the Charter. The following paragraphs contain information on the activities the State has undertaken in order to implement the recommendation.

Committee of Experts hereby appeals to the authorities in the Republic of Serbia to help a broadcast of radio and television programs in Czech and German languages on RTV Vojvodina.

138. The Republic of Serbia has created conditions in its legislation and funding capacities for broadcast of programs in minority languages on RTV Vojvodina, including programs in Czech and German languages. Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated funds from its budget to RTV Vojvodina, only for conduction of their regular activities, in the amount of 1.897.500.000,00 RSD in 2014 and 1.957.000.000,00 RSD in 2015.

139. Public service RTV Vojvodina, through its programs, accomplishes the public interest that entails, among other things, satisfying the needs of citizens for programs that ensure preservation and expression of cultural identity of national minorities, taking into account that the members of national minorities follow certain programs in their mother tongue and writing. According to the data from 2016, Public service RTV Vojvodina has broadcasted radio program in 11 languages of national minorities in the total duration of 1.447 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis, in the following languages and durations: Bunjevac language 720 hours/month, Hungarian language 720 hours/month, Macedonian language 2 hours/month, German language 2 hours/month, Roma language 73 hours/month, Romanian language 212 hours/month, Ruthenian language 202 hours/month, Slovak language 212 hours/month, Ukrainian language 20 hours/month and Croatian language 2 hours/month.

140. Programming schedule that has been in force since October 2015 has accomplished an objective of having TV shows (premiers and reprises) in languages of national minorities be a majority of program on Second channel of TV. The number of programmes in languages of national minorities has increased on average for 16% compared to October 2014. According

to data from 2016, Public service RTV Vojvodina has broadcasted TV program in 10 languages of national minorities, in the total amount of 314 broadcasting hours on a monthly basis, in the following languages and durations: Bunjevac language 7 hours/month, Hungarian language 96 hours/month, Macedonian language 2 hours/month, Roma language 46 hours/month, Romanian language 39 hours/month, Ruthenian language 46 hours/month, Slovak language 51 hours/month, Ukrainian language 9 hours/month and Croatian language 18 hours/month.

141. During the period covered in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, national councils of German and Czech national minorities have undertaken initiatives for introduction of programs in German and Czech languages on Public service RTV Vojvodina, but due to the lack of funds, the implementation of those initiatives was dropped. During 2016, National Council of German National Minority has made an agreement with RTV Vojvodina to broadcast a radio show in German language on the third radio channel. The program is broadcasted once a week in the duration of 30 minutes. It is expected that the TV program in German language will be ready in 2017. National Council of Czech National Minority has undertaken certain steps and developed contacts with RTV Vojvodina pertaining to broadcast of TV programs in Czech language. Due to limitations in capacity, human resources and technological abilities of that media house, broadcast of programs in Czech language has not been made possible. Due to the fact that the National Council has no capacities for the production of their own TV program, the Council would have to rely on the services of independent productions, for which the financial resources are lacking.

4. PART III

4.1. Application of the Charter in line with Article 2 Paragraph 2

142. Part III of the Charter pertains to: Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Croatian languages. The following paragraphs contain information on measures taken in accordance with the obligations arising from the Charter.

4.1.1. ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

143. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Albanian language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 - Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Adult Education

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;*

144. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled pupils opt for teaching in that language. Taking into account that so far there were no schools for adult education with at least 50% of students who expressed the need for classes in Albanian language, there are no adult education programs in that language.

145. When teaching the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture, a school can form a group at the level of the appropriate education cycle, i.e. a group consisting of first to fourth grade pupils (pupils of the first educational cycle) and/or a group composed of fifth to eighth grade pupils (pupils of the second educational cycle). The group must have at least 15 students, and for groups of less than 15, it is necessary to obtain the approval of the responsible Minister. The teaching of this elective subject in primary school is financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary

schools and adult education schools may be borne by the National Council of the National Minority, local self-government unit, or classes are realized through project activity. Considering that there was no initiation of activities for the realization of the study of the Albanian Language with Elements of National Culture, this subject is not taught in any of the schools for adult education.

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

146. In the Republic of Serbia, this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in primary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The curriculum of the subjects The World Around Us and Nature and Society gradually develops the principle of homeland, which implies that all subjects cover the specific area where the pupils live. The content of these subjects is designed to foster a sense of identity and develop tolerance and awareness of belonging to a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional community. This is supported, upgraded, expanded and deepened by the content and activities included in other subjects: Music Education, Fine Arts, Serbian, Physical Education, etc. As far as the subject Fine Arts is concerned, the syllabus is designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and is linked in particular with the subjects The World Around Us, Nature and Society and the mother tongue. Teaching and learning the subject of History in the second cycle of primary education and upbringing (from the fifth to the eighth grade) includes content that is relevant for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of minority nations. The curriculum of the subject Fine Arts contains programme units, each of which is taught on examples from the heritage of culture, among which there are works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. At the level of secondary education, the curriculum includes the subject of Fine Arts in Grammar Schools (for four-year and two-year studies, depending on the orientation), which also covers the history of art. It is studied chronologically and in correlation with the syllabus for the subject History. Since the existing curricula do not cover works of art and cultural monuments belonging to the heritage of ethnic minorities, the National Councils of National Minorities are preparing a supplement to the curricula. Since cultural heritage is taught chronologically, it is not possible to supplement the curriculum to cover the cultural heritage of each national minority in each grade. Therefore, every National Council of National Minority is preparing a supplement to the curriculum from the period when its people/state originated.

147. In the past period, a document was prepared on how to adapt the curricula in multi-ethnic environments, with emphasis on intercultural learning, the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years, the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted, with new curricula that are clearly linked with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 – Judicial authorities

Paragraph 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:

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.

148. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter provided information on the regulations which afford litigants, witnesses and other participants the right to use their own language during the court proceedings and even before a court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which litigants use one of the minority languages, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, information on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters in which the litigants used Albanian is not available.

149. It has already been stated that the legislative framework provides for the possibility of conducting the entire court proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, those court proceedings are recorded separately. According to the records of the Administrative Court, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no court cases requiring the proceedings to be conducted in Albanian in the period covered by the Fourth Report of the Application of the Charter. All lawsuits were filed in Serbian, both by prosecutors themselves or by lawyers hired as attorneys-at-law by prosecutors for representation. The Administrative Court provides a translation through a court interpreter at the request of the client and at the expense of the court's budget.

Paragraph 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.

150. Since the submission of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia has continued to translate the most important legal texts into minority languages, especially those that are relevant to speakers of these languages.

151. After the adoption of the Constitutional Court Decision which ruled that certain Articles of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were not in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (2014) and the adoption of amendments to that law (2014), the Law on National Councils of National Minorities was translated into Albanian.

The new bylaws for the implementation of this law have also been translated into Albanian: the Rulebook on the Method of Registering and Keeping a Register of National Councils and the Rulebook on the Manner of Keeping a Separate Electoral Roll of the National Minority.

152. Since elections for National Councils of National Minorities were held in 2014, all bylaws relevant for the conduct of elections have also been translated into Albanian, including: Rulebook on the Form and Content of the Form for Collecting Signatures of Voters who Support Electors; Instructions on the Conduct of Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Handbook for Conducting Electoral Actions in the Procedure for Conducting Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, scheduled for October 26, 2014; Rules on the Work of the Polling Boards for the Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, as well as all necessary forms and other election materials necessary for the conduct of elections.

153. Activities of the Coordinating Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa regarding the translation of national laws into Albanian are in progress. In the previous period the Service provided translations of the Identity Card Law, the Law on Textbooks and other teaching materials, The Civil Procedure Law, The Misdemeanor Law and the Law on General Administrative Procedure.

Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

Paragraph 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.*

154. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Speakers of minority languages have the right to submit oral and written applications to the republic authorities in those languages and to receive an answer in that language.

155. The administrative districts, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, established for the purpose of carrying out state administration activities outside the headquarters of the state administration bodies, can be taken as an illustration for the implementation of regulations which have established the right to use the minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority language speakers are concentrated. For example, in the Pčinja Administrative District, in resolving administrative matters in the first instance

or ruling on an appeal when the holders of public powers were resolving it in the first instance, and when exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection, there were neither oral nor written applications in Albanian.

Paragraph 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:

- c the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages.*

156. This obligation cannot be applied to Albanian in Central Serbia, since there is no region in that area, and therefore no regional documents that would be published in Albanian.

Paragraph 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.*

157. In section 4.3.8. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter it is underlined that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous province bodies and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who know a minority language, including Albanian, to be appointed in the territories in which those languages are used.

158. Based on the available data and information obtained from public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia, which took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report⁵, it can be concluded that, even though in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there have been no requests from employees who know the minority language, including Albanian, to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used, there is a general readiness to meet the potential requirements. For example, PE Srbijagas points out that if employees know some of the minority languages, they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. JP Pošta Srbije stated that in the appointment of employees on certain jobs, persons are hired according to the place of residence, which also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with the users of their services. When it comes to behind the counter jobs or delivery of postal mail, the usual practice of this company is to appoint an employee who knows the minority language. This way of doing business provides the beneficiaries of postal services with a wide possibility of using minority language in

⁵ PC Elektroprivreda Srbije, EPI Serbia – Distribution, PC Pošta Srbije, PC Srbijagas and Telekom Serbia.

communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles to accommodate an employee who knows a minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

159. Based on the information received from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this report, it can be concluded that the local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, do not have any knowledge, or emphasize that in the given period there were no requests of employees in local public services to be deployed or appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but also that there are no obstacles to meet such requests.

Paragraph 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.

160. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter detail the legislative framework for the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to write their personal name according to their language and spelling. The exercise of the right to enter a personal name in the register, at the request of the persons concerned, in the minority language and spelling, has been ensured by the regulations throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

161. The right to enter a personal name in Albanian into birth registers is exercised can be illustrated in practice with examples obtained from the birth certificate services contained in the table below.

Local self-government unit	The number of entered personal names in Albanian		
	2013	2014	2015
Bujanovac	376	352	395
Kovačica	-	-	4
Novi Sad	-	-	1
Preševo	501	491	516

162. In addition, as outlined in the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable those local self-government units where a minority is in official use according to their statutes to print the registry certificate forms bilingually, in Serbian and in the minority language that is in official use. The table below shows data on issued registry certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Albanian forms.

Local self-government unit	The number of birth certificates issued on bilingual, Serbian-Albanian forms		
	2013	2014	2015
Bujanovac	12,381	11,753	12,591
Preševo	11,858	11,935	12,743

163. In the Republic of Serbia, registrars are continually trained to ensure consistent implementation of the legal provisions which allow for recording of personal names in

appropriate records in minority languages and scripts. In accordance with the established Training Plan in 2015, and in connection with the implementation of laws and other regulations governing the way of entering personal names of members of national minorities in the registers in the language and script of the national minority, the trainings of the registrars and deputy registrars keeping the registers in all administrative bodies entrusted with the tasks of the registers. A total of eight trainings were organised (in Niš, Belgrade, Pirot, Zlatibor, Novi Sad and Subotica), attended by a total of 335 registrars and deputy registrars

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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.

164. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter described the power granted to the National Councils of National Minorities under the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) in terms of advocating the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various media administration and professional bodies at the national level.

165. The interests of minority language users are also safeguarded by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an independent regulatory organisation with the status of a legal entity performing public powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect the public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, and in a manner befitting a democratic society.

166. The scope of work of the Regulator includes the following: it determines the Proposal for the development of media service of the radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia, which is adopted by the Government; issues licenses for providing media services to television and linear media services of the radio; more closely regulates the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such licences; maintains the Register of media services and records of media service providers upon request; controls the work of media service providers and imposes measures in accordance with the law; establishes closer rules regarding the programme contents in relation to protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, protection of the rights of minors, prohibition of hate speech, etc.; encourages the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as the culture and language of national minorities; encourages the development of creativity in the field of radio,

television and other audio-visual media services, as well as the development of professionalism in electronic media and the improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

167. The Regulator's bodies are the Regulator's Council and the President of the Council. The Regulator's Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the areas of relevance to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Regulator's Council are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. Among these authorised proposers, as already discussed, are National Councils of National Minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator's Council by joint agreement.

Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Paragraph 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:

- 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, overdubbing and subtitling activities;*

168. Support to minority languages and cultures from budget funds is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through the competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all fields of creative work, where members of national minorities, or speakers of minority languages, have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007 a specialized competition for the cultural activities of national minorities has been announced. This competition also envisages, inter alia, the co-financing of projects that enable the availability of cultural contents for a wider circle of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, overdubbing a theatre performance, etc.

169. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works created in Albanian would be translated into Serbian as the majority language, or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, there were no applications for overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Albanian into Serbian or some other minority language.

- c to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

170. The competition for cultural activities of national minorities, which is announced at the national level, provides the possibility of co-financing and projects related to translation,

overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into another minority language.

171. In addition, access to minority languages was promoted by a competition for the translation of representative works of Serbian authors into foreign languages, which are minority languages in the Republic of Serbia. Thus, translations of local literary works are available to speakers of minority languages in their own language. A translation of one literary work into Albanian was co-funded in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter.

172. The national budget also provides funding for overdubbing and subtitling the translations. However, it is not possible to accurately determine the amount of funds provided, because they are defined collectively and for various purposes (film production, cooperation, promotion). For example, according to the Law on Cinematography, the Film Centre of Serbia has been entrusted with the tasks of co-financing film production through a competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information, by the agreement on co-financing the programme of this institution, defines the funds for co-financing projects through these competitions, inter alia, for co-financing films in different categories, as well as participation of co-financed films at international film festivals. Within this budget line, it is possible to pay for the costs of translation, overdubbing and subtitling, and the total planned funds at the annual level are RSD 2,600,000.00. During this period, translations of 4 films into Albanian were co-financed for the purpose of entering them in the Tirana Film Festival.

Paragraph 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.

173. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity in minority languages is supported by the republic budget throughout the country. As already stated, funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved exclusively through the competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The right to participate in the competition is provided for institutions, arts and other associations and organisations/legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories where it is not the case. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity of speakers of minority languages and their cultures. In order to provide financial support from budget funds, the most important is the quality of the project, as well as the fulfilment of clearly defined criteria described in the competition.

174. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Albanian were approved for projects that were realized on the territories in which this minority language is traditionally used. There were no applications for realization of projects in the field of culture from the territories in which Albanian is not traditionally used.

Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

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.*

175. The Republic of Serbia is a successor to the agreement on cultural and educational cooperation that the former SFRY signed with the Republic of Albania in 1988. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, no intergovernmental agreement between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Albania was signed to deepen contacts between the users of the Albanian language in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education, as there was no interest displayed on the Albanian side.

- B for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate 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.*

176. The municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo cooperate with a number of municipalities in Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro where Albanian is spoken. The co-operation is reflected in participation in joint events or meetings, where, among other things, the possibilities of institutionalizing transfrontier linking and co-operation are being discussed.

4.1.2. BOSNIAN LANGUAGE

177. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Bosnian language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Secondary Education

c

- (i) provide secondary education in the relevant regional or minority language; or*
- (ii) to make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) to provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient;*

178. Complete teaching in Bosnian is taking place at grammar schools in Sjenica and Tutin. The table below contains data on the number of classes and the number of students attending classes in Bosnian.

School year	Number of self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2013/14	2	2	4	85
2014/15	2	2	8	198
2015/16	2	2	12	307

Technical or Vocational Education

d

- (i) to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*

- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

179. In the period covered by the Fourth Report, teaching in Bosnian, as well as studying the subject of the Bosnian language with elements of national culture is not organised in technical or vocational schools.

Adult Education

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.*

180. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled persons choose to attend classes in that language. Since there has not been an adult education school in which at least 50% of the enrolled voted for attending classes Bosnian so far, adult education did not take place in that language.

181. In exercising the course of Mother Tongue as an elective course with elements of national culture, a school can form a group with each cycle, that is, the group consisting of first-to-fourth-grade pupils (first-cycle students) and / or a group composed of fifth- to eighth-grade pupils to secondary education students). The group must have at least 15 students, and for groups of less than 15 it is necessary to obtain the approval of the relevant Minister. The realization of this elective course in elementary school is financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary schools and adult education schools may be borne by the national council of a national minority, units of local self-government, or classes can be realized through project activity. Considering that there was no initiation of activities for the realization of the Bosnian language course with elements of national culture, this elective course is not taught in adult education schools.

- g* *to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language.*

182. In the Republic of Serbia this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in elementary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The Curriculum for school subject: The World Around Us and Nature and Society gradually develop the principle of heritage, which means that all teaching contents cover certain areas in which students live. The contents of these subjects include fostering national identity, developing tolerance and sense of belonging to a multiethnic, multicultural and multiconfessional community. The

above contents are supported, upgraded, expanded on and deepened by the contents and activities through other subjects: Music, Fine Arts, Serbian Language, Physical Education, etc. As far as Fine Arts as subject is concerned, the contents of the program are designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and are particularly related to the contents of the subject The World Around Us and Nature and Society and Mother Tongue. Approved textbooks have been translated into Bosnian. Teaching and learning History courses in the second cycle of elementary education (from the fifth to the eighth grade) include topics that are important for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of national minorities. The curriculum of the course The Fine Arts subject contains program units, each of which are taught by examples from the cultural heritage, with works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. Approved textbooks have been translated into Bosnian. At the level of secondary education, it is envisaged that the subject of Fine Arts be studied in grammar schools (for four-year and two-year studies, depending on the course), and it should also include contents from History of Art. It is studied chronologically and in correlation with the content of the History courses. Since existing programmes do not prescribe the study of the works of art and monuments of culture from the legacy of ethnic minorities, national councils of national minorities prepare a supplement to curricula. Since cultural heritage is taught chronologically, it is not possible to supplement the curriculum to cover the cultural heritage of each national minority in each class. Therefore, each national council of a national minority prepares a supplement to the curriculum going back to when its people / state emerged in history.

183. In the previous period, a document was prepared on how to adapt programmes in multiethnic environments where intercultural learning is emphasized, and the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted, with new curricula that are clearly linked with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 – Judicial authorities

Article 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:

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; and/or

184. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter contain inter alia regulations provided to ensure the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings, as well as before the court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use a

minority language, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, no information is available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, in which the parties used Bosnian.

185. It has already been stated that, based on the legal framework, the conduct of the entire trial in minority languages is made possible in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, judicial proceedings are specifically recorded. According to the Administrative Court records there were no court cases requiring that the proceedings be conducted in Bosnian in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter. All lawsuits were filed in Serbian, both by the prosecutors themselves and by the lawyers acting as attorneys-at-law hired by the prosecutors for representation. The Administrative Court provides translation through a court interpreter at the request of the client and at the expense of the court's budget.

Paragraph 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.

186. After the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter was submitted the Republic of Serbia has continued to translate the most important legal texts into minority languages, and those relating particularly to users of these languages.

187. After the adoption of the Constitutional Court Decision that certain members of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were not in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (2014) and the adoption of amendments to that Law (2014), the Law on National Councils of National Minorities was translated into Bosnian. New bylaws for the implementation of this law were likewise translated into Bosnian: the Rulebook on Keeping the Register of National Councils of National Minorities and Maintaining the Content and Appearance of Keeping Special Electoral Rolls of a National Minority.

188. Since elections for national councils of national minorities were held in 2014, all acts relevant to conducting elections were translated into Bosnian: the Rulebook on the Format and Content of the Forms Used for Collecting Signatures of Voters Supporting Elections: Instructions for the Implementation of Direct Elections for Members of the National Councils of National Minorities: the Schedule of Electoral Activities in the Procedure of Implementation of Direct Election of Members of the National Council Minorities, scheduled for 26 October 2014, the Rules on the Work of Polling Boards of the Implementation of Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, as well as all the necessary forms and other election materials necessary for the implementation of the elections.

Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

Paragraph 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.

189. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Users of minority languages have the right to submit oral or written application to state authorities in those languages and receive a reply in these languages.

190. As outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the administration districts established for the purpose of performing state administration activities outside the state administration quarters can serve as illustration for the application of regulations determining the right to use a minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority speakers is. For example, in the Raška and Zlatibor Administrative District, when dealing with first-instance administrative matters, or with appeals to first-instance rulings reached by holders of public powers and while exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection supervision, there were no oral nor written applications in Bosnian. Employees in professional services of these districts who use Bosnian can deal with complaints in that language.

Paragraph 2

In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages in such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:

c the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages;

191. This obligation cannot be applied to Bosnian in Central Serbia, since there is no region in that area, and therefore no regional documents that would be published in Bosnian.

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.

192. In addition to printing and placing tables with place-names, what was further discussed in Section 4.3.6 of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, their traditional forms in minority languages can also be used on the plates with names of the institutions, on memoranda and seals of the bodies of the local self-government units, on public documents, etc.

193. Referring to the practice of using traditional forms of place-names in Bosnian, the local self-government units in which Bosnian is officially used provide the following information. In the area of the municipality of Novi Pazar and the municipality of Sjenica, the names of institutions, seals, street names, squares and populated places are printed bilingual, in Serbian and Cyrillic alphabet and in Bosnian and Latin alphabet. In the area of the Tutin municipality, the plates with traditional Tamil names of Kadiluk and Suhodo in Bosnian were placed. The seal and the memorandum of the Prijepolje municipality and the names of the institutions were written in Serbian and Cyrillic alphabet as well as in Bosnian and Latin alphabet.

194. The traditional forms of place names in minority languages are also used in forms of requests for enrolment or deletion from the special electoral list of a national minority. These forms have been translated into Bosnian, and when filling out a section on the place of residence, the traditional place-name in Bosnian can be used. The above data is also entered in the identical way in the special electoral roll of the national minority.

195. Since the law provides for the official use of the Bosnian language and alphabet on ballot papers and electoral material, there are many examples of the use of traditional forms of place-names in the electoral process. In the process of conducting elections for national councils of national minorities, traditional forms of place-names are used in the minutes on the work of the polling board in the conduct of voting and in determining the results of voting for the election of members of national councils of national minorities; on checklists for checking the integrity of the voting box for the election of members of national councils of national minorities; electoral rolls of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; decisions on the making of a collective electoral roll for members of national councils of national minorities; forms for collecting signatures of voters who support electors, certificates of voting right to vote outside polling stations, etc.

196. When local elections are held, traditional forms of place-names are used in decisions on the assignment of candidates' mandates for councillors of municipal / city assemblies; on the election rolls for councillors of municipal / city assemblies; decisions on establishing a consolidated electoral roll of candidates for councillors of municipal / city assemblies, etc.

Paragraph 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*

197. Section 4.3.8 of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter stipulates that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous provinces and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who use a minority language, including Bosnian, to be appointed in the territories those languages are used.

198. Based on the available data and information obtained from public companies founded by the Republic of Serbia that took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report⁶ it can be concluded that, although there were no requests from employees who use a minority language, including Bosnian, to be appointed in the territories in which the language is used in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there exists a general readiness to meet potential requirements. For example, PC Srbijagas points out that if employees use some of the minority languages they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. PC Pošta Srbije indicates that in the employment of executors on certain jobs, persons are hired to the place of residence, and this also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with users of their services. The usual practice of this company is to appoint executors who know a minority language for shipment jobs and postal mail delivery jobs. This way of doing business provides users of postal services with a wide possibility of using the minority language in communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles in meeting the demands of an employee who uses a minority language to be employed in the territory in which that language is used.

199. Based on the information obtained from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this Report, it can be concluded that local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, either had no knowledge of any requests or noted there had been no requests by employees in local public services in the given period to be appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but also that there are no obstacles in meeting such requests.

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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:

- d to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audio-visual works in the regional or minority languages;*

⁶ PC Elektroprivreda Srbije, EPI Serbia – Distribution, PC Pošta Srbije, PC Srbijagas and Telekom Serbia.

200. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, a legal framework was presented that provided financial support for projects for the production of media content in minority languages as well. The new Law on Public Information and Media (2014) also allows this. This law stipulates that in order to enable the exercise of the rights of national minorities to information in their own language and to fostering their own culture and identity, the Republic of Serbia, the autonomous province or the local self-government unit provides part of the funds through co-financing or other conditions for the work of the media publishing information in minority languages. To protect the public interest in the field of public information, the funds provided in the budget are allocated on the basis of conducted public competitions and individual grants based on the principle of granting state aid and protection of competition without discrimination. The competition is called for projects for the production of media content and organising and participating in professional, scientific and commemorative events, as well as the improvement of professional and ethical standards in the field of public information.

201. Based on the interest and application for the announced public competition calls, the competent state and provincial authorities, as already discussed, approve funds for projects in minority languages. A wide range of criteria and conditions for participation in the competition enables the participation of an ever-increasing number of users, but also a more diversified offer of program content of independent productions. This includes the production of audio and audio-visual works in the fields of cultural, artistic, educational and scientific creativity, as well as the production of documentary programs in minority languages.

202. The table below contains data on the co-financing of the projects of production and distribution of audio and audio-visual works in Bosnian from the budget of the Republic.

Year	Project promoter	Project name	Approved funds
2013	"Journalistic plan"/Production	The Most Beautiful Bosniak Stories and Fairy Tales	315.642,00
2014	"Ekran" Services and Information Company	Cultural and Spiritual Wealth	223.500,00
	"Koran Ltd" Information Centre	Sehara	310.000,00
2015	"Journalistic plan"	"Bosniak Literary Giants" reportage series	230.000,00
	Academic Initiative "Forum 10"	"Watching Cobblestones"	600.000,00

Paragraph 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.

203. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter described the power granted to the National Councils of National Minorities under the Law on National Councils

of National Minorities (2009) in terms of advocating the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various media administration and professional bodies at the national level.

204. The interests of minority language users are also provided for by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an independent regulatory organisation with the status of a legal entity giving public powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect the public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, and in a manner befitting a democratic society.

205. The scope of work of the Regulator, among other things, includes: determining the proposal for the development of media services of radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia adopted by the Government; issuing licenses for the provision of media services of the television and linear media services of the radio; regulating the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such permits more closely; maintaining the Register of Media Services and records of on-demand media service providers upon request; controlling the work of media service providers and imposing measures in accordance with the law; establishing closer rules on program contents relating to the protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, the protection of the rights of minors, the prohibition of hate speech, and others; encouraging the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as cultures and languages of national minorities; encouraging the development of creativity in the field of radio, television and other audio-visual media services, as well as development of professionalism in electronic media and improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

206. The Regulator Bodies are comprised of the Council and the President of the Council. The Regulatory Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the field relevant to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Council of Regulator are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. These authorised proposers, as already discussed, include the national councils of national minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator Council by joint agreement.

Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Paragraph 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:

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, overdubbing and subtitling activities;

207. Budget support to minority languages and cultures is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through public competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all areas of creativity, where members of national minorities or minority language speakers have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007 a specialized competition for cultural activities of national minorities has been announced every year. This competition envisages, among other things, the co-financing of projects enabling the availability of cultural content for a wider range of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, synchronizing a theatre piece, etc.

208. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there was no requirement for the co-financing of projects of translating works produced in Bosnian into Serbian as the majority language or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, the lack of requests for overdubbing and subtitle translations of works written in Bosnian should be traced to the fact that these languages originated from Serbo-Croatian⁷ /Croato-Serbian corpus, and that it was therefore estimated that translating literary and other works of art from one language to another would not be expedient or profitable.

c to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitling activities;

209. The competition for cultural activities of national minorities provides the possibility of co-financing and projects related to translation, overdubbing and subtitle translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into another minority language.

210. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no requests for the co-financing of projects that would translate works produced in Serbian or a minority language into Bosnian. There were also no requirements to co-finance overdubbing and subtitle translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into Bosnian. The lack of requests for the translation, overdubbing and subtitle translations of

⁷ The Serbo-Croatian or Croato-Serbian language was the name of a common language. "The linguistic science in the 19th century found that the folk languages of Serbs and Croats was one language, and hence some Croatian and Serbian philologists and writersmade, as early as 1850, the Vienna Literary Accord, where they wanted the language of Serbian and Croatian literature, "to get closer, concord and unite". What started with the Vienna Literary Accord continued in Novi Sad in 1954, with the known Conclusions on the Croato-Serbian language and spelling." Among other things, one of the conclusions was that "the national language of Serbs, Croats and Montenegrins is one language. Therefore, the literary language, which developed on its basis around two main centres of Belgrade and Zagreb, is unique, with Ikavian and Ekavian pronunciation." (Spelling of the Croato-Serbian literary language, Matica hrvatska, Zagreb and Matica srpska, Novi Sad, 1960, pp. 5-6). With the collapse of the SFRY in 1991, the term "Serbo-Croatian", which denoted the majority language in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, ceased to be in official use.

works produced in Serbian into Bosnian is explained in the implementation of the previous sub-paragraph of this Article of the Charter.

Paragraph 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.

211. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity based on minority languages is supported by the budget of the Republic of Serbia throughout the country. As already stated, it is exclusively through the public competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information that funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved. Institutions, arts associations and other associations and organisations / legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia have the right to participate in the competition. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories in which they are not. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity by speakers of minority languages and their cultures. The quality of the project, as well as the fulfillment of clearly defined criteria contained in the competition are the most important prerequisite for providing financial support from budget funds.

212. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Bosnian were approved for projects that were implemented in the territories where this minority language is traditionally used. There were no requests for the realization of projects in the field of culture from the territories in which Bosnian is not traditionally used.

4.1.3. BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

213. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Bulgarian language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Adult Education

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.*

214. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled choose to attend classes in that language. Since there has not been an adult education school in which at least 50% of the enrolled voted for attending classes in the Bulgarian language so far, adult education does not take place in that language.

215. In exercising the course of Mother tongue as an elective course with elements of national culture, a school can form a group with each cycle, that is, the group consisting of first-to-fourth-grade pupils (first-cycle students) and / or a group consisting of fifth- to eighth-grade pupils to secondary education students). The group must have at least 15 students, and for groups of less than 15 it is necessary to obtain the approval of the relevant Minister. The realization of this elective course in elementary school is financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary schools and adult education schools may be borne by the national council of a national minority, units of local self-government, or classes can be realized through project activity. Considering that there was no initiation of activities for the realization of the of the Bulgarian language course with elements of national culture, this elective course is not taught in adult education schools.

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

216. In the Republic of Serbia this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in elementary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The Curriculum for school subject: The World Around Us and Nature and Society gradually develop the principle of heritage, which means that all teaching contents cover certain areas in which students live. The contents of these subjects include fostering national identity, developing tolerance and sense of belonging to a multiethnic, multicultural and multiconfessional community. The above contents are supported, upgraded, expanded on and deepened by the contents and activities through other subjects: Music, Fine Arts, Serbian Language, Physical Education, etc. As far as Fine Arts as subject is concerned, the syllabus is designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and are particularly related to the contents of the subject The World Around Us and Nature and Society and Mother Tongue. Approved textbooks have been translated into Bulgarian. Teaching and learning History courses in the second cycle of elementary education (from the fifth to the eighth grade) includes topics that are important for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of national minorities. The curriculum of the The Fine Arts subject contains program units, each of which are taught through examples from the cultural heritage, with works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. Approved textbooks have been translated into Bulgarian. At the level of secondary education, it is envisaged that the subject of Fine Arts be studied in grammar schools (for four-year and two-year studies, depending on the course), and it should also include contents from History of Art. It is studied chronologically and in correlation with the content of History courses. Since existing programmes do not prescribe the study of the works of art and monuments of culture from the legacy of ethnic minorities, national councils of national minorities prepare a supplement to curricula. Since cultural heritage is taught chronologically, it is not possible to supplement the program with the contents of the cultural heritage of each national minority in each class. Therefore, each national council of a national minority prepares a supplement to the curriculum going back to when its people / state emerged in history.

217. In the previous period, a document was prepared on how to adapt programmes in multiethnic environments where intercultural learning is emphasized, and the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted with new programs that are clearly bound with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 – Judicial authorities

Paragraph 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:

a in criminal proceedings:

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

218. Section 4.2.2 of The Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter presents a legislative and legal framework on the right of participants in criminal proceedings to use their language and alphabet. The regulations stipulate that courts in the Republic of Serbia record only those proceedings, including criminal ones, which are generally held entirely in languages of national minorities in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages.

219. Bearing in mind that there is no legal obligation on the part of the court to keep records of cases in which a defendant uses a minority language, systematised data on the number of criminal cases in which the defendant used Bulgarian are not available. In the absence of such a unique record, for the purpose of illustrations, the following information on the use of Bulgarian in criminal proceedings further on in this text is provided by some courts.

220. There were 19 criminal proceedings in total in which the defendant used Bulgarian in the Basic Court of Dimitrovgrad (Bulgarian is also in official use), in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter.

221. Bulgarian was used in one criminal proceeding in the High Court of Negotin.

a in criminal proceedings:

(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; and/or*

222. Systematised data on the number of requests and pieces of evidence formulated in minority languages are not available as courts, in accordance with the regulations, are not required to keep such records. Nevertheless, on the basis of data obtained from individual courts, examples are given of the use of the Bulgarian language in the formulation of requests and evidence in criminal proceedings.

223. The requests and evidence in 9 criminal proceedings in the Basic Court of Zajecar were formulated in Bulgarian.

224. In all of the 19 criminal proceedings in the Basic Court of Dimitrovgrad (Bulgarian is also in official use), in which the defendant used Bulgarian, the requests and evidence were formulated in Bulgarian.

225. The requests and evidences presented in one criminal proceeding in the High Court of Negotin were formulated in Bulgarian.

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.*

226. As already explained, there are no records in the Republic of Serbia about the use of a minority language of the party before the courts because there is no legal obligation to record court proceedings in which the party uses the minority language. For this reason, there are no systematised data or unique records on the number of civil cases in which the parties used Bulgarian in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter.

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;*

227. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter contain, inter alia, regulations provided to ensure the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings, as well as before the court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use a minority language, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, no information is available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, in which the parties used Bulgarian.

228. It has already been stated that, based on the legal framework, the conduct of the entire trial in minority languages is made possible in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, judicial proceedings are specifically recorded. According to the Administrative Court records there were no court cases requiring that the proceedings be conducted in Bulgarian in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter. All lawsuits were filed in Serbian, both by the prosecutors themselves and by the lawyers acting as attorneys-at-law hired by the prosecutors for representation. The Administrative Court provides translation through a court interpreter at the request of the client and at the expense of the court's budget.

Paragraph 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.

229. After the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter was submitted the Republic of Serbia has continued to translate the most important legal texts into minority languages, especially those that are relevant to users of these languages.

230. After the adoption of the Constitutional Court Decision which ruled that certain Articles of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were not in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (2014) and the adoption of amendments to that Law (2014), the Law on National Councils of National Minorities was translated into Bulgarian.

New bylaws for the implementation of this law were likewise translated into Bulgarian: the Rulebook Keeping the Register of National Councils of National Minorities and Maintaining the Content and Appearance of Keeping Special Electoral Rolls of a National Minority.

231. Since elections for national councils of national minorities were held in 2014, all acts relevant to conducting elections were translated into Bulgarian: the Rulebook on the Format and Content of the Forms Used for Collecting Signatures of Voters Supporting Elections: Instructions for the Implementation of Direct Elections for Members of the National Councils of National Minorities: the Schedule of Electoral Activities in the Procedure of Implementation of Direct Election of Members of the National Council Minorities, scheduled for 26 October 2014, the Rules on the Work of Polling Boards of the Implementation of Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, as well as all the necessary forms and other election materials necessary for the implementation of the elections.

Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

Paragraph 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.

232. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Users of minority languages have the right to submit oral or written applications to state authorities in those languages and receive an answer in these languages.

233. As outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the administration districts established for the purpose of performing state administration activities outside the state administration quarters can serve as illustration for the application of regulations determining the right to use a minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority speakers is. For example, in the Pirot Administrative District, when dealing with first-instance administrative matters, or with appeals to first-instance rulings reached by holders of public powers and while exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection supervision, there were no oral nor written applications in Bulgarian. Employees in professional services of these districts who understand Bulgarian can deal with complaints in that language.

Paragraph 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:

- c the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages.*

234. This obligation cannot be applied to Bulgarian in Central Serbia, where the majority of Bulgarian speakers live, since there is no region in that area, and therefore no regional documents that would be published in Bulgarian.

Paragraph 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.*

235. Section 4.3.8 of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter stipulates that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous provinces and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who use a minority language, including Bulgarian, to be appointed in the territories those languages are used.

236. Based on the available data and information obtained from public companies founded by the Republic of Serbia that took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report⁸, it can be concluded that, although there were no requests from employees who use a minority language, including Bulgarian, to be appointed in the territories in which the language is used in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there exists a general readiness to meet potential requirements. For example, PC Srbijagas points out that if employees use some of the minority languages they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. PC Pošta Srbije indicates that in the employment of executors on certain jobs, persons are hired to the place of residence, and this also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with users of their services. The usual practice of this company is to appoint executors who know a minority language for shipment jobs and postal mail delivery jobs. This way of doing business provides users of postal services with a wide possibility of using the minority language in communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles in meeting the demands of an employee who knows a minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

⁸ PC Elektroprivreda Srbije, EPI Serbia – Distribution, PC Pošta Srbije, PC Srbijagas and Telekom Serbia.

237. Based on the information obtained from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this Report, it can be concluded that local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, have no knowledge, or emphasize that there were no requests by employees in local public services in the given period to be appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but that there are also no obstacles in meeting such requests.

Paragraph 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.

238. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the legislative framework for exercising the rights of members of national minorities to enter a personal name in accordance with their language and spelling in the register was explained in detail. Exercising the right to register a personal name in the minority language and the spelling in the register of births at the request of the persons concerned is provided by regulations throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

239. The right to enter a personal name in Bulgarian into the register of births is exercised and can be exemplified in practice by examples obtained from the birth certificate services contained in the table below.

Local self-government unit	The number of entered personal names in Bulgarian		
	2013	2014	2015
Dimitrovgrad	-	1	-

240. In addition, as outlined in the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable the units of local self-government in which the statute has established that the minority language is also in official use, that the forms of birth certificates be printed bilingually, in Serbian and a minority language that is in official use. The table below gives information on issued birth certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Bulgarian forms.

Local self-government unit	The number of birth certificates issued on bilingual, Serbian-Bulgarian forms		
	2013	2014	2015
Dimitrovgrad	-	1	-

241. For the purpose of informing members of national minorities with the right to register a personal name in registry books in the language and alphabet of the national minority, the Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government provided an example to the bodies that perform the entrusted tasks of running registry books on the procedure and manner of registering a personal name of the members of the national minority in the registers of birth for highlighting on bulletin boards of all core areas of cities, or the municipalities for which the registers are kept. In units of local self-government in which the statute provides that a language spoken by members of a national minority is in official use, it is required to issue a notice in the language and alphabet of the national minority.

242. No complaints from members of the Bulgarian national minority in connection with the inability to exercise the right to register a personal name in Bulgarian were filed to the Administrative Inspectorate that supervises the implementation of the Law on Registry Books.

243. The training of the registrars for the purpose of consistent implementation of the legal provisions that give the possibility to register personal names in appropriate records in minority languages and alphabets is being continuously carried out in the Republic of Serbia. In accordance with the established Training Plan of 2015, and in connection with the implementation of laws and other regulations governing the way of registering a personal name of members of national minorities in birth registers in the language and alphabet of the national minority, the trainings of the registrars and deputy registrars in all administrative bodies entrusted with the tasks of the registries were organised. A total of eight trainings were organised (in Niš, Belgrade, Pirot, Zlatibor, Novi Sad and Subotica), attended by a total of 335 registrars and deputy registrars

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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:

- b* ...
 (ii) *to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis.*

244. The Office for Human and Minority Rights, in accordance with its scope, monitors the exercise of the right to information of members of national minorities in their own language and reviews the availability of media to members of national minorities in their mother tongue at the end of each calendar year. The data collected from the national councils of national minorities, the competent state, provincial and local authorities, the Regulatory body for electronic media, print media agencies and the broadcasters of radio and television programmes are systematised to provide reviews, inter alia, of the number, the type of radio broadcasters and the length of broadcast programmes in minority languages.

245. The table below contains data on the length of the broadcasting of radio programmes, as well as radio station information regarding the type of broadcasters ⁹, which produced and broadcast programmes in Bulgarian in 2015.

Radio station	Monthly length of programme in hours	Type of broadcaster
Radio Bosilegrad, Bosilegrad	510	Community Radio
RT Caribrod, Radio Caribrod,	100	Community Radio

⁹ The types of broadcasters are given on the basis of the Law on Broadcasting (2002), which ceased to be valid with the adoption of the Law on Electronic Media (2014).

Dimitrovgrad		
Gold Radio, Surdulica	0,5	Commercial Radio

246. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, a legal framework was presented that provided financial support for projects for the production of media content in minority languages as well. The new Law on Public Information and Media (2014) also allows this. This law stipulates that in order to enable the exercise of the rights of national minorities to information in their own language and to foster their own culture and identity, the Republic of Serbia, the autonomous province or the local self-government unit provides part of the funds through co-financing or other conditions for the work of the media publishing information in minority languages. To protect the public interest in the field of public information, the funds provided in the budget are allocated on the basis of conducted public competitions and individual grants based on the principle of granting state aid and protection of competition without discrimination. The competition is called for projects for the production of media content and organising and participating in professional, scientific and commemorative events, as well as the improvement of professional and ethical standards in the field of public information.

247. The table below contains data on project-based financial support for radio programs in Bulgarian.

Year	Project promoter	Project name	Approved funds
2013	Banker Ltd /Banker Radio	National minorities, national treasure	240.000,00
2014	Banker Ltd /Banker Radio	National minorities, national treasure	260.000,00
2015	Banker Ltd /Banker Radio	National minorities, national treasure	320.000,00

e

(i) *to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages.*

248. As already outlined, the Office for Human and Minority Rights reviews the availability of media for members of national minorities in their mother tongue at the end of each calendar year. In 2015, the *Bulletin* quarterly was published in Bulgarian in Bosilegrad.

249. The financial support of media publishing content in a minority language is provided on the basis of a public competition call from the Ministry of Culture and Information for the co-financing of projects in the field of public information in languages of national minorities.

250. The table below contains data on co-financed projects in the field of printed media in Bulgarian.

Year	User	Project	Approved funds
2014	Cultural-Information Centre of the Bulgarian National Minority "Bosilegrad"	Publishing of the "Бюлетин" (Bulletin) quarterly	420.000,00
2015	Cultural-Information Centre of the	Publishing of the "Бюлетин"	250.000,00

	Bulgarian National Minority "Bosilegrad"	(Bulletin) quarterly	
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Paragraph 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.

251. As explained in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) authorises the national councils to represent the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various administrative and professional media bodies at the state level.

252. The interests of minority language users are also safeguarded by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an independent regulatory organisation with the status of a legal entity exercising public powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect the public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, and in a manner befitting a democratic society.

253. The scope of work of the Regulator, among other things, includes: determining the Proposal for the development of media services of radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia adopted by the Government; issuing licenses for the provision of media services of the television and linear media services of the radio; regulating the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such permits more closely; maintaining the Register of Media Services and records of on-demand media service providers upon request; controlling the work of media service providers and imposing measures in accordance with the law; establishing closer rules on program contents relating to the protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, the protection of the rights of minors, the prohibition of hate speech, and others; encouraging the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as cultures and languages of national minorities; encouraging the development of creativity in the field of radio, television and other audio-visual media services, as well as development of professionalism in electronic media and improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

254. Regulator Bodies are comprised of the Council and the President of the Council. The Regulatory Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the field relevant to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Council of Regulator are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. These authorised proposers, as already

discussed, include the national councils of national minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator Council in joint agreement.

Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Paragraph 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:

- 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, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

255. Budget support to minority languages and cultures is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through public competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all areas of creativity, where members of national minorities or minority language speakers have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007, a specialized competition for cultural activities of national minorities has been announced every year. This competition envisages, among other things, the co-financing of projects enabling the availability of cultural content for a wider range of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, synchronizing a theatre piece, etc.

256. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there were no requirements for the co-financing of projects of translating works produced in Bulgarian into Serbian as the majority language or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, there were no requests for the overdubbing and subtitle translations of works written in Bulgarian into Serbian or a minority language.

- c to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

257. The competition for cultural activities of national minorities provides the possibility of co-financing and projects related to translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitle translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into another minority language.

258. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no requests for the co-financing of projects that would translate works produced in Serbian or a minority language into Bulgarian.

259. The funds from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia are also provided for overdubbing and subtitle translations. However, it is not possible to accurately determine the amount of funds provided, because they are determined collectively and for various purposes

(film production, cooperation, promotion). For example, according to the Law on Cinematography, the Film Centre of Serbia has been entrusted with tasks of co-financing film production through public competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information, by means of contract on co-financing the programme of this institution, allocates the funds for co-financing projects through these competitions and, among other things, for co-financing films in different categories, as well as for participation of co-financed films at international film festivals. Within this budget line, it is possible to pay for the costs of translation, overdubbing and subtitle translation, and the total planned funds at the annual level are 2.600.000,00 dinars. During this period, translations of 5 films into Bulgarian were co-financed so as to participate in the Sofia Film Festival.

Paragraph 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.

260. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity based on minority languages is supported by the budget of the Republic of Serbia throughout the country. As already stated, it is exclusively through the public competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information that funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved. Institutions, arts associations and other associations and organisations / legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia have the right to participate in the competition. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories in which they are not. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity by speakers of minority languages and their cultures. The quality of the project, as well as the fulfillment of clearly defined criteria contained in the competition are the most important prerequisites for providing financial support from budget funds.

261. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Bulgarian were approved for projects that were implemented in the territories where this minority language is traditionally used. There were no requests for the realization of projects in the field of culture from the territories in which Bulgarian is not traditionally used.

Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

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 contracts between the users of the*

same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education.

262. As stated in section 4.6.1 of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, based on the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the People's Republic of Bulgaria of 1956, the focus in the previous period was on harmonizing co-operation programmes between the two governments in the field of education, culture and sports for the 2014-2016 period. However, in March 2016 the Bulgarian side proposed that instead of a programme that encompasses all mentioned areas of cooperation, the Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of Education and Science for 2016-2019 be drafted, which will be further reported on in the next report.

4.1.4. HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE

263. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Hungarian language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Adult Education

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.*

264. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled pupils opt for teaching in that language.

265. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, three educational institutions for adult education in Hungarian have been accredited: in Bačka Topola, Kanjiža and Subotica. Since 2015, only one accredited institution for adult education in Hungarian has remained, namely the Educational and Cultural Institution “Cnesa” in Kanjiža. In addition, since 2016, the accredited non-governmental organisation “FERHA” - Regional Network for Adult Education, which organises adult education in Hungarian, has been registered and started its work. The table below contains data on the number of schools and students attending adult primary education in Hungarian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils
2013/14	2	2	60
2014/15	3	3	81
2015/16	1	1	310

266. In 2015, the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority adopted the Education Strategy for 2016-2020, where it is stated that adult education in Hungarian shall take place in primary and secondary schools.

267. Adults have the opportunity to specialize, re-qualify and further qualify in Hungarian in secondary schools accredited for this type of education. Secondary schools inform interested participants about their capacities in order to complete the application. The table below contains data on the possibilities of these types of education and the number of registered candidates for the 2015/16 school year.

Name of the Institution	Place	Planned Number of Pupils	Number of Registered Students
Agricultural and Technical Secondary School Centre "Besedeš Jožef"	Kanjiža	3	0
School of Economics and Trade Senta	Senta	20	10
Secondary Medical School Senta	Senta	45	5
Secondary Medical School Senta	Subotica	255	5
Secondary School of Economics "Bosa Milićević"	Subotica	240	0
Polytechnic School	Subotica	67	0
Technical School	Ada	51	0
School of Economics and Trade	Bečej	84	0
Secondary Medical School "Dr Ružica Rip"	Sombor	105	0
Total		870	20

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

268. In the Republic of Serbia, this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in primary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The curriculum of the subjects *The World Around Us* and *Nature and Society* gradually develops the principle of homeland, which implies that all subjects cover the specific area where the pupils live. The content of these subjects is designed to foster a sense of identity and develop tolerance and awareness of belonging to a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional community. This is supported, upgraded, expanded and deepened by the content and activities included in other subjects: Music Education, Fine Arts, Serbian, Physical Education, etc. As far as the subject *Fine Arts* is concerned, the syllabus is designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and is linked in particular with the subjects *The World Around Us*, *Nature and Society* and the mother tongue. Approved textbooks have also been translated into Hungarian. Teaching and learning the subject of *History* in the second cycle of primary education and upbringing (from the fifth to the eighth grade) includes content that is relevant for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of minority nations. The curriculum of the subject *Fine Arts* contains programme units, each of which is taught on examples from the heritage of culture, among which there are works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. Approved textbooks have also been translated into Hungarian. At the level of secondary education, the curriculum includes the subject of *Fine Arts* in Grammar Schools (for four-year and two-year studies, depending on the orientation), which also covers the history of art. It is studied chronologically and in correlation with the syllabus for the subject *History*. Since the existing curricula do not cover works of art and cultural monuments

belonging to the heritage of ethnic minorities, the National Councils of National Minorities are preparing a supplement to the curricula. Since cultural heritage is taught chronologically, it is not possible to supplement the curriculum to cover the cultural heritage of each national minority in each grade. Therefore, every National Council of National Minority is preparing a supplement to the curriculum from the period when its people/state originated.

269. In the past period, a document was prepared on how to adapt the curricula in multi-ethnic environments, with emphasis on intercultural learning, the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years, the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted, with new curricula that are clearly linked with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 - Judicial Authorities

Paragraph 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:

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.

270. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter provided information on the regulations which afford litigants, witnesses and other participants the right to use their own language during the court proceedings and even before a court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which litigants use one of the minority languages, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, information on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters in which the litigants used Hungarian is not available.

271. It has already been stated that the legislative framework provides for the possibility of conducting the entire court proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, those court proceedings are recorded separately. According to the records of the Administrative Court, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no court cases requiring the proceedings to be conducted in Hungarian. All lawsuits were filed in Serbian, both by the prosecutors themselves and by the proxies from the ranks of lawyers who were hired by the prosecutors for representation. The Administrative Court provides a translation through a court interpreter at the request of the client and at the expense of the court's budget.

Paragraph 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.

272. Since the submission of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia has continued to translate the most important legal texts into minority languages, especially those that are relevant to speakers of these languages.

273. After the adoption of the Constitutional Court Decision which ruled that certain Articles of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were not in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (2014) and the adoption of amendments to that law (2014), the Law on National Councils of National Minorities was translated into Hungarian. The new bylaws for the implementation of this law have also been translated into Hungarian: the Rulebook on the Method of Registering and Keeping a Register of National Councils and the Rulebook on the Manner of Keeping a Separate Electoral Roll of the National Minority.

274. Since elections for National Councils of National Minorities were held in 2014, all bylaws relevant for the conduct of elections have also been translated into Hungarian, including: Rulebook on the Form and Content of the Form for Collecting Signatures of Voters who Support Electors; Instructions on the Conduct of Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Handbook for Conducting Electoral Actions in the Procedure for Conducting Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, scheduled for October 26, 2014; Rules on the Work of the Polling Boards for the Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, as well as all necessary forms and other election materials necessary for the conduct of elections.

275. The National Council of the Hungarian National Minority receives funding for the work and realization of activities in the field of education, information, culture and official use of languages and script, among others, from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. Part of these funds was also allocated by the National Council to translate the most important regulations into Hungarian. The following regulations have been translated into Hungarian: the Law on Ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Law on Ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Law on Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Law on Confirmation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; the Law on Confirmation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; the Law on Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages; Law on Confirmation of the Convention on the Recognition of European Patents (European Patent Convention) of 5 October 1973, with amendments of Article 63 of the European Patent Convention of 17 December 1991 and the amendments of 29 November 2000; the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Hungary on 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; Constitution of the Republic of Serbia; the Law on State Administration; the General Administrative Procedure Act; the Law on the Foundations of the Education System; the Law on Pre-School Education; the Law on Secondary Education; the Law on Higher Education; the Law on Adult Education; the Law on Pupil and Student Standards; the Law on Culture; the Law on Public Information and Media; the Law on the Official Use of Language and Script; the Law on Judges; the Law on Public Prosecutor's Office; the Law on the State Prosecutors Council; the Law on High Judicial Council; the Law on Organisation of Courts; the Law on Misdemeanours; the Criminal Code; the Criminal Procedure Code; the Law on Civil Procedure; the Law on Notary Public; the Law on Personal Data Protection; the Law on Local Self-Government; the Law on Contracts and Torts; the Law on Restitution of Confiscated Property and on Compensation; the Law on Rehabilitation; the Law on Associations; the Law on Private Security; the Law on the Basics of Property Relations; the Law on Endowments, Foundations and Funds; the Inheritance Act; the Law on Patients' Rights; Family Law; Labour Law; the Law on Determining the Autonomy of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

Article 10 - Administrative Authorities and Public Services

Paragraph 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.

276. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Speakers of minority languages have the right to submit oral and written applications to the republic authorities in those languages and to receive an answer in that language.

277. The administrative districts, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, established for the purpose of carrying out state administration activities outside the headquarters of the state administration bodies, can be taken as an illustration for the implementation of regulations which have established the right to use the minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority language speakers are concentrated. For example, in the North Bačka Administrative District, in resolving administrative matters in the first instance or ruling on an appeal when the holders of public powers were resolving it in the first instance, and when exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection, there were neither oral nor written applications in Hungarian. There

are forms for conducting the proceedings in Hungarian at the District Administrative and Professional Service, but the parties did not request them in the given period.

Paragraph 2

In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages in 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.

278. The legislative framework regarding the submission of applications in minority languages to regional authorities in the period to which the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter relates has not been changed in relation to the previous period.

279. The languages of national minorities that are in official use in the work of autonomous province bodies are determined by the Statute of AP Vojvodina, and Hungarian is established as one of the languages in official use in the bodies and organisations of the AP Vojvodina. Accordingly, there is a possibility for people who speak Hungarian to use it in oral and written communication with the provincial authorities. This means that it is possible to use Hungarian in telephone communication, conversations in the reception and other offices of the authorities, as well as the submission of requests, applications, complaints and other submissions in Hungarian and receiving answers in that language.

280. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities provides oral and written translation from Serbian into Hungarian and vice versa, and the translation services of this Secretariat are used by all provincial bodies and organisations.

281. In provincial bodies and organisations, the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces also foresees workplaces for which the condition is the knowledge of the language of the national minority in official use, so that citizens can exercise the right to the official use of language and script.

282. In the course of 2015, the Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman has conducted a survey on the knowledge of the languages and scripts of national minorities that are in equal official use in the bodies of the provincial administration¹⁰. Within the survey, data was collected on the internal organisation and Systematisation of jobs in the bodies of the provincial administration and on the number of employees with the knowledge of some of the languages that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina.

¹⁰ As a result of this survey, the publication titled *Knowledge of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, Which are in Equal Official Use in the Bodies of the Provincial Administration*, is available on the web address: www.omudsmanapv.org.

283. The results of the survey show that out of the 13 provincial authorities covered by the survey, in accordance with the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces, 5 bodies envisaged workplaces for which the requirement is the knowledge of the language of the national minority in official use. However, the survey also shows that in those bodies where this is not envisaged by the Bylaw on Systematisation, there are also employees who speak the languages of national minorities that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina. The said results are presented in the table below.

Name of Authority	Number of systematised workplaces for which the knowledge of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies is prescribed as a condition	Number of employees with the knowledge of some of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies
Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality	0	4
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	3	16
Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth	0	3
Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	11	35
Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Energy and Mineral Resources	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Finance	0	3
Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	0	6
Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government	19	5
Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection	0	11
Provincial Secretariat for Health Care, Social Policy and Demography	1	11
Department for Joint Affairs of Regional Authorities	0	22
Human Resources Management Service	1	2

284. When it comes to knowledge of Hungarian, survey shows that in all the bodies that were the subject of survey there are employed persons who speak it.

Name of the Authority	Number of employees with the knowledge of Hungarian
Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality	4
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	9
Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth	1

Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	18
Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development	2
Provincial Secretariat for Energy and Mineral Resources	2
Provincial Secretariat for Finance	2
Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	2
Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government	4
Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection	11
Provincial Secretariat for Health Care, Social Policy and Demography	8
Department for Joint Affairs of Regional Authorities	12
Human Resources Management Service	1

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.

285. In addition to printing and placing boards with names of populated places, which was discussed in more detail in section 4.3.6. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, traditional forms of the names of populated places in minority languages can also be used on the boards with the names of the institutions, memoranda and seals of the bodies of local self-government units, on public documents, etc.

286. The local self-government units in which Hungarian is in official use, in respect to the practice of using traditional forms of place-names in Hungarian, provided the following data:

Local Self-Government Unit	Boards at the entrance to a populated place with traditional names in Hungarian	Boards with names of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Hungarian	Seals of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Hungarian
Ada	yes	yes	yes
Bač	Bač and Selenča	yes	yes
Bačka Topola	Bačka Topola, Stara Moravica, Novo Orahovo, Bajša	yes	yes
Bela Crkva	Dobričevo	yes	yes
Bečej	In 4 out of 5 populated places	yes	yes
Vrbas	yes	yes	yes
Vršac	yes	yes	yes
Žitište	Put up in places where members of the Hungarian minority live		yes
Zrenjanin	Zrenjanin, Mihajlovo, Belo Blato, Lukino Selo	yes	yes
Kanjiža	yes	yes	yes
Kovačica	yes	yes	yes
Kovin	yes	yes	yes
Kula	yes	yes	yes
Mali Idoš	Mali Idoš, Feketić	yes	yes
Nova Crnja	Nova Crnja, Toba		
Novi Bečej	yes	yes	yes
Novi Kneževac	yes	yes	yes
Novi Sad	Novi Sad, Budisava,	yes	yes

	Rumenka, Kisač		
Odžaci	Odžaci, Bogojevo	yes	yes
Plandište	Plandište, Hajdučica, Jermenovci, Velika Greda, Mergita, Barice	yes	yes
Senta	yes	yes	yes
Sečanj	In 7 out of 10 populated places		
Sombor	Sombor, Bezdan, Bački Monoštor, Bački Breg, Telečka, Doroslovo, Svetozar Miletić, Čonoplja	yes	yes
Srbobran	yes	yes	yes
Subotica	Yes, except in a populated place of Mišićevo	yes	yes
Temerin	Temerin	yes	yes
Titel	no	Lok and Gardinovci	
Čoka	yes	yes	yes

287. Hungarian is also in official use in some populated places, and the table below contains data regarding the practice of using traditional forms of place-names in Hungarian:

Local Self-Government Unit	Populated places where Hungarian is in official use	Boards at the entrance to a populated place with traditional names in Hungarian language	Boards with names of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Hungarian	Seals of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Hungarian
Apatin	Kupusina and Svilojevo	yes	yes	yes
Kikinda	Banatska Topola, Kikinda, Rusko Selo and Sajan	yes	yes	yes
Pančevo	Vojlovica and Ivanovo	yes	yes	yes

288. Traditional forms of names of populated places in minority languages are also used in the forms of request for enrolment or deletion from the separate electoral roll of the national minority. The said forms are translated into Hungarian, and when filling out the section on the place of residence, the traditional name of the populated place in Hungarian can be used. The said data is also entered in the identical way in the separate electoral roll of the national minority.

289. Since the law provides for the official use of the Hungarian language and script on ballot papers and electoral material, there are many examples of the use of traditional forms of the names of populated places in the electoral process. In the process of conducting elections for National Councils of National Minorities, traditional forms of place-names are used in the minutes on the work of the polling board in the conduct of voting and in determining the results of voting for the election of members of National Councils of National Minorities; on control sheets for checking the correctness of the voting box for the election of members of National Councils of National Minorities; electoral lists of candidates for members of National Councils

of National Minorities; decisions on the establishment of a collective electoral list for members of National Councils of National Minorities; forms for collecting signatures of voters who support electors, voter right certificates for voting outside the polling place, etc.

290. When local elections are held, traditional forms of place-names are used in decisions on the allocation of candidates' mandates for councillors of Municipal/City Assemblies; on the electoral lists for councillors of Municipal/City Assemblies; decisions on establishing a collective electoral list of candidates for councillors of Municipal/City Assemblies, etc.

291. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities announced the competitions for distribution of budget funds to bodies and organisations in the territory of AP Vojvodina in whose work official languages and scripts of national minorities are in official use, on which RSD 9,500,000.00 is distributed every year. Funds are awarded at competitions for training of employees in bodies and organisations where they use the language of a national minority, which is established as a language in official use, and especially in workplaces where contact with the parties is realized (participation in courses, seminars, etc.), for the development of the electronic administration system for work in conditions of multilingualism and for the production of multilingual boards, forms and publications.

292. In 2014, out of the total amount of funds allocated in the Competition, RSD 8,058,400.00 was allocated for the production of multilingual boards, forms and publications, where the traditional names of populated places in minority languages were written, while in the competition in 2015, for the creation and putting up of multilingual boards, RSD 8,542,000.00 was allocated. In all these competitions, bodies and organisations from certain local self-government units in which Hungarian is in official use were also involved, and the traditional names of populated places in Hungarian were used on the boards.

Paragraph 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.*

293. In section 4.3.8. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter it is underlined that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous province bodies and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who know a minority language, including Hungarian, to be appointed in the territories in which those languages are used.

294. Based on the available data and information obtained from public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia, which took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report¹¹, it can be concluded that, even though in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there have been no requests from employees who know the minority language, including Hungarian, to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used, there is a general readiness to meet the potential requirements. For example, PE *Srbijagas* points out that if employees know some of the minority languages, they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. JP *Pošta Srbije* stated that in the appointment of employees on certain jobs, persons are hired according to the place of residence, which also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with the users of their services. When it comes to behind the counter jobs or delivery of postal mail, the usual practice of this company is to appoint an employee who knows the minority language. This way of doing business provides the beneficiaries of postal services with a wide possibility of using minority language in communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles to accommodate an employee who knows a minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

295. Based on the information received from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this report, it can be concluded that the local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, do not have any knowledge, or emphasize that in the given period there were no requests of employees in local public services to be deployed or appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but also that there are no obstacles to meet such requests.

Paragraph 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.

296. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter detail the legislative framework for the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to write their personal name according to their language and spelling. The exercise of the right to enter a personal name in the register, at the request of the persons concerned, in the minority language and spelling, has been ensured by the regulations throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

297. That the right to enter a personal name in the register in Hungarian is exercised in practice, can be confirmed by the examples obtained from the Registry Offices, which are contained in the table below.

Local Self-Government Unit	Number of personal name entries in Hungarian		
	2013	2014	2015
Ada	70	78	86
Apatin	4	3	3

¹¹ PE *Elektroprivreda Srbije*, EPS *Distribucija*, PE *Pošta Srbije*, PE *Srbijagas* and Telekom Srbija.

Bačka Topola	275	267	247
Bečej	2	2	3
Vrbas	22	33	41
Žitište	2	49	33
Zrenjanin	14	16	14
Kanjiža	128	120	127
Kikinda	5	2	1
Kovačica	-	3	2
Mali Idoš	4	8	1
Nova Crnja	-	2	-
Novi Bečej	3	4	2
Novi Kneževac	2	-	2
Novi Sad	51	75	77
Pančevo ¹²			3
Senta	574	560	543
Subotica	572	572	598
Temerin	12	4	2
Čoka	6	7	7

298. In addition, as outlined in the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable those local self-government units where a minority is in official use according to their statutes to print the registry certificate forms bilingually, in Serbian and in the minority language that is in official use. The table below shows data on issued registry certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Hungarian forms.

Local Self-Government Unit	Number of issued certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Hungarian forms		
	2013	2014	2015
Ada	1.106	1.078	803
Apatin	16	13	12
Bačka Topola	8.568	3.920	2.622
Bela Crkva	2	2	2
Bečej	1.274	655	262
Vrbas	36	97	30
Vršac	57	179	88
Žitište	73	26	16
Zrenjanin	169	82	13
Kanjiža	5.031	3.751	2.737
Kikinda	2.951	2.376	1.222
Kovin	48	4	3
Kula	509	162	54
Mali Idoš	1.717	750	373
Nova Crnja	91	45	22
Novi Bečej	286	23	28
Novi Kneževac	1.020	962	1.169
Novi Sad	1.334	706	437
Pančevo ¹³			4
Plandište	10		
Senta	5.300	9.354	9.190

¹² The stated number of entries in the city of Pančevo refers to the entire reporting period.

¹³ The stated number of issued certificates in the city of Pančevo refers to the entire reporting period.

Sečanj ¹⁴			7
Srbobran	581	454	375
Subotica	25.286	11.122	5.578
Temerin	417	385	168
Titel	7	18	2
Čoka	1.926	929	558

299. In the Republic of Serbia, training of the registrars for the purpose of consistent implementation of the legal provisions that give the possibility to enter personal names in appropriate records in minority languages and scripts is continuously carried out. In accordance with the established Training Plan in 2015, and in connection with the implementation of laws and other regulations governing the way of entering personal names of members of national minorities in the registers in the language and script of the national minority, the trainings of the registrars and deputy registrars keeping the registers in all administrative bodies entrusted with the tasks of the registers. A total of eight trainings were organised (in Niš, Belgrade, Pirot, Zlatibor, Novi Sad and Subotica), attended by a total of 335 registrars and deputy registrars.

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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.

300. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter described the power granted to the National Councils of National Minorities under the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) in terms of advocating the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various media administration and professional bodies at the national level.

301. The interests of minority language users are also safeguarded by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an autonomous and independent regulatory organisation, with the status of a legal entity, which performs public powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, in a manner appropriate to a democratic society.

¹⁴ Municipality of Sečanj has provided data only for 2015.

302. The scope of work of the Regulator includes the following: it determines the Proposal for the development of media service of the radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia, which is adopted by the Government; issues licenses for providing media services to television and linear media services of the radio; more closely regulates the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such licences; maintains the Register of media services and records of media service providers upon request; controls the work of media service providers and imposes measures in accordance with the law; establishes closer rules regarding the programme contents in relation to protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, protection of the rights of minors, prohibition of hate speech, etc.; encourages the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as the culture and language of national minorities; encourages the development of creativity in the field of radio, television and other audio-visual media services, as well as the development of professionalism in electronic media and the improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

303. The Regulator's bodies are the Regulator's Council and the President of the Council. The Regulator's Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the areas of relevance to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Regulator's Council are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. Among these authorised proposers, as already discussed, are National Councils of National Minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator's Council by joint agreement.

Article 12 - Cultural Activities and Facilities

Paragraph 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:

- 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, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

304. Support to minority languages and cultures from budget funds is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through the competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all fields of creative work, where members of national minorities, or speakers of minority languages, have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007 a specialized competition for the cultural activities of national minorities has been announced. This competition also envisages, inter alia, the co-financing of projects that enable the availability of cultural contents for a wider circle of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, overdubbing a theatre performance, etc.

305. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works created in Hungarian would be translated into Serbian as the majority language, or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, there were no applications for overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Hungarian into Serbian or some other minority language.

306. From the budget of AP Vojvodina funds are allocated, inter alia, for co-financing of programmes/projects that are of wider regional significance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina and the development of the culture of members of national minorities. Funds are allocated on the basis of announced competitions annually for co-financing of programmes and projects and in the field of publishing activity (publication, translation and distribution of works by authors who create in minority languages), publishing of magazines, preparation of theatrical performances, promotion of film production and broadcasting of TV programmes in the fields of culture and art.

307. Co-financed projects in the field of culture related to Hungarian during this period concerned, inter alia, 17 projects in the field of publishing activity, 16 projects in the field of publishing magazines and publications, 13 projects for the preparation of theatre performances and 7 projects for the production of films, radio and TV programmes in the field of culture. However, there were no applications for co-financing of translation projects, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Hungarian into Serbian or some other minority languages.

c to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitling activities.

308. The competition for cultural activities of national minorities, which is announced at the national level, provides the possibility of co-financing and projects related to translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into another minority language.

309. In addition, access to minority languages was promoted by a competition for the translation of representative works of Serbian authors into foreign languages, which are minority languages in the Republic of Serbia. Thus, translations of local literary works are available to speakers of minority languages in their own language. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, translations of 4 literary works into Hungarian have been co-financed.

310. In the said period, there were no applications for co-financing of overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in the Serbian language or some other minority language into Hungarian.

311. For co-financing of projects related to the translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or some other minority language into Hungarian, no applications were made for the allocation of funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

Paragraph 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.

312. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity in minority languages is supported by the republic budget throughout the country. As already stated, funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved exclusively through the competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The right to participate in the competition is provided for institutions, arts and other associations and organisations/legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories where it is not the case. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity of speakers of minority languages and their cultures. In order to provide financial support from budget funds, the most important is the quality of the project, as well as the fulfilment of clearly defined criteria described in the competition.

313. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Hungarian were approved for projects that were realized on the territories in which this minority language is traditionally used. There were no applications for realization of projects in the field of culture from the territories in which Hungarian is not traditionally used.

Article 14 - Transfrontier Exchanges

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.*

314. As outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia is a legal successor of bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities with several states. These agreements stipulate that special intergovernmental mixed bodies shall observe the degree of fulfilment of the obligations arising from the concluded agreements. Based on the Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Hungary on 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 (2004),

the Intergovernmental Joint Committee for Minorities of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Hungary continued its work in 2009, after a long-standing break. The last session of the Joint Committee was held in 2016. The meeting discussed the implementation of the recommendations made at the previous meetings, it was noted that a number of recommendations were implemented, the cooperation of cultural institutions of the two countries, the possibility of free use of mother tongue and the conduct of proceedings in the mother tongue for members of the Serbian, or Hungarian minority were praised, and new recommendations have been established.

315. One of the most important recommendations that was made before this session was to continue cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture, sports and youth on the basis of the 2006 Agreement, which was fulfilled by the conclusion of the Cooperation Programme in the field of education, science and culture between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Hungary for the period 2015-2017, on July 1, 2015.

316. The programme envisions that both countries pay special attention to providing education in the Serbian and Hungarian languages and spreading Serbian and Hungarian history and culture, as well as preserving the value of monuments important for the shared history and for the contextualization of such values in the European context. Starting from the framework of cooperation in the field of education, science and culture, both countries are intensively promoting the education of intellectuals working in the field of humanitarian sciences, and who, although not necessarily themselves, are members of a national minority, have a great knowledge of the history and culture of another country. In the field of higher education, the Programme envisages that the Hungarian side will support the admission to higher education of the citizens of Serbia who speak the Hungarian language, through training that would take the form of teacher secondment.

4.1.5. ROMANI LANGUAGE

317. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Romani language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Pre-School Education

a

- (i) to make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) to make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) and (ii) above 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 measures referred to under (i) to (iii) above.*

318. Pre-school educational work in Romani is not organised in the Republic of Serbia, and neither is bilingual educational work in Serbian and in Romani.

319. The bilingual educational work in Serbian and in Romani took place during 2012/2013, in one educational institution in Kruševac in two groups, which included 55 children. At the beginning of each school year, when enrolling in a pre-school institution, the parents of children declare about the language in which they want the educational work to be carried out, and since there were no interested parties in the educational work taking place bilingually, from the 2013/2014 school year, in this pre-school institution, educational work takes place only in Serbian.

320. For pre-school children of Roma nationality who do not speak Serbian at the level of local self-government units, pedagogical assistants have been hired to help children get involved in the work of the group.

Primary Education

b

- (i) *to make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) *to make available a substantial part of primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) *to provide, within primary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient.*

321. Studying the subject Romani Language with Elements of National Culture was organised in primary schools in AP Vojvodina since the mid-1990s. The table below contains data on the organisation of this teaching, which takes place in the following local self-government units: Ada, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Beočin, Žabalj, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Novi Bečej, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Srbobran, Sremska Mitrovica, Stara Pazova and Subotica.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	16	38	38	969
2014/15	16	39	39	978
2015/16	16	40	40	1.065

322. In the 2015/16 school year, on the territory of central Serbia, 17 primary schools introduced the Romani Language with Elements of National Culture. Although a large number of schools were interested in introducing the subject in the teaching, due to the lack of adequate teaching staff, the teaching was not organised in all schools. In that school year, 542 students attended the class Romani Language with Elements of National Culture.

323. The table below contains data on local self-government units in the territory of Central Serbia, in which Romani Language with Elements of National Culture was introduced, as well as the number of students studying the subject.

Local Self-Government Unit	Primary School	Number of Pupils
Belgrade	“Despot Stefan Lazarević“, Belgrade	24
Vlasotince	“8. oktobar“, Vlasotince	32
Vranje	“Branislav Nušić“, Rataje	26
Vranje	“Vuk Karadžić“, Vranje	15
Kraljevo	“Vuk Karadžić“, Stubal	47
Lebane	“Radoje Domanović“, Bošnjace	17
Leskovac	“Vožd Karadorđe“, Leskovac	95
Leskovac	“Đura Jakšić“, Turekovac	21
Leskovac	“Milutin Smiljković“, Vinarce	21
Leskovac	“Petar Tasić“, Leskovac	17

Niš	“Sreten Mladenović Mika“, Niš	35
Požarevac	“Jovan Cvijić“, Kostolac	18
Preševo	“Vuk Karadžić“, Preševo	32
Prokuplje	“Vuk Karadžić“, Žitni Potok	30
Surdulica	“Jovan Jovanović Zmaj“, Surdulica	25
Surdulica	“Vuk Karadžić“, Surdulica	60
Surdulica	“Pera Mačkatovac“, Belo Polje	27

Secondary Education

c

- (i) *to make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) *to make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) *to provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

Technical and Vocational Education

d

- (i) *to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) *to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) *to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

324. In secondary schools in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, there is no education in Romani or teaching of the subject Romani Language with Elements of National Culture. The reasons for this are numerous and should be seen in the wider socio-economic situation of the Roma national minority¹⁵. The state undertakes a range of measures and activities to improve their position in all segments of society, including the field of education. Starting from the fact that the insufficient number of Roma children attends secondary school, and given the importance of education to improve the material position and social status of the Roma population as a whole, the state implements a programme of affirmative measures for enrolling members of the Roma national community into secondary schools. Measures of affirmative action for enrolment in secondary schools of Roma students have been introduced since the 2005/06 school year, in order to stimulate the continuation of their education. The

¹⁵ In the 2011 census, more than 98% of Roma nationals declared Romani as their mother tongue.

Rulebook on the Criteria and Procedure for Enrolment of Students - Members of the Roma National Minority in Secondary Schools Under More Favourable Conditions in Order to Achieve Full Equality (2016)¹⁶ prescribes new measures and the procedure for using affirmative measure of admission to secondary school. Some of the new measures are: active informing of the parents of students about affirmative measures starting from the seventh grade of primary school; more active involvement of the National Council of the Roma National Minority in informing parents, as well as other participants in the educational and social system; providing information on the necessary documentation for applying, assisting parents and pupils in the choice of secondary school and occupation according to the student's preferences and abilities.

325. According to the data of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the number of enrolled Roma pupils in secondary schools using the measures of affirmative action is contained in the table below.

School Year	Total	Girls	Boys
2013/14	350	187	163
2014/15	322	195	127
2015/16	418	225	193

326. The application of affirmative action measures should also contribute to an increase in the number of pupils interested in organising Roma language studies in secondary schools. By adopting the curriculum for the Romani language with the Elements of National Culture for secondary education, which should be proposed by the National Council of the Roma National Minority, with the provision of expert staff for the implementation of this teaching, the conditions for introducing Romani into the educational process at the secondary educational process would be met.

University and Other Higher Education

e ...

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

327. At the Pre-School Teacher Training College in Vršac, classes are conducted in Romani. The table below contains data on the number of students attending classes in Romani.

School Year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students in all years of study
2013/14	12	29
2014/15	11	28
2015/16	9	25

¹⁶ In the meantime, this Rulebook has ceased to apply because it became part of the wider Rulebook on Enrolment of Students in Secondary Schools („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, No. 38/2017).

328. By the Decision of the Scientific-Teaching Council of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade on April 15, 2015, the teaching of Romani is included in undergraduate academic studies, and within the Centre for Vocational Training and Evaluation, the Faculty organises courses in Romani, allowing graduates to acquire confirmations of knowledge of the Romani language - certificates, and appoint in regular classes in primary schools where the subject of Romani is with Elements of National Culture is taught, as well as in secondary schools when the conditions for it are created.

329. The Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade has expressed its willingness to organise the study of the Romani language at the level of undergraduate academic studies, and in 2015 a Group for Romani Language and Culture was formed. Students of the Faculty of Philology have been enabled to choose Romani Language and Culture as an elective language and to study it for two years. The following steps after the formation of this Group are the founding of the lectorate, followed by the Department of Romani Language and Culture. Despite the readiness of the Faculty of Philology, in the 2015/2016 school year there were no enrolled students who had chosen Roma Language and Culture. Obviously, it is not enough to allow only the study of Romani at the university level of education, but it is necessary to increase the involvement of the National Council and the intellectual elite of the Roma national minority in animating young students for studying the Romani language. Without trained Romani teachers, it is not possible to organise education in the Romani language at all levels.

Adult Education

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.*

330. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled pupils opt for teaching in that language. Since, until now, there has not been an adult education school, in which at least 50% opted for teaching in Romani, adult education does not take place in that language.

331. When teaching the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture, a school can form a group at the level of the appropriate education cycle, i.e. a group consisting of first to fourth grade pupils (pupils of the first educational cycle) and/or a group composed of fifth to eighth grade pupils (pupils of the second educational cycle). The group must have at least 15 students, and for groups of less than 15, it is necessary to obtain the approval of the responsible Minister. The teaching of this elective subject in primary school is financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary schools and adult education schools may be borne by the National Council of the National Minority, local self-government unit, or classes are realized through project activity. Considering that there was no initiation of activities for the realization of the study of the

Romani Language with Elements of National Culture, this subject is not taught in the schools for adult education.

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

332. In the Republic of Serbia, this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in primary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The curriculum of the subjects *The World Around Us* and *Nature and Society* gradually develops the principle of homeland, which implies that all subjects cover the specific area where the pupils live. The content of these subjects is designed to foster a sense of identity and develop tolerance and awareness of belonging to a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional community. This is supported, upgraded, expanded and deepened by the content and activities included in other subjects: Music Education, Fine Arts, Serbian, Physical Education, etc. As far as the subject *Fine Arts* is concerned, the syllabus is designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and is linked in particular with the subjects *The World Around Us*, *Nature and Society* and the mother tongue. Teaching and learning the subject of *History* in the second cycle of primary education and upbringing (from the fifth to the eighth grade) includes content that is relevant for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of minority nations. The curriculum of the subject *Fine Arts* contains programme units, each of which is taught on examples from the heritage of culture, among which there are works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. At the level of secondary education, the curriculum includes the subject of *Fine Arts* in Grammar Schools (for four-year and two-year studies, depending on the orientation), which also covers the history of art. It is studied chronologically and in correlation with the syllabus for the subject *History*. Since the existing curricula do not cover works of art and cultural monuments belonging to the heritage of ethnic minorities, the National Councils of National Minorities are preparing a supplement to the curricula. Since cultural heritage is taught chronologically, it is not possible to supplement the curriculum to cover the cultural heritage of each national minority in each grade. Therefore, every National Council of National Minority is preparing a supplement to the curriculum from the period when its people/state originated.

333. In the past period, a document was prepared on how to adapt the curricula in multi-ethnic environments, with emphasis on intercultural learning, the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years, the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted, with new curricula that are clearly linked with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 - Judicial Authorities

Paragraph 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:

a in criminal proceedings:

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

334. Section 4.2.2. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter presents a legislative and legal framework on the right of participants in criminal proceedings to use their language and script. The regulations stipulate that courts in the Republic of Serbia record only the proceedings, including criminal ones, which are entirely conducted in the languages of national minorities in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. It is noted that Romani is not established as an official language in any court in the Republic of Serbia.

335. Bearing in mind that there is no legal obligation for the courts to keep records of cases in which the defendant uses a minority language, there is no available systematised data on the number of criminal cases in which the defendant used Romani. In the absence of such a unique record, for the purpose of illustration, the data on the use of Romani in criminal proceedings, submitted by individual courts, are presented below.

336. In the Basic Court of Bečej (Hungarian is also in official use), during 2014, Romani was used in three criminal proceedings.

337. According to the data of the Basic Court of Kikinda (Hungarian is also in official use), Romani was used in one criminal proceeding.

338. The Basic Court of Požarevac states that Romani language was used in three criminal proceedings.

339. According to the data of the Higher Court of Pančevo (Hungarian, Macedonian, Romanian, Slovak and Czech are also in official use), Romani was used in one criminal proceeding.

a ...

(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.

340. Systematised data on the number of requests and evidence formulated in minority languages are not available because courts, in accordance with the regulations, are not obliged

to keep such records. However, on the basis of data obtained from individual courts, an example of the use of Romani in the formulation of requests and evidence in criminal proceedings was recorded.

341. In the Higher Court of Pančevo (Hungarian, Macedonian, Romanian, Slovak and Czech are also in official use), in one criminal proceeding in which Romani was used, the minutes, requests and evidence were formulated in Romani.

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.*

342. As already explained, there are no records in the Republic of Serbia about the use of a minority language of the litigant before the courts because there is no legal obligation to record court proceedings in which the litigant uses the minority language. For this reason, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there are no systematised data and/or single records on the number of civil lawsuits in which the litigants used Romani.

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.*

343. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter provided information on the regulations which afford litigants, witnesses and other participants the right to use their own language during the court proceedings and even before a court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which litigants use one of the minority languages, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, information on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters in which the litigants used Romani is not available.

344. It has already been stated that the legislative framework provides for the possibility of conducting the entire court proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, those court proceedings are recorded separately. Since Romani is not in official use in any court, neither can the entire court proceeding before the court dealing with administrative matters be conducted in that language.

Paragraph 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.*

345. Although the Committee of Experts concluded that this obligation was fulfilled for all minority languages of Part III of the Charter¹⁷, and therefore for Romani as well, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, no cases were recorded that the courts refused or denied the validity of documents brought in by litigants in the proceedings only because they are in minority language, even in Romani. The applicable regulations of the Republic of Serbia do not prescribe that separate records should be kept in the courts on the basis of which data on the number of legal documents issued in minority languages could be provided.

Paragraph 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.

346. As outlined in the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, standardisation of Romani language is completed (2013), which creates the conditions for translations of the most important legislative texts into Romani. Bearing in mind that additional financial resources are needed for these purposes, which the economic situation in the country did not allow, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the most important national legislative texts were not translated into Romani. With the stabilization of economic opportunities in the country, more intensive activities are expected in this field, in cooperation with the National Council of the Roma National Minority.

Article 10 - Administrative Authorities and Public Services

Paragraph 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.*

347. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Speakers of minority languages have the right to submit oral and written applications to the republic authorities in those languages and to receive an answer in that language.

¹⁷ See paragraphs 161-162 of the Second Report of the Committee of Experts.

348. The administrative districts, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, established for the purpose of carrying out state administration activities outside the headquarters of the state administration bodies, can be taken as an illustration for the implementation of regulations which have established the right to use the minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority language speakers are concentrated. According to this information, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no oral or written applications in Romani in resolving administrative matters in the first instance or ruling on an appeal when the holders of public powers were resolving it in the first instance, and when exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection.

c to allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in a regional or minority language.

349. As explained in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the administrative authorities produce draft documents only in those minority languages that are officially used in local self-government units. Since Romani is not officially used in any local self-government unit, it is not possible to create draft documents in that language.

Paragraph 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.

350. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia, as it has been highlighted several times, allow applications to be submitted orally or in writing in minority languages at all levels of government, including regional and local authorities. According to the available data, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, no written or oral applications in Romani were submitted to the regional authorities (AP Vojvodina authorities) or any local self-government unit in the Republic of Serbia.

c the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages.

351. This obligation cannot be applied to Romani, since there are no regions in Central Serbia, where the majority of Roma speakers (over 72%) live, there are no regional documents that would be published in Romani.

352. The publication of documents of regional authorities (in the case of the Republic of Serbia of provincial bodies of AP Vojvodina) in minority languages is conditioned by their

introduction into official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina. Since the Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina does not establish that Romani is in official use in the bodies of the AP Vojvodina, the official documents are not published in that language.

d the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages.

353. It has already been stated that Romani is not officially used in any local self-government unit in the Republic of Serbia, nor do the local authorities create their official documents in Romani.

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.

354. This obligation is not applicable in Romani given that there are no traditional place-names in the Republic of Serbia in that language, as explained in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter.

Paragraph 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.

355. There is a legal obligation in the Republic of Serbia to allow users to submit requests in minority languages to public services provided by public authorities within areas where the minority language is used. Since there is no legal obligation to keep records on requests submitted to public services in a minority language, there is no cumulative data on the number of requests submitted. For this reason, the Office for Human and Minority Rights sent a call to public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia and the local self-government units that are founders of local public enterprises to participate in the preparation of this report. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, no requests in Romani were sent to individual public enterprises at the republic or at the local level, which participated in the preparation of this report.

Paragraph 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.

356. In section 4.3.8. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter it is underlined that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous province bodies and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who know a minority

language, including Romani, to be appointed in the territories in which those languages are used.

357. Based on the available data and information obtained from public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia, which took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report¹⁸, it can be concluded that, even though in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there have been no requests from employees who know the minority language, including Romani, to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used, there is a general readiness to meet the potential requirements. For example, PE *Srbijagas* points out that if employees know some of the minority languages, they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. JP *Pošta Srbije* stated that in the appointment of employees on certain jobs, persons are hired according to the place of residence, which also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with the users of their services. When it comes to behind the counter jobs or delivery of postal mail, the usual practice of this company is to appoint an employee who knows the minority language. This way of doing business provides the beneficiaries of postal services with a wide possibility of using minority language in communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles to accommodate an employee who knows a minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

358. Based on the information received from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this report, it can be concluded that the local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, do not have any knowledge, or emphasize that in the given period there were no requests of employees in local public services to be deployed or appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but also that there are no obstacles to meet such requests.

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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:

e

- (i) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages.*

359. The Office for Human and Minority Rights, in accordance with its scope of work, monitors the exercise of the right to information of members of national minorities in their own language and at the end of each calendar year, reviews the availability of public information media to members of national minorities in their mother tongue. The data

¹⁸ PE *Elektroprivreda Srbije*, EPS *Distribucija*, PE *Pošta Srbije*, PE *Srbijagas* and Telekom Srbija.

collected from the National Councils of National Minorities, the competent state, provincial and local authorities, the Regulatory body for electronic media, the editorial boards of print media and TV and radio broadcasters, are systematised to provide an overview, inter alia, of the number of printed media in minority languages.

360. The table below contains data on printed media in Romani language, which were published in 2015.

Printed Public Media	Periodical	Language
<i>Dekada Roma u AP Vojvodini (A Decade of Romani People in AP Vojvodina)</i> , Novi Sad	Monthly	Bilingual/Romani and Serbian
<i>Alka</i> , Pančevo	Quarterly	Bilingual/Romani and Serbian
<i>Romano nevipe</i>	Annual paper	Bilingual/Romani and Serbian
<i>Romano putardo foro</i>	Monthly	Bilingual/Romani and Serbian
<i>Romi i Srbi – portretisanje</i> (Romani and Serbs – Portrayal)	Monthly	Bilingual/Romani and Serbian

361. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, a legal framework was presented that provided financial support for projects for the production of media contents in minority languages. The new Law on Public Information and Media (2014) also enables this. This law stipulates that in order to enable the realization of the rights of national minorities to inform in their own language and to foster their own culture and identity, the Republic of Serbia, the autonomous province, or the local self-government unit, provides part of the funds, through co-financing or other conditions for the work of the media that publish information in minority languages. To protect the public interest in the field of public information, the funds provided in the budget are allocated on the basis of conducted public contests and by individual grants based on the principle of granting state aid and protection of competition, without discrimination. The contest is announced for projects for the production of media contents and organising and participating in professional, scientific and appropriate meetings, as well as the improvement of professional and ethical standards in the field of public information.

362. The table below contains data on co-financed projects from the national budget for print media in Romani language.

Year	Beneficiary	Project	Appropriations
2013	Newspaper Publishing Company Romano Nevipe doo/Press	<i>Čirikljori</i> (Birdie), a magazine for children in Romani and Serbian language	490,000.00
	Albos doo	<i>Romano foro – Romani lil</i> (Romani City – Romani Script)	219,000.00
	UDOR- Association for Democratization and Education of Romani People/Press	<i>Krlo e terne Romengo</i> /The Voice of Young Romani	204,000.00
2014	Newspaper Publishing Company	<i>Čirikljori</i> (Birdie), a magazine for	350,000.00

	Romano Nevipe doo/Press	children in Romani and Serbian language	
	Albos doo	Children's Romani City (<i>Romano sharengo Foro</i>)	200,000.00
	Nova Naša Reč	Article in Romani in <i>Nova Naša reč</i>	200,000.00
	Association for Democratization and Education of Romani People	<i>Krlo e terne romengo</i> /The Voice of Young Romani	100,000.00
2015	Newspaper Publishing Company Romano Nevipe doo	<i>Romano nevipe</i> - magazine for children in Romani and Serbian language	800,000.00
	Albos doo-Novine Grad	<i>Romano putardo foro</i> – Romani Open City	400,000.00
	Nova Naša Reč	Roma and Serbs - Portrayal	400,000.00

Paragraph 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.

363. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter described the power granted to the National Councils of National Minorities under the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) in terms of advocating the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various media administration and professional bodies at the national level.

364. The interests of minority language users are also safeguarded by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an autonomous and independent regulatory organisation, with the status of a legal entity, which performs public powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, in a manner appropriate to a democratic society.

365. The scope of work of the Regulator includes the following: it determines the Proposal for the development of media service of the radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia, which is adopted by the Government; issues licenses for providing media services to television and linear media services of the radio; more closely regulates the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such licences; maintains the Register of media services and records of media service providers upon request; controls the work of media service providers and imposes measures in accordance with the law; establishes closer rules regarding the programme contents in relation to protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, protection of the rights of minors, prohibition of hate speech, etc.; encourages the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as the culture and language of national minorities; encourages the development of creativity in the field of radio,

television and other audio-visual media services, as well as the development of professionalism in electronic media and the improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

366. The Regulator's bodies are the Regulator's Council and the President of the Council. The Regulator's Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the areas of relevance to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Regulator's Council are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. Among these authorised proposers, as already discussed, are National Councils of National Minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator's Council by joint agreement.

Article 12 - Cultural Activities and Facilities

Paragraph 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:

- 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, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

367. Support to minority languages and cultures from budget funds is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through the competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all fields of creative work, where members of national minorities, or speakers of minority languages, have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007 a specialized competition for the cultural activities of national minorities has been announced. This competition also envisages, inter alia, the co-financing of projects that enable the availability of cultural contents for a wider circle of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, overdubbing a theatre performance, etc.

368. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works created in Romani would be translated into Serbian as the majority language, or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, there were no applications for overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Romani into Serbian or some other minority language.

- c to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

369. The competition for cultural activities of national minorities, which is announced at the national level, provides the possibility of co-financing and projects related to translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into another minority language.

370. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works produced in the Serbian language or some other minority language would be translated into Romani. There were also no applications for co-financing of overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or some other minority language into Romani.

Paragraph 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.

371. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity in minority languages is supported by the republic budget throughout the country. As already stated, funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved exclusively through the competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The right to participate in the competition is provided for institutions, arts and other associations and organisations/legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories where it is not the case. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity of speakers of minority languages and their cultures. In order to provide financial support from budget funds, the most important is the quality of the project, as well as the fulfilment of clearly defined criteria described in the competition.

372. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Romani language were approved for projects that were implemented throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 14 - Transfrontier Exchanges

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.*

373. Although the speakers of Romani language do not have their home country, no agreement has been concluded with any country in which Romani is used in an identical or similar form in order to improve contacts between Romani language users in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education.

b for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate 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.

374. Starting from the fact that so far the Republic of Serbia has not concluded agreements with other countries on cooperation in order to improve the contact between Romani language users in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has no knowledge of whether there was an initiative for concluding agreements between regional or local authorities of the Republic of Serbia and other countries in whose territories Romani is used in an identical or similar form.

4.1.5.1. Activities on the Implementation of the Recommendation of the Committee of Experts

375. In the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Committee of Experts has made the following recommendation for the Romani language, in conjunction with Article 8 of the Charter:

The Committee of Experts calls on the authorities of the Republic of Serbia to take measures to promote Romani language at all levels of education.

376. By establishing curriculum for elective subject of Romani Language with Elements of National Culture, one of the preconditions for its introduction in primary school education has been created. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development conducted activities for realization of the teaching of this elective subject. Thus, in 2015, through all school administrations, interviews were conducted on the interest in introducing Romani language classes.

377. In the 2015/16 school year, 17 primary schools¹⁹ in the territory of Central Serbia introduced Romani language with Elements of National Culture. Although a large number of schools expressed interest, due to the lack of adequate teaching staff, the organisation of the study of this subject failed to be realized. Otherwise, in the territory of AP Vojvodina, the Romani language with Elements of National Culture as an elective subject is being studied since the mid-1990s.

¹⁹ Teaching was organised in the following local self-government units: Belgrade, Vlasotince, Vranje, Kraljevo, Lebane, Leskovac, Niš, Požarevac, Preševo, Prokuplje and Surdulica.

378. In order to improve the professional staff for the teaching of the elective subject Romani Language with Elements of National Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development in cooperation with the Centre for Permanent Education and Evaluation of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade and the National Council of the Roma National Minority organised a one-month course for Romani teachers. The course was held in June and July of 2015, where 23 participants received certificates of passing levels A1 and A2. One of the criteria for participation in the training was the completed Faculty or College of teaching/pedagogical orientation. During the 2015/16 school year, 15 participants of this training were appointed as teachers of elective subject Romani Language with Elements of National Culture in primary schools.

379. In parallel with the introduction of teaching and the improvement of professional staff for organising the teaching of Romani Language with Elements of National Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development announced a public call for the selection of missing textbooks for the elective subject Romani Language with Elements of National Culture for the first, second, third and fourth grade of primary school. These textbooks will be available in the 2016/17 school year.

380. By the Decision of the Scientific-Teaching Council of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade on April 15, 2015, the teaching of the Romani language is included in undergraduate academic studies, and within the Centre for Vocational Training and Evaluation, the Faculty organises courses in Romani, allowing graduates to acquire confirmations of knowledge of the Romani language – certificates, and are included in the regular classes, so far in the primary, and when the conditions are met also in the secondary schools that conduct the teaching of the Romani Language with Elements of National Culture. In this way, the Romani language has gained equal status with other minority languages the teaching of which is organised at the Faculty of Philology, and conditions are created for the development of language, education of experts and the path for the establishment of the Department of Romani Language has opened.

4.1.6. ROMANIAN LANGUAGE

381. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Romanian language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Pre-School Education

a

- (i) to make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) to make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) and (ii) above 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 measures referred to under (i) to (iii) above.*

382. Educational work in Romanian takes place in pre-school institutions in seven local self-government units (Alibunar, Bela Crkva, Vršac, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Pančevo and Plandište). The table below contains data on the number of pre-school institutions, groups and number of children who have pre-school education in Romanian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Pre-School Institutions	Number of Groups	Number of Children
2013/14	7	4	11	84
2014/15	7	4	11	85
2015/16	7	4	11	82

383. Bilingual education, in Serbian and Romanian, is organised in pre-school institutions in three local self-government units (Alibunar, Vršac and Kovačica). The table below contains data on the organisation of bilingual education in pre-school institutions in Serbian and Romanian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Pre-School Institutions	Number of Groups	Number of Children
2013/14	3	3	4	66
2014/15	3	3	4	66
2015/16	3	3	4	67

Primary Education

b

- (i) *to make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) *to make available a substantial part of primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) *to provide, within primary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient.*

384. All education in Romanian in the 2015/16 school year has been organised in primary schools in Alibunar, Bela Crkva, Vršac, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kovačica, Pančevo, Plandište and Sečanj. The table below contains data on the number of schools, classes and pupils attending classes in Romanian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	9	18	99	1.015
2014/15	9	18	97	921
2015/16	9	17	90	874

385. Studying the subject of Romanian Language with Elements of National Culture in the 2015/16 school year was organised in primary schools in AP Vojvodina (in Alibunar, Bač, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kovačica, Kovin, Pančevo, Plandište and Sečanj), Eastern Serbia (in Boljevac, Bor, Veliko Gradište, Žabari, Zaječar, Kladovo, Majdanpek, Mali Crnić, Negotin and Petrovac na Mlavi) and in Ovča settlement in the Belgrade municipality of Palilula. The table below contains data on the number of schools, classes and pupils studying this subject.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	14	21	37	516
2014/15	15	20	34	520
2015/16	18	24	43	535

Secondary Education

c

- (i) *to make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) *to make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) *to provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

386. The entire teaching in Romanian takes place at the Grammar School in Vršac. The table below contains data on the number of schools, classes and pupils attending classes in Romanian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of pupils
2013/14	1	1	4	82
2014/15	1	1	4	84
2015/16	1	1	4	82

387. Since the 2013/14 school year, in addition to grammar schools in AP Vojvodina, the subject of Romanian Language with Elements of National Culture is also being studied in Eastern Serbia. Teaching is organised in grammar schools in Zaječar, Kladovo and Negotin. Due to the insufficient interest of the students in the Grammar School in Negotin, the teaching of this subject was not organised in the following school years. Studying the subject of Romanian Language with Elements of National Culture in the 2015/16 school year was organised in grammar schools in Zaječar, Kladovo and Kovačica. The table below contains data on the number of schools, classes and pupils studying the subject.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of pupils
2013/14	4	4	9	59
2014/15	3	3	7	64
2015/16	3	2	7	66

Technical and Vocational Education

d

- (i) *to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) *to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) *to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*

- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

388. Teaching in Romanian is organised at the Technical School in Alibunar. The table below contains data on the number of classes and pupils attending classes in Romanian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	1	1	4	107
2014/15	1	1	4	120
2015/16	1	1	4	113

389. The subject of Romanian Language with Elements of National Culture in secondary technical and vocational schools has been studied in Eastern Serbia since the 2013/14 school year. In the 2015/16 school year, the study of this subject was organised in Zaječar, Kladovo and Kučevo. The table below contains data on the number of schools, classes and pupils studying the subject.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	2	4	28	123
2014/15	2	3	14	63
2015/16	3	4	19	90

Adult Education

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.*

390. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled pupils opt for teaching in that language. Since, until now, there has not been an adult education school, in which at least 50% opted for teaching in Romanian, adult education does not take place in that language.

391. When teaching the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture, a school can form a group at the level of the appropriate education cycle, i.e. a group consisting of first to fourth grade pupils (pupils of the first educational cycle) and/or a group composed of fifth to eighth grade pupils (pupils of the second educational cycle). The group must have at least 15 students, and for groups of less than 15, it is necessary to obtain the approval of the responsible Minister. The teaching of this elective subject in primary school is financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary

schools and adult education schools may be borne by the National Council of the National Minority, local self-government unit, or classes are realized through project activity. Considering that there was no initiation of activities for the realization of the study of the Romanian Language with Elements of National Culture, this subject is not taught in the schools for adult education.

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

392. In the Republic of Serbia, this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in primary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The curriculum of the subjects *The World Around Us* and *Nature and Society* gradually develops the principle of homeland, which implies that all subjects cover the specific area where the pupils live. The content of these subjects is designed to foster a sense of identity and develop tolerance and awareness of belonging to a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional community. This is supported, upgraded, expanded and deepened by the content and activities included in other subjects: Music Education, Fine Arts, Serbian, Physical Education, etc. As far as the subject *Fine Arts* is concerned, the syllabus is designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and is linked in particular with the subjects *The World Around Us*, *Nature and Society* and the mother tongue. Approved textbooks have also been translated into Romanian. Teaching and learning the subject of *History* in the second cycle of primary education and upbringing (from the fifth to the eighth grade) includes content that is relevant for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of minority nations. The curriculum of the subject *Fine Arts* contains syllabus units, each of which is taught on examples from the heritage of culture, among which there are works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. Approved textbooks have also been translated into Romanian. At the level of secondary education, the curriculum includes the subject of *Fine Arts* in Grammar Schools (for four-year and two-year studies, depending on the orientation), which also covers the history of art. It is studied chronologically and in correlation with the syllabus for the subject *History*. Since the existing curricula do not cover works of art and cultural monuments belonging to the heritage of ethnic minorities, the National Councils of National Minorities are preparing a supplement to the curricula. Since cultural heritage is taught chronologically, it is not possible to supplement the curriculum to cover the cultural heritage of each national minority in each grade. Therefore, every National Council of National Minority is preparing a supplement to the curriculum from the period when its people/state originated.

393. In the past period, a document was prepared on how to adapt the curricula in multi-ethnic environments, with emphasis on intercultural learning, the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years, the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted, with new curricula that are clearly linked with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 - Judicial Authorities

Paragraph 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:

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.

394. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter provided information on the regulations which afford litigants, witnesses and other participants the right to use their own language during the court proceedings and even before a court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which litigants use one of the minority languages, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, information on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters in which the litigants used Romanian is not available.

395. It has already been stated that the legislative framework provides for the possibility of conducting the entire court proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, those court proceedings are recorded separately. According to the records of the Administrative Court, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no court cases requiring the proceedings to be conducted in Romanian. All lawsuits were filed in Serbian, both by the prosecutors themselves and by the proxies from the ranks of lawyers who were hired by the prosecutors for representation. The Administrative Court provides a translation through a court interpreter at the request of the client and at the expense of the court's budget.

Paragraph 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.

396. Since the submission of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia has continued to translate the most important legal texts into minority languages, especially those that are relevant to speakers of these languages.

397. After the adoption of the Constitutional Court Decision which ruled that certain Articles of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were not in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (2014) and the adoption of amendments to that law (2014), the Law on National Councils of National Minorities was translated into Romanian. The new bylaws for the implementation of this law have also been translated into Romanian:

the Rulebook on the Method of Registering and Keeping a Register of National Councils and the Rulebook on the Manner of Keeping a Separate Electoral Roll of the National Minority.

398. Since elections for National Councils of National Minorities were held in 2014, all bylaws relevant for the conduct of elections have also been translated into Romanian, including: Rulebook on the Form and Content of the Form for Collecting Signatures of Voters who Support Electors; Instructions on the Conduct of Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Handbook for Conducting Electoral Actions in the Procedure for Conducting Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, scheduled for October 26, 2014; Rules on the Work of the Polling Boards for the Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, as well as all necessary forms and other election materials necessary for the conduct of elections.

Article 10 - Administrative Authorities and Public Services

Paragraph 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.

399. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Speakers of minority languages have the right to submit oral and written applications to the republic authorities in those languages and to receive an answer in that language.

400. The administrative districts, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, established for the purpose of carrying out state administration activities outside the headquarters of the state administration bodies, can be taken as an illustration for the implementation of regulations which have established the right to use the minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority language speakers are concentrated. For example, in the South Banat Administrative District, in resolving administrative matters in the first instance or ruling on an appeal when the holders of public powers were resolving it in the first instance, and when exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection, there were neither oral nor written applications in Romanian.

Paragraph 2

In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages in 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.*

401. The legislative framework regarding the submission of applications in minority languages to regional authorities in the period to which the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter relates has not been changed in relation to the previous period.

402. The languages of national minorities that are in official use in the work of autonomous province bodies are determined by the Statute of AP Vojvodina, and Romanian is established as one of the languages in official use in the bodies and organisations of the AP Vojvodina. Accordingly, there is a possibility for people who speak Romanian to use it in oral and written communication with the provincial authorities. This means that it is possible to use Romanian in telephone communication, conversations in the reception and other offices of the authorities, as well as the submission of requests, applications, complaints and other submissions in Romanian and receiving answers in that language.

403. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities provides oral and written translation from Serbian into Romanian and vice versa, and the translation services of this Secretariat are used by all provincial bodies and organisations.

404. In provincial bodies and organisations, the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces also foresees workplaces for which the condition is the knowledge of the language of the national minority in official use, so that citizens can exercise the right to the official use of language and script.

405. In the course of 2015, the Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman has conducted a survey on the knowledge of the languages and scripts of national minorities that are in equal official use in the bodies of the provincial administration²⁰. Within the survey, data was collected on the internal organisation and Systematisation of jobs in the bodies of the provincial administration and on the number of employees with the knowledge of some of the languages that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina.

406. The results of the survey show that out of the 13 provincial authorities covered by the survey, in accordance with the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces, 5 bodies envisaged workplaces for which the requirement is the knowledge of the language of the national

²⁰ As a result of this survey, the publication titled *Knowledge of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, Which are in Equal Official Use in the Bodies of the Provincial Administration*, is available on the web address: www.omudsmanapv.org.

minority in official use. However, the survey also shows that in those bodies where this is not envisaged by the Bylaw on Systematisation, there are also employees who speak the languages of national minorities that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina. The said results are presented in the table below.

Name of Authority	Number of systematised workplaces for which the knowledge of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies is prescribed as a condition	Number of employees with the knowledge of some of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies
Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality	0	4
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	3	16
Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth	0	3
Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	11	35
Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Energy and Mineral Resources	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Finance	0	3
Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	0	6
Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government	19	5
Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection	0	11
Provincial Secretariat for Health Care, Social Policy and Demography	1	11
Department for Joint Affairs of Regional Authorities	0	22
Human Resources Management Service	1	2

407. The results of the survey on the knowledge of Romanian are shown in the table below.

Name of Authority	Number of employees with the knowledge of Romanian
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	2
Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth	2
Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	6
Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	1
Provincial Secretariat for Health Care, Social Policy and Demography	1
Department for Joint Affairs of Regional Authorities	2

Paragraph 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.*

408. In section 4.3.8. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter it is underlined that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous province bodies and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who know a minority language, including Romanian, to be appointed in the territories in which those languages are used.

409. Based on the available data and information obtained from public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia, which took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report²¹, it can be concluded that, even though in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there have been no requests from employees who know the minority language, including Romanian, to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used, there is a general readiness to meet the potential requirements. For example, PE *Srbijagas* points out that if employees know some of the minority languages, they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. PE *Pošta Srbije* stated that in the appointment of employees on certain jobs, persons are hired according to the place of residence, which also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with the users of their services. When it comes to behind the counter jobs or delivery of postal mail, the usual practice of this company is to appoint an employee who knows the minority language. This way of doing business provides the beneficiaries of postal services with a wide possibility of using minority language in communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles to accommodate an employee who knows a minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

410. Based on the information received from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this report, it can be concluded that the local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, do not have any knowledge, or emphasize that in the given period there were no requests of employees in local public services to be deployed or appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but also that there are no obstacles to meet such requests.

Paragraph 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.

²¹ PE *Elektroprivreda Srbije*, EPS *Distribucija*, PE *Pošta Srbije*, PE *Srbijagas* and Telekom *Srbija*.

411. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter detail the legislative framework for the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to write their personal name according to their language and spelling. The exercise of the right to enter a personal name in the register, at the request of the persons concerned, in the minority language and spelling, has been ensured by the regulations throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

412. That the right to enter a personal name in the register in Romanian is exercised in practice, can be confirmed by the examples obtained from the Registry Offices, which are contained in the table below.

Local Self-Government Unit	Number of personal name entries in Romanian		
	2013	2014	2015
Alibunar	1	-	3
Bela Crkva	1	-	-
Vršac	-	-	3
Žitište	-	4	1
Zrenjanin	2	1	-
Kovin	1	-	2
Kovačica	3	1	3
Pančevo ²²			3

413. In addition, as outlined in the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable those local self-government units where a minority is in official use according to their statutes to print the registry certificate forms bilingually, in Serbian and in the minority language that is in official use. The table below shows data on issued registry certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Romanian forms.

Local Self-Government Unit	Number of issued certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Romanian forms		
	2013	2014	2015
Alibunar	-	1	2
Bela Crkva	2	2	2
Vršac	44	33	41
Žitište	4	-	-
Pančevo ²³			3
Sečanj ²⁴			15

414. In the Republic of Serbia, registrars are continually trained to ensure consistent implementation of the legal provisions which allow for recording of personal names in appropriate records in minority languages and scripts. In accordance with the established Training Plan in 2015, and in connection with the implementation of laws and other regulations governing the way of entering personal names of members of national minorities in the registers in the language and script of the national minority, the trainings of the registrars and deputy registrars keeping the registers in all administrative bodies entrusted

²² The stated number of entries in the city of Pančevo refers to the entire reporting period.

²³ The stated number of issued certificates in the city of Pančevo refers to the entire reporting period.

²⁴ Municipality of Sečanj has provided data only for 2015.

with the tasks of the registers. A total of eight trainings were organised (in Niš, Belgrade, Pirot, Zlatibor, Novi Sad and Subotica), attended by a total of 335 registrars and deputy registrars.

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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.

415. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter described the power granted to the National Councils of National Minorities under the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) in terms of advocating the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various media administration and professional bodies at the national level.

416. The interests of minority language users are also safeguarded by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an autonomous and independent regulatory organisation, with the status of a legal entity, which performs public powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, in a manner appropriate to a democratic society.

417. The scope of work of the Regulator includes the following: it determines the Proposal for the development of media service of the radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia, which is adopted by the Government; issues licenses for providing media services to television and linear media services of the radio; more closely regulates the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such licences; maintains the Register of media services and records of media service providers upon request; controls the work of media service providers and imposes measures in accordance with the law; establishes closer rules regarding the programme contents in relation to protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, protection of the rights of minors, prohibition of hate speech, etc.; encourages the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as the culture and language of national minorities; encourages the development of creativity in the field of radio, television and other audio-visual media services, as well as the development of professionalism in electronic media and the improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

418. The Regulator's bodies are the Regulator's Council and the President of the Council. The Regulator's Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the areas of relevance to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Regulator's Council are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. Among these authorised proposers, as already discussed, are National Councils of National Minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator's Council by joint agreement.

Article 12 - Cultural Activities and Facilities

Paragraph 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:

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, overdubbing and subtitling activities.

419. Support to minority languages and cultures from budget funds is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through the competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all fields of creative work, where members of national minorities, or speakers of minority languages, have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007 a specialized competition for the cultural activities of national minorities has been announced. This competition also envisages, inter alia, the co-financing of projects that enable the availability of cultural contents for a wider circle of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, overdubbing a theatre performance, etc.

420. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works created in Romanian would be translated into Serbian as the majority language, or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, there were no applications for overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Romanian into Serbian or some other minority language.

421. From the budget of AP Vojvodina funds are allocated, inter alia, for co-financing of programmes/projects that are of wider regional significance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina and the development of the culture of members of national minorities. Funds are allocated on the basis of announced competitions annually for co-financing of programmes and projects and in the field of publishing activity (publication, translation and distribution of works by authors who create in minority languages), publishing of magazines, preparation of theatrical performances, promotion of film production and broadcasting of TV programmes in the fields of culture and art.

422. Co-financed projects in the field of culture related to Romanian during this period concerned, inter alia, 41 projects in the field of publishing activity, and 10 projects in the field of publishing magazines and publications. However, there were no applications for co-financing of translation projects, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Romanian into Serbian or some other minority languages.

c to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitling activities.

423. The competition for cultural activities of national minorities, which is announced at the national level, provides the possibility of co-financing and projects related to translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into another minority language.

424. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works produced in the Serbian language or some other minority language would be translated into Romanian.

425. The national budget also provides funding for overdubbing and subtitling the translations. However, it is not possible to accurately determine the amount of funds provided, because they are defined collectively and for various purposes (film production, cooperation, promotion). For example, according to the Law on Cinematography, the Film Centre of Serbia has been entrusted with the tasks of co-financing film production through a competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information, by the agreement on co-financing the programme of this institution, defines the funds for co-financing projects through these competitions, inter alia, for co-financing films in different categories, as well as participation of co-financed films at international film festivals. Within this budget line, it is possible to pay for the costs of translation, overdubbing and subtitling, and the total planned funds at the annual level are RSD 2,600,000.00. During this period, translations of 18 films into Romanian were co-financed, which took part in the manifestation "Days of Serbian Film in Romania".

426. For co-financing of projects related to the translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or some other minority language into Romanian, no applications were made for the allocation of funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

Paragraph 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.

427. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity in minority languages is supported by the republic budget throughout the country. As already stated, funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved exclusively through the competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The right to

participate in the competition is provided for institutions, arts and other associations and organisations/legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories where it is not the case. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity of speakers of minority languages and their cultures. In order to provide financial support from budget funds, the most important is the quality of the project, as well as the fulfilment of clearly defined criteria described in the competition.

428. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Romanian were approved for projects that were realized on the territories in which this minority language is traditionally used. There were no applications for realization of projects in the field of culture from the territories in which Romanian is not traditionally used.

Article 14 - Transfrontier Exchanges

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.*

429. As outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia is a legal successor of bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities with several states. These agreements stipulate that special intergovernmental mixed bodies shall observe the degree of fulfilment of the obligations arising from the concluded agreements. Based on the Agreement between the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of Romania on Cooperation in the Field of Protection of National Minorities (2004), the Intergovernmental Joint Committee was established between the Republic of Serbia and Romania for national minorities. The primary objective of the Committee is to periodically analyse the implementation of the Agreement as well as other obligations undertaken by the Republic of Serbia and Romania in the field of protection and development of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities. The Committee started its work in 2009 and held two sessions.

430. At the last session held in 2011, the Committee, in addition to analysing the main problems faced by the members of national minorities, proposed measures and recommendations aimed at improving the situation of national minorities. Part of the recommendations relate to education, culture and information of members of the Romanian national minority in the Republic of Serbia, of which several successfully implemented recommendations are given as an example.

431. One of the recommendations in the field of information related to the *initiation of the exchange of radio and television programmes that are of interest to two minorities at the level of public services*. Cooperation between the Broadcasting Institution of Vojvodina and the Regional Studio of RTV Romania in Timisoara started in 2011 and covers the exchange of programmes and participation in joint projects.

432. Implementation of the recommendation regarding the *provision of education in the mother tongue for the members of the Romanian national minority from Eastern Serbia* started in 2013, and in the 2015/16 school year, studying of the subject Romanian Language with Elements of National Culture was organised in 16 institutions of primary and secondary education for 334 students.

433. Regarding the recommendation to *provide education in Romanian even if the number of students in one class is lower than the law envisaged for students of the majority population*, it is continuously implemented, so in the 2015/16 school year, in 15 primary schools there were 62 classes in Romanian language with less than 15 students, meaning the average number of students per class was 7.84

434. In the upcoming period, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Romania on cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture, media, youth and sports is expected to be concluded. The wording of this agreement is in the phase of harmonization with the representatives of Romania. The draft of the said agreement, inter alia, contains provisions that stipulate that it is necessary to fully meet the educational needs of members of the Serbian minority in Romania and of the Romanian minority in the Republic of Serbia, especially in the fields of Serbian and Romanian language, literature and culture. To this end, the draft agreement stipulates that the relevant institutions in the two countries will agree on forms of cooperation, taking into account the proposals of representatives of national minorities through: sending experts and teachers; sending of manuals, books, publications and supply of school libraries; organising seminars; granting scholarships, etc. The Parties to the agreement shall encourage the development and improvement of the cooperation of media and professional media organisations in the two countries. Special attention will be paid to facilitating access to media in the mother tongue of the Serbian minority in Romania and the Romanian minority in Serbia.

4.1.7. RUTHENIAN LANGUAGE

435. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Ruthenian language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Technical and Vocational Education

- d*
 - (i) *to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
 - (ii) *to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
 - (iii) *to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
 - (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

436. Teaching in Ruthenian or the study of Ruthenian Language with Elements of National Culture is not organised in any technical or vocational school. So far, the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority has not made any initiative for the introduction of teaching in Ruthenian or the study of the subjects of Ruthenian Language with Elements of National Culture in technical and vocational schools.

Adult Education

- 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.*

437. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled pupils opt for teaching in that language. Since, until now, there has not been an adult

education school, in which at least 50% opted for teaching in Ruthenian, adult education does not take place in that language.

438. When teaching the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture, a school can form a group at the level of the appropriate education cycle, i.e. a group consisting of first to fourth grade pupils (pupils of the first educational cycle) and/or a group composed of fifth to eighth grade pupils (pupils of the second educational cycle). The group must have at least 15 students, and for groups of less than 15, it is necessary to obtain the approval of the responsible Minister. The teaching of this elective subject in primary school is financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary schools and adult education schools may be borne by the National Council of the National Minority, local self-government unit, or classes are realized through project activity. Considering that there was no initiation of activities for the realization of the study of the Ruthenian Language with Elements of National Culture, this subject is not taught in the schools for adult education.

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

439. In the Republic of Serbia, this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in primary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The curriculum of the subjects *The World Around Us* and *Nature and Society* gradually develops the principle of homeland, which implies that all subjects cover the specific area where the pupils live. The content of these subjects is designed to foster a sense of identity and develop tolerance and awareness of belonging to a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional community. This is supported, upgraded, expanded and deepened by the content and activities included in other subjects: Music Education, Fine Arts, Serbian, Physical Education, etc. As far as the subject *Fine Arts* is concerned, the syllabus is designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and is linked in particular with the subjects *The World Around Us*, *Nature and Society* and the mother tongue. Approved textbooks have also been translated into Ruthenian. Teaching and learning the subject of *History* in the second cycle of primary education and upbringing (from the fifth to the eighth grade) includes content that is relevant for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of minority nations. The curriculum of the subject *Fine Arts* contains programme units, each of which is taught on examples from the heritage of culture, among which there are works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. Approved textbooks have also been translated into Ruthenian. At the level of secondary education, the curriculum includes the subject of *Fine Arts* in Grammar Schools (for four-year and two-year studies, depending on the orientation), which also covers the history of art. It is studied chronologically and in correlation with the syllabus for the subject *History*. Since the existing curricula do not cover works of art and cultural monuments belonging to the heritage of ethnic minorities, the National Councils of National Minorities are preparing a supplement to the curricula. Since cultural heritage is taught chronologically, it is

not possible to supplement the curriculum to cover the cultural heritage of each national minority in each grade. Therefore, every National Council of National Minority is preparing a supplement to the curriculum from the period when its people/state originated.

440. In the past period, a document was prepared on how to adapt the curricula in multi-ethnic environments, with emphasis on intercultural learning, the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years, the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted, with new curricula that are clearly linked with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 - Judicial Authorities

Paragraph 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:

a in criminal proceedings:

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

441. Section 4.2.2. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter presents a legislative and legal framework on the right of participants in criminal proceedings to use their language and script. The regulations stipulate that courts in the Republic of Serbia record only the proceedings, including criminal ones, which are entirely conducted in the languages of national minorities in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages.

442. Bearing in mind that there is no legal obligation for the courts to keep records of cases in which the defendant uses a minority language, there is no available systematised data on the number of criminal cases in which the defendant used Ruthenian.

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.

443. As already explained, there are no records in the Republic of Serbia about the use of a minority language of the litigant before the courts because there is no legal obligation to record court proceedings in which the litigant uses the minority language. For this reason, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there are no systematised data and/or single records on the number of civil lawsuits in which the litigants used Ruthenian.

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.*

444. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter provided information on the regulations which afford litigants, witnesses and other participants the right to use their own language during the court proceedings and even before a court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which litigants use one of the minority languages, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, information on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters in which the litigants used Ruthenian is not available.

445. It has already been stated that the legislative framework provides for the possibility of conducting the entire court proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, those court proceedings are recorded separately. According to the records of the Administrative Court, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no court cases requiring the proceedings to be conducted in Ruthenian. All lawsuits were filed in Serbian, both by the prosecutors themselves and by the proxies from the ranks of lawyers who were hired by the prosecutors for representation. The Administrative Court provides a translation through a court interpreter at the request of the client and at the expense of the court's budget.

Paragraph 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.

446. Since the submission of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia has continued to translate the most important legal texts into minority languages, especially those that are relevant to speakers of these languages.

447. After the adoption of the Constitutional Court Decision which ruled that certain Articles of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were not in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (2014) and the adoption of amendments to that law (2014), the Law on National Councils of National Minorities was translated into Ruthenian. The new bylaws for the implementation of this law have also been translated into Ruthenian: the Rulebook on the Method of Registering and Keeping a Register of National Councils and the Rulebook on the Manner of Keeping a Separate Electoral Roll of the National Minority.

448. Since elections for National Councils of National Minorities were held in 2014, all bylaws relevant for the conduct of elections have also been translated into Ruthenian, including: Rulebook on the Form and Content of the Form for Collecting Signatures of Voters who Support Electors; Instructions on the Conduct of Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Handbook for Conducting Electoral Actions in the Procedure for Conducting Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National

Minorities, scheduled for October 26, 2014; Rules on the Work of the Polling Boards for the Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, as well as all necessary forms and other election materials necessary for the conduct of elections.

Article 10 - Administrative Authorities and Public Services

Paragraph 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.

449. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Speakers of minority languages have the right to submit oral and written applications to the republic authorities in those languages and to receive an answer in that language.

450. The administrative districts, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, established for the purpose of carrying out state administration activities outside the headquarters of the state administration bodies, can be taken as an illustration for the implementation of regulations which have established the right to use the minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority language speakers are concentrated. For example, in the South Bačka Administrative District, in resolving administrative matters in the first instance or ruling on an appeal when the holders of public powers were resolving it in the first instance, and when exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection, there were neither oral nor written applications in Ruthenian.

Paragraph 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.

451. The legislative framework regarding the submission of applications in minority languages to regional authorities in the period to which the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter relates has not been changed in relation to the previous period.

452. The languages of national minorities that are in official use in the work of autonomous province bodies are determined by the Statute of AP Vojvodina, and Ruthenian is established as one of the languages in official use in the bodies and organisations of the AP Vojvodina. Accordingly, there is a possibility for people who speak Ruthenian to use it in oral and written communication with the provincial authorities. This means that it is possible to use Ruthenian in telephone communication, conversations in the reception and other offices of the authorities, as well as the submission of requests, applications, complaints and other submissions in Ruthenian and receiving answers in that language.

453. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities provides oral and written translation from Serbian into Ruthenian and vice versa, and the translation services of this Secretariat are used by all provincial bodies and organisations.

454. In provincial bodies and organisations, the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces also foresees workplaces for which the condition is the knowledge of the language of the national minority in official use, so that citizens can exercise the right to the official use of language and script.

455. In the course of 2015, the Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman has conducted a survey on the knowledge of the languages and scripts of national minorities that are in equal official use in the bodies of the provincial administration. Within the survey, data was collected on the internal organisation and Systematisation of jobs in the bodies of the provincial administration and on the number of employees with the knowledge of some of the languages that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina.

456. The results of the survey show that out of the 13 provincial authorities covered by the survey, in accordance with the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces, 5 bodies envisaged workplaces for which the requirement is the knowledge of the language of the national minority in official use. However, the survey also shows that in those bodies where this is not envisaged by the Bylaw on Systematisation, there are also employees who speak the languages of national minorities that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina. The said results are presented in the table below.

Name of Authority	Number of systematised workplaces for which the knowledge of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies is prescribed as a condition	Number of employees with the knowledge of some of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies
Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality	0	4
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	3	16
Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth	0	3

Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	11	35
Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Energy and Mineral Resources	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Finance	0	3
Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	0	6
Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government	19	5
Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection	0	11
Provincial Secretariat for Health Care, Social Policy and Demography	1	11
Department for Joint Affairs of Regional Authorities	0	22
Human Resources Management Service	1	2

457. The results of the survey on the knowledge of Ruthenian are shown in the table below.

Name of Authority	Number of employees with the knowledge of Ruthenian
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	1
Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	3
Department for Joint Affairs of Regional Authorities	2

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.

458. In addition to printing and placing boards with names of populated places, which was discussed in more detail in section 4.3.6. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, traditional forms of the names of populated places in minority languages can also be used on the boards with the names of the institutions, memoranda and seals of the bodies of local self-government units, on public documents, etc.

459. The local self-government units in which Ruthenian is in official use, in respect to the practice of using traditional forms of place-names in Ruthenian, provided the following data.

Local Self-Government Unit	Boards at the entrance to a populated place with traditional names in Ruthenian	Boards with names of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Ruthenian	Seals of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Ruthenian
Bačka Topola	Bačka Topola, Stara Moravica, Novo Orahovo,	yes	yes

	Bajša		
Vrbas	yes	yes	yes
Žabalj	Đurđevo	yes	yes
Kula	yes	yes	yes
Novi Sad	Novi Sad, Budisava, Rumenka, Kisač	yes	yes
Šid	Bikić Do, Baćinci, Berkasovo	yes	yes

460. Traditional forms of names of populated places in minority languages are also used in the forms of request for enrolment or deletion from the separate electoral roll of the national minority. The said forms are translated into Ruthenian, and when filling out the section on the place of residence, the traditional name of the populated place in Ruthenian can be used. The said data is also entered in the identical way in the separate electoral roll of the national minority.

461. Since the law provides for the official use of the Ruthenian language and script on ballot papers and electoral material, there are many examples of the use of traditional forms of the names of populated places in the electoral process. In the process of conducting elections for National Councils of National Minorities, traditional forms of place-names are used in the minutes on the work of the polling board in the conduct of voting and in determining the results of voting for the election of members of National Councils of National Minorities; on control sheets for checking the correctness of the voting box for the election of members of National Councils of National Minorities; electoral lists of candidates for members of National Councils of National Minorities; decisions on the establishment of a collective electoral list for members of National Councils of National Minorities; forms for collecting signatures of voters who support electors, voter right certificates for voting outside the polling place, etc.

462. When local elections are held, traditional forms of place-names are used in decisions on the allocation of candidates' mandates for councillors of Municipal/City Assemblies; on the electoral lists for councillors of Municipal/City Assemblies; decisions on establishing a collective electoral list of candidates for councillors of Municipal/City Assemblies, etc.

463. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities announced the competitions for distribution of budget funds to bodies and organisations in the territory of AP Vojvodina in whose work languages and scripts of national minorities are in official use, on which RSD 9,500,000.00 is distributed every year. Funds are awarded at competitions for training of employees in bodies and organisations where they use the language of a national minority, which is established as a language in official use, and especially in workplaces where contact with the parties is realized (participation in courses, seminars, etc.), for the development of the electronic administration system for work in conditions of multilingualism and for the production of multilingual boards, forms and publications.

464. In 2014, out of the total amount of funds allocated in the Competition, RSD

8,058,400.00 was allocated for the production of multilingual boards, forms and publications, where the traditional names of populated places in minority languages were written, while in the competition in 2015, for the creation and putting up of multilingual boards, RSD 8,542,000.00 was allocated. In all these competitions, bodies and organisations from certain local self-government units in which Ruthenian is in official use were also involved, and the traditional names of populated places in Ruthenian were used on the boards.

Paragraph 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.*

465. In section 4.3.8. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter it is underlined that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous province bodies and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who know a minority language, including Ruthenian, to be appointed in the territories in which those languages are used.

466. Based on the available data and information obtained from public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia, which took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report²⁵, it can be concluded that, even though in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there have been no requests from employees who know the minority language, including Ruthenian, to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used, there is a general readiness to meet the potential requirements. For example, PE *Srbijagas* points out that if employees know some of the minority languages, they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. PE *Pošta Srbije* stated that in the appointment of employees on certain jobs, persons are hired according to the place of residence, which also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with the users of their services. When it comes to behind the counter jobs or delivery of postal mail, the usual practice of this company is to appoint an employee who knows the minority language. This way of doing business provides the beneficiaries of postal services with a wide possibility of using minority language in communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles to accommodate an employee who knows a minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

467. Based on the information received from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this report, it can be concluded that the local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, do not have any knowledge, or emphasize

²⁵ PE *Elektroprivreda Srbije*, *EPS Distribucija*, *PE Pošta Srbije*, *PE Srbijagas* and *Telekom Srbija*.

that in the given period there were no requests of employees in local public services to be deployed or appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but also that there are no obstacles to meet such requests.

Paragraph 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.

468. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter detail the legislative framework for the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to write their personal name according to their language and spelling. The exercise of the right to enter a personal name in the register, at the request of the persons concerned, in the minority language and spelling, has been ensured by the regulations throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

469. That the right to enter a personal name in the register in Ruthenian is exercised in practice, can be confirmed by the examples obtained from the Registry Offices, which are contained in the table below.

Local Self-Government Unit	Number of personal name entries in Ruthenian		
	2013	2014	2015
Vrbas	-	1	-
Stara Pazova	-	-	1

470. In addition, as outlined in the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable those local self-government units where a minority is in official use according to their statutes to print the registry certificate forms bilingually, in Serbian and in the minority language that is in official use. The table below shows data on issued registry certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Ruthenian forms.

Local Self-Government Unit	Number of issued certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Ruthenian forms		
	2013	2014	2015
Vrbas	-	2	-

471. For the purpose of informing members of national minorities with the right to enter a personal name in the registers in the language and script of the national minority, the Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government has submitted to the bodies that perform the entrusted tasks of keeping the registers an example Notice on the procedure and manner of entering the personal name of the national minority member in the registers for the purpose of highlighting it on bulletin boards of all registration areas of cities and/or municipalities for which the registers are kept. In the local self-government units in which the statute provides that a language spoken by members of a national minority is in official use, it is required to issue a notice in the language and script of the national minority.

472. No complaints of the members of Ruthenian national minority have been filed to the Administrative Inspectorate that supervises the application of the Law on Registers in connection with the inability to exercise the right to enter a personal name in Ruthenian language.

473. In the Republic of Serbia, registrars are continually trained to ensure consistent implementation of the legal provisions which allow for recording of personal names in appropriate records in minority languages and scripts. In accordance with the established Training Plan in 2015, and in connection with the implementation of laws and other regulations governing the way of entering personal names of members of national minorities in the registers in the language and script of the national minority, the trainings of the registrars and deputy registrars keeping the registers in all administrative bodies entrusted with the tasks of the registers. A total of eight trainings were organised (in Niš, Belgrade, Pirot, Zlatibor, Novi Sad and Subotica), attended by a total of 335 registrars and deputy registrars.

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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.

474. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter described the power granted to the National Councils of National Minorities under the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) in terms of advocating the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various media administration and professional bodies at the national level.

475. The interests of minority language users are also safeguarded by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an autonomous and independent regulatory organisation, with the status of a legal entity, which performs public powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, in a manner appropriate to a democratic society.

476. The scope of work of the Regulator includes the following: it determines the Proposal for the development of media service of the radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia, which is adopted by the Government; issues licenses for providing media services to television and linear media services of the radio; more closely regulates the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such licences; maintains the Register of media

services and records of media service providers upon request; controls the work of media service providers and imposes measures in accordance with the law; establishes closer rules regarding the programme contents in relation to protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, protection of the rights of minors, prohibition of hate speech, etc.; encourages the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as the culture and language of national minorities; encourages the development of creativity in the field of radio, television and other audio-visual media services, as well as the development of professionalism in electronic media and the improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

477. The Regulator's bodies are the Regulator's Council and the President of the Council. The Regulator's Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the areas of relevance to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Regulator's Council are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. Among these authorised proposers, as already discussed, are National Councils of National Minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator's Council by joint agreement.

Article 12 - Cultural Activities and Facilities

Paragraph 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:

- 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, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

478. Support to minority languages and cultures from budget funds is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through the competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all fields of creative work, where members of national minorities, or speakers of minority languages, have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007 a specialized competition for the cultural activities of national minorities has been announced. This competition also envisages, inter alia, the co-financing of projects that enable the availability of cultural contents for a wider circle of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, overdubbing a theatre performance, etc.

479. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works created in Ruthenian would be translated into Serbian as the majority language, or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, there were no applications for overdubbing and

subtitling the translations of works created in Ruthenian into Serbian or some other minority language.

480. From the budget of AP Vojvodina funds are allocated, inter alia, for co-financing of programmes/projects that are of wider regional significance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina and the development of the culture of members of national minorities. Funds are allocated on the basis of announced competitions annually for co-financing of programmes and projects and in the field of publishing activity (publication, translation and distribution of works by authors who create in minority languages), publishing of magazines, preparation of theatrical performances, promotion of film production and broadcasting of TV programmes in the fields of culture and art.

481. Co-financed projects in the field of culture related to Ruthenian during this period concerned, inter alia, 31 projects in the field of publishing activity, and 16 projects in the field of publishing magazines and publications. However, there were no applications for co-financing of translation projects, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Ruthenian into Serbian or some other minority languages.

c to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitling activities.

482. The competition for cultural activities of national minorities, which is announced at the national level, provides the possibility of co-financing and projects related to translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into another minority language.

483. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works produced in the Serbian language or some other minority language would be translated into Ruthenian. There were also no applications for co-financing of overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or some other minority language into Ruthenian.

484. For co-financing of projects related to the translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or some other minority language into Ruthenian, no applications were made for the allocation of funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

Paragraph 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.

485. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity in minority languages is supported by the republic budget throughout the country. As already stated, funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved

exclusively through the competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The right to participate in the competition is provided for institutions, arts and other associations and organisations/legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories where it is not the case. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity of speakers of minority languages and their cultures. In order to provide financial support from budget funds, the most important is the quality of the project, as well as the fulfilment of clearly defined criteria described in the competition.

486. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Ruthenian were approved for projects that were realized on the territories in which this minority language is traditionally used. There were no applications for realization of projects in the field of culture from the territories in which Ruthenian is not traditionally used.

Article 14 - Transfrontier Exchanges

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.*

487. The Ruthenians do not have their home country and members of the Ruthenian national minority live in several countries: Croatia, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, etc. So far, the Republic of Serbia has not concluded agreements with other countries on cooperation in order to improve the contact between users of Ruthenian language in the fields of culture, education, information, training and continuing education. Ruthenians living in the Republic of Serbia cooperate with their compatriots from other countries, and the most common forms of cooperation are mutual visits of cultural and artistic societies and local sports clubs (mainly with Croatia, Slovakia and Ukraine). In 2013, the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority signed a Protocol on Cooperation to Preserve the Identity of the Ruthenian National Minority with the Coordination of the Ruthenian National Minority in the Republic of Croatia.

- b for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate 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.*

488. At the initiative of the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority, in 2013, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Zakarpatian State Administration (Ukraine) and the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, and in 2014 the Joint Statement on Cooperation between the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the Region of

Prešov (Slovak Republic). Both documents envisage mutual cooperation and strengthening the links between members of the Ruthenian national minority in neighbouring countries. On the basis of these two agreements, cooperation between the educational and cultural institutions of these regions is being realized. In addition, there is cooperation between local self-governments or local communities based on signed mutual agreements with settlements in other countries inhabited by members of the Ruthenian community.

4.1.8. SLOVAK LANGUAGE

489. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Slovak language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Technical and Vocational Education

d

- (i) to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

490. The entire teaching in Slovak takes place in the Secondary Technical School in Novi Sad. The table below contains the number of classes and the number of students attending the entire teaching in Slovak.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	1	1	2	55
2014/15	1	1	4	97
2015/16	1	1	4	115

491. The subject of Slovak Language with Elements of National Culture is studied in three secondary technical schools in Bačka Palanka, Kovačica and Stara Pazova. The table below contains data on the number of classes and pupils studying the Slovak Language with Elements of National Culture.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	3	3	10	52

2014/15	3	3	8	14
2015/16	3	3	7	17

Adult Education

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.*

492. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled pupils opt for teaching in that language. Since, until now, there has not been an adult education school, in which at least 50% opted for teaching in Slovak, adult education does not take place in that language.

493. When teaching the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture, a school can form a group at the level of the appropriate education cycle, i.e. a group consisting of first to fourth grade pupils (pupils of the first educational cycle) and/or a group composed of fifth to eighth grade pupils (pupils of the second educational cycle). The group must have at least 15 students, and for groups of less than 15, it is necessary to obtain the approval of the responsible Minister. The teaching of this elective subject in primary school is financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary schools and adult education schools may be borne by the National Council of the National Minority, local self-government unit, or classes are realized through project activity. Considering that there was no initiation of activities for the realization of the study of the Slovak Language with Elements of National Culture, this subject is not taught in the schools for adult education.

- g* *to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language.*

494. In the Republic of Serbia, this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in primary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The curriculum of the subjects *The World Around Us* and *Nature and Society* gradually develops the principle of homeland, which implies that all subjects cover the specific area where the pupils live. The content of these subjects is designed to foster a sense of identity and develop tolerance and awareness of belonging to a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional community. This is supported, upgraded, expanded and deepened by the content and activities included in other subjects: Music Education, Fine Arts, Serbian, Physical Education, etc. As far as the subject *Fine Arts* is concerned, the syllabus is designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and is linked in particular with the subjects *The World Around Us*, *Nature and Society* and the mother

tongue. Approved textbooks have also been translated into Slovak. Teaching and learning the subject of *History* in the second cycle of primary education and upbringing (from the fifth to the eighth grade) includes content that is relevant for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of minority nations. The curriculum of the subject *Fine Arts* contains programme units, each of which is taught on examples from the heritage of culture, among which there are works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. Approved textbooks have also been translated into Slovak. At the level of secondary education, the curriculum includes the subject of *Fine Arts* in Grammar Schools (for four-year and two-year studies, depending on the orientation), which also covers the history of art. It is studied chronologically and in correlation with the syllabus for the subject *History*. Since the existing curricula do not cover works of art and cultural monuments belonging to the heritage of ethnic minorities, the National Councils of National Minorities are preparing a supplement to the curricula. Since cultural heritage is taught chronologically, it is not possible to supplement the curriculum to cover the cultural heritage of each national minority in each grade. Therefore, every National Council of National Minority is preparing a supplement to the curriculum from the period when its people/state originated.

495. In the past period, a document was prepared on how to adapt the curricula in multi-ethnic environments, with emphasis on intercultural learning, the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years, the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted, with new curricula that are clearly linked with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 - Judicial Authorities

Paragraph 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:

- 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.*

496. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter provided information on the regulations which afford litigants, witnesses and other participants the right to use their own language during the court proceedings and even before a court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which litigants use one of the minority languages, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, information on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters in which the litigants used Slovak is not available.

497. It has already been stated that the legislative framework provides for the possibility of conducting the entire court proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, those court proceedings are recorded separately. According to the records of the Administrative Court, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no court cases requiring the proceedings to be conducted in Slovak. All lawsuits were filed in Serbian, both by the prosecutors themselves and by the proxies from the ranks of lawyers who were hired by the prosecutors for representation. The Administrative Court provides a translation through a court interpreter at the request of the client and at the expense of the court's budget.

Paragraph 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.

498. Since the submission of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia has continued to translate the most important legal texts into minority languages, especially those that are relevant to speakers of these languages.

499. After the adoption of the Constitutional Court Decision which ruled that certain Articles of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were not in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (2014) and the adoption of amendments to that law (2014), the Law on National Councils of National Minorities was translated into Slovak. The new bylaws for the implementation of this law have also been translated into Slovak: the Rulebook on the Method of Registering and Keeping a Register of National Councils and the Rulebook on the Manner of Keeping a Separate Electoral Roll of the National Minority.

500. Since elections for National Councils of National Minorities were held in 2014, all bylaws relevant for the conduct of elections have also been translated into Slovak, including: Rulebook on the Form and Content of the Form for Collecting Signatures of Voters who Support Electors; Instructions on the Conduct of Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Handbook for Conducting Electoral Actions in the Procedure for Conducting Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, scheduled for October 26, 2014; Rules on the Work of the Polling Boards for the Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, as well as all necessary forms and other election materials necessary for the conduct of elections.

Article 10 - Administrative Authorities and Public Services

Paragraph 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.*

501. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Speakers of minority languages have the right to submit oral and written applications to the republic authorities in those languages and to receive an answer in that language.

502. The administrative districts, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, established for the purpose of carrying out state administration activities outside the headquarters of the state administration bodies, can be taken as an illustration for the implementation of regulations which have established the right to use the minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority language speakers are concentrated. For example, in the South Bačka Administrative District, in resolving administrative matters in the first instance or ruling on an appeal when the holders of public powers were resolving it in the first instance, and when exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection, there were neither oral nor written applications in Slovak.

Paragraph 2

In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages in 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.*

503. The legislative framework regarding the submission of applications in minority languages to regional authorities in the period to which the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter relates has not been changed in relation to the previous period.

504. The languages of national minorities that are in official use in the work of autonomous province bodies are determined by the Statute of AP Vojvodina, and Slovak is established as one of the languages in official use in the bodies and organisations of the AP Vojvodina. Accordingly, there is a possibility for people who speak Slovak to use it in oral and written communication with the provincial authorities. This means that it is possible to use Slovak in telephone communication, conversations in the reception and other offices of the authorities, as well as the submission of requests, applications, complaints and other submissions in Slovak and receiving answers in that language.

505. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities provides oral and written translation from Serbian into Slovak and vice versa, and the translation services of this Secretariat are used by all provincial bodies and organisations.

506. In provincial bodies and organisations, the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces also foresees workplaces for which the condition is the knowledge of the language of the national minority in official use, so that citizens can exercise the right to the official use of language and script.

507. In the course of 2015, the Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman has conducted a survey on the knowledge of the languages and scripts of national minorities that are in equal official use in the bodies of the provincial administration²⁶. Within the survey, data were collected on the internal organisation and Systematisation of jobs in the bodies of the provincial administration and on the number of employees with the knowledge of some of the languages that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina.

508. The results of the survey show that out of the 13 provincial authorities covered by the survey, in accordance with the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces, 5 bodies envisaged workplaces for which the requirement is the knowledge of the language of the national minority in official use. However, the survey also shows that in those bodies where this is not envisaged by the Bylaw on Systematisation, there are also employees who speak the languages of national minorities that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina. The said results are presented in the table below.

Name of Authority	Number of systematised workplaces for which the knowledge of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies is prescribed as a condition	Number of employees with the knowledge of some of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies
Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality	0	4
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	3	16
Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth	0	3
Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	11	35
Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Energy and Mineral Resources	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Finance	0	3
Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	0	6
Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government	19	5

²⁶ As a result of this survey, the publication titled *Knowledge of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, Which are in Equal Official Use in the Bodies of the Provincial Administration*, is available on the web address: www.omudsmanapv.org.

Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection	0	11
Provincial Secretariat for Health Care, Social Policy and Demography	1	11
Department for Joint Affairs of Regional Authorities	0	22
Human Resources Management Service	1	2

509. The results of the survey on the knowledge of Slovak are shown in the table below.

Name of Authority	Number of employees with the knowledge of Slovak
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	2
Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	5
Provincial Secretariat for Finance	1
Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	1
Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government	1
Provincial Secretariat for Health Care, Social Policy and Demography	1
Department for Joint Affairs of Regional Authorities	6

Paragraph 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.*

510. In section 4.3.8. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter it is underlined that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous province bodies and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who know a minority language, including Slovak, to be appointed in the territories in which those languages are used.

511. Based on the available data and information obtained from public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia, which took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report²⁷, it can be concluded that, even though in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there have been no requests from employees who know the minority language, including Slovak, to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used, there is a general readiness to meet the potential requirements. For example, PE *Srbijagas* points out that if employees know some of the minority languages,

²⁷ PE *Elektroprivreda Srbije*, EPS *Distribucija*, PE *Pošta Srbije*, PE *Srbijagas* and Telekom Srbija.

they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. JP *Pošta Srbije* stated that in the appointment of employees on certain jobs, persons are hired according to the place of residence, which also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with the users of their services. When it comes to behind the counter jobs or delivery of postal mail, the usual practice of this company is to appoint an employee who knows the minority language. This way of doing business provides the beneficiaries of postal services with a wide possibility of using minority language in communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles to accommodate an employee who knows a minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

512. Based on the information received from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this report, it can be concluded that the local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, do not have any knowledge, or emphasize that in the given period there were no requests of employees in local public services to be deployed or appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but also that there are no obstacles to meet such requests.

Paragraph 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.

513. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter detail the legislative framework for the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to write their personal name according to their language and spelling. The exercise of the right to enter a personal name in the register, at the request of the persons concerned, in the minority language and spelling, has been ensured by the regulations throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

514. That the right to enter a personal name in the register in Slovak is exercised in practice, can be confirmed by the examples obtained from the Registry Offices, which are contained in the table below.

Local Self-Government Unit	Number of personal name entries in Slovak		
	2013	2014	2015
Bač	1	1	1
Bačka Palanka	-	-	2
Bački Petrovac	80	100	112
Beočin	5	4	-
Kovačica	10	6	12
Novi Sad	16	25	18
Pančevo ²⁸			2
Stara Pazova	4	-	-

²⁸ The stated number of entries in the city of Pančevo refers to the entire reporting period.

515. In addition, as outlined in the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable those local self-government units where a minority is in official use according to their statutes to print the registry certificate forms bilingually, in Serbian and in the minority language that is in official use. The table below shows data on issued registry certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Slovak forms.

Local Self-Government Unit	Number of issued certificates in bilingual, Serbian-Slovak forms		
	2013	2014	2015
Bač	100	122	134
Bačka Palanka	41	54	61
Bački Petrovac	108	160	185
Beočin	13	17	46
Kovačica	180	242	254
Novi Sad	608	552	866
Stara Pazova	22	34	56
Šid	18	17	85

516. In the Republic of Serbia, registrars are continually trained to ensure consistent implementation of the legal provisions which allow for recording of personal names in appropriate records in minority languages and scripts. In accordance with the established Training Plan in 2015, and in connection with the implementation of laws and other regulations governing the way of entering personal names of members of national minorities in the registers in the language and script of the national minority, the trainings of the registrars and deputy registrars keeping the registers in all administrative bodies entrusted with the tasks of the registers. A total of eight trainings were organised (in Niš, Belgrade, Pirot, Zlatibor, Novi Sad and Subotica), attended by a total of 335 registrars and deputy registrars.

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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.

517. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter described the power granted to the National Councils of National Minorities under the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) in terms of advocating the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various media administration and professional bodies at the national level.

518. The interests of minority language users are also safeguarded by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an autonomous and independent regulatory organisation, with the status of a legal entity, which performs public

powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, in a manner appropriate to a democratic society.

519. The scope of work of the Regulator includes the following: it determines the Proposal for the development of media service of the radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia, which is adopted by the Government; issues licenses for providing media services to television and linear media services of the radio; more closely regulates the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such licences; maintains the Register of media services and records of media service providers upon request; controls the work of media service providers and imposes measures in accordance with the law; establishes closer rules regarding the programme contents in relation to protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, protection of the rights of minors, prohibition of hate speech, etc.; encourages the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as the culture and language of national minorities; encourages the development of creativity in the field of radio, television and other audio-visual media services, as well as the development of professionalism in electronic media and the improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

520. The Regulator's bodies are the Regulator's Council and the President of the Council. The Regulator's Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the areas of relevance to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Regulator's Council are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. Among these authorised proposers, as already discussed, are National Councils of National Minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator's Council by joint agreement.

Article 12 - Cultural Activities and Facilities

Paragraph 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:

- 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, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

521. Support to minority languages and cultures from budget funds is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through the competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all fields of creative work, where

members of national minorities, or speakers of minority languages, have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007 a specialized competition for the cultural activities of national minorities has been announced. This competition also envisages, inter alia, the co-financing of projects that enable the availability of cultural contents for a wider circle of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, overdubbing a theatre performance, etc.

522. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works created in Slovak would be translated into Serbian as the majority language, or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, there were no applications for overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Slovak into Serbian or some other minority language.

523. From the budget of AP Vojvodina funds are allocated, inter alia, for the co-financing of programmes/projects that are of wider regional significance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina and the development of the culture of members of national minorities. Funds are allocated on the basis of announced competitions annually for co-financing of programmes and projects and in the field of publishing activity (publication, translation and distribution of works by authors who create in minority languages), publishing of magazines, preparation of theatrical performances, promotion of film production and broadcasting of TV programmes in the fields of culture and art.

524. Co-financed projects in the field of culture related to Slovak during this period concerned, inter alia, 40 projects in the field of publishing activity, and 15 projects in the field of publishing magazines and publications. However, there were no applications for co-financing of translation projects, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Slovak into Serbian or some other minority languages.

c to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitling activities.

525. The competition for cultural activities of national minorities, which is announced at the national level, provides the possibility of co-financing and projects related to translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into another minority language.

526. In addition, access to minority languages was promoted by a competition for the translation of representative works of Serbian authors into foreign languages, which are minority languages in the Republic of Serbia. Thus, translations of local literary works are available to speakers of minority languages in their own language. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, translations of two literary works into Slovak have been co-financed.

527. The national budget also provides funding for overdubbing and subtitling the translations. However, it is not possible to accurately determine the amount of funds provided,

because they are defined collectively and for various purposes (film production, cooperation, promotion). For example, according to the Law on Cinematography, the Film Centre of Serbia has been entrusted with the tasks of co-financing film production through a competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information, by the agreement on co-financing the programme of this institution, defines the funds for co-financing projects through these competitions, inter alia, for co-financing films in different categories, as well as participation of co-financed films at international film festivals. Within this budget line, it is possible to pay for the costs of translation, overdubbing and subtitling, and the total planned funds at the annual level are RSD 2,600,000.00. During this period, translations of 5 films into Slovak were co-financed for participation in the Bratislava Film Festival.

528. For co-financing of projects related to the translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or some other minority language into Slovak, no applications were made for the allocation of funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

Paragraph 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.

529. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity in minority languages is supported by the republic budget throughout the country. As already stated, funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved exclusively through the competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The right to participate in the competition is provided for institutions, arts and other associations and organisations/legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories where it is not the case. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity of speakers of minority languages and their cultures. In order to provide financial support from budget funds, the most important is the quality of the project, as well as the fulfilment of clearly defined criteria described in the competition.

530. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Slovak were approved for projects that were realized on the territories in which this minority language is traditionally used. There were no applications for realization of projects in the field of culture from the territories in which Slovak is not traditionally used.

Article 14 - Transfrontier Exchanges

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 contracts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education.*

531. Republic of Serbia and the Slovak Republic have significant cooperation in the fields of education, culture and sport, and the intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Education, Culture and Sports between the Federal Government of the FRY and the Government of the Slovak Republic concluded in 1996 is still in force. So far, at various levels, at the level of governments (for the period 2002-2005) and at the level of ministries (for the period 2010-2013), various programmes of cooperation in the fields of culture, education, youth and sports have been signed between the two countries. Cooperation between the Slovak national minority and the compatriots from the Slovak state in these areas is significant.

532. The Cultural Cooperation Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for 2010-2013 was signed in 2009, and after the expiration of the period for which it was signed, it will automatically be extended until the new programme is signed. The agreed framework of cooperation includes the following areas: theatre, music, literature, cultural heritage protection, film, as well as establishing links between individuals and institutions of the two countries for the permanent exchange of information between the two ministries and cultural institutions of Slovakia and Serbia.

533. The programme envisages that, in order to mutually get to know the culture and artistic creativity of the people of both countries, the contracting parties exchange appropriate legal acts in the field of culture and the protection of cultural monuments, facilitate the hosting of artistic ensembles and soloists and art exhibitions, as well as presentations of music and drama works. It is also envisaged to further develop the cooperation in the fields of literature, filmmaking, theatre, music, fine arts, museology, galleries, libraries, cultural monuments and other areas.

534. On the basis of this programme, the contracting parties keep each other mutually informed about cultural activities, art festivals, competitions and views of professional and amateur ensembles and support the participation of artists and ensembles in those events.

535. The programme of cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic in the field of education for the period 2016-2020 was signed in 2016 and will be presented in the next report.

4.1.9. UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

536. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Ukrainian language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Pre-School Education

a

- (i) to make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) to make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) and (ii) above 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 measures referred to under (i) to (iii) above.*

537. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there was no organised pre-school educational work in the Ukrainian language, nor bilingual educational work in Serbian and Ukrainian. The reason for this is the insufficient number of children who, in addition, live in several places, so it is almost impossible, in accordance with the Law on Pre-School Education, to organise pre-school education in Ukrainian. The National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority has so far not made an initiative to teach pre-school education in Ukrainian.

Secondary Education

c

- (i) to make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) to make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) to provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*

- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

Technical and Vocational Education

d

- (i) *to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) *to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) *to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

538. At the level of secondary education there is no organised teaching in Ukrainian or studying the subject of Ukrainian Language with Elements of National Culture. The reasons for this are the lack of qualified teaching staff, as well as the insufficient number of students enrolled in Ukrainian language education for certain areas of work, that is, educational profiles. The National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority has so far not made an initiative for teaching in Ukrainian or an initiative for studying the subject of Ukrainian Language with Elements of National Culture at the level of secondary education.

Adult education

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.*

539. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled pupils opt for teaching in that language. Since, until now, there has not been an adult education school, in which at least 50% opted for teaching in Ukrainian, adult education does not take place in that language.

540. When teaching the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture, a school can form a group at the level of the appropriate education cycle, i.e. a group consisting of first to fourth grade pupils (pupils of the first educational cycle) and/or a group composed of fifth to eighth grade pupils (pupils of the second educational cycle). The group must have at least 15 students, and for groups of less than 15, it is necessary to obtain the approval of the responsible Minister. The teaching of this elective subject in primary school is financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary schools and adult education schools may be borne by the National Council of the National

Minority, local self-government unit, or classes are realized through project activity. Considering that there was no initiation of activities for the realization of the study of the Ukrainian Language with Elements of National Culture, this subject is not taught in the schools for adult education.

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

541. In the Republic of Serbia, this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in primary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The curriculum of the subjects *The World Around Us* and *Nature and Society* gradually develops the principle of homeland, which implies that all subjects cover the specific area where the pupils live. The content of these subjects is designed to foster a sense of identity and develop tolerance and awareness of belonging to a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional community. This is supported, upgraded, expanded and deepened by the content and activities included in other subjects: Music Education, Fine Arts, Serbian, Physical Education, etc. As far as the subject *Fine Arts* is concerned, the syllabus is designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and is linked in particular with the subjects *The World Around Us*, *Nature and Society* and the mother tongue. Teaching and learning the subject of *History* in the second cycle of primary education and upbringing (from the fifth to the eighth grade) includes content that is relevant for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of minority nations. The curriculum of the subject *Fine Arts* contains programme units, each of which is taught on examples from the heritage of culture, among which there are works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. If the conditions for organising classes in secondary schools in Ukrainian are met, it will be possible to supplement the programme with contents from Ukrainian culture and heritage.

542. In the past period, a document was prepared on how to adapt the curricula in multi-ethnic environments, with emphasis on intercultural learning, the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years, the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted, with new curricula that are clearly linked with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 - Judicial Authorities

Paragraph 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:

a in criminal proceedings:

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

543. Section 4.2.2. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter presents a legislative and legal framework on the right of participants in criminal proceedings to use their language and script. The regulations stipulate that courts in the Republic of Serbia record only the proceedings, including criminal ones, which are entirely conducted in the languages of national minorities in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. It is noted that Ukrainian is not established as an official language in any court in the Republic of Serbia.

544. Bearing in mind that there is no legal obligation for the courts to keep records of cases in which the defendant uses a minority language, there is no available systematised data on the number of criminal cases in which the defendant used Ukrainian.

a ...

(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.*

545. Bearing in mind that there is no legal obligation for the courts to keep records of cases in which the defendant uses a minority language, there is no available systematised data on the number of criminal cases in which the defendant used Ukrainian. In the absence of such a unique record, for the purpose of illustration, the data on the use of Ukrainian in criminal proceedings, submitted by individual courts, are presented below.

546. In the High Court of Novi Sad, in one criminal proceeding in which Ukrainian was used, the requests and evidence were formulated in Ukrainian.

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.*

547. As already explained, there are no records in the Republic of Serbia about the use of a minority language of the litigant before the courts because there is no legal obligation to record court proceedings in which the litigant uses the minority language. For this reason, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there are no systematised data and/or single records on the number of civil lawsuits in which the litigants used Ukrainian.

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.*

548. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter provided information on the regulations which afford litigants, witnesses and other participants the right to use their own language during the court proceedings and even before a court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which litigants use one of the minority languages, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, information on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters in which the litigants used Ukrainian is not available.

549. It has already been stated that the legislative framework provides for the possibility of conducting the entire court proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, those court proceedings are recorded separately. Since Ukrainian is not in official use in any court, neither can the entire court proceeding before the court dealing with administrative matters be conducted in that language.

Paragraph 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.

550. Bearing in mind the economic situation in the country, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the most important national legislative texts have not been translated into Ukrainian. This occasion also points to the position of the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority, as a representative of that minority, that so far it has not emphasized the requirements for translation of the most important legislative texts, taking into account the unfavourable economic situation in the country, as well as the number of speakers of the Ukrainian language.

Article 10 - Administrative Authorities and Public Services

Paragraph 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.*

551. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Speakers of minority languages have the right to submit oral and written applications to the republic authorities in those languages and to receive an answer in that language.

552. The administrative districts, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, established for the purpose of carrying out state administration activities outside the headquarters of the state administration bodies, can be taken as an illustration for the implementation of regulations which have established the right to use the minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority language speakers are concentrated. According to this information, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no oral or written applications in Ukrainian in resolving administrative matters in the first instance or ruling on an appeal when the holders of public powers were resolving it in the first instance, and when exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection.

c to allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in a regional or minority language.

553. As explained in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the administrative authorities produce draft documents only in those minority languages that are officially used in local self-government units. Since Ukrainian is not officially used in any local self-government unit, it is not possible to create draft documents in that language.

Paragraph 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.

554. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia, as it has been highlighted several times, allow applications to be submitted orally or in writing in minority languages at all levels of government, including regional and local authorities. According to the available data, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, no written or oral applications in Ukrainian were submitted to the regional authorities (AP Vojvodina authorities) or any local self-government unit in the Republic of Serbia.

c the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages.

555. The publication of documents of regional authorities (in the case of the Republic of Serbia of provincial bodies of AP Vojvodina) in minority languages is conditioned by their introduction into official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina. Since the Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina does not establish that Ukrainian is in official use in the bodies of the AP Vojvodina, the official documents are not published in that language.

- d the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages.*

556. It has already been stated that Ukrainian is not officially used in any local self-government unit in the Republic of Serbia, nor do the local authorities create their official documents in Ukrainian.

- 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.*

557. This obligation is not applicable in Ukrainian given that there are no traditional place-names in the Republic of Serbia in that language, as explained in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter.

Paragraph 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.*

558. There is a legal obligation in the Republic of Serbia to allow users to submit requests in minority languages to public services provided by public authorities within areas where the minority language is used. Since there is no legal obligation to keep records on requests submitted to public services in a minority language, there is no cumulative data on the number of requests submitted. For this reason, the Office for Human and Minority Rights sent a call to public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia and the local self-government units that are founders of local public enterprises to participate in the preparation of this report. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, no requests in Ukrainian were sent to individual public enterprises at the republic or at the local level, which participated in the preparation of this report.

Paragraph 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.*

559. In section 4.3.8. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter it is underlined that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous province bodies and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who know a minority language, including Ukrainian, to be appointed in the territories in which those languages are used.

560. Based on the available data and information obtained from public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia, which took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report²⁹, it can be concluded that, even though in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there have been no requests from employees who know the minority language, including Ukrainian, to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used, there is a general readiness to meet the potential requirements. For example, PE *Srbijagas* points out that if employees know some of the minority languages, they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. JP *Pošta Srbije* stated that in the appointment of employees on certain jobs, persons are hired according to the place of residence, which also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with the users of their services. When it comes to behind the counter jobs or delivery of postal mail, the usual practice of this company is to appoint an employee who knows the minority language. This way of doing business provides the beneficiaries of postal services with a wide possibility of using minority language in communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles to accommodate an employee who knows a minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

561. Based on the information received from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this report, it can be concluded that the local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, do not have any knowledge, or emphasize that in the given period there were no requests of employees in local public services to be deployed or appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but also that there are no obstacles to meet such requests.

Paragraph 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.

562. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter detail the legislative framework for the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to write their personal name according to their language and spelling. The exercise of the right to enter a personal name in the register, at the request of the persons concerned, in the minority language and spelling, has been ensured by the regulations throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

563. That the right to enter a personal name in the register in Ukrainian is exercised in practice, can be confirmed by the examples obtained from the Registry Offices, which are contained in the table below.

Local Self-Government Unit	Number of personal name entries in Ukrainian		
	2013	2014	2015
Kula	-	-	1

²⁹ PE *Elektroprivreda Srbije*, EPS *Distribucija*, PE *Pošta Srbije*, PE *Srbijagas* and Telekom Srbija.

564. For the purpose of informing members of national minorities with the right to enter a personal name in the registers in the language and script of the national minority, the Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government has submitted to the bodies that perform the entrusted tasks of keeping the registers an example Notice on the procedure and manner of entering the personal name of the national minority member in the registers for the purpose of highlighting it on bulletin boards of all registration areas of cities and/or municipalities for which the registers are kept. In the local self-government units in which the statute provides that a language spoken by members of a national minority is in official use, it is required to issue a notice in the language and script of the national minority.

565. No complaints of the members of Ukrainian national minority have been filed to the Administrative Inspectorate that supervises the application of the Law on Registers in connection with the inability to exercise the right to enter a personal name in Ukrainian language.

566. In the Republic of Serbia, registrars are continually trained to ensure consistent implementation of the legal provisions which allow for recording of personal names in appropriate records in minority languages and scripts. In accordance with the established Training Plan in 2015, and in connection with the implementation of laws and other regulations governing the way of entering personal names of members of national minorities in the registers in the language and script of the national minority, the trainings of the registrars and deputy registrars keeping the registers in all administrative bodies entrusted with the tasks of the registers. A total of eight trainings were organised (in Niš, Belgrade, Pirot, Zlatibor, Novi Sad and Subotica), attended by a total of 335 registrars and deputy registrars.

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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:

c ...

- (ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis.*

567. The Office for Human and Minority Rights, in accordance with its scope of work, monitors the exercise of the right to information of members of national minorities in their own language and at the end of each calendar year, reviews the availability of public information media to members of national minorities in their mother tongue. The data collected from the National Councils of National Minorities, the competent state, provincial and local authorities, the Regulatory body for electronic media, the editorial boards of print

media and TV and radio broadcasters, are systematised to provide an overview, inter alia, of the number of printed media in minority languages.

568. The table below contains data on the length of the broadcasting programme, as well as the data on the TV station in terms of the type of broadcaster³⁰ that produced and broadcast programmes in Ukrainian language in 2015.

TV Station	Length of the programme on a monthly basis in hours	Type of Broadcaster
RTV Vojvodina, TV Vojvodina, Novi Sad	9	Public Broadcasting Service
TV Channel 9, Novi Sad	1	Commercial Station

569. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, a legal framework was presented that provided financial support for projects for the production of media contents in minority languages. The new Law on Public Information and Media (2014) also enables this. This law stipulates that in order to enable the realization of the rights of national minorities to inform in their own language and to foster their own culture and identity, the Republic of Serbia, the autonomous province, or the local self-government unit, provides part of the funds, through co-financing or other conditions for the work of the media that publish information in minority languages. To protect the public interest in the field of public information, the funds provided in the budget are allocated on the basis of conducted public contests and by individual grants based on the principle of granting state aid and protection of competition, without discrimination. The contest is announced for projects for the production of media contents and organising and participating in professional, scientific and appropriate meetings, as well as the improvement of professional and ethical standards in the field of public information.

570. Financial support for TV programmes in minority languages at the national level is realized through a competition for co-financing of projects in the field of public information in the languages of national minorities. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there were no applications for co-financing of projects related to the broadcasting of a television programme in Ukrainian. In the same period, there were no applications sent to the Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP Vojvodina for the purpose of allocating funds to the media for broadcasting television programmes in Ukrainian.

d to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audio-visual works in the regional or minority languages.

571. As already explained, on the basis of interest and application to the announced competitions, the competent state and provincial authorities approve funds for projects in the field of information in minority languages. A wide range of criteria and conditions for

³⁰ The types of broadcasters are given on the basis of the Broadcasting Law (2002), which ceased to be valid by the adoption of the Law on Electronic Media (2014).

participation in the competition enables the participation of an increasing number of beneficiaries, as well as a more diversified offer of programming by independent productions. This includes the production of audio and audio-visual works in the field of cultural, artistic, educational and scientific creativity, as well as the production of documentary programmes in minority languages. During the mentioned period, at the state level, there were no applications for co-financing of projects related to the production and distribution of audio and audio-visual works in Ukrainian, nor any applications addressed to the Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP Vojvodina for the allocation of funds from the provincial budget.

e

- (i) *to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages.*

572. The Office for Human and Minority Rights, in accordance with its scope of work, monitors the exercise of the right to information of members of national minorities in their own language and at the end of each calendar year, reviews the availability of public information media to members of national minorities in their mother tongue. The data collected from the National Councils of National Minorities, the competent state, provincial and local authorities, the Regulatory body for electronic media, the editorial boards of print media and TV and radio broadcasters, are systematised to provide an overview, inter alia, of the number of printed media in minority languages.

573. In the Ukrainian language, the monthly paper *Рідне слово* and the children's magazine *Соловейко*, founded by the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority, and the multi-month paper *Глас Союзу* (in Serbian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages).

574. The newspaper *Рідне слово* and the children's magazine *Соловейко* are published by the Newspaper Publishing Company "Рідне слово", founded by the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority. As outlined in the Republic of Serbia's Comments on the Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Serbia, (comments made in paragraphs 755 and 756 of the Report of the Committee of Experts), the authorities believe that the monthly paper *Рідне слово* is a newspaper, regardless of on its release periodical. The periodical of publishing newspapers depends on the will of the founders and the Republic of Serbia respects the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media in that respect.

575. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, it was pointed out that the Ministry of Culture and Information also provides financial support for the print media, through an annual competition for co-financing of projects in the field of public information in the languages of national minorities. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on Application of the Charter, no applications have been submitted for the co-financing of printed media in Ukrainian.

576. The competent provincial authorities provide part of the funds for issuing newspapers of provincial importance, among which are the editions of the Newspaper Publishing Institution “*Рідне слово*”.

577. The table below contains the amount of approved funds for newspapers of provincial importance in Ukrainian, which are subsidized from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

Printed Public Media	Subsidy		
	2013	2014	2015
<i>Рідне слово</i>	3,281,700.00	3,281,700.00	3,281,700.00
<i>Соловейко</i>	1,219,800.00	1,219,800.00	1,219,800.00

Paragraph 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.

578. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter described the power granted to the National Councils of National Minorities under the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) in terms of advocating the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various media administration and professional bodies at the national level.

579. The interests of minority language users are also safeguarded by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an autonomous and independent regulatory organisation, with the status of a legal entity, which performs public powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, in a manner appropriate to a democratic society.

580. The scope of work of the Regulator includes the following: it determines the Proposal for the development of media service of the radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia, which is adopted by the Government; issues licenses for providing media services to television and linear media services of the radio; more closely regulates the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such licences; maintains the Register of media services and records of media service providers upon request; controls the work of media service providers and imposes measures in accordance with the law; establishes closer rules regarding the programme contents in relation to protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, protection of the rights of minors, prohibition of hate speech, etc.; encourages the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as the culture and language of national minorities; encourages the development of creativity in the field of radio,

television and other audio-visual media services, as well as the development of professionalism in electronic media and the improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

581. The Regulator's bodies are the Regulator's Council and the President of the Council. The Regulator's Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the areas of relevance to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Regulator's Council are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. Among these authorised proposers, as already discussed, are National Councils of National Minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator's Council by joint agreement.

Article 12 - Cultural Activities and Facilities

Paragraph 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:

- 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, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

582. Support to minority languages and cultures from budget funds is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through the competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all fields of creative work, where members of national minorities, or speakers of minority languages, have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007 a specialized competition for the cultural activities of national minorities has been announced. This competition also envisages, inter alia, the co-financing of projects that enable the availability of cultural contents for a wider circle of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, overdubbing a theatre performance, etc.

583. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works created in Ukrainian would be translated into Serbian as the majority language, or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, there were no applications for overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Ukrainian into Serbian or some other minority language.

584. From the budget of AP Vojvodina funds are allocated, inter alia, for co-financing of programmes/projects that are of wider regional significance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina and the development of the culture of members of national minorities. Funds are allocated on the basis of announced competitions annually for co-financing of

programmes and projects and in the field of publishing activity (publication, translation and distribution of works by authors who create in minority languages), publishing of magazines, preparation of theatrical performances, promotion of film production and broadcasting of TV programmes in the fields of culture and art.

585. Co-financed projects in the field of culture related to Ukrainian during this period concerned one projects in the field of publishing activity and publications. However, there were no applications for co-financing of translation projects, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Ukrainian into Serbian or some other minority languages.

Paragraph 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.

586. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity in minority languages is supported by the republic budget throughout the country. As already stated, funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved exclusively through the competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The right to participate in the competition is provided for institutions, arts and other associations and organisations/legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories where it is not the case. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity of speakers of minority languages and their cultures. In order to provide financial support from budget funds, the most important is the quality of the project, as well as the fulfilment of clearly defined criteria described in the competition.

587. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Ukrainian were approved for projects that were realized on the territories in which this minority language is traditionally used. There were no applications for realization of projects in the field of culture from the territories in which Ukrainian is not traditionally used.

Article 14 - Transfrontier Exchanges

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.*

588. In 2013, the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine signed the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Education. This agreement envisages the promotion of studies of the Serbian language, literature, history and geography in Ukraine and studies of the Ukrainian language, literature, history and geography in the Republic of Serbia, the participation of pupils and students of educational institutions at the Olympics, competitions, festivals and other events that will be held in the Republic of Serbia and Ukraine, joint participation of scientists in international programmes and projects in the field of education, seminars, conferences, lectures and other events.

589. The same year, the Culture Cooperation Programme between the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine was signed, envisaging that the parties will encourage the organisation of mutual visits of Ukrainian and Serbian theatres, cooperation of libraries through exchange of publications, visits of experts, participation in conferences and seminars, then cooperation in the field of cinematography through film exchange and participation in international and national film festivals, and also encourage the cooperation of institutions dealing with music and performing arts, cultural heritage protection and visual arts.

b for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate 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.

590. In 2007, the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority signed two memorandums with state bodies from Ukraine, state administration and district assemblies of the Ternopil and Lviv regions. Memorandums specify the forms of cooperation and exchange of contents: financial support for publishing the monograph from the history of Ukrainians from the Western Balkans, providing literature, video and printed material and providing folk costumes to Ukrainian cultural and artistic societies in Serbia; internship in Ukraine for teachers, journalists, musicologists, choreographers and cultural workers from Serbia in order to provide appropriate knowledge and certificates; organisation of summer camps for children from Serbia; organising tourist trips for Ukrainians from Serbia who are staying in Ukraine; showing reports about the Ukrainians from Serbia on radio and TV stations in Ukraine. The National Council has committed to organise visits to Serbia of artists, musicians, choreographers and historians from Ukraine and meetings of representatives of the region with representatives of municipal, regional and provincial authorities in the Republic of Serbia.

4.1.9.1. Activities on the Implementation of the Recommendation of the Committee of Experts

591. In the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Committee of Experts has made the following recommendation for the Ukrainian language, in conjunction with Article 8 of the Charter:

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of the Republic of Serbia to take measures to provide pre-school and secondary education in Ukrainian.

592. As already stated, in this monitoring cycle of the Application of the Charter, no educational work in Ukrainian was provided at pre-school institutions. Bearing in mind the provisions of the Law on Pre-School Education, according to which it is not possible to organise educational work in minority language in pre-school institutions if less than 50% of parents opt for this, because of the small number of children who are Ukrainian speakers³¹, their territorial deployment, as well as poor interest of parents, education at the pre-school level failed to be realized.

593. As for the secondary level of education, in addition to the students' low interest in organising classes in Ukrainian, the additional problem is the provision of quality teaching staff for vocational subjects that use professional terminology during the teaching process. Bearing in mind that this problem is present in the organisation of classes in other minority languages, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development has initiated the establishment of cooperation with the countries of national minorities living on the territory of the Republic of Serbia in order to improve the quality of education of future teaching staff in minority languages.

594. The National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority has so far not made any initiatives to teach pre-school and secondary education in the Ukrainian language. It also did not initiate or propose to the state authorities any curricula for studying the subject of Ukrainian Language with Elements of National Culture at the level of secondary education.

³¹ See paragraphs 27 and 30 of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter.

4.1.10. CROATIAN LANGUAGE

595. Considering that the Committee of Experts has concluded in previous reports that certain provisions of the Charter have been fulfilled, in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter the authorities of the Republic of Serbia chose not to present information on the status of the Croatian language vis-à-vis those commitments, but are ready to provide such information should the Committee of Experts demand so.

Article 8 – Education

Paragraph 1

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:

Pre-School Education

a

- (i) to make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) to make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) and (ii) above 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 measures referred to under (i) to (iii) above.*

596. Educational work in Croatian takes place at one pre-school institution in Subotica. The table below contains data on the number of pre-school institutions, groups and number of children attending pre-school education in Croatian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Pre-School Institutions	Number of Groups	Number of Children
2013/14	1	1	1	18
2014/15	1	1	3	24
2015/16	1	1	3	24

597. Bilingual educational work in Serbian and Croatian is organised at one pre-school institution in Subotica. The table below contains data on the organisation of bilingual teaching in pre-school institutions in Serbian and Croatian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Pre-School Institutions	Number of Groups	Number of Children
2013/14	-	-	-	-
2014/15	1	1	1	5
2015/16	1	1	1	7

Secondary Education

c

- (i) *to make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) *to make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) *to provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

598. The entire teaching in Croatian takes place in the Grammar School in Subotica. The table below contains the number of classes and the number of students attending the entire teaching in Croatian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	1	1	4	74
2014/15	1	1	4	71
2015/16	1	1	4	66

599. Study of the subject Croatian Language with Elements of National Culture is not organised in any grammar school.

Technical and Vocational Education

d

- (i) *to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (ii) *to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*
- (iii) *to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or*
- (iv) *to apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.*

600. The entire teaching in Croatian takes place in the Secondary Technical School in Subotica. The table below contains the number of classes and the number of students attending the entire teaching in Croatian.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	1	1	3	47

2014/15	1	1	3	37
2015/16	1	1	3	51

601. The subject of Croatian Language with Elements of National Culture is taught in the Secondary Technical School in Subotica. The table below contains data on the number of classes and pupils studying the Croatian Language with Elements of National Culture.

School Year	Number of Local Self-Government Units	Number of Schools	Number of Classes	Number of Pupils
2013/14	1	1	1	5
2014/15	1	1	1	7

602. In the 2015/16 school year, the study of the subject Croatian Language with Elements of National Culture was not organised in secondary technical schools.

University and Other Higher Education

e ...

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

603. At the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade, Croatian literature is studied within the Study Programme Serbian Literature with South Slavic Literature.

604. Within the Centre for Teacher Training and Lifelong Education of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Novi Sad, a Programme for acquiring competences in Croatian language and literature with the methodology of work has been organised since 2015. The programme can be enrolled by all graduates, and lasts for a year. It is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for conducting teaching in Croatian at the level of subject and classroom teaching and for the realization of pre-school activities. The aim of the programme is the adoption and methodical application of the Croatian language, as well as the development and changes in the Croatian literature and the cultural context in which they are being developed, and it is intended for persons working in educational institutions. Despite the fact that there were no enrolled students in the 2015/16 school year, for all persons involved in education in the Croatian language it is extremely important that this higher education institution has provided the opportunity for their additional education and training.

Adult Education

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.*

605. In accordance with the Law on Adult Education, which is presented under section 2.2. of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, adult education in the Republic of

Serbia is conducted in Serbian or in a minority language, if more than 50% of the enrolled pupils opt for teaching in that language. Since, until now, there has not been an adult education school, in which at least 50% opted for teaching in Croatian, adult education does not take place in that language.

606. When teaching the elective subject Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture, a school can form a group at the level of the appropriate education cycle, i.e. a group consisting of first to fourth grade pupils (pupils of the first educational cycle) and/or a group composed of fifth to eighth grade pupils (pupils of the second educational cycle). The group must have at least 15 students, and for groups of less than 15, it is necessary to obtain the approval of the responsible Minister. The teaching of this elective subject in primary school is financed by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary schools and adult education schools may be borne by the National Council of the National Minority, local self-government unit, or classes are realized through project activity. Considering that there was no initiation of activities for the realization of the study of the Croatian Language with Elements of National Culture, this subject is not taught in the schools for adult education.

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

607. In the Republic of Serbia, this requirement is fulfilled by the curricula of the subjects studied in primary and secondary education. For example, the basic feature of teaching and learning in lower grades of primary school (first cycle of education and upbringing) is that teaching and learning are achieved through thematic planning and integrative teaching, while the content of the subjects is connected horizontally and vertically. The curriculum of the subjects *The World Around Us* and *Nature and Society* gradually develops the principle of homeland, which implies that all subjects cover the specific area where the pupils live. The content of these subjects is designed to foster a sense of identity and develop tolerance and awareness of belonging to a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional community. This is supported, upgraded, expanded and deepened by the content and activities included in other subjects: Music Education, Fine Arts, Serbian, Physical Education, etc. As far as the subject *Fine Arts* is concerned, the syllabus is designed to provide integrated thematic teaching and is linked in particular with the subjects *The World Around Us*, *Nature and Society* and the mother tongue. Teaching and learning the subject of *History* in the second cycle of primary education and upbringing (from the fifth to the eighth grade) includes content that is relevant for the medieval, modern, and contemporary history and culture of minority nations. The curriculum of the subject *Fine Arts* contains programme units, each of which is taught on examples from the heritage of culture, among which there are works of world and national heritage, as well as representative works from the heritage of ethnic minorities. At the level of secondary education, the curriculum includes the subject of *Fine Arts* in Grammar Schools (for four-year and two-year studies, depending on the orientation), which also covers the history of art. It is studied chronologically and in correlation with the syllabus for the subject *History*. Since the existing curricula do not cover works of art and cultural monuments belonging to the heritage of ethnic

minorities, the National Councils of National Minorities are preparing a supplement to the curricula. Since cultural heritage is taught chronologically, it is not possible to supplement the curriculum to cover the cultural heritage of each national minority in each grade. Therefore, every National Council of National Minority is preparing a supplement to the curriculum from the period when its people/state originated.

608. In the past period, a document was prepared on how to adapt the curricula in multi-ethnic environments, with emphasis on intercultural learning, the elements of which are embedded in the new curricula. In the next two years, the National Curriculum Framework is expected to be adopted, with new curricula that are clearly linked with national strategies and laws.

Article 9 - Judicial Authorities

Paragraph 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:

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.

609. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter provided information on the regulations which afford litigants, witnesses and other participants the right to use their own language during the court proceedings and even before a court dealing with administrative matters. Courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which litigants use one of the minority languages, or the number of court proceedings in which participants use the right to use their own language. In these circumstances, information on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters in which the litigants used Croatian is not available.

610. It has already been stated that the legislative framework provides for the possibility of conducting the entire court proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they are recognised as official languages. In accordance with the regulations, those court proceedings are recorded separately. According to the records of the Administrative Court, in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no court cases requiring the proceedings to be conducted in Croatian. All lawsuits were filed in Serbian, both by the prosecutors themselves and by the proxies from the ranks of lawyers who were hired by the prosecutors for representation. The Administrative Court provides a translation through a court interpreter at the request of the client and at the expense of the court's budget.

Paragraph 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.

611. Since the submission of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia has continued to translate the most important legal texts into minority languages, especially those that are relevant to speakers of these languages.

612. After the adoption of the Constitutional Court Decision which ruled that certain Articles of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were not in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (2014) and the adoption of amendments to that law (2014), the Law on National Councils of National Minorities was translated into Croatian. The new bylaws for the implementation of this law have also been translated into Croatian: the Rulebook on the Method of Registering and Keeping a Register of National Councils and the Rulebook on the Manner of Keeping a Separate Electoral Roll of the National Minority.

613. Since elections for National Councils of National Minorities were held in 2014, all bylaws relevant for the conduct of elections have also been translated into Croatian, including: Rulebook on the Form and Content of the Form for Collecting Signatures of Voters who Support Electors; Instructions on the Conduct of Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Handbook for Conducting Electoral Actions in the Procedure for Conducting Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, scheduled for October 26, 2014; Rules on the Work of the Polling Boards for the Direct Elections for Members of National Councils of National Minorities, as well as all necessary forms and other election materials necessary for the conduct of elections.

Article 10 - Administrative Authorities and Public Services

Paragraph 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.

614. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia provide for the possibility of written and oral address to the state administration bodies in minority languages. Speakers of minority languages have the right to submit oral and written applications to the republic authorities in those languages and to receive an answer in that language.

615. The administrative districts, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, established for the purpose of carrying out state administration activities

outside the headquarters of the state administration bodies, can be taken as an illustration for the implementation of regulations which have established the right to use the minority language in addressing state authorities. Bearing in mind that such records are not kept centrally in the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Human and Minority Rights has collected information from the administrative districts formed for the areas of local self-government units where the largest number of minority language speakers are concentrated. For example, in the North Bačka Administrative District, in resolving administrative matters in the first instance or ruling on an appeal when the holders of public powers were resolving it in the first instance, and when exercising supervision over the work of the holders of public powers and performing inspection, there were neither oral nor written applications in Croatian. There are forms for conducting the proceedings in Croatian at the District Administrative and Professional Service, but the parties did not request them in the given period.

Paragraph 2

In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages in 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.

616. The legislative framework regarding the submission of applications in minority languages to regional authorities in the period to which the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter relates has not been changed in relation to the previous period.

617. The languages of national minorities that are in official use in the work of autonomous province bodies are determined by the Statute of AP Vojvodina, and Croatian is established as one of the languages in official use in the bodies and organisations of the AP Vojvodina. Accordingly, there is a possibility for people who speak Croatian to use it in oral and written communication with the provincial authorities. This means that it is possible to use Croatian in telephone communication, conversations in the reception and other offices of the authorities, as well as the submission of requests, applications, complaints and other submissions in Croatian and receiving answers in that language.

618. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities provides oral and written translation from Serbian into Croatian and vice versa, and the translation services of this Secretariat are used by all provincial bodies and organisations.

619. In provincial bodies and organisations, the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces also foresees workplaces for which the condition is the knowledge of the language of the national minority in official use, so that citizens can exercise the right to the official use of language and script.

620. In the course of 2015, the Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman has conducted a survey on the knowledge of the languages and scripts of national minorities that are in equal official use in the bodies of the provincial administration³². Within the survey, data was collected on the internal organisation and Systematisation of jobs in the bodies of the provincial administration and on the number of employees with the knowledge of some of the languages that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina.

621. The results of the survey show that out of the 13 provincial authorities covered by the survey, in accordance with the Bylaw on Systematisation of Workplaces, 5 bodies envisaged workplaces for which the requirement is the knowledge of the language of the national minority in official use. However, the survey also shows that in those bodies where this is not envisaged by the Bylaw on Systematisation, there are also employees who speak the languages of national minorities that are in official use in the bodies of AP Vojvodina. The said results are presented in the table below.

Name of Authority	Number of systematised workplaces for which the knowledge of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies is prescribed as a condition	Number of employees with the knowledge of some of the national minority languages that are in official use in the APV bodies
Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality	0	4
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	3	16
Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth	0	3
Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	11	35
Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Energy and Mineral Resources	0	2
Provincial Secretariat for Finance	0	3
Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	0	6
Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government	19	5
Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection	0	11
Provincial Secretariat for Health Care, Social Policy and Demography	1	11

³² As a result of this survey, the publication titled *Knowledge of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities, Which are in Equal Official Use in the Bodies of the Provincial Administration*, is available on the web address: www.omudsmanapv.org.

Department for Joint Affairs of Regional Authorities	0	22
Human Resources Management Service	1	2

622. The results of the survey on the knowledge of Croatian are shown in the table below.

Name of the Authority	Number of employees with the knowledge of Croatian
Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information	2
Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities	3
Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	2
Provincial Secretariat for Health Care, Social Policy and Demography	1
Human Resources Management Service	1

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.

623. In addition to printing and placing boards with names of populated places, which was discussed in more detail in section 4.3.6. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter, traditional forms of the names of populated places in minority languages can also be used on the boards with the names of the institutions, memoranda and seals of the bodies of local self-government units, on public documents, etc.

624. The local self-government units in which Croatian is in official use, in respect to the practice of using traditional forms of place-names in Croatian, provided the following data:

Local Self-Government Unit	Boards at the entrance to a populated place with traditional names in Croatian	Boards with names of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Croatian	Seals of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Croatian
Subotica	Yes, except in the populated place Šupljak	yes	yes

625. Croatian is also in official use in some populated places, and the table below contains data regarding the practice of using traditional forms of place-names in Croatian:

Local Self-Government Unit	Populated places in which Croatian is in official use	Boards at the entrance to a populated place with traditional names in Croatian	Boards with names of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Croatian	Seals of institutions with the traditional name of the populated place in Croatian
Apatin	Sonta	yes	yes	yes
Sombor	Bački Breg and Bački Monoštor	no	in Bački Monoštor	no
Sremska Mitrovica	Stara Bingula	yes	yes	yes
Šid	Sot and Batrovci	yes	no	no

626. Traditional forms of names of populated places in minority languages are also used in the forms of request for enrolment or deletion from the separate electoral roll of the national minority. The said forms are translated into Croatian, and when filling out the section on the place of residence, the traditional name of the populated place in Croatian can be used. The said data is also entered in the identical way in the separate electoral roll of the national minority.

627. Since the law provides for the official use of the Croatian language and script on ballot papers and electoral material, there are many examples of the use of traditional forms of the names of populated places in the electoral process. In the process of conducting elections for National Councils of National Minorities, traditional forms of place-names are used in the minutes on the work of the polling board in the conduct of voting and in determining the results of voting for the election of members of National Councils of National Minorities; on control sheets for checking the correctness of the voting box for the election of members of National Councils of National Minorities; electoral lists of candidates for members of National Councils of National Minorities; decisions on the establishment of a collective electoral list for members of National Councils of National Minorities; forms for collecting signatures of voters who support electors, voter right certificates for voting outside the polling place, etc.

628. When local elections are held, traditional forms of place-names are used in decisions on the allocation of candidates' mandates for councillors of Municipal/City Assemblies; on the electoral lists for councillors of Municipal/City Assemblies; decisions on establishing a collective electoral list of candidates for councillors of Municipal/City Assemblies, etc.

629. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities announced the competitions for distribution of budget funds to bodies and organisations in the territory of AP Vojvodina in whose work languages and scripts of national minorities are in official use, on which RSD 9,500,000.00 is distributed every year. Funds are awarded at competitions for training of employees in bodies and organisations where they use the language of a national minority, which is established as a language in official use, and especially in workplaces where contact with the parties is realized (participation in courses, seminars, etc.), for the development of the electronic administration system for work in conditions of multilingualism and for the production of multilingual boards, forms and publications.

630. In 2014, out of the total amount of funds allocated in the Competition, RSD 8,058,400.00 was allocated for the production of multilingual boards, forms and publications, where the traditional names of populated places in minority languages were written, while in the competition in 2015, for the creation and putting up of multilingual boards, RSD 8,542,000.00 was allocated. In all these competitions, bodies and organisations from certain local self-government units in which Croatian is in official use were also involved, and the traditional names of populated places in Croatian were used on the boards.

Paragraph 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.*

631. In section 4.3.8. of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Charter it is underlined that the laws of the Republic of Serbia regulating labour relations in state administration bodies, autonomous province bodies and local self-government units allow to take into account the demands of employees at all levels of government who know a minority language, including Croatian, to be appointed in the territories in which those languages are used.

632. Based on the available data and information obtained from public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia, which took part in the preparation of the Fourth Report³³, it can be concluded that, even though in the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there have been no requests from employees who know the minority language, including Croatian, to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used, there is a general readiness to meet the potential requirements. For example, PE *Srbijagas* points out that if employees know some of the minority languages, they are allowed to be appointed in the territories in which these languages are used. PE *Pošta Srbije* stated that in the appointment of employees on certain jobs, persons are hired according to the place of residence, which also ensures the knowledge of the minority language necessary for communication with the users of their services. When it comes to behind the counter jobs or delivery of postal mail, the usual practice of this company is to appoint an employee who knows the minority language. This way of doing business provides the beneficiaries of postal services with a wide possibility of using minority language in communication with employees. On the other hand, there are no obstacles to accommodate an employee who knows a minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

633. Based on the information received from the local self-government units that participated in the preparation of this report, it can be concluded that the local self-government units, as founders of public enterprises, do not have any knowledge, or emphasize that in the given period there were no requests of employees in local public services to be deployed or appointed in the territories where these languages are used, but also that there are no obstacles to meet such requests.

³³ PE *Elektroprivreda Srbije*, EPS *Distribucija*, PE *Pošta Srbije*, PE *Srbijagas* and Telekom Srbija.

Article 11 – Media

Paragraph 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:

c ...

- (ii) *to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis.*

634. The Office for Human and Minority Rights, in accordance with its scope of work, monitors the exercise of the right to information of members of national minorities in their own language and at the end of each calendar year, reviews the availability of public information media to members of national minorities in their mother tongue. The data collected from the National Councils of National Minorities, the competent state, provincial and local authorities, the Regulatory body for electronic media, the editorial boards of print media and TV and radio broadcasters, are systematised to provide an overview, inter alia, of the number of printed media in minority languages.

635. The table below contains data on the length of the broadcasting programme, as well as the data on the TV station in terms of the type of broadcaster³⁴ that produced and broadcast programmes in Croatian language in 2015.

TV Station	Length of the programme on a monthly basis in hours	Type of Broadcaster
RTV Vojvodina, TV Vojvodina, Novi Sad	18	Public Broadcasting Service
K9, Novi Sad	1	Commercial Station
YU ECO TV, Subotica	13	Commercial Station

636. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, a legal framework was presented that provided financial support for projects for the production of media contents in minority languages. The new Law on Public Information and Media (2014) also enables this. This law stipulates that in order to enable the realization of the rights of national minorities to inform in their own language and to foster their own culture and identity, the Republic of Serbia, the autonomous province, or the local self-government unit, provides part of the funds, through co-financing or other conditions for the work of the media that publish information in minority languages. To protect the public interest in the field of public information, the funds provided in the budget are allocated on the basis of conducted public contests and by individual grants based on the principle of granting state aid and protection of competition, without discrimination. The contest is announced for projects for the production of media

³⁴ The types of broadcasters are given on the basis of the Broadcasting Law (2002), which ceased to be valid by the adoption of the Law on Electronic Media (2014).

contents and organising and participating in professional, scientific and appropriate meetings, as well as the improvement of professional and ethical standards in the field of public information.

637. Financial support for TV programmes in minority languages broadcast nationally is realized through a competition for co-financing of projects in the field of public information in the languages of national minorities. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there were no applications for co-financing of projects related to the broadcasting of a television programme in Croatian. In the same period, there were applications sent to the Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP Vojvodina for the purpose of allocating funds to the media for broadcasting television programmes in Croatian.

638. The table below contains data on the project financial support for TV stations that have a programme in the Croatian language from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

Year	TV Station	Purpose	Appropriations
2014	Cro-Info Association of Journalists, Subotica/Internet TV portal Cro-info	Production, improvement of professional standards	225.000,00
2015	Cro-Info Association of Journalists, Subotica/ <i>YU ECO TV</i> , Subotica	Production, encouraging the promotion of public information	447.643,00

e

- (i) *to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages.*

639. As already outlined, the Office for Human and Minority at the end of each calendar year reviews the availability of public information media to members of national minorities in their mother tongue. The table below contains an overview of printed media in the Croatian language that were published in 2015.

Printed Public Media	Periodical	Language
<i>Hrvatska riječ</i> , Subotica	Weekly	Croatian
<i>Kužiš?!</i> , Subotica	Monthly	Croatian
<i>Hrcko</i> , Subotica	Monthly	Croatian
<i>Glasnik Pučke kasine</i> , Subotica	Monthly	Croatian
<i>Zvonik</i> , Subotica	Monthly	Croatian
<i>Miroljub</i> , Sombor	Quarterly	Croatian
<i>Otac Gerard</i> , Sombor	Multi-month	Croatian
<i>Hosana</i> , Stari Žednik	Multi-month	Croatian
<i>Gupčeva lipa</i> , Tavankut	Annual paper	Croatian
<i>Novi glas komune</i> , Apatin	Weekly	Multilingual/in Serbian, Croatian and Hungarian

640. Weekly paper *Hrvatska riječ*, children’s magazine *Kužiš* are published by the Croatian Publishing Institution “*Hrvatska Riječ*”, founded by the National Council of the Croatian National Minority.

641. In the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter it was stated that the competent state body provides support to ensure the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to information in their mother tongue and to enrich the offer of media programming in minority languages. This is achieved through an annual competition for co-financing of projects in the field of public information in the languages of national minorities, which includes printed media. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, no application was made for the co-financing of printed media in Croatian.

642. The competent provincial authorities provide part of the funds for issuing newspapers of provincial importance, among which are the editions of the newspaper publishing institution “*Hrvatska riječ*”.

643. The table below contains the amount of approved funds for newspapers of provincial importance in Croatian, which are subsidized from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

Medium	Subsidy		
	2013	2014	2015
<i>Hrvatska riječ</i>	27,260,100.00	27,260,100.00	31,860,000.00
<i>Hrcko</i>	2,520,000.00	2,520,000.00	2,520,000.00
<i>Kužiš</i>	1,920,000.00	1,920,000.00	1,920,000.00

Paragraph 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.

644. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter described the power granted to the National Councils of National Minorities under the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) in terms of advocating the interests of national minorities, i.e. speakers of minority languages, in various media administration and professional bodies at the national level.

645. The interests of minority language users are also safeguarded by the organisation and work of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (hereinafter referred to as the Regulator), established by the Law on Electronic Media (2014). This body is an autonomous and independent regulatory organisation, with the status of a legal entity, which performs public powers in order to: effectively implement the established policy in the field of providing media services in the Republic of Serbia; improve the quality and diversity of electronic media services; contribute to the preservation, protection and development of the freedom of thought and expression; protect public interest in the field of electronic media and protect the

users of electronic media services, in accordance with the provisions of that law, in a manner appropriate to a democratic society.

646. The scope of work of the Regulator includes the following: it determines the Proposal for the development of media service of the radio and audio-visual media services in the Republic of Serbia, which is adopted by the Government; issues licenses for providing media services to television and linear media services of the radio; more closely regulates the procedure, conditions and criteria for issuing such licences; maintains the Register of media services and records of media service providers upon request; controls the work of media service providers and imposes measures in accordance with the law; establishes closer rules regarding the programme contents in relation to protection, dignity of personality and other personal rights, protection of the rights of minors, prohibition of hate speech, etc.; encourages the preservation and protection of Serbian culture and language, as well as the culture and language of national minorities; encourages the development of creativity in the field of radio, television and other audio-visual media services, as well as the development of professionalism in electronic media and the improvement of editorial independence and autonomy of media service providers, etc.

647. The Regulator's bodies are the Regulator's Council and the President of the Council. The Regulator's Council has nine members elected from the ranks of prominent experts in the areas of relevance to the performance of tasks within the competence of the Regulator. The members of the Regulator's Council are elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, based on the proposal of the authorised proposers. Among these authorised proposers, as already discussed, are National Councils of National Minorities that have the possibility to propose a member of the Regulator's Council by joint agreement.

Article 12 - Cultural Activities and Facilities

Paragraph 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:

- 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, overdubbing and subtitling activities.*

648. Support to minority languages and cultures from budget funds is carried out exclusively on the basis of co-financing projects through the competition. The Ministry of Culture and Information publishes competitions annually for all fields of creative work, where members of national minorities, or speakers of minority languages, have the opportunity to participate with their projects. In addition, since 2007 a specialized competition for the cultural activities of national minorities has been announced. This competition also envisages, inter alia, the co-financing of projects that enable the availability of cultural contents for a

wider circle of users, such as translating a publication, subtitling a film, overdubbing a theatre performance, etc.

649. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works created in Croatian would be translated into Serbian as the majority language, or another minority language spoken in the Republic of Serbia. Also, there were no applications for overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Croatian into Serbian or some other minority language. The reason for the absence of applications relating to the translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Croatian into the Serbian language, probably lies in the fact that those languages were derived from the Serbo-Croatian³⁵, or Croato-Serbian language corpus, and it is probably estimated that the translation of literary and other works of art from one language to another would not be worthwhile or financially profitable.

650. From the budget of AP Vojvodina funds are allocated, inter alia, for co-financing of programmes/projects that are of wider regional significance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina and the development of the culture of members of national minorities. Funds are allocated on the basis of announced competitions annually for co-financing of programmes and projects and in the field of publishing activity (publication, translation and distribution of works by authors who create in minority languages), publishing of magazines, preparation of theatrical performances, promotion of film production and broadcasting of TV programmes in the fields of culture and art.

651. Co-financed projects in the field of culture related to Croatian during this period concerned, inter alia, 17 projects in the field of publishing activity, 14 projects in the field of publishing magazines and publications, and 2 projects for the production of films, radio and TV programmes in the field of culture. However, there were no applications for co-financing of translation projects, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works created in Croatian into Serbian or some other minority languages

c to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, overdubbing and subtitling activities.

³⁵ The Serbo-Croatian or Croato-Serbian language was the name of a common language. "The linguistic science in the 19th century found that the folk languages of Serbs and Croats was one language, and hence some Croatian and Serbian philologists and writersmade, as early as 1850, the Vienna Literary Accord, where they wanted the language of Serbian and Croatian literature, "to get closer, concord and unite". What started with the Vienna Literary Accord continued in Novi Sad in 1954, with the known Conclusions on the Croato-Serbian language and spelling." Among other things, one of the conclusions was that "the national language of Serbs, Croats and Montenegrins is one language. Therefore, the literary language, which developed on its basis around two main centres of Belgrade and Zagreb, is unique, with Ikavian and Ekavian pronunciation." (Spelling of the Croato-Serbian literary language, Matica hrvatska, Zagreb and Matica srpska, Novi Sad, 1960, pp. 5-6). With the collapse of the SFRY in 1991, the term "Serbo-Croatian", which denoted the majority language in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, ceased to be in official use.

652. The competition for cultural activities of national minorities, which is announced at the national level, provides the possibility of co-financing and projects related to translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or a minority language into another minority language.

653. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there were no applications for co-financing of projects by which the works produced in the Serbian language or some other minority language would be translated into Croatian. There were also no applications for co-financing of overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or some other minority language into Croatian. The absence of applications for translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian into Croatian has been explained within the implementation of the previous subparagraph of this Article of the Charter.

654. For the co-financing of projects related to the translation, overdubbing and subtitling the translations of works produced in Serbian or some other minority language into Croatian, no applications were made for the allocation of funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

Paragraph 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.

655. The cultural and artistic expression of members of national minorities affirming and presenting creativity in minority languages is supported by the republic budget throughout the country. As already stated, funds for co-financing projects in the field of culture are approved exclusively through the competition of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The right to participate in the competition is provided for institutions, arts and other associations and organisations/legal entities, as well as individuals from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia that financially support cultural activities do not distinguish between territories where minority languages are traditionally in use and those territories where it is not the case. In this sense, there are no restrictions in the co-financing of projects from all fields of cultural creativity of speakers of minority languages and their cultures. In order to provide financial support from budget funds, the most important is the quality of the project, as well as the fulfilment of clearly defined criteria described in the competition.

656. In the period covered by the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, funds for cultural activities related to Croatian were approved for projects that were realized on the territories in which this minority language is traditionally used. There were no applications for realization of projects in the field of culture from the territories in which Croatian is not traditionally used.

Article 14 - Transfrontier Exchanges

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.*

657. As outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia is a legal successor of bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities with several states. These agreements stipulate that special intergovernmental mixed bodies shall observe the degree of fulfilment of the obligations arising from the concluded agreements. Based on 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 (2005), the Serbo-Croatian Intergovernmental Joint Committee for Minorities was formed. The last session of the Joint Committee, which discussed the implementation of the recommendations made at the previous meetings and established new recommendations, was held at the end of 2014. Part of the recommendations refers to education, culture and information of members of the Croatian national minority in the Republic of Serbia, of which several successfully implemented recommendations are given as an example.

658. One of the recommendations envisages *consistent implementation of the adopted laws and the introduction of new mechanisms in order to improve the quality of teaching, including the testing of knowledge of the minority language*. In order to fulfil this recommendation, the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Novi Sad, which, within the Teacher Training Centre, implements programmes for professional development of teachers and associates who teach in the language of national minorities, has started to implement the Programme for acquiring competences in Croatian language and literature with the methodology of work.

659. The implementation of the recommendation to *ensure funding and printing of textbooks for teaching in Croatian language* was enabled after the adoption of the new Law on Textbooks from 2015, by which the public publisher is obliged to prepare manuscripts of textbooks for all subjects in primary school and didactic aids for preparatory pre-school programme in the language of the national minority, after which, at the beginning of 2016, a Cooperation Agreement in the area of issuing textbooks in Croatian language was signed between the public publisher, the Line Ministry and the National Council, which enabled the printing of 17 textbooks in Croatian language.

660. One of the successfully implemented recommendations from the previous cycle refers to the establishment of a newsroom in Croatian language on Radio Television of Vojvodina in cooperation with the National Council of the Croatian National Minority and successfully solving the legal status of editors and employees in the editorial boards of the programme in Croatian language.