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**THIRD REPORT SUBMITTED BY SERBIA
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25, PARAGRAPH 2
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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Republic of Serbia

**FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL
MINORITIES**

**Third Periodical Report submitted to the Secretary General of the Council of
Europe in accordance with Article 25 of the Framework Convention**

Belgrade, December 2012

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Note from the Council of Europe Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: Appendix has been provided separately

INTRODUCTION

1. Information related to the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the Framework Convention) was ratified in the Federal Assembly of the FR Yugoslavia in 1998. At the invitation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, FR Yugoslavia joined the Framework Convention on 11 May 2001, which, for the purposes of FR Yugoslavia and in accordance with the provision of Article 29 paragraph 2 thereof, came into effect on 1 September 2001. The First Periodical Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in FR Yugoslavia (hereinafter referred to as the First Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention) was submitted in 2002. The Resolution on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia and Montenegro was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2004. The Second Periodical Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia (hereinafter referred to as the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention) was submitted in 2008. The Resolution on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2011.

In accordance with Article 25 of the Framework Convention, the Republic of Serbia herewith submits its Third Periodical Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention) for the period 2007-2011, on the basis of state reports to be submitted in the third monitoring cycle (ACFC-III(2008)001), which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2008.

The Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention was created in the Office for Human and Minority Rights established by the Government on 2 August 2012 and continued with operations of the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights, i.e. an administrative authority within the then existing Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government (hereinafter referred to as the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights). The following public and provincial authorities were involved in the development of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention¹: the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Regional

¹ The Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention contains names of public authorities under which they submitted their materials for the development of the Report, which are in compliance with the former Law on Ministries (effective in March 2011). Adoption of the new Law on Ministries (July 2012) resulted in the change of competences and, consequently, names of specific ministries.

Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-government, Ministry of Religion and Diaspora, Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning, Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities, Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information, Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa, Secretary General of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and Department of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Contribution to the development of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention also gave: the Citizens' Ombudsman, Provincial Ombudsman, Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Commissioner for Refugees, Republic Geodetic Authority, Republic Broadcasting Agency, Radio Television of Serbia, Radio Television of Vojvodina and National Bank of Serbia.

The following local self-government units were invited to be involved in the development of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention: Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Babušnica, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bečej, Bela Crkva, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vrbas, Vršac, Dimitrovgrad, Žabalj, Žitište, City of Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Kula, Mali Idoš, Medveđa, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Kneževac, City of Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Odžaci Plandište, Preševo, Priboj, Prijepolje, Sečanj, Senta, Sjenica, City of Sombor, Srbobran, City of Subotica, Surdulica, Temerin, Titel, Tutin, Čoka and Šid. The invitation was accepted by: Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Bujanovac, Dimitrovgrad, Žabalj, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Plandište, Preševo, Sombor, Subotica, Titel, Čoka and Šid.

Development of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention also included engagement of all the national councils of national minorities and the Association of Jewish Municipalities, as well as the following associations of citizens assembling persons belonging to national minorities or dealing with the protection of minority rights: Committee for the Protection of Human Rights, Preševo; THE FUTURE, Bujanovac; COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE, Bujanovac; Cultural Centre DamaD, Novi Pazar; Sandžak Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms, Novi Pazar; URBAN IN, Novi Pazar; Cultural and Information Centre of the Bulgarian National Minority, Dimitrovgrad; Bulgarian Matica in Serbia, Bosilegrad; Bunyevtsi Matica, Subotica; Association of Citizens Bunjevačko Kolo, Sombor; Forum of Vlachs, Bor; Gergina, Negotin; Vlach Union Movement, Petrovac na Mlavi; Foundation "Laslo Sekereš", Subotica; Hungarian Cultural Society, Novi Sad; Hungarian Language Society, Novi Sad; Scientific Association for Hungarology Research, Subotica; Vojvodina Centre for Methodics, Subotica; "Ilinden", Jabuka; Makedonijum, Belgrade;

Vardar, Niš; German National Union, Subotica; German Association “Donau”, Novi Sad; Roma Information Centre in Kragujevac; Association for Education and Culture of Roma, Bor; Roma Educational Centre from Subotica, Subotica; Youth Forum for the Education of Roma, Bujanovac; Society for the Culture and Education of Roma “Romano Suno”, Deronje; Romanian Centre for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Novi Sad; Romanian Language Society from Vojvodina, Novi Sad; Romanian Society (Foundation) for Ethnography and Folklore from Vojvodina, Torak; Literary and Artistic Association “Tibiskus”, Uzdin; Ruthenian Matica, Ruski Krstur; Society for Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture, Novi Sad; Slovak Association of Teachers, Bački Petrovac; Association of Slovak Journalists, Kulpin; Association of Slovak Local Media, Bački Petrovac, Slovak Matica in Serbia, Bački Petrovac; Society of Slovenians in Belgrade “Sava”, Belgrade; Society of Slovenians “Kredarica”, Novi Sad; Society Prosvita, Novi Sad; Croatian Academic Society, Subotica; HDPU Bela Gabrić, Subotica; Croatian Matica Subotica, Đurđin; Češka Beseda, Bela Crkva; Czech Matica, Bela Crkva.

The invitation for participation in the development of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention was accepted by national councils of the Bunjevac, Hungarian, Macedonian, Romanian, Croatian and Czech national minorities, as well as by the Association of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia. Their reports in their original form are contained in Appendix of the Report. The national councils of the Greek, German, Slovak, Slovenian and Ukrainian national minorities submitted only information about their national symbols and holidays.

The following associations submitted their opinion on the status of national minorities: Association of Citizens “Bunjevačko kolo”, Sombor; Association “Gergina”, Negotin; German Association “Donau”, Novi Sad; Society for Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture, Novi Sad; Society of Slovenians “Kredarica”, Novi Sad and Society of Slovenians in Belgrade “Sava”. Their basic observations regarding specific issues about the status of national minorities are presented in the form of specific provisions contained in the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention.

The data on the financial support of the public authority at all levels that are presented in the tables of the Report are expressed in RSD, unless otherwise stated.

All the terms used in the Report in masculine also include the same terms in the feminine gender.

1.1. Legal acts used for the implementation of the Framework Convention

National legal regulations used for the implementation of the Framework Convention, which are also specified in the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention, are as follows:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 98/06)

International treaties

- The Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia on the Protection of the Serbian and Montenegrin National Minority in the Republic of Macedonia and the Macedonian National Minority in Serbia and Montenegro (“Official Journal of Serbia and Montenegro – International Treaties”, No. 6/05)
- The Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Hungary on the Protection of the Hungarian National Minority in Serbia and Montenegro and the Serbian National Minority in the Republic of Hungary (“Official Journal of Serbia and Montenegro – International Treaties”, No. 14/04)
- 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 (“Official Journal of Serbia and Montenegro – International Treaties”, No. 14/04)
- The Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Croatia on the Protection of the Serbian and Montenegrin National Minority in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian National Minority in Serbia and Montenegro (“Official Journal of Serbia and Montenegro – International Treaties”, No. 3/05)

Legal regulations

- The Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities (Official Journal of the FRY”, Nos. 11/02 and “Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 72/09 – other law)
- The Law on National Councils of National Minorities (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 72/09)
- The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 22/09)
- The Law on the Protection of Personal Data (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 97/08 and 104/09 – other law)
- The Law on Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in 2011 (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 104/09 and 24/11)
- The Law on Official Statistics (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 104/09)
- The Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 135/04 and 90/07)
- The Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence of Citizens (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 87/11)

- The Identity Card Law (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 62/06 and 36/11)
- The Law on Police (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos.101/05, 63/09 - Decision of the Constitutional Court, and 92/11)
- The Law on Establishing Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 99/09 and 67/12 - Decision of the Constitutional Court)
- The Law on Local Self-Government (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 129/07)
- The Law on the Official Use of Language and Script (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 45/91, 53/93 – other law, 67/93 – other law, 48/94 – other law, 101/05 – other law, and 30/10)
- The Law on General Administrative Procedure (Official Journal of the FRY”, Nos. 33/97, 31/01 and “Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 30/10)
- The Criminal Code (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 85/05, 88/05 – amended, 107/05 – amended, 72/09 и 111/09)
- The Criminal Procedure Code (Official Journal of the FRY”, Nos. 70/01 and 68/02 and “Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 58/04, 85/05, 85/05 – other law, 115/05, 46/06, 49/07, 122/08, 20/09 – other law 72/09 and 76/10)
- The Criminal Procedure Code (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 72/11 and 101/11)
- The Civil Procedure Law (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 72/11)
- The Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 25/82, 48/88, 46/95- other law, 18/05 other law, and 85/12)
- The Law on Administrative Disputes (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 111/09)
- The Law on Organisation of Courts (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 116/08, 104/09, 101/10, 31/11- other law,78/11- other law, and 101/11)
- The Law on Public Prosecution (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 116/08, 104/09, 101/10, 78/11 – other law, 101/11 and 38/12- Decision of the Constitutional Court)
- The Law on the Seats and Territorial Jurisdictions of Courts and Public Prosecutor’s Offices (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 116/08)
- The Law on Political Parties (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 36/09)
- The Law on Associations (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 51/09 and 99/11 other laws)
- The Law on the Election of MPs (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 35/00, 69/02, 57/03 – Decision of the Constitutional Court, 72/03 – other law, 75/03 –other law amended, 18/04, 85/05 - other law, 101/05 - other law, 109/06, 37/08 104/09 - other law 28/11, and 36/11)

- The Law on Government (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 55/05, 71/05 – amended, 101/07, 65/08, 16/11, 68/12 - Decision of the Constitutional Court, 74/12 – amended Decision of the Constitutional Court and 72/12)
- The Law on Ministries (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 16/11) – repealed
- The Law on Ministries (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 72/12)
- The Law on Public Administration (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 79/05, 101/07 and 95/10)
- The Law on the Ombudsman (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 79/05 and 54/07)
- The Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 20/09)
- The Law on Culture (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 72/09)
- The Law on Cultural Heritage (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 71/94, 52/11 – other laws and 99/2011- other law)
- The Public Information Law (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 43/03, 61/05 71/09, 89/10 - Decision of the Constitutional Court and 41/11 - Decision of the Constitutional Court)
- The Broadcasting Law (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 42/02, 97/04, 76/05, 62/06, 85/06, 86/06 and 41/09)
- The Law on the Fundamentals of the Educational System (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 72/09 and 52/11)
- The Law on Preschool Education (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 18/10)
- The Law on Primary Education (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 50/92, 53/93 – other law, 67/93 – other law, 48/94 – other law, 66/94 – other law, 22/02, 62/03 - other law, 64/03 - other law, 101/05 - other law and 72/09 – other law);
- The Law on Secondary Education (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 50/92, 53/93 - other law, 67/93 - other law, 48/94 - other law, 24/96, 23/02, 25/03 - amended, 62/03 - other law, 64/03 - other law amended, 101/05 - other law and 72/09 - other law)
- The Law on Higher Education (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 76/05, 100/07- authentic interpretation, 97/08 and 44/10)
- The Law on Textbooks and Other Teaching Materials (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 72/09)

Bylaws of the Republic of Serbia

- The Decree on the Republic of Serbia Council of National Minorities (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 50/09)
- The Decree on the Allocation of Funds from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for Financing Work of National Councils of National Minorities (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 95/10)

- The Decree on Administrative Districts (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 15/06)
- The Conclusion on Measures for Increase of Participation of Members of National Minorities in Authorities of Public Administration (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 40/06)
- The Guidelines for Keeping Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Their Forms (“Official Gazette of the RS”, Nos. 109/09, 4/10 – amended, 10/10 and 25/11)

Political and strategic documents

- The Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 27/09)
- The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 57/09)
- The Strategy for Development of the Public Information System in the Republic of Serbia until 2016 (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 75/11)
- The Strategy for Development of Vocational Education in the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 1/07)

Provincial regulations

- The Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (“Official Journal of the APV”, No. 17/09)
- The Provincial Assembly Decision on More Detailed Regulation of Specific Issues of Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (“Official Journal of the APV”, Nos. 8/03, 9/03 – amended, No. 18/09 – name of the document changed, and “Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 69/10 – Decision of the Constitutional Court)
- The Provincial Assembly Decision on the Provincial Administration (“Official Journal of the APV”, Nos. 4/10, 4/11 and 20/12)
- The Decision on the Establishment of the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Hungarians (“Official Journal of the APV”, No.7/08)
- The Decision on the Establishment of the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Slovaks (“Official Journal of the APV”, Nos. 7/08 and 6/09)
- The Decision on the Establishment of the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Romanians (“Official Journal of the APV”, Nos. 7/08 and 3/10)
- The Decision on the Establishment of the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Ruthenians (“Official Journal of the APV”, Nos. 7/08 and 22/11)
- The Decision on the Establishment of the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Croats (“Official Journal of the APV”, Nos. 7/08 and 6/09)

- The Decision on Allocation of Funds from the Budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina for Publishing Newspapers of Provincial Relevance (“Official Journal of the APV”, No. 4/08)

2. General information

2.1. Demographics

According to results of the census from 2011, there are 7,186,862 citizens living in the Republic of Serbia. Ethnic composition of the population, according to results of the census from 2011, is presented in the table below.

Nationality	Number
Serbs	5,988,150
Albanians	5,809
Ashkali	997
Bosniacs	145,278
Bulgarians	18,543
Bunjevtsi	16,706
Vlachs	35,330
Gorani	7,767
Greeks	725
Egyptians	1,834
Jews	787
Yugoslavs	23,303
Hungarians	253,899
Macedonians	22,755
Moslims	22,301
Germans	4,064
Roma	147,604
Romanians	29,332
Russians	3,247
Ruthenians	14,246
Slovaks	52,750
Slovenians	4,033
Turks	647
Ukrainians	4,903
Croats	57,900
Tzintzars	243
Montenegrins	38,527
Czechs	1,824
Shokci	607
Others	9,890
Did not declare themselves	160,346

Regional affiliation	30,771
Unknown	81,740
Total number of population	7,186,862

2.2. Basic economic data

The level of economic development of the country is presented with the information below:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 2007-2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
GDP – total in million USD	38952.1	47760.6	40254.1	37073.7	43293.3
GDP – per capita, USD	5277	6498	5499	5085	5964
Average USD exchange rate	58.4535	55.7235	67.5729	77.7341	73.3375

An average official RSD/EUR middle exchange rate at the annual level for the period 2007-2011

Period	Currency	RSD
1 January 2007-31 December 2007	EUR 1	79.9809
1 January 2008-31 December 2008	EUR 1	81.4672
1 January 2009-31 December 2009	EUR 1	93.9366
1 January 2010-31 December 2010	EUR 1	102.9022
1 January 2011-31 December 2011	EUR 1	101.9572

Employment and unemployment rates in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2007-2011

Persons aged 15 and above	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2007	41.8	18.1
2008	44.4	13.6
2009	41.2	16.1
2010	37.9	19.2
2011	35.8	23.0

Average monthly earnings in the Republic of Serbia

Year	Average earnings	Previous year=100
2007	38,744	122.05
2008	45,674	117.89
2009	44,147	108.80
2010	47,450	107.50
2011	52,733	111.10

The table below presents data about total funds (revenues and earnings) in the budget of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2007-2011.

Budget year	Total budget funds
2007	581,841,505,769
2008	650,174,345,330
2009	649,357,997,000
2010	732,950,217,000
2011	707,345,000,000

3. Administrative structure

The legislation referring to the administrative structure in the Republic of Serbia has changed in the period after submission of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention.

3.1. Activities and organisation of the public administration

The Law on Public Administration prescribes that public administration should include ministries, administration authorities within ministries, and special organisations established by the law whose scope of activities is determined by the law. Ministries are established for the purposes of carrying out public administration activities in one or more interrelated fields.

A ministry may have one or more administration authorities in its composition. An authority is formed for the purposes of carrying out executive, i.e. inspection activities, and related professional activities, if their nature or scope requires greater

independence than a directorate within a ministry has. An authority may obtain a legal entity status, when determined by the law. Types of an authority are administrations, inspectorates and directorates.

Public administration activities are as follows: involvement in development of the Government policy; monitoring the situation in the fields within its scope of activities; enforcement of laws, other regulations and general acts; inspection; ensuring operation of public services; development and other professional activities.

An administrative district may be created for the purposes of carrying out public administration activities outside the seat of public administration authorities. A Decree on Administrative Districts determines that the term “administrative district” means a public administration regional centre which includes regional units of all public administration authorities formed in the region. A public administration authority decides on whether an administrative district will carry out one or more public administration activities related to: resolving first degree administrative issues (issues may be resolved in the second degree court if public authorisation holders were involved in the first degree), supervising operations of public authorisation holders, and inspection. The stated Government Decree was used for creating 29 administrative districts, whereas a territory of any of the administrative districts includes a certain number of municipalities and cities.

The Law on Ministries of July 2012 was used for establishing the following ministries: the Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Finance and Economy; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Regional Development and Local Self-Government; Ministry of Transport; Ministry of Construction and Urban Planning; Ministry of Justice and Public Administration; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection; Ministry of Culture and Media; Ministry of Natural Resources, Mining and Spatial Planning; Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy; Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Foreign and Domestic Trade and Telecommunications.

Specific public administration activities may be, by law, entrusted to autonomous provinces, municipalities, cities and the City of Belgrade, public companies, institutions, public agencies, and other organisations (public authorisation holders). When carrying out entrusted public administration activities, public authorisation holders have the same rights and duties as public administration authorities. The Government and public administration authorities reserve responsibilities for the execution of public administration activities even after they have been entrusted. Public administration activities related to the development of the Government policy cannot be entrusted to anyone, whereas inspection activities may be entrusted only to the authorities of the autonomous province, municipality, city and the City of Belgrade.

3.1.1. Organisation and activities related to carrying out competences in the field of human and minority rights

After parliamentary elections held in May 2012, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the new Law on Ministries on 26 July 2012. The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Governments ceased with its operation on the day of enforcement of the new Law on Ministries. Pursuant to Article 10 of the Law, the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration shall carry out public administration activities which are, *inter alia*, connected to keeping registers of national minority councils, election of national minority councils, and preparation of regulations on human and minority rights, as well as other activities determined by the law that were assumed from the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government – Directorate for Human and Minority Rights. According to the provision of Article 37 of the Law, the Government established the Office for Human and Minority Rights on 2 August 2012 by the Decree, as Government' office. Pursuant to Article 2 of the Decree, the Office for Human and Minority Rights shall perform professional activities for the purposes of the Government and competent ministries related to: protection and promotion of human and minority rights; monitoring compliance of domestic regulations with international treaties and other international acts on human and minority rights, and initiation of amendments of domestic regulations; general issues concerning the status of persons belonging to national minorities; monitoring the status of persons belonging to national minorities living in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, and exercising minority rights; establishing connections between national minorities and their home countries.

Certain activities in this field are also carried out by autonomous province and local self-government authorities.

3.2. Activities and organisation of administration of AP Vojvodina

According to Article 3 of the Provincial Assembly Decision on Provincial Administration, provincial administration activities shall be carried out by provincial secretariats and special provincial administration organisations: departments and directorates. Provincial administration activities are regulated in Art. 12 and 13 of the Decision. Provincial administration authorities perform executive activities within the competences of AP Vojvodina determined by the Constitution, law and the Statute. They supervise and prepare regulations adopted by the Assembly and Government of AP Vojvodina and enact administrative regulations under their competence, carry out professional and development activities, monitor operation of public services, perform entrusted public administration activities, and carry out other activities in accordance with regulations. In carrying out executive activities, public administration authorities

execute and apply Provincial Assembly decisions, provincial decrees, and other decisions of the Assembly and Government of AP Vojvodina by adopting administrative procedures and individual administrative acts used in administrative procedures. They also keep public records, issue public documents and undertake and carry out other administrative activities. Public administration authorities prepare drafts and proposals of regulations adopted by the Assembly and Government of AP Vojvodina, and adopt administrative regulations under their competence. In carrying out professional and development activities, provincial administration authorities monitor and analyse condition in the fields within their scope of operation, prepare reports and information based on the defined situation, take measures, or propose to the Government of AP Vojvodina to adopt regulations and take measures it is authorised to, prepare for the Government of AP Vojvodina strategies, programmes and plans in the fields within its scope of operation. Public administration authorities monitor, supervise and assist operation of institutions, public companies, funds, and other organisations founded by AP Vojvodina, all within their scope of activities. Public administration authorities perform public administration activities when they are entrusted by the law to perform them.

3.3. Activities and organisation of administration of local self-government units

According to the Law on Local Self-Government, adopted by the end of 2007, municipal bodies are Municipal Assembly, Mayor, Municipal Council, and municipal administration. According to Article 20 of the Law, based on the Constitution, local self-government shall be competent in the field of human and minority rights to ensure exercising, protection and promotion of human rights and individual and collective rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups; determining minority languages and scripts officially used in the territory of a municipality, ensuring public information of local importance and conditions for providing public information in Serbian and in the minority languages used in the territory of a municipality; founding television and radio stations for reporting in the minority languages officially used in a municipality, as well as reporting in the minority languages not in official use, when such a type of reporting represents the achieved level of minority rights.

Pursuant to provisions of Article 52 of the Law, a municipal administration shall be competent for the following: preparing draft regulations and other acts adopted by the Municipal Assembly, Mayor and Municipality Council; executing decisions and other acts of the Municipal Assembly, Mayor and Municipal Council; resolving issues in first degree administrative proceedings about rights and duties of citizens, companies, institutions and other organisations in administrative matters under the competence of municipality; carrying out activities of administrative monitoring of execution of regulations and other general acts of the Municipal Assembly; executing laws and other regulations whose execution was entrusted to a municipality, and carrying out

professional and other activities determined by the Municipal Assembly, Mayor and Municipal Council. Municipal administration may be a single body (Article 54), or consist of several administrations (Article 55). For the purposes of carrying out related activities, the administration may consist of internal organisational units. The same principle applies to the organisation of the city administration.

4. Organisation of courts

As specified in the Second Periodical Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention, provisions of Article 142 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia prescribe that judicial power shall be unique in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, and that courts shall be independent and autonomous in their work and shall judge by the Constitution, laws and other general acts, when envisaged by the law, generally accepted rules of the international law and verified international treaties.

Article 1 paragraph 1 of the Law on Organisation of Courts prescribes that courts shall be independent and autonomous public bodies that protect freedoms and rights of citizens, legal rights and interests of legal entities, and ensure constitutionality and legality. The Law on Organisation of Courts prescribes that judicial power in the Republic of Serbia shall belong to the courts of general and special jurisdiction. Courts of general jurisdiction shall be basic courts, higher courts, appellate courts and the Supreme Court of Cassation. Courts of special jurisdiction shall be commercial courts, the Appellate Commercial Court, misdemeanour courts, the Higher Misdemeanour Court, and the Administrative Court.

4.1. Seats and territories of courts

The Law on the Seats and Territorial Jurisdictions of Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices prescribes that basic courts are: 1) the First Basic Court in Belgrade, for the territories of the municipalities of Vračar, Voždovac, Zvezdara, Zemun, Novi Beograd, Palilula, Rakovica, Savski Venac, Stari Grad and Čukarica, 2) the Second Basic Court in Belgrade, for the territories of the municipalities of Barajevo, Grocka, Lazarevac, Mladenovac, Obrenovac, Sopot and Surčin, with court units in Lazarevac, Mladenovac, Obrenovac and Sopot, 3) the Basic Court in Bor, for the territory of the municipality of Bor, 4) the Basic Court in Valjevo, for the territories of the municipalities of Lajkovac, Ljig, Mionica, Osečina and Ub, and for the city of Valjevo, with court units in Lajkovac, Ljig, Mionica, Osečina and Ub, 5) the Basic Court in Vranje, for the territories of the municipalities of Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vladičin Han, Preševo, Surdulica and Trgovište, and for the city of Vranje, with court units in Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vladičin Han, Preševo and Surdulica, 6) the Basic Court in Vršac, for the territories of the municipalities of Bela Crkva, Vršac and Plandište, with court units in

Bela Crkva and Plandište, 7) the Basic Court in Zaječar, for the territories of the municipalities of Boljevac, Knjaževac, and Sokobanja, and for the city of Zaječar, with court units in Boljevac, Knjaževac and Sokobanja, 8) the Basic Court in Zrenjanin, for the territories of the municipalities of Žitište, Novi Bečej and Sečanj, and for the city of Zrenjanin, with court units in Novi Bečej and Sečanj, 9) the Basic Court in Jagodina, for the territories of the municipalities of Rekovac and Svilajnac, and for the city of Jagodina, with court units in Rekovac and Svilajnac, 10) the Basic Court in Kikinda, for the territories of the municipalities of Kikinda, Nova Crnja, Novi Kneževac and Čoka, with court units in Nova Crnja and Novi Kneževac, 11) the Basic Court in Kosovska Mitrovica, for the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, with court units in Goraždevac, Gračanica, Ranilug and Štrpce, 12) the Basic Court in Kragujevac, for the territories of the municipalities of Arandelovac, Batočina, Knić, Lapovo, Rača and Topola, and for the city of Kragujevac, with court units in Arandelovac, Batočina, Rača and Topola, 13) the Basic Court in Kraljevo, for the territories of the municipalities of Vrnjačka Banja and Raška, and for the city of Kraljevo, with court units in Vrnjačka Banja and Raška, 14) the Basic Court in Kruševac, for the territories of the municipalities of Aleksandrovac, Brus, Varvarin, Čičevac and Trstenik, and for the city of Kruševac, with court units in Aleksandrovac, Brus, Varvarin and Trstenik, 15) the Basic Court in Leskovac, for the territories of the municipalities of Bojnik, Vlasotince, Lebane, Medveđa and Crna Trava, and for the city of Leskovac, with court units in Vlasotince and Lebane, 16) the Basic Court in Loznica, for the territories of the municipalities of Krupanj, Ljubovija and Mali Zvornik, and for the city of Loznica, with court units in Krupanj and Ljubovija, 17) the Basic Court in Negotin, for the territories of the municipalities of Kladovo, Majdanpek and Negotin, with court units in Kladovo and Majdanpek, 18) the Basic Court in Niš, for the territories of the municipalities of Aleksinac, Gadžin Han, Doljevac, Ražanj and Svrljig, and for the city of Niš, with court units in Aleksinac, Ražanj and Svrljig, 19) the Basic Court in Novi Pazar, for the territories of the municipalities of Sjenica and Tutin, and for the city of Novi Pazar, with court units in Sjenica and Tutin, 20) the Basic Court in Novi Sad, for the territories of the municipalities of Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bački Petrovac, Beočin, Bečej, Vrbas, Žabalj, Srbobran, Sremski Karlovci, Temerin and Titel, and for the city of Novi Sad, with court units in Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bački Petrovac, Beočin, Bečej, Vrbas, Žabalj, Srbobran, Temerin and Titel, 21) the Basic Court in Pančevo, for the territories of the municipalities of Alibunar, Kovačica, Kovin and Opovo, and for the city of Pančevo, with court units in Alibunar, Kovačica and Kovin, 22) the Basic Court in Paraćin, for the territories of the municipalities of Despotovac, Paraćin and Čuprija, with court units in Despotovac and Čuprija, 23) the Basic Court in Pirot, for the territories of the municipalities of Babušnica, Bela Palanka, Dimitrovgrad and Pirot, with court units in Babušnica, Bela Palanka and Dimitrovgrad, 24) the Basic Court in Požarevac, for the territories of the municipalities of Veliko Gradište, Golubac, Žabari, Žagubica, Kučevo,

Malo Crniće and Petrovac na Mlavi, and for the city of Požarevac, with court units in Veliko Gradište, Žabari, Žagubica, Kučevo and Petrovac na Mlavi, 25) the Basic Court in Požega, for the territories of the municipalities of Arilje, Ivanjica, Kosjerić and Požega, with court units in Arilje, Ivanjica and Kosjerić, 26) the Basic Court in Prijepolje, for the territories of the municipalities of Nova Varoš, Priboj and Prijepolje, with court units in Nova Varoš and Priboj, 27) the Basic Court in Prokuplje, for the territories of the municipalities of Blace, Žitorađe, Kuršumlija, Merošina and Prokuplje, with court units in Balce and Kuršumlija, 28) the Basic Court in Smederevo, for the territories of the municipalities of Velika Plana and Smederevska Palanka, and for the city of Smederevo, with court units in Velika Plana and Smederevska Palanka, 29) the Basic Court in Sombor, for the territories of the municipalities of Apatin, Kula and Odžaci, and for the city of Sombor, with court units in Apatin, Kula and Odžaci, 30) the Basic Court in Sremska Mitrovica, for the territories of the municipalities of Indija, Irig, Pećinci, Ruma, Stara Pazova and Šid, and for the city of Sremska Mitrovica, with court units in Indija, Irig, Pećinci, Ruma, Stara Pazova and Šid, 31) the Basic Court in Subotica, for the territories of the municipalities of Ada, Bačka Topola, Kanjiža, Mali Idoš and Senta, and for the city of Subotica, with court units in Ada, Bačka Topola, Kanjiža and Senta, 32) the Basic Court in Užice, for the territories of the municipalities of Bajina Bašta and Čajetina, and for the city of Užice, with court units in Bajina Bašta and Čajetina, 33) the Basic Court in Čačak, for the territories of the municipalities of Gornji Milanovac and Lučani, and for the city of Čačak, with court units in Gornji Milanovac and Guča, 34) the Basic Court in Šabac, for the territories of the municipalities of Bogatić, Vladimirci, and Koceljev, and for the city of Šabac, with court units in Bogatić, Vladimirci and Koceljevi.

Higher courts are as follows: 1) the Higher Court in Belgrade, for the territory of the First and Second Basic Court in Belgrade, 2) the Higher Court in Valjevo, for the territory of the Basic Court in Valjevo, 3) the Higher Court in Vranje, for the territory of the Basic Court in Vranje, 4) the Higher Court in Zaječar, for the territory of the Basic Court in Bor and the Basic Court in Zaječar, 5) the Higher Court in Zrenjanin, for the territory of the Basic Court in Zrenjanin and Basic Court in Kikinda, 6) the Higher Court in Jagodina, for the territory of the Basic Court in Jagodina and Basic Court in Paraćin, 7) the Higher Court in Kosovska Mitrovica, for the territory of the Basic Court in Kosovska Mitrovica, 8) the Higher Court in Kragujevac, for the territory of the Basic Court in Kragujevac, 9) the Higher Court in Kraljevo, for the territory of the Basic Court in Kraljevo, 10) the Higher Court in Kruševac, for the territory of the Basic Court in Kruševac, 11) the Higher Court in Leskovac, for the territory of the Basic Court in Leskovac, 12) the Higher Court in Negotin, for the territory of the Basic Court in Negotin, 13) the Higher Court in Niš, for the territory of the Basic Court in Niš, 14) the Higher Court in Novi Pazar, for the territory of the Basic Court in Novi Pazar, 15) the Higher Court in Novi Sad, for the territory of the Basic Court in Novi Sad, 16) the Higher Court in Pančevo, for the territory of the Basic Court in Vršac and Basic Court in

Pančevo, 17) the Higher Court in Pirot, for the territory of the Basic Court in Pirot, 18) the Higher Court in Požarevac, for the territory of the Basic Court in Požarevac, 19) the Higher Court in Prokuplje, for the territory of the Basic Court in Prokuplje, 20) the Higher Court in Smederevo, for the territory of the Basic Court in Smederevo, 21) the Higher Court in Sombor, for the territory of the Basic Court in Sombor, 22) the Higher Court in Sremska Mitrovica, for the territory of the Basic Court in Sremska Mitrovica, 23) th Higher Court in Subotica, for the territory of the Basic Court in Subotica, 24) the Higher Court in Užice, for the territory of the Basic Court in Požega, Basic Court in Prijepolje and Basic Court in Užice, 25) the Higher Court in Čačak, for the territory of the Basic Court in Čačak, 26) the Higher Court in Šabac, for the territory of the Basic Court in Loznica and Basic Court in Šabac.

PART I

I. Practical arrangements made at the national level for following up the results of the second monitoring cycle

A. Information on the participation of minority organisations and other non-governmental organisations in the authorities' implementation and monitoring of the Framework Convention and the impact of their involvement

Organisations and other associations of national minorities have significantly been involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Framework Convention. In November 2009, the Vojvodina Centre for Human Rights organised the Conference “Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as the Charter) – Monitoring Results and Recommendations with a Special Emphasis on Education and Effective Participation of Minorities in Public Life”, which was supported by the Fund for an Open Society, the Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Minorities of AP Vojvodina, and the Council of Europe. The Conference was attended by representatives of international institutions, minority NGOs dealing with the protection of national minorities, representatives of national councils of national minorities, and representatives of competent state and provincial authorities. Topics of the Conference were, *inter alia*, findings and recommendations from the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, as well as a review of reports of expert bodies of the Council of Europe from the perspective of representatives of national minorities, i.e. in terms of exercising rights of persons belonging to national minorities in practice. The Conference resulted in the signing of the Declaration in which national councils of national minorities and NGOs rated the then existing implementation of the Framework Convention and the Charter in Serbia. Declaration signatories agreed that protection of minorities makes one of the core values of the Constitution and legal framework of Serbia, and that representatives of national minorities enjoy satisfactory standards in the fields protecting their identity: culture, information, education, official use of a language, religion, noting that minority rights are exercised to a greater extent in AP Vojvodina than in other parts of Serbia. The Declaration also provides an overview of measures which Serbian public authorities should take until the next reporting cycle in terms of the stated international treaties.

The Declaration, *inter alia*, states that “in terms of ratified international treaties, a transparent relation between representatives of public authorities and representatives of national minorities and NGOs were established for the purposes of ensuring availability of reports submitted to the Council of Europe, translations of opinions of Council of Europe expert bodies and Committee of Ministers resolutions, organising awareness seminars on which the public was informed about the ratification of the Framework

Convention and the Charter, and inviting members of national minorities and NGOs to participate in the preparation of national reports on the implementation of the Framework Convention and the Charter. Relevant ministries responsible for exercising rights of national minorities, in principle, show willingness to cooperate during the events organised by members of the civil sectors dealing with the international standards for the protection of national minorities, whereas support of and cooperation with provincial authorities, primarily with the Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Minorities should also be emphasised.“

Recognising the role of NGOs in the development of a democratic society, as well as their contribution to the expansion of the idea of human rights, NGOs and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, represented by the then existing Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, concluded the Memorandum of Cooperation in February 2009. The Memorandum on Cooperation was joined by 162 NGOs, including a large number of those dealing with the protection of national minorities, as well as by associations of representatives of national minorities. Provisions of Article 1 of the Memorandum envisage that the signatories of the Memorandum of Cooperation shall, *inter alia*, ensure regular exchange of information about the development of reports on the implementation of international obligations.

The practice of inviting NGOs and national councils of national minorities, as holders of self-government in the field of culture, education, information and official use of a language and a script, to participate in the development of a national report on the implementation of the Framework Convention, was continued in the development of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention. The Introduction of the Report contains a list of NGOs and associations invited to take part in its development.

National councils of national minorities, in addition to carrying out their competences determined by the law in the field of culture, education, information and official use of a language and script, are also involved in the implementation of the Framework Convention, in particular Art. 5, 9, 10, 12 and 14 thereof. One part of the Report contains a list of competences of national minority councils in the above referred fields.

B. Steps taken to publicise the results of the second monitoring cycle (Opinion, State comments, Resolution): publication, dissemination and translation into Serbian and the minority languages, where appropriate

Development of national reports on the implementation of the Framework Convention, which make a basis of the monitoring cycle, as well as answers to additional questions of the Advisory Committee and comments to Advisory Committee opinions, are entirely based on transparency principles. Such an attitude also applies to the

publication of all the documents related to the implementation of the Framework Convention.

The Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention was published on the website of the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights, and is available to the public at www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs. On the same website one may find results of the second monitoring cycle: the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention, Republic of Serbia's Comments on the Opinion, and the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia. The findings of the Advisory Committee and the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers have been translated into Serbian.

C. Informaton on follow-up activities organised at the national, regional and local level

The then existing Ministry of Human and Minority Rights involved successful implementation of IPA 2007, the European Commission project "Implementing the Priorities in the Areas of Human Rights and of the Protection of National Minorities". The purpose of the project was strengthening institutional capacities, both at the national and at the local level, by coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of protection of human and minority rights in Serbia, and, thus, fulfilling obligations of the membership in the UN and the Council of Europe.

One component of the project was to build capacities of local self-governments for the protection and promotion of human and minority rights by organising workshops for the people employed in local self-government. Workshops for the employees of local self-government units were held in October 2010, with an aim to improve protection of human and minority rights at the international, European, national and local level, of exchange of information and of common operating mechanisms. One part of the workshop focused on the role and importance of two international treaties in the field of minority rights – the Framework Convention and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, emphasising obligations which the Republic of Serbia accepted by joining the international treaties. The workshops involved 5 regional centres – Požarevac, Niš, Vranje, Kraljevo and Novi Sad, with over 100 employees from 35 local self-governments.

Part of the above stated project included training of representatives of national councils of national minorities to improve their capacities in achieving minority rights standards. Special attention was paid to the strengthening of organisational, technical and financial capacities of the national councils for the purposes of better representation of interests of their communities. Part of the training was focused on the system for the monitoring of the implementation of human and minority rights standards, with a special

emphasis on the European dimension and, within that, on the introduction of key instruments for the protection of minority rights of the Council of Europe, *inter alia*, of the Framework Convention. The training also included all the stages of a monitoring cycle – ranging from the development of national reports to the adoption of a resolution of the Committee of Ministers on its application in the contracting country.

D. Information on any other measures taken to promote awareness of the Framework Convention

The Directorate for Human and Minority Rights launched an initiative to include topics related to the protection and promotion of minority rights in the Programme for General Professional Development of civil servants from public administration authorities and Government's office, which is adopted at the annual level. It was proposed that civil servants should, *inter alia*, become familiar with issues concerning the international and national legal framework for the protection and promotion of rights of members of national minorities, of exercising institutional mechanisms, and of reporting to the Republic of Serbia about the fulfilment of international obligations, including obligations under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The stated topics are expected to be included in the Programme for General Professional Development in 2013.

One of the forms of promotion of the Framework Convention may also be considered to be publication of the Manual for National Councils of National Minorities - *Competences of National Councils of National Minorities* and Manual for Human and Minority Rights, a practical guide for the implementation of human and minority rights at the local level - *Implementing Priorities in the Areas of Human Rights and of the Protection of National Minorities*.

The Manual for National Councils of National Minorities created in cooperation with OSCE, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Belgrade, and the then existing Directorate for Human and Minority Rights, contains chapters aimed at the monitoring of international instruments, which, *inter alia*, contain provisions of the Framework Convention dealing with those fields in which national councils of national minorities exercise the right to self-government (culture, education, information and official use of a language and script).

The Manual for Human and Minority Rights was created as part of IPA 2007, EC project "Implementing the Priorities in the Areas of Human Rights and of the Protection of National Minorities", which was implemented in the then existing Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, i.e. in the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights. The Manual provides an overview of different international and regional documents about human and minority rights, relating them with the existing situation in the Republic of Serbia. One chapter of the Manual deals with the Framework Convention. Apart from being published

in the Serbian language, the Manual was also printed in minority languages: Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak and Czech, and it was delivered to local self-governments.

PART II

II. Measures for the improvement of implementation of the Framework Convention

A. Measures for the implementation of recommendations from the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers

With the Resolution CM/ResCMN(2011)7 on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia, the Committee of Ministers adopted recommendations and invited authorities to take measures to improve implementation of the Framework Convention. The following views present measures and activities taken for the implementation of the recommendations. To avoid unnecessary repetition of measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, we herewith refer to the relevant sections of the Report which contain more detailed explanations and descriptions.

Recommendation 1: Ensure that conditions are in place for the effective implementation of the newly adopted Laws on the Prohibition of Discrimination and on the National Councils of National Minorities.

After adoption of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination and on National Councils of National Minorities in the Republic of Serbia, a series of activities and measures were taken for creating conditions for the effective implementation of the laws.

The Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, whose Office was established by the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, was elected by the National Assembly on 5 May 2010, for the period of five years. The institution of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality employs 19 persons, including the Commissioner and three assistants. Financial resources for the operation of the institution of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality are provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, at the proposal of the Commissioner. Section 2.2 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report contains activities of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality related to the protection of national minorities.

Effective implementation of the newly adopted Law on National Councils of National Minorities is reflected in the organisation and implementation of elections of national minority councils, and then in creating conditions for their undisturbed operation.

The Law on National Councils of National Minorities prescribes that all activities regarding the organisation and implementation of elections of national councils shall be carried out by the ministry competent for the operations related to human and minority rights and bodies competent for the implementation of elections, and the decision on the announcement of the elections shall be issued by the minister competent for human and minority rights within six months after the date of enforcement of the Law. Pursuant to

provisions of the Law, elections of national councils may be direct elections or elections through the electoral assembly. National minorities shall independently choose one of these two methods. Direct elections of national councils shall be held if more than 50% of the total number of members of a national minority according to the latest census is entered in the special electoral list of a national minority before the date of election schedule, reduced by 20%. The Ministry shall prepare a special register of voters for the national minorities which had established their national councils before entering into force of the Law, whereas for the national minorities that had not established their national council before entering into force of the Law, the Law envisages that preparation of the register of voters should be preceded by a request submitted by members or organisations of a national minority, accompanied by notarised signatures of at least 5% of the total number of members of the national minority, according to the latest census. A special register of voters is a public document in which records of members of national minorities having the right to vote are kept, and members of national minorities are entered in the register on a voluntary basis. A special register of voters is kept in the electronic form by the Ministry, and special registers of voters for local self-government units are kept in the electronic form by municipal, i.e. city authorities, which is their duty. Data contained in the special register of voters have special protection.

The then existing Ministry of Human and Minority Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry), being a participant in the organisation of elections, was used for the adoption of all bylaws facilitating smooth implementation of elections of national councils according to determined legal deadlines. Members of the national minorities which did not establish their national councils until the date of entry into force of the Law (Albanian, Ashkali, Slovenian and Czech national minorities), submitted to the Ministry, within the envisaged legal deadline, requests for drawing up of a special register of voters that are supported by the required number of notarised and signed statements of members of their national minority. The Ministry issued a decision on the adoption of these requests and granted them the right to register in the special register of voters, which enabled election of the national council of the Albanian, Ashkali, Slovenian and Czech national minority.

On 9 November 2009, the Ministry informed citizens through the public media about the commencement of registration in the special register of voters of national minorities. Any citizen having a voting right, a member of a national minority, could request in writing, on a special form, to be registered in the special register of voters. The form for registration in the special register of voters, the form for deletion from the special register of voters, and the form for collecting signatures of voters supporting electors, were available both in Serbian and in a bi-lingual version, i.e. in the Serbian and in the minority languages and scripts in official use. The form for registration in the special register of voters was also available in the minority languages and scripts that are

not officially used, for whose purpose a separate register of voters would be created, e.g. in the Macedonian, Slovenian, Bunyevac, Greek language, etc.

In the first three months of 2010, the Ministry paid special attention to providing information and motivating members of national minorities to exercise their right and to elect their national council. To this end, the Ministry organised a briefing for civil society representatives to familiar members of national minorities with elections, distribute flyers and posters, and organise a strong media and radio, TV and billboard campaign. Until 9 March 2010, when 120 days after the date of public announcement of the commencement of registration in the special register of voters a special register of voters was temporarily created, it was determined that 16 national minorities (Albanian, Ashkali, Bosniac, Bulgarian, Bunyevac, Vlach, Greek, Egyptian, Hungarian, German, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Czech national minority) met the condition for direct elections, and that members of the Macedonian, Slovenian and Croatian national minority elected members of their national council through the elector assembly.

After a successful campaign for the motivation of national minorities to register in the special register of voters, the Ministry organised a similar campaign in which it invited members of national minorities to vote. On the basis of the Minister's decision on the announcement of direct elections of members of national councils, elections of national councils of national minorities were held on 6 June 2010. Direct elections were carried out by the three-membered Central Electoral Commission (CEC) created by the Minister, which, after the declaration of electoral lists, created other electoral bodies prescribed by the law, i.e. electoral commissions for electoral regions (at the proposal of the electoral list nominator) and polling boards (at the proposal of local self-government units). The CEC, in accordance with the Law, also adopted a decision on determining 883 polling stations and 43 electoral regions. The voting was secret and carried out on certified ballot papers, by encircling a serial number in front of the title of an electoral list. Ballot papers were printed in 16 different colours and slipped into the ballot box. Direct elections counted 77 electoral lists. Out of 436,334 voters registered in special registers of voters, in direct elections participated 237,792, i.e. 54.5% members of national minorities.

Simultaneously with organising direct elections of national councils, the Ministry took actions in organising electoral assemblies for members of the national councils of the Croatian, Slovenian and Macedonian national minority. After adoption of Minister's decision on organising electoral assemblies for minority members, a public invitation was also published for electors to timely file complete written applications for participation in the electoral assembly. The procedure of filing electoral applications, carried out by the Ministry, finished on 7 May 2010. There were 137 applications submitted by the electors of the Croatian national minority, 21 by the members of the Slovenian national minority, and 72 by the members of the Macedonian national minority.

After the elections (both direct and electoral), all national councils were elected except for the National Council of the Bosniac National Minority. Since the election of a new national council convocation of the Bosniac national minority was not conducted after the implemented elections of national councils of national minorities, the then Minister of Human and Minority Rights on 17 January 2011 adopted a Decision on the announcement of direct elections of members of the National Council of the Bosniac National Minority for 17 April 2011. Considering that the CEC did not receive any electoral list in the determined legal deadline, i.e. 15 days before the voting date, elections scheduled for 17 April 2011 did not take place. Following this, the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights organised preparations for the election of members of the National Council of the Bosniac National Minority in July and August 2011, which were planned to take place in early October 2011, however, the elections were not held. Bearing in mind that after implemented elections of national councils the new national council convocation of the Bosniac national minority was not created, according to the provision of Article 137 paragraph 3 of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, which prescribes that “the national councils elected before this Law entered into force, whose term of office has expired, shall continue to work until the elections, namely, until the constitution of a national council according to provisions of the Law”, the function of the National Council of the Bosniac National Minority shall be carried out until the election and constitution of the new Council by the national council elected on the electoral assembly held on 6 September 2003.

In the previous period, some of the national councils failed to fulfil their competences determined by the law. Some conflicts took place between members of national councils and their operation was blocked, which resulted in the dissolution of the National Council of the Ashkali National Minority and the National Council of the Slovenian National Minority and formation of provisional management bodies which would perform the function of a council until election of new councils’ convocations.

Financial resources for the operation of national councils are ensured and regularly paid from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, budget of the autonomous province and budget of their local self-government unit. Information on the operation of national councils of national minorities, as well as on the amount of allocated budget funds for their operation are contained in the sections on the implementation of Article 15 of the Framework Convention.

Recommendation 2: Consolidate the legislative framework regarding minority media in a way that maintains the obligation of the state to provide national minorities with adequate conditions to create and use their own media.

Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report contain detailed information about taken activities and measures which refer to the legislative framework

of minority media and of creating adequate conditions for establishing and using their own media.

Recommendation 3: Ensure that acts of violence and discrimination against persons belonging to national minorities are adequately investigated by law enforcement authorities and the judiciary, notably by increasing awareness and training measures.

Information on investigations of acts of violence and discrimination against persons belonging to national minorities, as well as on increasing awareness and training measures are contained in the sections on the implementation of Article 6 of the Framework Convention.

Recommendation 4: Expand the measures aimed at promoting tolerance and interethnic dialogue throughout Serbia.

Section 4.6 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report contains activities aimed at promoting tolerance and interethnic dialogue.

Recommendation 5: Expand opportunities for minority language education, including by addressing the needs expressed by the Vlachs and other national minorities and review the current optional character of some minority language teaching in consultation with national minority representatives.

Section 11.2 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report contains information about the activities for the expansion of opportunities for minority language education and for the review of the optional character of the subject Mother tongue with elements of the national culture.

Recommendation 6: Ensure that legal and practical conditions are such that signposts in minority languages in the areas concerned can be put in place.

Information on legal and practical conditions for putting signposts in minority languages are contained in the section on the implementation of Article 11 of the Framework Convention.

Recommendation 7: Address the issue of recognition of diplomas from educational institutions in the region in a comprehensive way and take measures to tackle the problems of delay and complexity of procedure which have been identified.

The sections on the implementation of Article 12 of the Framework Convention contain activities taken by Republic of Serbia authorities related to the recognition of diplomas from educational institutions in the region. The section on the implementation of the Article includes information that the competent educational authorities are not aware of the problems of delay and complications that occur during the process.

Recommendation 8: Ensure that measures to be taken in the context of the National Strategy on Roma are given adequate support by both central and local authorities in order to eliminate obstacles to the participation of the Roma in employment, housing, health and education.

Information on the measures taken in the context of the National Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma concerning elimination of obstacles to the participation of Roma in employment, housing, health and education are contained in Part II Chapter B Sections 2.3.2 (housing), 2.3.3 (health), 10.2 (education), and 12.5.2 (employment) of the Report.

Recommendation 9: Address as a matter of priority, both at legislative and practical level, the lack of personal identification documents of the Roma.

Section 2.3.1 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report contains information on taken activities and measures concerning state efforts to resolve the issue of lack of personal documents by persons of the Roma nationality in an appropriate manner.

Recommendation 10: Pursue further efforts to increase the representation of national minorities in the judiciary and in law enforcement bodies and take steps to obtain a clear view on the representation of national minorities in the public administration.

Sections 12.2 and 12.6 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report provide information on efforts taken by the Republic of Serbia to increase representation of national minorities in the judiciary and in law enforcement bodies, and taken steps to obtain a clear view on representation of national minorities in the public administration.

Recommendation 11: Pay increased attention to the situation of persons belonging to national minorities living in economically disadvantaged areas and ensure that their representatives are adequately involved in both identifying priority projects to be funded and in their implementation in the areas concerned.

In accordance with its financial abilities, the Republic of Serbia takes measures and activities to ensure faster development of economically disadvantaged areas. Section 12.5.1 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report presents activities and measures taken in specific economically disadvantaged areas in which persons belonging to national minorities live in a greater number. It has been pointed out that, currently, the focus of the regional development policy is on the economical development of areas and all the citizens living in the areas.

Recommendation 12: Take measures to increase the effectiveness of the councils of interethnic relations at the municipal level, inter alia, by clarifying further their composition and functions.

According to the information on the work of the councils for interethnic relations in local self-government units, basic problems were identified in their function which require specific measures to make them responsible for gaining, protection and promotion of national equality at the local level. Sections 12.4.2 and 12.6 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report contain information about advices for interethnic relations in local self-governments.

B. Application of specific articles of the Framework Convention

Article 3

1 Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercising of the rights which are connected to that choice.

2 Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms following from the principles enshrined in the present Framework Convention individually as well as in the community with others.

1.1. Personal scope of application

1.1.1. Defining the term “national minority”

Before the development of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention no changes in the definition of the term “national minority” were made, despite the opinion of the Committee of Ministers that the definition should not include the citizenship criteria. Republic of Serbia's comments on the Second Opinion of the Committee of Ministers on the Implantation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia contain a statement of reasons for paragraph 35 concerning the citizenship criteria in the definition of the term “national minority” of the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities. It was pointed out that legal definition of the term “national minority” in the manner presented in Article 2 of the Law was an attempt to include in the legal order of the country a definition accepted by a large number of public international law theorists, which is in conformity with comparative experiences and which relies on the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages which in Article 1 prescribes that the term “regional or minority languages” does not include migrant languages. Such an approach is also in conformity with the Framework Convention which does not contain a definition of the term “national minority”, and leaves it to be defined by member states. Given that the subject of the Framework Convention is protection of national minorities, the Framework Convention cannot be and it is not a general instrument for the protection of human rights which would protect the rights of all the groups that differ from the majority of the citizens according to any criteria. The members of such groups are protected in the Republic of Serbia because they exercise general human rights also envisaged by a large number of international instruments ratified by the country. Having regard to the opinion of the Advisory Committee that the citizenship criteria can only have a negative impact on the persons who after the breakup of Yugoslavia and conflicts in Kosovo and Metohija did not regulate their citizenship status, Serbian authorities believe that the problem may be resolved not by omitting the citizenship as a criteria of belonging to a national minority, but in other manners, primarily with more liberal solutions in terms of obtaining the

citizenship by persons who used to be citizens of the former SFRY and who in the Republic of Serbia meet other criteria envisaged by the legal definition of the term “national minority”. In this sense, Serbia has made great efforts to resolve the issue of stateless persons, which occurred after the breakup of the SFRY, in an adequate manner.

According to the provision of Article 23 of the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, a member of another nation or ethnic group from the territory of the Republic of Serbia who is not residing in the territory of the Republic of Serbia can be admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, as well as a refugee, a persecuted or a displaced person, regardless of their ethnic origin, who reside in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, or who took refuge abroad, if they file an application for the admission to the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia and a written statement that they consider the Republic of Serbia their own country. The citizen of the Republic of Serbia, pursuant to Article 52 paragraph 1 of the Law, means a citizen of the SFRY (therefore, a member of a national minority) who on 27 February 2005 was a citizen of another republic of the former SFRY, i.e. has citizenship of another state established in the territory of the former SFRY and registered residence in the territory of the Republic of Serbia in the period of minimum nine years, if they submit a statement that they consider themselves to be citizens of the Republic of Serbia, and if they file an application for registration in the register of citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

According to the data obtained from the Ministry of Interior, in the period 1 January 2007 - 23 March 2012, 19,416 persons were admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, as follows:

- In 2007 – 41,781 persons
- In 2008 – 67,616 persons
- In 2009 – 37,558 persons
- In 2010 – 25,539 persons
- In 2011 – 19,540 persons
- In 2012 – 3,430 persons.

Considering that provisions of the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia provide an opportunity to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Serbia on different legal grounds, the presented statistics refer to the number of persons admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia on several legal grounds (origin, the refugee status, persons residing in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, a member of the Serbian nation, etc.), as well as to the number of persons admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia under the Agreement on Dual Citizenship concluded between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry of Interior does not dispose with the data about the number of persons admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia according to their nationality as it does not collect data about the nationality of persons admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

1.2. Respect for specific identities of persons belonging to national minorities

1.2.1. Disputes about the national identity

Attempts of denial of specific national minorities and imposing an identity on the members of the communities whose existence was identified in the census 2002 still exist in the Republic of Serbia. Despite the fact that there is a legal definition of the term “national minority” and despite election of national councils of the national minorities whose existence is being denied, this monitoring cycle also faced debates on the national identity of Bunjevtsi and Croats, and Vlachs and Romanians, both among members of the communities and in public life.

As already pointed out in both national Reports on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in the Republic of Serbia submitted during the monitoring cycle, the competent public authorities did not get involved in nationality debates believing that Serbian authorities cannot and must not get involved in the debates about the national identity, that they should not arbitrate in disputes about the national identity of specific national communities, or impose the national identity on any national community. Any support of activities in this context by the Republic of Serbia would mean imposing of the national identity on certain communities, which is contrary to the Constitution and positive legal regulations of the Republic of Serbia, as well as to Article 3 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The association “Gergina” from Negotin, which contributed to the development of the Report, emphasises that “the Vlach national minority is specific in its language, culture, tradition and customs in the territory of Serbia”. The association was in the previous period engaged in the development of the Vlach script which was at the beginning of 2012 adopted by the National Council of the Vlach National Minority. According to them, adoption of the decision on the Vlach script (there is a Latin and Cyrillic version) is historically important because “members of the Vlach community now have an opportunity to use written version of their language, in addition to the existing spoken language”. As stated in the attachment of the association, the Vlach language is to undergo standardisation, which is a long-term process and which will engage its members in the development of both a standard and phrasal Vlach-Serbian dictionary.

1.3. Ethnic data protection

1.3.1. Legal and institutional framework for personal data protection

The basic law that regulates the field of personal data protection in the Republic of Serbia is the Law on the Protection of Personal Data (2008), which became effective on 1 January 2009. The implementation of the Law required adoption of the following strategic acts and bylaws: the Strategy for the Protection of Personal Data (2010), the Decree on the Form and Method of Keeping Records in Personal Data Processing Procedure (2009), the Rulebook on the Method of Previous Control of Personal Data Processing Operations (2009), and the Rulebook on the Identification Form for a Person Authorised for Monitoring according to the Law on the Protection of Personal Data (2009).

In 2005, the Republic of Serbia signed and ratified the Council of Europe Convention No. 108 for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which, in terms of Serbia, came into force on 1 January 2006. In 2008, the Republic of Serbia also signed and ratified the Additional Protocol to the Convention No. 108 on Supervisory Authorities and Transborder Data Flows, which, in terms of Serbia, came into force on 1 April 2009.

The provision of Article 1 paragraph 3 of the Law on the Protection of Personal Data stipulates that personal data protection activities shall be carried out by the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection (hereinafter referred to as the Commissioner) as the autonomous state body, independent in the execution of its competences. The Commissioner has, *inter alia*, the following competences: the Commissioner shall have the right to access and have insight into any information carrier which the Law on Access to Information refers to, as well as into the data, collection of data, complete documents, general acts, premises and equipment of personal data operators; to monitor implementation and execution of the Law; to decide on the basis of appeals in the cases prescribed by the Law; to monitor and allow transfer of data from the Republic of Serbia; to point to detected misuse of collected data; to create a list of countries and international organisations with adequate data protection; to provide an opinion on creating new data collections, i.e. in case of implementation of a new information technology, to give an opinion on data processing; to provide an opinion in case of a suspicion about whether a cluster of data is considered to be a collection of data in terms of the Law; to monitor execution of personal data protection measures and to propose an improvement of these measures; to give proposals and recommendations for the promotion of data protection; to provide a preliminary opinion whether a specific method of data processing is a specific risk for the rights and freedoms of citizens; to monitor organisation of data protection in other countries, and to cooperate with competent authorities; to initiate a procedure for the assessment of the constitutionality and legality of laws and other general acts.

Article 16 of the Law determines that particularly sensitive data shall be, *inter alia*, the data referring to the nationality, language and religious belief, which may be processed on the basis of a freely given consent of the person, unless data processing is

not allowed even with the consent. The processing of particularly sensitive data must be specially marked and protected with protection measures, and consent on data processing must be granted exclusively in writing, by stating the data to be processed, the purpose of processing and the method of their use. Hence, the Law envisages a more stringent procedure for and protection of particularly sensitive data than this is the case with other not so sensitive data.

The person who first contacted the person handling the application for obtaining the right to data processing may, in accordance with the Law, file an appeal to the Commissioner. The decision of the Commissioner on the basis of the appeal is binding, final and executive, and if needed, the Government shall ensure enforcement of Commissioner decision.

The institution of the Commissioner carries out its competences which is supported by the number of appeals filed for different forms of personal data violation. In 2011, the Commissioner acted on the basis of 88 appeals, 78 of which the Commissioner received in the same year and finished the process for 68 appeals.

In 2011, the Commissioner carried out 159 supervisions of the implementation and enforcement of the Law on the Protection of Personal Data, which is two times more than the number of supervisions in 2010. Out of the total number of conducted supervisions in 2011, in 71 cases the institution of the Commissioner initiated supervision at its own initiative, and in 88 cases on the basis of citizens' reports.

1.3.1.1. Examples of selected subjects of monitoring conducted by the Commissioner

To illustrate actions on the basis of appeals, here are examples of selected subjects in which the Commissioner, during the monitoring process, even indirectly, processed the data about nationalities, religious beliefs and languages.

A. Two persons addressed the Commissioner and stated that they had received a decision of the municipality of Vršac on registration in the Special Register of Voters (hereinafter referred to the SRV) of the Romanian national minority, even though they were Serbs, and that they had never submitted any application. At the same time, all the data were correct, except for the name of the father and the signature on the applications. After the supervision, the Commissioner found that in addition to these two persons, four more people stated that someone else on their behalf filled in and filed an application for registration in the SRV. On the basis of determined facts, a criminal complaint was filed against unknown perpetrators due to a reasonable suspicion that the perpetrators committed a total of six offenses of unauthorised collection of personal data under Article 146 of the Criminal Code in relation to Article 33 of the Criminal Code and six offenses of forging documents under Article 355 paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code in relation to

Article 33 of the Criminal Code. The perpetrators of the crimes are still not detected or prosecuted.

B. The Democratic Community of Vojvodina Hungarians submitted a letter to the Commissioner in which they stated that some deficiencies were detected in the implementation of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, that it is unacceptable for parties and organisations to disturb the citizens by coming into their houses, to collect data about nationalities from the citizens, to make lists, to take the data unnecessary for the registration in the SRV: telephone numbers, habits, etc. Also, they pointed out that the Union of Vojvodina Hungarians (UVH) created their own form which the citizens filled in addition to the form prescribed by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights. After supervision and identified omissions, the Commissioner ordered the UVH to delete data for 95,784 persons within 7 days that were collected on no legal grounds by destroying the lists physically in the presence of a three-membered commission, to make a record about this act and to submit it to the Commissioner. The UVH acted according to the decision of the Commissioner.

C. The Commissioner conducted supervision of operation of the National Council of the Bosniac National Minority (the Bosniac National Council – BNC) in Novi Pazar due to the announcement to the media that registration in special registers of voters was being conducted successfully, that, up to that moment, 60,000 ballot papers were printed in Sandžak municipalities, and that all the ballot papers were processed in a uniform data base managed by the polling board team. During the supervision, the Commissioner determined that board activities during the campaign for registration in the special register of voters of members of the Bosniac national minority were tasked to motivate and encourage the citizens of Prijepolje, Sjenica and Novi Pazar to make use of their constitutional and legal rights. They visited the citizens, gave them forms for registration in the special register of voters, left the forms to the citizens to fill them in by themselves and submit them. They even took the forms filled in by the citizens at their homes and submitted them, on the citizens' behalf, to the competent local administration authority. It was also determined that field activists kept written records about the persons which the registration forms were given to and wrote down in their notebooks names and surnames of persons whom the registration form was given to. Since it was determined during the supervision that the BNC collected particularly sensitive data for the total of 32,458 persons of the Bosniac national minority, their names and surnames and residence addresses, which were used for creating lists of persons that submitted applications for the registration in the special register of voters of the Bosniac national minority, and that the data were collected and processed on no legal grounds and without consent of the person whom the data referred to, the Commissioner issued a decision in which the BNC was ordered to delete this data from the computer memory of the BNC administration by

formatting the partition in the hard disk containing the data, and to make a record on the execution of the ordered activity. The data operator acted fully in compliance with Commissioner orders contained in the decision in case.

1.3.2. Census data protection

The census of population, households and dwellings in 2011 (hereinafter referred to as the Census) was carried out on the basis of the Law on the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2011 (hereinafter referred to as the Law on Census), which regulates the content, preparation, organisation and implementation of the Census, obligations and duties of public and other participants in the Census, penalty provisions, period of registration, processing, filing and publishing results, and the method of financing the Census. Provisions of Article 8 of the Law on Census determine that the list of preparations is created and implemented by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, and that specific activities of preparation, organisation and execution of the Census in the territories of municipalities, cities and the City of Belgrade were conducted by census committees appointed by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia decided that the Census 2011 should contain in the census form additional questions about ethnic characteristics of the population of the Republic of Serbia although, according to the international census recommendations (EUROSTAT, UN), ethnic characteristics do not fall into, so called, basic characteristics recommended to states to include them in their census forms to provide minimum methodological usability of collected data at the international level.

The Census 2011 in the personal questionnaire, i.e. in the census form, contains questions about the nationality, mother tongue and religious affiliation in an open-ended form. All methodological guidelines explicitly emphasise that the census-takers are obliged to register exactly the kind of answer that a person being registered provides to these three questions. In addition, the census-takers were not allowed to influence or put pressure on the person giving an answer. The census-takers were also informed that they could not delete or correct a mistake made when writing down answers to these three questions. They had to nullify the form in front of the person being registered and to fill in a new form. Municipal/city instructors were obliged to check the basis on which a census-taker annulled a census form, and to keep accurate records of the number of annulled forms. The census form also contained an instruction that, according to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (Art. 43 and 47), citizens shall not have the obligation to declare their national affiliation and religious belief.

Census forms were translated into 8 minority languages (Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Macedonian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian and Slovak) and the English language. Translation of census forms was entrusted to national councils of the national minorities, after which all the forms were published in the “Multilingual Collection of

Census Forms in a Mother Language“. Additionally, the essential methodological materials, *Methodological Guidelines for Organisers, Instructors and Other Census Participants, Guidelines for Census Organisation and Execution and Guide for Census-Takers*, were translated into Albanian.

According to provisions of the Law on Census and the Law on Official Statistics, all the data collected during the Census shall be used solely for statistical purposes and shall not be announced or published individually. All direct participants in the Census shall be obliged to keep confidential all the data obtained from registered persons. In addition, census data shall be protected from unauthorised provision, use, losses, destruction or correction. Pursuant to the Strategy for Development of Information and Dissemination (the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, May 2010), the publication shall not contain data unless the case is smaller or equals 3.

1.4. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, the Advisory Committee provided five recommendations related to Article 3 of the Framework Convention. The following paragraphs contain information about authorities' opinions about specific recommendations, and about activities taken for their implementation.

The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to pursue a more flexible approach to the use of the citizenship criterion, as already reflected in relevant provisions of the 2006 Constitution, by removing such a criterion from the general provision on the scope of application of the Law on National Minorities and by limiting its use to those provisions for which it is relevant, such as electoral rights at the national level.

Regarding this recommendation for Serbian authorities, it was pointed out that modern development of the international legal protection of national minorities and applicable constitutional system of minority rights in the Republic of Serbia do not envisage legal possibilities to exempt the citizenship criterion from the legal definition of the term “national minority“ and to reduce it only to electoral rights at the national level. Namely, without the citizenship criterion, the term “national minority“ would be reduced to an abstract definition hardly applicable in a legal order, which could possibly create a situation of protection of national minorities with a “member by member” approach and different categories of national minorities. In this sense, Serbian authorities point out that the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia envisages equality and representation of national minorities in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (Article 100 paragraph 2 of the Constitution), and that persons belonging to national minorities may

elect their national councils in order to exercise the right to self-governance in the field of culture, education, information and official use of their language and script (Article 75 paragraph 3 of the Constitution). Having in mind that the stated provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia envisage that persons belonging to national minorities shall have the right to facilitated political involvement and to elections of self-government authorities in legally determined fields, it is clear that any elimination of the citizenship criterion from the definition of the term “national minority“ would enable the persons who are not citizens to take part in a political process or to participate in elections of authorities of cultural self-government of national minorities, i.e. to exercise the rights for which the citizenship criterion is relevant, according to the Advisory Committee.

Otherwise, if the stated rights would apply only to the national minorities determined by the citizenship criterion, and if the exercising of other minority rights, all, or only some of them, either of those envisaged by the Framework Convention or of those envisaged by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, would also apply to the persons that are not citizens but are considered to belong to national minorities, this would mean establishment of different categories of national minorities, and complement of persons that are not citizens but are considered to belong to a minority, to exercise their minority rights in accordance with decisions, opinions and practice of national councils as bodies in whose election they did not participate. It should also be noted that the objective of the Framework Convention is protection of national minorities, i.e. the Framework Convention is not a general international and legal instrument for the protection of human rights of all the groups which differ from the majority of the population in specific characteristics (such as race, language, culture, origin, religion, etc).

The Republic of Serbia is not in a position to omit the citizenship criterion from the definition of the term “national minority“ also due to the fact that this criterion is also determined in specific bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities, and due to the fact that it is also related to the time connected to the territory, which are universally accepted elements for the definition of a national minority. The authorities of the Republic of Serbia also point out that specific rights guaranteed by the Framework Convention are also exercised by the persons that are not citizens of the Republic of Serbia, however, not as persons belonging to a national minority but because those are rights which are by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guaranteed to all people, or because they are part of the general international and legal instruments for the protection of human rights that are binding for the Republic of Serbia.

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to regularise, as a matter of priority, the situation of those persons belonging to national minorities, especially the Roma, whose legal status remains unclear by swiftly adopting the necessary legal measures and by ensuring their full and effective implementation.

Measures of the authorities of the Republic of Serbia enabling regulation of the legal status of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, and their full and effective implementation, are contained in the sections on the implementation of Article 4 of the Framework Convention.

The Advisory Committee encourages Serbian authorities to continue to strictly abide to the principle of free self-identification contained in Article 3 of the Framework Convention.

Again, Serbian authorities are strongly determined not to participate in discussions about an ethnic origin of a national minority, including the Bunyevtsi, Croatian, Vlach and Romanian national minority. Moreover, the choice of Serbia not to participate in discussions about the identity of specific communities does not mean that the country will tolerate unconstitutional actions aimed at denial of freedom of declaration of national affiliation, national assimilation or incitement of national intolerance and hatred.

Starting from constitutional decisions (Article 47) and the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities (Article 5), the state shall in practice be governed by the fundamental principle of freedom of national affiliation and declaration, and the stated minorities shall treat as equal and having separate identities.

The Advisory Committee calls on the Serbian authorities to take the necessary measures to implement fully the existing domestic legal guarantees regarding the collection and the processing of personal data. This includes the setting up of a specific supervisory body on personal data protection which should be independent and enjoy adequate resources both in terms of budget and human resources, to fulfil its tasks efficiently.

Independence and autonomy of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection is one of the basic principles of operation of the institution which implies that it is organisationally and functionally separated from the administration authorities and other public authorities under control of the institution. This is ensured by the method of election and an explicit legal provision according to which the Commissioner will not seek or receive orders and instructions from public authorities or any other person in performing his or her duties, and the Commissioner cannot be called to be responsible for an opinion or a proposal he or she provides in performing his or her competences. The Commissioner is elected by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia for the period of seven years, with a possibility of being elected one more time. The Commissioner has two deputies elected by the National Assembly, at Commissioner's proposal. The National Assembly elected the current

Commissioner in December 2011 for the period of seven years in his second term of office.

The Office of the Commissioner was established for the purposes of executing professional and administrative activities from the scope of work of the Commissioner. The total of 69 employees were systematised with the Rulebook for Internal Organisation and Job Systematisation in the Office of the Commissioner. The Office of Commissioner currently has 39 employees. The Personnel Plan for 2011 envisaged employment of maximum 55 persons, however, the plan could not have been implemented due to the lack of required space. The premises placed at disposal to the Commissioner satisfy only basic needs of the current number of employees. The disposable working equipment suits the existing capacities of the Office. Operation of the Commissioner and the Office is financed from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. According to the opinion of the Commissioner, the procedure for determining budget for his operation does not guarantee complete financial independence of the institution as is the case with most of other independent public authorities.

The Advisory Committee encourages Serbia to ensure that the forthcoming population census is carried out in a manner that duly respects the right to free self-identification as set out in Article 3 of the Framework Convention. The competent authorities should also ensure that representatives of national minorities are adequately involved at all stages of the population census.

Section 1.3.2 on the implementation of Article 3 of the Framework Convention contains a detailed description of actions of census-takers related to entering answers of persons being registered to the questions about ethnic characteristics (national affiliation, mother tongue and religious belief). In this manner, any person being registered has an opportunity to self-identify as a person belonging to a specific ethnic community or not to answer to this question, which is in compliance with provisions of Article 3 of the Framework Convention, of the Constitution and of regulations of the Republic of Serbia.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia made all the necessary preparations to organise and carry out the census. Having in mind that registration of persons belonging to the Roma national minority is difficult because of their specific way of living and their great distrust towards official institutions, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia implemented in 2009 the “Pilot Census of Population, Households and Dwellings – Education of Roma“. The pilot census was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, the National Council of the Roma National Minority and the Office for Roma Inclusion in AP Vojvodina. The main objective of the pilot census was to train a certain number of persons belonging to the Roma population for active involvement in organisational preparations and field implementation of the census of population, households and dwellings in 2011. Apart

from this, it was also extremely important to establish mutual cooperation between the official statistics and organisations dealing with the issues about the status of Roma, which is a main prerequisite for obtaining good-quality data, both about the total number of Roma in the Republic of Serbia and about basic social and demographic characteristics of members of this ethnic community.

During field preparations for Census 2011, in cooperation with the National Council of the Roma National Minority, representatives of this national minority were hired for the mapping of, so called, Roma settlements, i.e. settlements in which, according to the study *Roma Settlements, Living Conditions and Opportunities for Roma Integration in Serbia*, live more than 100 persons or inhabit more than 15 Roma households. After the mapping, these settlements were located in specific census circles for which, later, during field execution of the census, an additional census-taker of the Roma nationality was hired. The role of this additional census-taker was to ensure, together with the census-taker selected through a public invitation, an undisturbed entry to a Roma settlement and undisturbed registration of population. About 150 coordinators for the mapping of “Roma settlements” were hired in this manner and about 550 additional census-takers of the Roma nationality.

The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government supported a campaign of the National Council of the Roma National Minority and the Office for Roma Inclusion in AP Vojvodina for the promotion of importance of the Population Census with about RSD 1,500,000.00 (about EUR 15,000). The event was organised in cooperation with OSCE Mission to Serbia and with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Promotional materials were printed and distributed on the forums in Roma settlements, for which purposes 54 persons were hired. The Fund for an Open Society supported a field and media campaign “Roma Civil Society Network” of the League for Roma Decade and Roma Women’s Network, whereas the Institute for an Open Society hired a network of volunteers who carried out the field campaign.

As already stated, certain activities related to the preparation, organisation and carrying out of the census in the territories of municipalities, cities and the City of Belgrade, are carried out by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia through the census committees it appoints. It is envisaged that a census committee in local self-government units, i.e. municipalities and cities, can have 5-8 members. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, starting from legally determined obligations of the census committees, prescribed criteria for their formation, where the first member of a census committee is also the Mayor of a municipality or a City Mayor. In its composition, a census committee should consist of the head of municipal/city administration, head/deputy head of the Real Estate Cadastre Service, a person responsible for urban planning, a clerk from the agricultural sector, an accountant and a statistician.

Ethnic composition of a census committee, as a rule, matches the national composition of a municipality/city. In cooperation with the Coordination of National Councils of National Minorities, in 93 municipalities, census committees received one more member – a representative of a national minority. A task of this member was to monitor field execution of the census, together with other members of the census committee, and to inform the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and the Coordination of National Councils of National Minorities about any possible problems concerning registration procedure.

Selection of direct participants in the Census was made according to pre-determined criteria. Candidates for municipal/city instructors applied after the announcement of a public invitation, through an e-application on the website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Criteria for the rating of candidates were predominantly education, employment status and experience in the research conducted by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, and additional points were awarded to activities performed by a person in municipality/city administration. In terms of selection of a census-taker, ranking criteria were legible handwriting, education (minimum secondary school), activities and whether a person worked as an interviewer/associate in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia in the last three years.

One of general conditions of the public invitation for candidates was that a person applying for a census-taker had to live in the settlement which he or she is applying for. Therefore, in settlements with dominant population of a specific national community or in settlements with a mixed national composition of the population, the selected candidates had to represent the national structure of the population.

At the initiative of the Ombudsman, members of national minorities were invited through the public media to apply for the position of a census-taker in the largest number possible, to make their number among census-takers proportionate to the number of their national minority in the total number of people living in their settlement, i.e. to include the largest number of members of national minorities in the census.

In the municipalities/cities in which a minority language has been introduced as an official language by the statute of the municipality/city, census promotional materials were translated into minority languages. Spots and radio jingles were available on the website, so individual local TV and radio stations could download them and translate for their needs.

The census of population, households and dwellings was carried out in the period 1-15 October 2011. In the period 16-18 October 2011, the citizens that were not registered in the legally defined period were registered at the premises of the census committee in the territory of the municipality they live in, or they were registered by “mobile teams“ at their home address. In larger municipalities/cities, field execution of the Census was prolonged until 20 October 2011. It should be noted that at the beginning of September 2011, the Assembly of Albanian members from Preševo, Bujanovac and

Medveđa invited Albanians to boycott the Census, which affected the scope in the municipalities of Preševo and Bujanovac and partly in the municipality of Medveđa. In addition, before the commencement of the Census, the Presidency of the Bosniac National Council², which considered itself to be constituted after the elections in 2010, invited the Bosniacs to boycott the Census, however, the boycott did not significantly affect the response by the citizens.

² Under the control of the Electoral list Bosniacs Cultural Community – BCC – Mufti Muamer eff. Zukorlić.

Article 4

1 The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.

2 The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.

3 The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.

2.1. Legislative framework for the prohibition of discrimination

2.1.1. General framework for the prohibition of discrimination

The Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention referring to the implementation of Article 4 of the Framework Convention contains constitutional guarantees for the protection and prohibition of discrimination against persons belonging to a national minority. After submission of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention, the legal framework for the prohibition of discrimination was improved in the Republic of Serbia. Considering that the legal system of the Republic of Serbia did not include a general anti-discrimination regulatory and institutional framework which would in a unique manner regulate the issue of prohibition of discrimination, the National Assembly adopted the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination in 2009, which regulates the anti-discrimination issue in one place and in its entirety.

The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, being a general law, provides a general definition of discrimination and affirmative action; the definition of discrimination was determined according to certain categories of persons in specific cases; it envisages forms of discrimination; it envisages a special authority or body for coordination of anti-discrimination actions which would have different possibilities in terms of bodies and persons violating the prohibition of discrimination; it envisages a special civil procedure for the protection of discrimination, determines misdemeanour responsibility and envisages penalties for discriminatory behaviour, and resolves other issues which, as a general framework, should ensure sufficient number of institutional guarantees for the prevention of discrimination.

The Law defines the terms “discrimination” and “discriminatory treatment” as any unwarranted discrimination or unequal treatment, i.e. omission (exclusion, limitation or preferential treatment) in relation to individuals or groups, as well as members of their families, or persons close to them, be it overt or covert, on the grounds of race, skin colour, ancestors, citizenship, national affiliation or ethnic origin, language, religious or political beliefs, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, financial position, birth, genetic characteristics, health, disability, marital and family status, previous convictions, age, appearance, membership in political, trade union and other organisations and other real or presumed personal characteristics (Article 2 paragraph 1 item 1). Provisions of Article 5 of the Law determine forms of discrimination. In this sense, any form of discrimination, direct and indirect, as well as violation of the principle of equal rights and obligations, calling to account, associating for purposes of exercising discrimination, hate speech and disturbing and humiliating treatment is prohibited. Causing and inciting inequality, hatred and intolerance on the grounds of national, racial or religious affiliation and language, is qualified as a severe form of discrimination (Article 13 item 1). The Law envisages that special measures introduced for the purposes of achieving full equality, protection and progress of an individual or a group of persons in an unequal position shall not be considered to constitute discrimination (Article 14). The Law prohibits discrimination against national minorities and their members on the grounds of national affiliation, ethnic origin, religious beliefs and a language (Article 24 paragraph 1).

The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination prescribes that a person who considers him/herself discriminated against shall lodge a complaint to a court, and a novelty in the Law is that the right of lodging a complaint is also granted to the organisations engaged in the protection of human rights, i.e. of the rights of a specific group of persons (Article 35). It is important to mention that the Law enables easier provision of evidence of existence of discriminatory treatment in specific cases by allowing a person to willingly expose him/herself to such treatment with an intention to directly check the application of the rule on the prohibition of discrimination, and then to lodge a complaint.

What is important for the Serbian anti-discrimination legislation is that provisions of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination regulating the issue of the burden of providing evidence in court proceedings envisaged by the Law, in cases of discrimination, greatly facilitated the position of the plaintiff, i.e. of the victim of discrimination. For these legal provisions to be applicable, the plaintiff is obliged to prove the likelihood of the defendant’s having committed an act of discrimination, and then the burden of providing evidence of non-violation of the principle of equality shall fall on the defendant (Article 45).

The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination envisages a special authority or body for coordination of actions of prohibition of discrimination which would have different possibilities in terms of the bodies or persons violating the prohibition of

discrimination; it envisages a special civil procedure for the protection of discrimination, it determines a misdemeanour responsibility and envisages penalties for discriminatory behaviour, and resolves other issues which, as a general framework, should ensure sufficient number of institutional guarantees for the prevention of discrimination.

In view of the importance and necessity of a long-term and systematic fight against discrimination, the then existing Directorate for Human and Minority Rights supported the initiative of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, which coordinated also with the initiative of civil society organisations, to adopt a strategy for the fight against discrimination and the supporting Action Plan. Although the Republic of Serbia has a number of national strategies which in their fields regulate protection of human rights, it still does not have a unique strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights or fight against discrimination. The Strategy for the Fight against Discrimination would be the first strategic document aimed at the fight against discrimination which would thoroughly treat this problem and propose activities for the reduction of the general level of discrimination in the society and whose implementation would contribute to the process of further democratisation of the country, respect for and promotion of human rights, incitement and development of tolerance in the society, acceptance of differences and respect for the equality principle, improvement of the position of vulnerable groups and minorities, and prevention of conflicts. The Strategy would define an institutional framework and short- and long-term implementation measures. The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy would determine priorities, necessary activities, responsible persons and implementation deadlines as well as indicators which are expected to be objective and made in accordance with a real situation in respect of human and minority rights in the Republic of Serbia. The Directorate for Human and Minority Rights made all preparations aimed at the development of this strategic document and created a special Working Group and nine Theme Groups for the improvement of the status of vulnerable groups, one of which will deal with the protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter referred to as the CC), whose specific provisions were improved and more defined in 2009, in Chapter Fourteen prescribes criminal offenses against freedoms and rights of a man and a citizen. Provision of Article 128 of the CC prescribes that whoever denies or restricts rights of a man and a citizen guaranteed by the Constitution, laws or other regulation or general acts, or ratified international treaties, on the grounds of nationality or ethnicity, race or religion or due to the absence of such affiliation or difference in political or other conviction, gender, language, education, social status, social origin, property or other personal characteristic, or pursuant to such differences grants privileges or benefits, shall be punished with imprisonment up to three years. If the act specified in paragraph 1 of the Article is

committed by an official in discharge of duty, such a person shall be punished with imprisonment of three months to five years.

A criminal offense of violation of the right to use a language or a script is prescribed in Article 129 of the CC, which reads that whoever, contrary to the regulations governing the use of a language and a script of peoples or members of minority and ethnic groups living in Serbia, denies or restricts to a citizen the use of their mother tongue or script when exercising their rights or addressing authorities or organisations, shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment up to one year.

Article 130 of the CC prescribes a criminal offense of violation of the right to expression of national or ethnic affiliation and reads that whoever prevents another person to express their national or ethnic affiliation or culture, shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment up to one year. The penalty specified in paragraph 1 of the Article shall be applied also to whoever coerces another person to declare their national or ethnic affiliation. If the act specified in para. 1 and 2 of the Article is committed by an official in discharge of duty, such a person shall be punished with imprisonment up to three years.

Article 131 of the CC prescribes a criminal offense of the violation of the freedom of religious belief and performing religious services. This Article prescribes that whoever prevents or restricts another's freedom of religious belief or practising a religion, shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment up to one year. The penalty specified in paragraph 1 of this Article shall also be imposed on whoever prevents or hinders another person from performing religious services. Whoever coerces another person to express their religious belief, shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment up to one year. An official who commits the offense specified in paragraphs 1-3 of the Article, shall be punished with imprisonment up to three years.

Chapter Seventeen of the Criminal Code prescribes criminal offenses against honour and reputation. Article 174 of the CC prescribes that a criminal offense is ruining the reputation of a racial, religious, national or other affiliation. The Article prescribes that whoever publicly ridicules a person or a group due to their specific race, skin colour, religion, nationality, ethnic origin or some other personal characteristic, shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment up to one year.

Chapter Twenty-Eight of the CC prescribes criminal offenses against the constitutional order and security of the Republic of Serbia. Article 317 of the Criminal Code prescribes that a criminal offense is incitement of national, racial and religious hatred and intolerance. The Article prescribes that whoever instigates or exacerbates national, racial or religious hatred or intolerance among the peoples and ethnic communities living in Serbia shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years. If the offense specified in paragraph 1 of the Article is committed by coercion, maltreatment, compromising security, exposure to derision of national, ethnic or religious symbols, damage to other persons, goods, desecration of monuments, memorials or graves, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of one to eight years. Whoever

commits the offense specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Article by the abuse of a position or authority, or if these offenses result in riots, violence or other grave consequences for the co-existence of peoples, national minorities or ethnic groups living in Serbia, shall be punished for the offense specified in paragraph 1 of the Article by imprisonment of one to eight years, and for the offense specified in paragraph 2 of this Article, with imprisonment of two to ten years.

Chapter Thirty-One of the CC prescribes criminal offense against public peace and order. Provision of Article 344a of the CC prescribes that a criminal offense is violent behaviour on a sports event or public gathering which, *inter alia*, regulates that whoever by their behaviour or slogans at a sports event or public gathering incites national, racial, religious or another type of hatred or intolerance based on discrimination, which results in violence or a physical assault of the participants, shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years and with fine.

Chapter Thirty-Four of the CC prescribes criminal offenses against humanity and other rights guaranteed by the international law. Provision of Article 387 of the Criminal Code prescribes that a criminal offense is racial and other forms of discrimination. The Article prescribes that whoever on the grounds of race, skin colour, religious belief, nationality, ethnic origin or other personal characteristics violates fundamental human rights and freedoms guaranteed by universally accepted rules of the international law and international treaties ratified by Serbia, shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years. The penalty specified in paragraph 1 of the Article shall be imposed on whoever persecutes organisations or individuals due to their commitment to the equality of people. Whoever propagates ideas of superiority of one race over another or propagates racial intolerance or instigates racial discrimination, shall be punished by imprisonment of three months to three years. Whoever disseminates or in any other manner makes publicly available texts, photographs or any other presentation of ideas or theories instigating or inciting hatred, discrimination or violence against any person or group of persons based on race, skin colour, religious belief, nationality, ethnic origin or any other personal characteristic, shall be punished with imprisonment of three months to three years. Whoever makes public threats that they will commit a criminal offense against a person or a group or people due to their race, skin colour, religion, nationality, ethnic origin or some other personal characteristic, for which a penalty of four years (or more) of imprisonment is envisaged, shall be punished with imprisonment of three months to three years.

2.1.2. Prohibition of operation of organisations and activities instigating discrimination

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, activities of political parties aiming at forced overthrow of the constitutional system, violation of guaranteed

human and minority rights, or inciting racial, national or religious hatred, shall be prohibited. The Constitutional Court may ban only such associations whose activity is aimed at violent overthrow of the constitutional order, violation of guaranteed human or minority rights, or inciting racial, national or religious hatred (Art. 5 paragraph 3, and Art. 55 paragraph 4 of the Constitution). The Constitutional Court shall decide on the prohibition of the activity of a political party, trade union organisation, association or religious community on the basis of a proposal of the Government, State Public Prosecutor or an authority in charge of the registration of political parties, trade union organisations, associations or religious communities (the Law on the Constitutional Court, Article 80 paragraph 1). The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia adopted a decision on 2 June 2011 on the prohibition of the activity of the organisation “Nacionalni Stroj”, and on 12 June 2012, a decision on the prohibition of the activity of the organisation “Otačastveni Pokret Obraz”, due to the activities aimed at the violation of guaranteed human and minority rights and incitement of national and religious hatred.

The Law on Public Assembly envisages that a competent authority shall temporarily prohibit organisation of public assembly aimed at violent change of constitutionally determined order, violation of territorial integrity and independence of the Republic of Serbia, violation of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and rights of a man and a citizen, incitement and instigation of national, racial and religious intolerance and hatred. The competent court shall decide on a temporary ban or prohibition of public assembly (Art. 9-10).

According to the Law on Political Parties, activities of a political party cannot be aimed at violent overthrow of the constitutional order and violation of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia, violation of guaranteed human or minority rights, or incitement of racial, national or religious hatred (Article 4 paragraph 2).

The Law on the Prohibition of Gatherings of Neo-Nazi or Fascist Organisations and Associations and Prohibition of Display of Neo-Nazi or Fascist Symbols and Insignia regulates prohibition of gatherings, display of symbols or insignia, or any form of actions of Neo-Nazi or fascist organisations and associations which in any manner violate constitutional rights or freedoms of the citizens, and prescribes sanctions for the violation of the Law (Article 1).

2.2. Monitoring discrimination and available remedies

Together with general anti-discrimination legal framework, new institutions and bodies also developed. The Commissioner for the Protection of Equality (hereinafter referred to as the Commissioner) was established under the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination after adoption of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention as an autonomous and independent public authority specialised

for the fight against all forms of discrimination. The National Assembly elected the first Commissioner in 2010.

The Commissioner has the following authorisations: receiving and considering complaints against violations of provisions of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination; providing opinion and recommendations in specific cases and imposing measures; providing information to the complainant about the right and possibility to initiate court or other protection procedures. The Commissioner is granted with the active procedural legitimacy, i.e. the right to lodge a complaint, with consent of the person who considers him/herself discriminated against. The Commissioner also recommends implementation of the reconciliation procedure, after consent of parties; submits an annual report to the National Assembly about violations of provisions of the Law and informs the public about this; warns the public about the most usual, typical and severe cases of discrimination, through the media or in some other manner; monitors enforcement of the law and other regulations, initiates adoption of or amendments to regulations for the purposes of implementing and improving protection of discrimination, and provides an opinion about provisions of a draft law and other regulations concerning prohibition of discrimination; establishes and maintains cooperation with the independent bodies competent for equality and protection of human rights at the local self-government level and at the level of a territorial autonomy; recommends measures to public authorities and other persons for achieving equality (Article 33 of the Law). Actions of the Commissioner are governed by the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination (Art. 35-40). More specific rules are defined in the Rules of Procedure (Article 34), and the procedure is accordingly regulated by the rules of the general administrative procedure.

Until now (5 April 2012), the Commissioner has received 506 complaints against discrimination. Out of this number, 94 complaints were filed on the basis of national affiliation or ethnic origin.

An example of good practice and cooperation with the Commissioner is the example that the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority which acted according to the recommendation of the Commissioner on the complaint against the violation of the equality principle, on which the Commissioner was informed in conformity with the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination. This is a case received by the Commissioner in 2011, in which the Commissioner investigated the complaint against the Decision of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority on the manner of competition announcement, execution of the procedure and the system for the rating of applications for a scholarship programme for students of 5 April 2011, which regulates the higher education scholarship programme. Acting within the competences prescribed by the Law, the Commissioner provided an Opinion that the Decision violated the equality principle, which marked discrimination of specific categories of students who graduated in the Hungarian language, on the basis of their personal characteristics and personal characteristics of their parents, i.e. discrimination of students: a) who enrolled in

higher education institutions not founded by the Republic of Serbia as opposed to those studying at higher education institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia, b) whose parents have a college/university degree as opposed to those whose parents have a lower level of education, i.e. secondary school education, c) not registered in the special register of voters of the Hungarian national minority as opposed to those who are registered, d) who did not give a statement about the intention to register in the special register of voters as opposed to those who did, e) who finished a secondary school in Hungarian in the place of their residence as opposed to those who finished their secondary school in Hungarian outside of their place of residence. Having in mind that the equality principle was violated, the Commissioner issued a Recommendation in which it required from the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority to eliminate the conditions and criteria from the above stated decision violating the equality principle for specific categories of students who studied in Hungarian based on their personal characteristics and personal characteristics of their parents, and, in the future, to ensure non-violation of provisions of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination with its decisions, i.e. to refrain from unjustifiable distinction or unequal treatment and omission (exclusion, limitation or preferential treatment) that is based on a personal characteristic, as opposed to persons or groups of persons.

Section 4.1.2 of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention (Equal legal protection) contains information about the establishment of the Ombudsman as an independent and autonomous public authority for the control of the operation of public administration authorities, authorities competent for legal protection of proprietary rights and interests of the Republic of Serbia, and of other bodies and organisations, companies and institutions with granted public authorisations (hereinafter referred to as the administration authorities). In addition to the right of initiation and control of public administration operation, the Ombudsman can act preventively by providing good services, mediating between the citizens and administration authorities and by providing advice and opinion on issues under its competence, for the purposes of promoting work of administration authorities and improving protection of human freedoms and rights. The Ombudsman has the right of legislative initiative. He or she can propose laws under his or her competence, submit initiatives for amendments or adoption of new regulations if he or she believes that citizens' rights were violated due to their deficiencies, or if this is relevant for exercising and promoting citizens' rights. The Ombudsman is authorised to provide an opinion to the Government and the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia about regulations being prepared, and to initiate a procedure before the Constitutional Court for the rating of the constitutionality and legality of laws, other regulations and general acts.

The Ombudsman controls exercising of human rights, determines violations by acts, actions or absence of actions of administration authorities, if this concerns violation of national laws, other regulations and general acts, by controlling whether a public

administration authority legally and regularly acted in issues concerning rights, freedoms or citizens' interests based on the law. If this is not the case, the Ombudsman will declare omission and recommend ways of elimination in this and other cases. Recommendations, views and opinions of the Ombudsman are not legally binding, however, his or her work is to convince with his or her arguments, as well as institutional and personal authority, of the necessity of elimination of the omission and improvement of the method of operation. Administration authorities have a legal obligation to cooperate with the Ombudsman, enable access to their premises and to put at disposal all the available data, regardless of the level of confidentiality (when this is of an interest for the procedure in case). Failure to comply with these legal obligations makes a basis for the initiation of appropriate disciplinary and other procedures. The Ombudsman may recommend dismissal of an official he or she holds responsible for the violation of a citizen's right, initiate a disciplinary procedure against employees in administration authorities, submit a request, i.e. a report for committed criminal, misdemeanour or other appropriate procedure.

Persons belonging to national minorities may address the Ombudsman with a complaint in their own language. The complaint form is available to the citizens on the Ombudsman's website in all the minority languages used officially in the Republic of Serbia. Special attention is focused on exercising of rights of national minorities in local self-governments through cooperation, but also through the control of work of local authorities in case they apply national regulations in their work. In the last three years, the Ombudsman determined a methodology of monitoring of the exercising of minority rights in local communities whose role is to actively cooperate with decision makers. In accordance with this objective, the Ombudsman visited most of local self-government units with a mixed population composition and talked to competent local authorities, non-governmental organisations and others. Also, previous practice has been to organise a meeting with members of the Council for Interethnic Relations during the visits to multinational municipalities, and, as a rule, the Professional and Administrative Service should receive citizens' complaints.

In the period 2008-2011, the Ombudsman received the following number of complaints referring to minority rights:

- In 2008, he received 22 complaints indicating violations or non-exercising of recognised individual and collective minority rights. The largest number of complaints referred to the exercising of rights of education in a minority language.
- In 2009, he received 66 complaints and in 3 cases he initiated a procedure at his own initiative. The largest number of complaints referred to discrimination, the right of information, education and protection of the cultural identity, the right to official use of a language and a script, freedom of expression of national affiliation, etc.
- In 2010, he received 91 complaints and also acted on the basis of 5 cases at his own initiative. The largest number of complaints which refer to the violation of specific collective rights were filed in relation to elections of the national councils of national

minorities, the right of equality in conducting public activities, of information and of cultural creation in a minority language, and the right to official use of a language and a script.

- In 2011, he conducted 221 proceedings concerning minority rights, out of which 51 cases were initiated at his own initiative. In 58 cases referring to the violation of special individual and collective minority rights, most of them concerned the official use of a language and a script – 21 cases.

In accordance with legal authorisations, the Ombudsman submitted recommendations to the administration authority on determined omissions in work, actions initiated on the basis of citizens' complaints, or at his own initiative, on how to eliminate an omission or irregularity (concerning involvement of national minorities in decision making and representation in the public administration; official use of a minority language and a script in local self-government units; establishment and operation of the Council for Inter-Ethnic Relations in local self-government units; election and constitution of national councils of national minorities).

The Ombudsman particularly monitors exercising of rights of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, since being a particularly vulnerable group. Despite the activities of public and provincial authorities and specific local self-government units, according to the allegations of the Ombudsman, there are still complex problems with Roma social integration and discrimination, poverty alleviation and obtaining social and economic and cultural rights. Considering that the problems faced by Roma concerning exercising rights are serious and numerous, and considering that institutions are inaccessible for them for various reasons, the Ombudsman has also organised his work in the Roma settlements in which he receives complaints.

The Provincial Ombudsman operates at the level of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Provisions of Article 61 of the Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina prescribe that the Provincial Ombudsman is an independent and autonomous body of the autonomous province protecting human rights and freedoms of any person guaranteed by the Constitution, confirmed by the international treaties on human rights, universally accepted rules of the international law, and law and regulations of AP Vojvodina. The Provincial Ombudsman particularly protects human rights and freedoms against violations committed by illegal, unsuitable and inefficient actions of the provincial, city, i.e. municipal administration, organisations, public companies and institutions carrying out administrative and public authorisations, founded by the Province, i.e. a city or a municipality in the territory of AP Vojvodina. The Office of the Provincial Ombudsman was established by the Provincial Assembly's decision on the Provincial Ombudsman which regulates that the Provincial Ombudsman shall, for the purposes of protection and promotion of human rights, monitor implementation of regulations, control legality, suitability and efficiency of actions of administration

authorities, and shall be authorised to carry out research on estimating the situation in specific areas of human rights. According to the Law on the Ombudsman, relations among the Ombudsman and autonomous province authorities and local self-government units competent for human rights protection issues (the Provincial and Local Ombudsman) are based on mutual cooperation within the competences of the Ombudsman determined by the Law. The Law prescribes that, in case the Ombudsman receives a complaint against the violation of a citizen's right by acts, activities or non-actions of administration authorities, and this does not concern violation of national laws, other regulations and general acts, but violation of regulations or general acts of the Autonomous Province, i.e. local self-government units, such a complaint shall be submitted without delay to the Provincial Ombudsman, i.e. civil counsel (Ombudsman) of a local self-government unit, if established.

The Professional and Administrative Service of the Provincial Ombudsman employs 22 persons for the total of 28 envisaged workplaces. The processing of citizens' complaints is carried out by 11 employees. In addition to the Provincial Deputy Ombudsman for the Protection of Minority Rights, two persons work at the positions for the protection of minority rights. Financial resources for the operation of the Provincial Ombudsman are provided from the budget of AP Vojvodina. The seat of the Provincial Ombudsman is in Novi Sad, and activities within its competence are carried out in the office in Subotica and Pančevo.

Since 2010, and in comparison to 2008 and 2009, the Provincial Ombudsman has marked an increase in the number of citizens' complaints referring to the violations of rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In 2008, the number of received complaints amounted to 27, in 2009 it was 25. In 2010 there were 57 complaints, and in 2011 there were 67 cases of citizens' complaints. An increase in the number of complaints since 2010 is not a result of deterioration of the situation in the field of minority rights, according to the opinion of the Provincial Ombudsman. This is a result of its increased presence in the field, i.e. successful presentation and recognition of the institution of the Provincial Ombudsman by the citizens. In 2010, the Provincial Ombudsman submitted six opinions and recommendations. In 2011 there were nine, and in 2012 four cases until the date of the Report. The Provincial Ombudsman did not submit initiations for the commencement of disciplinary procedures, requests for initiation of a misdemeanour procedure nor did it initiate criminal or other proceedings against the employees in administration authorities on the basis of violation of or a threat to minority rights.

The most common grounds for citizens' complaints is violation of the right to official use of a language and a script (poor practise of publishing bilingual certificates from registers of births, marriages and deaths in local self-government units, non-issuance of electricity bills in the areas with official use of minority languages, absence of names of settlements on signposts written in minority languages); in the field of

education (a situation with the subject Mother tongue with elements of the national culture), non-adherence to legal provisions on seeking an opinion/proposal from national councils of national minorities on the procedure of electing the school board in schools in which subjects are thought in minority languages or in which the speech, language and culture of a national minority is being studied); in the field of culture (a slow pace of competent authorities of local self-government units in amending Articles of Associations and absence of decision-making of competent authorities of local self-government units about submitted initiatives of national councils for the transfer of founding rights over cultural and educational institutions to the national council for cultural institutions which a national council determined to be institutions of a special importance for preservation, promotion and development of cultural particularities); in the field of information (pressure on the editorial policy of specific media reporting in minority languages, insufficient funds for printed and electronic minority media at the local level which jeopardises provision of information in minority languages).

Provisions of Article 97 of the Law on the Local Self-Government prescribe the possibility of establishing the Ombudsman in the local self-government which shall be authorised to control respect for citizens' rights, to determine violations by acts, actions or non-actions of administration authorities and public services, if this concerns violation of regulations and general acts of a local self-government unit. For this reason, for example, the Ombudsman was established at the local level in Subotica, Novi Sad, Zrenjanin, Šabac, Vranje, Niš, Kragujevac, and Belgrade.

2.3. The situation of the Roma

The Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and supporting Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the period 2009-2011 were adopted in 2009, and contain operation priorities and recommendations from the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and projection of budget funds for the execution of planned measures and activities. The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma cover 13 areas. In addition to revised action plans for four priority areas in the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, i.e. employment, housing, education and health, adopted in 2005, the Action Plan includes measures and activities in the following areas: social care of internally displaced persons, returnees under the readmission agreement, promotion of the position of women, media, culture and information in a native language, as well as in the area of discrimination and political involvement.

The Council for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion was created for the purposes of efficient implementation of the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy. It is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The Council

consists of representatives of ministries implementing the Action Plan in relevant fields, as well as of representatives of Roma associations of citizens. The Council for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion has, together with the Office for the Implementation of the Roma National Strategy within the then existing Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, taken over coordination of line ministries by establishing a framework structure for the monitoring of indicators of performance of priorities and measures stated in the Strategy and the Action Plan. The Office for Roma Inclusion AP Vojvodina is responsible for the implementation of the Strategy at the level of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, whereas 46 coordinators are dealing with Roma issues at the level of local self-government units whose task is to support development and implementation of local plans for the improvement of the status of Roma, together with representatives of the Roma community.

In 2011, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government created the Draft Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma for the period 2012-2014. The Draft Action Plan describes objectives resulting from recommendations from the Strategy, measures and activities required for their achievement, persons responsible for measures/activities, implementation partners, monitoring, and available budgetary and donor funds. Basic documents for the development of the Draft Action Plan were the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and Guidelines for the Development of the Strategy or Integrated Set of Roma Integration Measures. The Action Plan was prepared by working groups for each of the 13 areas covered by the Strategy. Each of the 13 groups were managed by a representative of the ministry competent for a specific area, i.e. the Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia, while members of the working groups were representatives appointed by the National Council of the Roma National Minority, the Roma Associations' Network – the League for the Decade and Roma Women's Network, other associations dealing with the promotion of the status of Roma, as well as by international organisations and major bilateral donors. The draft version was presented at the meeting of the Council for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, and on a consultative meeting which was also attended by representatives of different cities.

2.3.1. Personal documents

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has been actively participating in the performance of duties under action plans within its competences through the implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 in the field of personal documents issuance required for obtaining social, health and other rights. Special contribution to the activities

of defining and resolving recognised Roma issues was provided by the Ministry through different forms of cooperation with the entities relevant for the resolution of status changes of these persons, as well as through independent activities related to priority resolution of Roma applications for obtaining the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia by providing timely and complete information to these persons about procedures for the issuance of personal documents, as well as through other necessary measures enabling every specific procedure for the issuance of an personal document to this category of persons in a simplified and efficient manner.

One of the measures for the implementation of the Action Plan for the period 2009-2011 is an amendment to the legal regulations governing residence registration in order to enable determination of citizen's residence having no other permanent housing on any legal grounds according to his/her place of actual residence. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence of Citizens which entered into force on 29 November 2011. The Law determines a facilitated residence registration procedure necessary for the issuance of personal documents to all the citizens, including persons belonging to the Roma population amongst whom is the largest number of persons without documents. Namely, Article 11 paragraph 2 item 4 of the Law prescribes that if a citizen cannot register residence on the basis of the property right to an apartment, lease agreement or on other legal grounds, the competent authority shall issue a decision on the residence at the address of the building he/she is permanently accommodated in or at the centre for social work whose area he/she is located in, if the citizen reported to the institution i.e. centre that his/her address will be the address of the institution, i.e. centre.

The National Assembly also adopted the Law on Amendments and Additions to the Identity Card Law which came into force in 4 June 2011, which, *inter alia*, prescribes that a citizen having the right to an identity card and without registered residence in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, shall be issued with an identity card on the basis of his/her determined residence, for the period of two years.

Persons belonging to the Roma national minority are issued with an identity card as a priority and by an urgent procedure. If possible, documents necessary for the issuance of identity cards are obtained *ex officio* due to exercising the right of identity documents. Such citizens may submit applications for the issuance of an identity card according to the place of residence and, thus, they do not expose themselves to the costs of going to a police directorate, i.e. station competent for the issuance of an ID card according to their place of residence. Therefore, MoI, together with the City Administration of the City of Belgrade and the Secretariat for the Social Welfare of Belgrade, is carrying out an action of issuing personal documents urgently to the persons displaced in the newly formed settlements in the territory of the municipality of Čukarica, Surčin, Rakovica, Mladenovac and Barajevo, who lived under the bridge Gazela. The MoI will continue with residence registration and issuance of personal documents to this

category of persons, particularly to those members of the Roma population who did not have grounds for residence registration because they had no legal grounds for housing.

When issuing identity documents to the citizens of the Republic of Serbia, the MoI applies regulations from this field equally to all the citizens of the Republic of Serbia regardless of their national, religious or other affiliation. The Ministry of Interior does not dispose with the number of issued biometrical documents to persons according to their national affiliation since data are not collected on the basis of the national affiliation of the persons whom biometric documents have been issued to.

Important points for personal documents are maintenance of registers of births, marriages and deaths and issuance of certificates from registers of births, marriages and deaths which are valid public documents in appropriate procedures before other competent authorities (e.g. a birth certificate is valid in the process of issuance of an ID card before the MoI).

In terms of the legislation framework regulating the issue of exercising the right of registration to a birth register, the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths ensures all the necessary assumptions for exercising the right with procedures clearly and precisely determined under the Law and the Constitution, in the manner which protects the constitutionally guaranteed right of equal protection of rights of all the citizens, i.e. persons belonging to all the national minorities, including the Roma national minority. The later particularly applies to the case of registration of birth data reported after the legal deadline (subsequent registration).

Monitoring execution of activities related to the subsequent registration of birth data in the birth register and monitoring the situation in this area resulted in positive effects of application of the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, as the largest number of requests for the subsequent registration in the birth register was received and resolved in 2009 – 9,573 requests, and in 2010 – 7,996 requests. In view of the achieved results in the first two years of application of the Law, in 2011 was received and resolved a considerable smaller number of requests for the subsequent registration in the birth register, i.e. 774 requests. In view of the number of unresolved cases, it is not possible to single out which of the registrations refer to the persons belonging to the Roma national minority, because national affiliation data are not noted in the birth register during registration.

With regard to an appeal filed to the competent ministry, and considering that the first instance bodies dealing with the registration of birth data in the birth register are city, i.e. municipal administrations, court control of an administrative operation has also been introduced because an administrative dispute may be initiated before the Administrative Court with an appeal against the final decision in an administrative procedure.

Normative framework, without a campaign for informing Roma people about the registration procedure and provision of legal aid in procedures, is not sufficient to overcome the existing problem, i.e. that a certain number of persons is not registered in

the birth register. Considering that the activity aimed at the provision of such assistance is extremely important for the persons belonging to the Roma national minority that are not registered in this fundamental official register, the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights conducted a competition for the implementation of the project aimed at the provision of legal assistance in the procedures of subsequent registration of birth data in birth registers, at which 8 associations received about RSD 5,000,000.00.

The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government has in the previous period monitored the situation in the field of exercising the right of subsequent registration in the birth register and established cooperation with competent public authorities and representatives of international institutions and the non-governmental sector. All contacts and cooperation were extremely important for defining further steps which should contribute to problem resolution.

One of the steps was to submit proposals for making amendments to legal regulations for the exemption from payment of administrative fees for documents and actions related to the exercising of the right of subsequent registration of birth data in the birth register. The Law on Amendments and Additions to the Law on Republic Administrative Fees was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia in June 2011. All the authorities performing activities related to registers of births, marriages and deaths (city and municipal administrations) for the purposes of ensuring consistency in practice and easier and faster exercising of the right of persons belonging to the Roma national minority concerning registration in the birth register, received: an opinion on the implementation of provisions of the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths and bylaws adopted on the basis of the Law regulating the procedure for the subsequent registration of birth data in the birth register; Instructions on the method of operation of the authorities involved in the first instance administrative procedure in the field of registers of births, marriages and deaths on the basis of requests for the subsequent registration of birth data in the birth register, with attachments – an example of a certificate issued to parties when submitting a request for the subsequent registration of birth data in the birth register for the purposes of exercising the right of exemption from payment of legally prescribed fees for documents and actions related to the exercising of the right, and a notification about the procedure for the exercising of the right to subsequent registration of birth data in the birth register which the authority is obliged to submit to the person filing a request for subsequent registration of birth data in the birth register; an opinion on actions to be taken in the case when providing evidence for the authority leading the procedure for subsequent registration of birth data in the birth register is connected to disproportionate costs. Roma coordinators in local self-government units are familiar with the stated activities so that they can become involved in the activities which should enable to the persons who have not been registered to registers of births, marriages and deaths yet, to register themselves.

For the purposes of taking all the necessary measures and activities that would result in the adoption of amendments and additions to the Law which will regulate appropriate court proceedings for determining birth data and registration in the birth register in case these data cannot be proved before an administrative authority, the Government of the Republic of Serbia proposed amendments to the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings. The Law on Additions to the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings was adopted on 31 August 2012. This document established a more simple and more efficient procedure for the resolution of cases of persons whose legal status has not been acknowledged.

An extremely important activity was conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ombudsman and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Representative Office in Serbia in 2011, which was used for establishing first foundations for closer cooperation in planning and execution of activities aimed at providing assistance to persons belonging to the Roma national minority in the process of subsequent registration of birth data in the birth register. The parties of the Memorandum will direct activities to the identification of causes due to which persons have not been registered in the birth register in order to find an effective solution to this problem.

2.3.2. Housing

The Republic of Serbia is continuously taking steps in improving living conditions of persons belonging to the Roma national minority through the development of legislative and other measures for the exercising of housing rights. Within its competences in the development of the housing sector in the Republic of Serbia, the then existing Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning took a number of strategic, legislative and other measures for the improvement of the status of Roma in the housing area. Activities related to the development of the legislation framework included adoption of the Law on Social Housing in 2009, which in Article 10 recognises Roma as a particularly vulnerable social group which exercises its priority right in resolving the housing issue, which is a very clear measure of an affirmative action for persons belonging to the Roma national minority in resolving their housing needs.

In early 2012, the Government adopted the National Strategy for the Social Housing and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy, which, in addition to a number of other measures for the development of social housing for the purposes of providing support to low- and middle-income households in resolving their housing issues, confirms a special measure for the improvement of housing conditions for the residents of substandard settlements, which are mostly Roma informal settlements. One

of the measures envisages preparation and adoption of an appropriate document about actions of relocation of substandard settlements which have to be relocated.

The Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning financed development of plans for 10 informal settlements in 8 municipalities to achieve objectives of the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma which refers to the renovation and improvement of living conditions in Roma settlements. These plans form a basis for the execution of further activities of equipping the settlements with a missing infrastructure (roads, water supply, sewage, etc.), of activities of adaptation and extension of dwellings in poor conditions for achieving a satisfactory level of living standards, and, ultimately, for their full legal recognition (legalisation) in accordance with applicable regulations and standards prescribed in the Republic of Serbia. Financing development of plans, and the next phase of implementation of this measure, will continue in 2012 for the municipalities that have already adopted the plans. The budget envisages funds for the development of project documentation for the construction of infrastructure and improvement of conditions of houses in the settlements for which appropriate urban planning documents were adopted, as well as in settlements in other interested municipalities which meet the basic criteria for the allocation of funds. In order to achieve the same objective, the Ministry participated in the implementation of a measure of strengthening of local self-government capacities through the preparation and publication of the “Guide for the Legalisation of Informal Roma Settlements” which is used for the facilitation of the process of physical upgrading of informal Roma settlements in their territory, their integration in the wider environment and, finally, their legal recognition in accordance with the existing legal framework of the Republic of Serbia.

At the level of AP Vojvodina, the Office for Roma Inclusion has, together with the Provincial Secretariat for Architecture, Urban Planning and Construction, Opovo municipality and the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation from Novi Sad, implemented the project for the improvement of living conditions in a Roma settlement in Opovo whose value amounted to RSD 4,650,000.00 from budget funds of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. In addition, the Office was involved in the activities related to the relocation of an unhygienic Roma settlement in Sivac, in the Kula municipality. For this purposes, funds in the amount of RSD 2,000,000.00 were allocated for these purposes from the budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

In 2009, the Capital Investment Fund was used for ensuring funds from the budget fund of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and for building roads in Roma settlements in the municipalities of Odžaci, Žabalj, Kovin, Žitište and Ruma. The municipality of Žitište used the stated funds for resolving the water supply issue in 400 Roma settlements. Three streets in the Roma settlement in Zrenjanin were paved. The investment value was RSD 12,000,000.00.

The Capital Investment Fund approved funds in the amount of RSD 300,000,000.00 for the provision of an infrastructure in Roma settlements in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, which will be realised successively in the following years. Problems of non-existent or inadequate infrastructural facilities in Roma settlements are being resolved at the proposal of the Office for Roma Inclusion, with the involvement of the local self-government in providing the necessary project documentation. Selection of Roma settlements to be financed for the construction of infrastructure is conditioned by the existence of facilities made of solid materials and their number in a specific settlement.

2.3.3. Health

In addition to providing funds for health insurance of the Roma population, the Ministry of Health has also been implementing projects contributing to the improvement of health situation of Roma. Since 2006, the Ministry has been implementing the project “Implementation of the Plan for Roma Health Care“ for which special funds are ensured and which is fully harmonised with the adopted Action Plan for the Improvement of Health Situation of Roma within the Decade of Roma.

Since 2008, the Ministry has been implementing the project for the introduction of Roma health care mediators in the health system of the Republic of Serbia “Health Care Mediator“. The project has in the period between 2008 and 31 March 2012 employed 75 women mediators in 60 health care centres who have visited and registered 120,708 Roma, provided medical documents and personal documents for 11,835 persons, vaccination of 16,631 children, the vaccine (Te-A1) for 1,476 adults and ensured that 19,528 Roma selected their general practitioner, and that 7,295 women selected their gynecologist. In addition, there were 895 mammographies, health checks of 2,053 pregnant women and new mothers, a systematic check of 7,112 women, and 3,668 children were enrolled in primary schools. They created an electronic data base about the health situation of Roma, their education, employment and living conditions in Roma settlements. Also, the Manual for Health Care Women Mediators was drafted for women mediators who during their visits to the Roma population also educate Roma people about their right to health care, i.e. about patients' rights. The procedure for the issuance of the health insurance ID document (health insurance card) to persons belonging to the Roma nationality, who due to their traditional lifestyle do not have permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia and who are issued with this document on the basis of a personal statement of a person and registration of residence, i.e. on the basis of a statement on the place of temporary residence. The following objectives have been achieved with the engagement of health care women mediators: improving the health situation of Roma, especially women and children, improving access to health care, amount of health care information, and reducing inequality. Taken measures and

activities resulted in the increase in the number of health insured persons, vaccinated children, systematic check-ups, people involved in counselling and preventive centres within health care institutions, Roma people who selected their doctor, and adopted healthy lifestyles. There is also an increased number of persons belonging to the Roma nationality who learned about health control, protection from infectious diseases, planning of a family, harmful effects of psychoactive substances, proper nutrition and food storage, personal and general hygiene, importance of waste disposal, violence-neglect-abuse, human trafficking, rights in the field of social care, health care and health insurance.

In cooperation with UNICEF and TELENOR within the project “Connecting”, which has been implemented since 2010, the Ministry of Health created software where health care women mediators enter data in lap-top computers. Distributed computers and mobile phones to women mediators and visiting nurses ensure faster and improved communication. In the period 1 February 2009 – 31 March 2012, data were entered in the electronic data base for 118,915 Roma, 34,802 families and 251,220 family visits and data were entered according to indicators (in cooperation with the World Health Organisation) for 970 settlements in 60 municipalities and cities in the Republic of Serbia.

The project implemented by the Ministry of Health “Recruitment of Roma Women Mediators: Economic Analysis of the Introduction of Roma Health Care Women Mediators in the System of Public Health Care Institutions in Serbia” since 2010, with the assistance of the Fund for an Open Society, includes analysis of the Institute of Economic Sciences of how important the work of health care women mediators is for the improvement of health situation of Roma. Results of the analysis show that the lifetime of the Roma people has prolonged.

In 2011, there were 14 approved projects in the total value of RSD 3,380,056.00. Part of the project of the Ministry of Health “Delivery of Improved Local Services – DILS”, which comprises 42 health care centres and is financed by loans from the World Bank, includes a number of activities and some of them relate to the education of health care workers and health care associates and representatives of local self-governments in the field of patients’ rights, with a special emphasis on the Roma population. In 2001, the project included education as part of accredited programmes aimed at health care workers and associates. In 11 health care centres in the City of Belgrade 43 health care workers gained knowledge as part of the programme “Sensitisation of Health Care Workers“ – Roma culture and history, communication, an issue of legally invisible Roma, chronic non-contagious diseases in Roma population, the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, together with the programme “Improving Communication with the Roma Population“ – learning about cultural characteristics of Roma, additional sensitisation for Roma needs, improving communication and raising awareness about the importance of multi-sectoral connectivity. These courses are aimed at primary care physicians, nurses

and technicians from the general medicine service in a health care centre. These programmes will include additional sensitisation of health care workers for the needs of vulnerable groups through learning about cultural characteristics of the Roma population in order to gain additional insight in the needs of Roma as a vulnerable group. Education within the said programmes will continue in 2012, and it will also include health care workers and associates from other health care centres out of the total of 42 health care centres included in the above stated project.

The project “Health Care Mediators in 13 Municipalities in Southern Serbia”, financially supported by UNICEF and PBILD (Peace Building and Inclusive Local Development) project, started in the Ministry of Health at the end of 2011. The project is being implemented in Pčinjski and Jablaničko District, in 13 cities and municipalities: Leskovac, Lebane, Bojnik, Vlasotince, Vladičin Han, Surdulica, Vranje, Bujanovac, Preševo, Trgovište, Bosilegrad, Crna Trava and Medveđa. The project has two components: sensitisation of workers in the field of history, culture and tradition of the Roma people (to reduce discrimination), and support of health care women mediators. The project will, apart from women mediators, also include doctors, nurses and persons working in health care centres in learning about reduction of Roma discrimination, whereas the course is accredited by the Health Council of Serbia.

Supported by the Global Fund, the Ministry of Health has been implementing two projects since 2010 related to the public health, which are, *inter alia*, important for the health situation of Roma: “Control of Tuberculosis in the Republic of Serbia through the Implementation of the Strategy of Directly Observed Therapy“ and “Fight Against HIV/AIDS in Serbia”.

The first project includes 122 Roma settlements in 14 cities. The total of 14,815 persons of the Roma nationality were surveyed, 14,941 persons were educated and 8 new cases of TB were identified. A special target group were children under the age of 14 from Roma settlements. 8,172 tests were carried out which showed susceptibility to TB infection of 4% (as well as in the total population of children), and only a single case of the disease was detected.

The second project is being implemented through voluntary and confidential counselling and HIV testing, through distribution of prophylactic devices and through educational workshops attended by 20,564 young Roma so far. With the mediation of territorially competent Offices for Public Health and with the help of Roma associations of citizens, a hygiene-epidemiological evaluation was carried out in 228 settlements, which included 3,297 households.

In December 2010, the Office of the World Health Organisation in Serbia, in cooperation with two other UN agencies (IOM and UNOPS), the Ministry of Health and the City of Belgrade opened an authorised recycling centre in Mirijevo (Belgrade) as part of the SWIFT project (Sustainable Waste Management Initiative For a Healthier Tomorrow). The activity of the SWIFT recycling centre is collecting and processing

secondary raw materials, primarily paper, cardboard, plastic and metal. The Law on Waste Management contains new obligations for businesses in the area of waste recycling. The Law envisages that secondary raw materials must be documented and delivered to a waste management licensed operator. The SWIFT cooperative offers this service to its customers for free. The current way of material recycling done by waste collectors is one of the basic ways of survival of socially vulnerable groups, especially Roma who have been performing these activities for a long time.

The Ministry of Health developed a proposal of the Action Plan for the Improvement of Health Situation of Roma for the Period 2012-2014 which envisages activities related to the education of Roma about their rights in the field of health care including: seminars for the employees of the Republic Health Insurance Fund about a specific situation of the Roma population in the system of mandatory health insurance; seminars and workshops for health care workers and associates for learning about specific needs of the Roma population, establishing better communication and understanding; education of Roma men and Roma women about rights to health care and improving work of visiting nurses.

With these activities and with the activities of health care women mediators, the Roma population is provided with and facilitated in health care access and inclusion in other areas of social life. Additionally, health care workers, health care associates and other employees in the health care system of the Republic of Serbia are being sensitised for the needs of the Roma population by learning about cultural characteristics of the Roma population which is aimed at gaining additional insight in the needs of Roma as a venerable group.

2.4. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia the Advisory Committee provided eight recommendations related to Article 4 of the Framework Convention. The following paragraphs contain information on government positions regarding certain recommendations, as well as actions taken for their implementation.

The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to ensure that the law on non-discrimination is adopted without delay and that its implementation duly takes into account ECRI's General Policy Recommendation N°7 on National Legislation to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination was drafted by a group of national experts from the government, civil society and academic sector, whose work was

supported by a project implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, experts from the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and with the enthusiastic help of the Delegation of the European Commission in Belgrade. The draft law was the subject of consultations with civil society, trade unions, representatives of national minorities, national experts and other relevant participants, and a public debate was conducted on this matter in several towns in Serbia, with over 200 representatives of various bodies and organisations.

In December 2007, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe delivered its favourable opinion on the draft law, and deemed that the draft complies with international standards in this area. Solutions in the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination relating to determination of the term “discrimination”, the definition of indirect discrimination as a form of discrimination and the mechanisms of protection – the part on presumed guilt and the burden of providing evidence, are fully in line with the EU Anti-Discrimination Directives. The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination was enacted at the National Assembly session held on 26 March 2009.

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to ensure that any undue citizenship requirement is eliminated from legislation relevant to the protection of national minorities, including criminal legislation.

As already stated, by maintaining the general citizenship requirement in the definition of national minorities in Article 2 of the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Republic of Serbia harmonised its legislation with that definition in the area of the protection of national minorities, including criminal legislation. As regards the retention of citizenship as one of the criteria for the definition of national minorities, explanations are given in detail and are contained in Section 1.4 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report.

The Advisory Committee calls on the Serbian authorities to ensure that the legal provisions relating to the introduction of positive measures are fully in line with the principles contained in Article 4 paragraph 2 of the Framework Convention.

Comments of the Republic of Serbia on the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in paragraph 63 contain explanations regarding Constitutional determination to introduce specific regulations and provisional measures in the economic, social, cultural and political life for the purpose of achieving full and effective equality among the members of a national minority and citizens who belong to the majority population, and if they are aimed at elimination of extremely unfavourable living conditions affecting them in particular. On that occasion, it was noted that the

Constitution also contains other provisions that clearly lead to understanding that the intention of the creator of the Constitution was not to allow the adoption of positive measures in favour of the members of national minorities only in cases if such measures were undertaken to eliminate extremely unfavourable living conditions that particularly affect them and also that positive measures in favour of persons belonging to national minorities, undertaken after the adoption of the Constitution, should not be regarded as discriminatory if not aimed at elimination of extremely unfavourable living conditions affecting them in particular, but at promoting full and effective equality in general. To that effect, undertaking positive measures in favour of members of national minorities is continued in this reporting cycle as well and will be discussed in the sections on the implementation of the provisions of the Framework Convention.

The Advisory Committee finds it essential that the State level Ombudsman's future work in the field of minority rights receives adequate support. The Serbian authorities should take the necessary measures to ensure that the ombudsmen institutions at all levels are in a position to perform their tasks efficiently and that they are known and accessible, in particular to persons belonging to national minorities, including in their language.

The First Republic Ombudsman took office on 23 July 2007. The Law stipulates that the Ombudsman shall have four deputies, appointed by the National Assembly, that help him/her in performing the duties prescribed by the Law. At the same time, when delegating powers to deputies, the Ombudsman shall be obliged to ensure special expertise, primarily in respect to the protection of rights of persons deprived of their liberty, gender equality, rights of the child, right of persons belonging to national minorities and rights of disabled persons. Deputies of the Ombudsman were elected in 2008 at the session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. A special Professional and Administrative Service, seated in Belgrade, was set up to perform professional and administrative activities within the scope of the Ombudsman, systemising 50 workplaces with 63 employees. The basic spatial and technical work requirements for the work of the Ombudsman were provided in 2011, by moving to the appropriate premises, but these premises still have a temporary character until the conditions are fulfilled to relocate to a new location, which should be a final solution.

The Ombudsman has rendered a decision to set up its local offices in the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa. The offices were set up with the aim to increase the availability of the Ombudsman institution and to achieve more effective protection and promotion of human and minority rights and the rights of citizens in this area.

As already mentioned members of national minorities may address the Ombudsman by lodging a complaint in the language of a complainant, while the

complaint form is on minority languages in official use in the Republic of Serbia and is available on the website of the Ombudsman.

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to take measures to increase, among the population, awareness of their rights as well as strengthen the confidence in the judiciary among persons belonging to national minorities to address cases of alleged discrimination to the Courts.

Measures aimed at strengthening of independent institutions specialised to combat all forms of discrimination have already been taken along with measures to ensure the control of legality and regularity of work of administrative bodies relating to the exercise of individual and collective rights of citizens and protection and advancement of human and minority rights and freedoms of citizens, and they helped to raise the awareness of the population about their rights, as evidenced by indicators on the activities of these institutions in the past. The reform of judiciary was intended to strengthen the confidence in the judiciary through the adoption of packages of judicial laws in December 2008 that govern a judicial network in a completely new way, with new institutions that are able to guarantee the independence and numerous mechanisms aimed to ensure greater efficiency and better functioning of the system. The reform faced a number of challenges and limitations and was neither generally accepted by expert and political bodies nor by non-governmental organisations.

While building on the experience so far, Serbia should ensure that the National Strategy on Roma to be adopted is provided with sustainable coordination and implementing structures, as well as adequate human and financial resources. The authorities should secure the full involvement of local authorities in its implementation as well as provide for regular evaluations, in consultation with Roma representatives, of the progress achieved at national, provincial and local levels, by setting clear targets and collecting reliable data.

Section 2.3 of Chapter B of the Report contains all information on clearly defined structures implemented through the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma (ministries responsible for certain sectors) and a structure that coordinates the work of line ministries (The Council for the Advancement of the Status of Roma and the Office for the Implementation of Roma National Strategies, at that time the Ministry of Human and National Rights and/or the Group for the Advancement of the Status of Roma within the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights). In order to effectively implement the National Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and the Action Plan for its implementation, setting

up of mechanisms for working groups by line ministries implementing the Action Plan within their area, helped to collect data on the progress achieved.

The Serbian authorities should pursue the implementation of their measures regarding the legalisation of Roma settlements and ensure that they are coupled with adequate financial means and with the increased involvement of the local authorities. Serbia should ensure that legal guarantees are in place to provide those persons concerned by an eviction order, with prior information, adequate alternative accommodation as well as the possibility to appeal the decision.

Based on the preliminary results of the last population census, there are nearly 780 Roma settlements, of which nearly 170 are located in Belgrade. In the course of 2011, the measures envisaged by the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma were implemented, which were, *inter alia*, related to the achievement of the goal – displacement of settlements that cannot be legalised. Displacement of an informal Roma settlement in Block 72 in New Belgrade should serve as a model of system solution for the displacement of settlements that cannot be legalised. Displacement of this informal settlement was first conducted in accordance with the Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement, prepared by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing. A special group has been established and tasked to harmonise the activities of the public authorities and the City of Belgrade in the process of displacement of Roma families from these informal settlements. The group was composed of the following representatives: the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Republic Agencies for Housing, Commissioner for Refugees, the City of Belgrade, “Praxis“ Association, and the National Council of the Roma National Minority. The Directorate for Human and Minority Rights coordinated consultations between the working group and the local residents. Visits to the offered alternative accommodation were organised, and displacement scheduled for December 2011 was postponed until March 2012, due to bad weather conditions. Directorate for Human and Minority Rights provided, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, and with the financial support of the Swedish International Development, a heating fuel for all settlement residents. The settlement accommodated a total of 34 families with a different legal status, given the state of personal identity documents, and correspondingly different rights in terms of the alternative accommodation during the displacement. All families in the settlement, other than the families deemed as eligible to return to Kosovo and Metohija, were offered a social inclusion programme, which, in addition to assistance during displacement and provision of temporary accommodation (until reaching the final housing solution) implies the provision of legal aid in obtaining personal documents, inclusion in the system of health care, mandatory enrolment of children in preschools and

schools (with organised school transport) and the provision of employment for one adult family member. Families with one adult member with a registered residence in the City of Belgrade were entitled to accommodation in Belgrade, in settlements with mobile housing units. Families of internally displaced persons were offered an accommodation in collective centres in Gamzigrad Spa. A house was bought for one family, with a possibility to use it free of charge in the period of 5 years. Families that were eligible to return to Kosovo and Metohija were offered a temporary accommodation in the collective centre in Smederevo, given their specific situation. Families were provided effective legal protection in accordance with applicable regulations – the right to appeal in the second instance administrative procedure and the right to judicial protection in an administrative dispute.

The Advisory Committee urges the Serbian authorities to redouble efforts to address the particularly critical health situation of many Roma, especially women, children and the elderly. The appointment of additional health mediators should be pursued as a matter of urgency.

Section 2.3.3 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report sets out measures and activities undertaken by the Republic of Serbia to improve the health situation of Roma. A special progress has been made as a result of these activities, as evidenced by a Multiple Indicator Survey on health, conducted in 2011 with the assistance of UNICEF. This survey showed a reduction in mortality rates of children in Roma settlements (per 1000 live births), namely: infants (children under 1 year of age) from 25 in 2005 to 14 in 2010, for children up to 5 years from 28 in 2005 to 15 in 2010. The percentage of school-age children currently attending first grade compared to the total number of children of school-age children has increased by 25%. The percentage of women who know where to test for HIV has increased by 4% in national, i.e. by 8% in Roma sample compared to 2005.

Article 5

1 The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

2 Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.

3.1. Legal basis for creating conditions and developing the culture of national minorities

The Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention explains legal basis for creating conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture and preserve essential elements of their identity in the Republic of Serbia, which are provided for in the Constitution and provisions of certain laws. Within the period after the submission of the Second Report, the Republic of Serbia adopted regulations that are important for the exercising of the rights related to cultural specific features of members of national minorities. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) governs, *inter alia*, competences of national councils in the area of culture, as one of four areas where national minorities may institutionally exercise their right to self-government. Provisions 16-18 of the Law state that the national councils may, in accordance with the Law, establish cultural institutions for the purposes of preserving cultural specific features and the national identity of a national minority and for the exercising of the rights and obligations of the founder. The Republic, the autonomous province and the local self-government unit, as the founders of the institutions, may delegate their rights of establishment to a national minority, either entirely or partially. National councils have the power to appoint a member of the Management Board of the institution, to give an opinion on the appointed members of the management board and to give an opinion on the procedure for the decision of the manager of the institution deemed to be of particular importance for the preservation of the identity of a national minority. National Councils establish strategies for the development of a national minority culture, determine what institutions and events in the field of culture have special importance in preservation, promotion and development of special features and national identity of a certain national minority, propose at least one candidate for the joint list of candidates in the elections for the National Council of culture and also have other competences in the field of culture.

Ensuring the implementation of cultural policy which is primarily based on the principle of freedom of expression in cultural and artistic creation and also a respect for

cultural values and national tradition for the purpose of preservation, promotion and development of specific cultural features and preservation of its own national identity is governed by other regulations as well. The Law on Culture, adopted in 2009 and in force since 2010, gives an opportunity to national councils of national minorities to take care of the implementation of the cultural policy of national minorities and, in accordance with the law, to participate in decision-making or to decide on their own on certain issues concerning their culture, to establish cultural institutions and other legal entities in culture (Article 5). As regards the establishment of a National Council of Culture, as prescribed in Article 15 of the Law, which is established as an expert-consulting body, for the purpose of provision of permanent expert support to preservation, development and spreading of culture, out of 19 members elected by the National Assembly, two members are elected under the proposal of national councils of national minorities, pursuant to provisions of Article 16, paragraph 2, item 7. Provisions of Article 24 of the Law stipulate that the Republic of Serbia, the autonomous province and the local-self-government unit may establish institutions for the preservation, promotion and development of the national identity of national minorities, i.e. they may, under the proposal of the national council of a national minority, by amending the Memorandum of Association for certain institutions, define that such institutions are of particular importance for preservation, promotion and development of cultural specific features and preservation of the national identity of national minorities. The Management Board of the institution established in line with the stated Article of the Law, may include at least one member of the Management Board elected under the proposal of the relevant national council of a national minority, pursuant to Article 42 of the Law. If several national councils propose some member of the Management Board, this proposal is to be jointly submitted by all interested national councils of national minorities. As regards the selection of members for the Supervisory Board, at least one member of the Supervisory Board is to be elected under the proposal of the relevant national council of a national minority (Article 46). According to the provision of Article 68 of the Law, which is also important for members of national minorities, an artist, namely an expert in culture who had supremely contributed to culture of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia by his/her activities and who meets other requirements prescribed by this Law and regulations adopted to implement this Law, may gain the status of a distinguished artist and/or the status of a distinguished expert in culture.

The Law on Establishing the Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina prescribes in Article 41, item 2 that AP of Vojvodina shall, through its bodies in the field of culture and in accordance with the Law, regulate needs and interests in the field of culture of national minorities and provide resources for their realisation. Provisions of Article 29, item 9 indent 11 of the Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina stipulate that AP of Vojvodina is competent to regulate and ensure the public interest in the field of national communities that constitute numerical minorities in the

total population of AP of Vojvodina, in accordance with the Constitution, ratified international treaties and law stipulating the issues relevant for the Province.

3.2. Policy of support for minority cultures

The Republic of Serbia, in accordance with its capabilities and at all levels of government, is supporting cultural, artistic and scientific institutions, societies and associations established by persons belonging to national minorities in all spheres of cultural and artistic life in order to give effect to cultural policy which is primarily based on the principle of freedom of expression in the cultural and artistic creation, and also a respect of cultural values and national tradition for the purpose of preservation, promotion and development of specific cultural features and preservation of its own national identity. The policy on the protection of cultural heritage in the Republic of Serbia does not differentiate between the protection of cultural assets as regards their origin. The laws governing this area, including also the activities of the institutions for the protection of cultural monuments, museums, archives and libraries, as well as the standards of the profession of protection of cultural heritage, require that cultural assets are treated and protected equally regardless of the time of origin and cultural provenance.

3.2.1. Financial support from the state budget

The Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Culture) is responsible for the exercising of the rights relating to the language and cultural specific features of the national minorities in the territory of the Republic of Serbia and, pursuant to the Law on Culture, provides funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia to meet the stated needs. The Ministry, within its competences, undertakes activities in order to support financial and/or logistic projects in the area of cultural and artistic expression of persons belonging to national minorities.

3.2.1.1. Co-financing of projects in the area of culture and arts

As of 2007 the Ministry of Culture started to announce special competitions for co-financing of the projects/programmes the quality of which contributes to the development and representation of culture and arts of national minorities. This competition does not relate only to individual minority and ethnic communities, but also covers the field of multicultural creativity. Since 2008, this competition also introduced certain novelties and expanded activities in the field of culture to co-financing of cultural magazines of national minorities and publishing in minority languages. Competition procedure introduced a practice of informing national councils of national minorities on the announcement of a competition, who by determining its priority list of projects/programmes become active participants in rendering decisions on their co-

financing. Cooperation with national councils of national minorities in the past period has been very active and successful resulting, *inter alia*, in gaining support for competition criteria applied by the Ministry of Culture in approving projects/programmes for co-financing. At a meeting on competition criteria, held in April 2010, representatives of national minorities concluded that the redefinition of criteria is not required, stating that it is necessary to work on getting a larger budget earmarked for the culture and art of persons belonging to national minorities.

In the period of 2007-2011, the Ministry of Culture financially supported projects that contribute to the development and representation of art and culture of national minorities (see Table below).

National minority	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Albanians	-	-	70,000.00	500,000.00	500,000.00
Ashkalia	50,000.00	70,000.00	-	-	-
Bosniacs	2,000,000.00	2,950,000.00	1,100,000.00	1,800,000.00	1,800,000.00
Bulgarians	498,200.00	840,000.00	450,000.00	815,000.00	550,000.00
Bunjevtsi	350,000.00	780,000.00	380,000.00	300,000.00	200,000.00
Vlachs	-	500,000.00	80,000.00	210,000.00	250,000.00
Greeks	-	-	100,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Gorani	100,000.00	-	-	-	-
Egyptians	50,000	-	-	-	-
Jews	200,000.00	690,000.00	150,000.00	200,000.00	100,000.00
Hungarians	1,000,000.00	2,490,000.00	1,080,000.00	960,000.00	1,050,000.00
Macedonians	150,000.00	750,000.00	100,000.00	315,000.00	250,000.00
Germans	-	200,000.00	-	-	-
Roma	1,530,000.00	1,885,000.00	700,000.00	1,010,000.00	850,000.00
Romanians	550,000.00	740,000.00	230,000.00	305,000.00	250,000.00
Ruthenians	300,000.00	590,000.00	230,000.00	-	200,000.00

Slovaks	600,000.00	1,050,000.00	200,000.00	630,000.00	550,000.00
Ukrainians	200,000.00	400,000.00	-	-	100,000.00
Croats	650,000.00	1,135,000.00	380,000.00	570,000.00	500,000.00
Tzintzars	-	200,000.00	-	50,000.00	-
Czechs	100,000.00	100,000.00	-	50,000.00	150,000.00
Multi-cultural projects	700,000.00	1,730,000.00	500,000.00	200,000.00	250,000.00

The Table below contains information on the projects financially supported by the Ministry of Culture on the basis of annual competitions for co-financing of the projects/programmes the quality of which contributes to the development and representation of culture and arts of national minorities.

Year	The area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of approved projects	Funds granted
The Albanian national minority			
2009	Theatre events	1	70,000.00
2010	Theatre events	1	300,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	200,000.00
2011	Theatre events	2	300,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	3	200,000.00
The Ashkali national minority			
2007	Literary events	1	50,000.00
2008	Publishing business ³	1	70,000.00
The Bosniac national minority			
2007	Literary events	1	350,000.00
	Theatre events	2	390,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	1,260,000.00
2008	Publishing business	1	50,000.00
	Periodical publications	1	400,000.00
	Literary events	1	400,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	3	2,100,000.00
2009	Periodical publications	1	200,000.00

³ The funds earmarked for co-financing of magazines within the publishing business are contained in the sections on the implementation of Article 9 of the Framework Convention

	Literary events	1	200,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	3	600,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	100,000.00
2010	Periodical publications	1	400,000.00
	Literary events	1	400,000.00
	Theatre events	1	250,000.00
	Fine arts events	2	150,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	600,000.00
2011	Literary events	1	400,000.00
	Theatre events	1	1,200,000.00
	Fine arts events	2	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	100,000.00
The Bulgarian national minority			
2007	Publishing business	1	120,000.00
	Theatre events	1	70,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	212,200.00
	Fine arts events	1	96,000.00
2008	Publishing business	1	60,000.00
	Periodical publications	1	80,000.00
	Literary events	1	50,000.00
	Theatre events	1	170,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	200,000.00
	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	1	65,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	215,000.00
2009	Publishing business	1	200,000.00
	Literary events	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	50,000.00
	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	2	150,000.00
2010	Publishing business	3	185,000.00
	Periodical publications	2	400,000.00
	Literary events	1	70,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	80,000.00
	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	1	80,000.00
2011	Publishing business	1	50,000.00
	Periodical publications	2	300,000.00
	Literary events	1	50,000.00
	Theatre events	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	100,000.00
The Bunyevtsi national minority			
2007	Cultural and artistic events	8	350,000.00
2008	Publishing business	1	80,000.00
	Periodical publications	1	150,000.00
	Literary events	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	6	500,000.00

2009	Publishing business	1	150,000.00
	Literary events	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	180,00.00
2010	Periodical publications	1	60,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	5	240,000.00
2011	Publishing business	2	80,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	120,000.00
The Vlach national minority			
2008	Cultural and artistic events	1	340,000.00
	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	1	160,000.00
2009	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	1	80,000.00
2010	Cultural and artistic events	1	50,000.00
	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	2	160,000.00
2011	Cultural and artistic events	2	200,000.00
	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	1	50,000.00
The Greek national minority			
2009	Cultural and artistic events	1	100,000.00
2010	Website design	1	50,000.00
2011	Periodical publications	1	50,000.00
The Egyptian national minority			
2007	Cultural and artistic events	1	50,000.00
The Jewish national minority			
2007	Cultural and artistic events	1	200,000.00
2008	Publishing business	3	310,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	3	380,000.00
2009	Cultural and artistic events	1	150,000.00
2010	Publishing business	1	70,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	130,000.00
2011	Cultural and artistic events	2	100,000.00
The Hungarian national minority			
2007	Publishing business	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	14	920,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	30,000.00
2008	Publishing business	5	360,000.00
	Periodical publications	5	650,000.00
	Literary events	5	410,000.00
	Theatre events	1	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	9	720,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	50,000.00
	Filmmaking	2	150,000.00
	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	1	50,000.00

2009	Publishing business	2	180,000.00
	Periodical publications	3	400,000.00
	Literary events	1	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	3	400,000.00
2010	Periodic publications	4	390,000.00
	Literary events	1	30,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	6	540,000.00
2011	Periodical publications	2	100,000.00
	Literary events	1	50,000.00
	Theatre events	1	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	9	650,000.00
	Filmmaking	2	150,000.00
The Macedonian national minority			
2007	Cultural and artistic events	1	150,000.00
2008	Publishing business	1	50,000.00
	Periodical publications	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	650,000.00
2009	Cultural and artistic events	1	100,000.00
2010	Publishing business	2	170,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	145,000.00
2011	Periodical publications	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	200,000.00
The German national minority			
2008	Cultural and artistic events	1	200,000.00
The Roma national minority			
2007	Theatre events	3	700,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	5	490,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	200,000.00
	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	1	140,000.00
2008	Publishing business	4	240,000.00
	Literary events	3	230,000.00
	Theatre events	1	120,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	5	975,000.00
	Fine arts events	3	320,000.00
2009	Publishing business	1	150,000.00
	Literary events	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	500,000.00
2010	Literary events	1	40,000.00
	Theatre events	2	120,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	350,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	300,000.00
	Filmmaking	1	200,000.00
2011	Publishing business	1	150,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	6	600,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	100,000.00

The Romanian national minority			
2007	Literary events	1	15,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	6	535,000.00
2008	Publishing business	2	80,000.00
	Theatre events	1	50,000.00
	Literary events	1	60,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	5	500,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	50,000.00
2009	Periodical publications	1	50,000.00
	Theatre events	1	60,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	120,000.00
2010	Theatre events	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	240,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	15,000.00
2011	Theatre events	1	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	150,000.00
The Ruthenian national minority			
2007	Theatre events	1	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	200,000.00
2008	Publishing business	2	130,000.00
	Literary events	1	60,000.00
	Theatre events	1	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	300,000.00
2009	Literary events	1	100,000.00
	Theatre events	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	80,000.00
2011	Periodical publications	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	150,000.00
The Slovak national minority			
2007	Publishing business	1	150,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	7	450,000.00
2008	Publishing business	1	200,000.00
	Periodical publications	1	200,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	5	650,000.00
2009	Cultural and artistic events	3	200,000.00
2010	Cultural and artistic events	7	630,000.00
2011	Periodical publications	1	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	6	300,000.00
	Fine arts events	2	150,000.00
The Ukrainian national minority			
2007	Cultural and artistic events	3	200,000.00
2008	Periodical publications	1	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	300,000.00
2011	Cultural and artistic events	1	100,000.00
The Croatian national minority			
2007	Publishing business	1	90,000.00

	Literary events	2	80,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	6	380,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	100,000.00
2008	Periodical publications	2	250,000.00
	Literary events	2	135,000.00
	Theatre events	1	80,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	330,000.00
	Fine arts events	2	340,000.00
2009	Periodical publications	1	80,000.00
	Literary events	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	150,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	50,000.00
	Filmmaking	1	50,000.00
2010	Publishing business	1	80,000.00
	Periodical publications	1	100,000.00
	Literary events	2	90,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	300,000.00
2011	Periodical publications	1	100,000.00
	Literary events	1	100,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	2	200,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	100,000.00
The Czech national minority			
2007	Literary events	1	50,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	1	50,000.00
2008	Cultural and artistic events	1	100,000.00
2010	Cultural and artistic events	1	50,000.00
2011	Cultural and artistic events	3	150,000.00
Multi-cultural projects			
2007	Cultural and artistic events	3	700,000.00
2008	Periodical publications	1	200,000.00
	Cultural and artistic events	4	1,450,000.00
	Fine arts events	1	80,000.00
2009	Cultural and artistic events	1	200,000.00
	Protection of intangible cultural heritage	1	300,000.00
2010	Cultural and artistic events	1	200,000.00
2011.	Cultural and artistic events	3	250,000.00

The following projects of organisations and associations of persons belonging to national minorities were supported on the basis of competitions for co-financing of the projects/programmes the quality of which contributes to the development and representation of culture and arts of national minorities, namely:

- Cultural and artistic events – Festival of children's songs “Our Joy“, Festival of Bunyevac Creativity, “Dužionica“, Festival of Sandžak's Sevdalinka, Rally of Bosniac's folk dances, Eid Celebration, Rally of Bosniac's folk dances, Bugarijada – Days of

Bulgarian Culture in Central Banat, Hay Harvest Senokos, International Folklore Festival Kraište is Singing and Dancing, Festival of Vlach Traditional Songs, Rally of Folklore "Djendjesbokret", Choir and Orchestra Rally "Durindo", Days of Vojvodina-Hungarians Culture, Competitions "Szolj, sip, szolj" and „Koketanc“, the Gatherings of Hungarian Culture-Artistic Associations of Southern Banat, Carpathian Rally of Hungarian Choirs, "Vive" Festival of Hungarian Parlour Songs and Czardas, Domboš Fest, Festival Ineretno, Festival of Choirs „Zimriya“, Days of Macedonian Culture "Sebi u pohode", Macedonian Music Festival "Play, Sing and Dance", Macedonian Cultural Festival Ilinden, German Minority Days of Culture, Mini Cultural Rally of the Youth, Days of Doctor Sava Stojanović, Roma Festival of the Danube Countries, Festival of Romanian Music and Folklore from Vojvodina, Pop Music Festival "The Youth Sing", Festival of peasant creativity, Festival of Ruthenian Culture "Red Rose", "Kostelnik's Autumn", Festival of Choral Singing, Slovak Music Festival "Golden Key", Slovak Folk Festival, Festival of Children's Folklore "Zlatna brana", International festival "Meeting at the Pivnice's Field", Festival of Folklore "Tancuj, Tancuj...", Festival of New Slovak Lyric Poetry *KULPIN*, Festival of Slovak Pop Music "Golden Key", Provincial Children's Festival "Fly song, fly", Festival of the Ukrainian Culture "Kalina", "Duzajnica", Festival of Croatian Spiritual Songs "HosnaFest", Bunyevtsi-Shokci's spinning bee, "Dužionica", Folklore event "The Youth are Dancing", International Festival of Tambourine "Days of Mika", Children Folklore Festival "Deca su ukras sveta", Festival of Bunyevtsi Songs, Rally of Folklore of Czechs in Serbia, etc;

- Literary events – Convention of Writers of Ashkali, Roma and other minorities, Sandžak Literary Events, "Bunjevačka lipa rič", Linguistic Days "Sarvas Gabor", Scientific gathering on works of Hungarian writer H. Ferenc, Competition of Vojvodina Hungarian Playwrights, Hungarian Writers Gatherings, Trifun Dimic's Poetry Days, Festival of Roma Literary Production, International Festival "Putevi Klasja", Festival of Village Satire and Humour, Meeting with writers from Croatia, Days of Balint Vujkov, etc.;

- Theatre events – Days of Albanian Comedy, Marking the Anniversary of Theatre in Presevo and Bujanovac, Amateur Theatre Festival of Young Roma in Serbia, Theatre Days of Romanian in AP of Vojvodina, Dramatic Memorial "Petar Riznic-Djadja", Amateur Theatre Festival, etc. as well as staging ten plays in minority languages (Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma and Romanian);

- Fine arts events – Art Colony Sandžak-Artists' Inspiration, Annual Exhibition of Artists of Sandžak, Ceramic Workshop, Colony for the Production of Paintings and Straw Objects, Art Colony TAKT, International Art Camp 2007, Celebration of Jubilee of the Naive Art Gallery of Uzdin, Biennale of Slovak Fine Artists, Naive Art Colony of Straw Technique, International Fine Art Colony "Bunarić", etc.

- Protection of intangible cultural heritage – "Save the villages of Zabrdja from oblivion", Festival of Bunyevac National Dishes, Easter Exhibition of Folk Handicrafts,

The History of Bunyevtsi Attire, “The Last Orpheus of Balkans“ – Vlach oral and musical works“, Old Crafts Today, “Weddings in the Past and Nowadays“, Promotion of Cultural Heritage of Czech in Serbia, etc.

Hereinafter are the attitudes of members of national minorities who took part in drafting of this Report regarding the government efforts to promote their culture. The Citizens Association “Bunjevačko Kolo“ from Sombor, confirmed in its paper that they are receiving funds from the budget for the maintenance of certain events, but they also noted that the quality work of spreading the culture requires a steady source of funding, which it is lacking, especially when it comes to regular activities, quality work of sections and maintenance of a building where they are seated.

The Association “Gergina” from Negotin, organising a traditional Vlach Music Festival dedicated to the traditional, original, and instrumental and soloist Vlach music, in its paper for this Report emphasised the importance of the Festival for the preservation of cultural heritage of Vlachs. In 2011 and 2012, this Festival was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society.

3.2.1.2. Protection of cultural heritage

Bearing in mind that cultural heritage and its complexity make an important part of modern identity of local communities fostering it and that it plays an important role in fostering of cultural diversities, development of intercultural dialogue and protection of cultural heritage of national minorities, the Ministry of Culture paid attention to this aspect of cultural heritage, fully respecting the principles mentioned in the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Diversities of Cultural Expressions in the previous period. In this sense, the most important project is the development project “Centuries of Bač”, which includes protection and maintenance of rich cultural heritage in the territory of Bač and the material heritage – the Franciscan Convent, the Bođani Orthodox Monastery, the medieval tower, the remains of Turkish bath, etc. and also the preservation of various traditions related to well preserved and live intangible heritage being fostered by nearly 20 different ethnic groups. Because of historical and cultural values of the heritage and its multiculturalism, in 2008 this project was selected as one of the three projects of the Republic of Serbia to participate in the Ljubljana Process, a joint Action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the South-East Europe. The aim of the project ”Centuries of Bač“ is social and economic development of the municipality based on wise use of rich heritage, implying preservation of tangible and intangible cultural diversity with a particular stress on the development of intercultural dialogue.

With the support of the Ministry of Culture the projects contributing to the preservation and protection of cultural heritage of national minorities that were implemented in the period of 2007-2009 are:

- The Jewish Historical Museum and the Association of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia – the project of arranging the stock of the Association of Jewish Municipalities of Yugoslavia in the period of 1944-1991;

- The Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade – the programme “Đelem, đelem“, promoting the culture of the Roma in Serbia; ”Czech Poetry”, poetry and musical performance; the presentation of Negotinska krajina organised by students of art history; promotion of the book ”The Islamic Monuments and the Islamic Community in Prijepolje“, organised by the National Museum of Prijepolje; marking the day when Bajrakli mosque was put on fire;

- The Historic Archive of Bela Crkva – the project “The Play between Nera and Karaš“, which through an exhibition of archive documents and theatrical performance, presented the rich history of Bela Crkva, with the emphasis on its multiculturalism;

- The Historic Archive of Novi Pazar – the project of publishing of “Izbice od davnina” monography documenting and reflecting the multicultural community of Novi Pazar; exhibitions of archive documents and photographs with a theme ”Novi Pazar, Sjenica and Tutin through time”, thus contributing to building a dialogue between cultures and ethnic communities living in this area;

- The Historical Archive of Novi Sad – the project “Interethnic Dialogue in the Territory of Vojvodina”, which included the research of the archive stock and field works;

- Cultural and Charitable Society ”Gajret” – the programme ”Let’s get to know each other“, intended primarily for young people, organises workshops, panel discussions and cultural presentations through exhibitions of paintings and religious objects in order to allow persons belonging to different ethnic and religious communities living in a society rich in diversity to meet, make contact and start multicultural cooperation.

In the period of 2010-2011, the Ministry of Culture co-financed the projects in the field of cultural heritage that promote multiculturalism, as well as the projects of national minorities in the field of cultural heritage. These projects are represented in Tables below.

Beneficiary	Project	Funds granted
Promotion of multiculturalism		
National Library “Veljko Petrović” in Bačka Palanka	“We connect people“, promotion of multiculturalism in the municipality of Bačka Palanka	400,000.00
The Society of Archivists of Vojvodina	Short Multilingual Dictionary of Archival Terminology	100,000.00
Archdiocese of Belgrade	Restoration of the statute of the Holy Mother of God taken up to heaven	310,000.00
House of Culture	The discreet charm of culture (common	900,000.00

”Liberation“, in Novi Pazar	tradition)– intensification of cultural activities in Novi Pazar	
Multimedia Centre in Tutin	It’s culture time – promotion of cultural life in Tutin	450,000.00
The National Library ”Ejup Musovic“ in Tutin	“Multiculturalism in words“	395,000.00
The Inter-municipal Institute of Subotica	Conservation and restoration of wall paintings and decorations in the interior of Holy Trinity Roman catholic Church in Čoka	800,000.00
The Bosniac national minority		
National Library ”Dositej Obradovic“ in Novi Pazar	Manuscript legacy of Nazif Šušević (1860-1923)	220,000.00
Cultural and Charitable Society “Gajret”	Maktub (record) of silence	585,000.00
Public Institution Multimedia Centre	Multimedia centre for all	3,600,000.00
Cultural Centre in Novi Pazar	“The legacy of Sandžak“	4,800,000.00
Association of Citizens Impulse in Tutin	The youth cultural impulse	400,000.00
Cultural and Charitable Society Gajret	Works on Bajrakli mosque in Belgrade	2,900,000.00
Gajret, Belgrade	1001 Nights	120,000.00
Gajret, Belgrade	Divan with friends	120,000.00
Cultural and Charitable Society “Gajret”	Calligraphy - beautiful letters of infinite	300,000.00
Cultural and Charitable Society “Gajret”	Our temples – our legacy	310,000.00
Cultural and Charitable Society “Gajret”	Islamic Art Exhibition	450,000.00
The Board of Islamic Community of Tutin	Restoration of mosque in Oraše	1,900,000.00
The Board of Islamic Community of Tutin	“Faith and Culture“	1,800,000.00
The Jewish national minority		
Inter-municipal Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Subotica	Reconstruction of the facade of Subotica Synagogue	5,800,000.00
Association of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia and the Jewish Museum	Digital processing of microfilm collections	445,000.00
Inter-municipal Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Subotica	Continuance of conservation works on the reconstruction of the facade of Subotica Synagogue (removal and installation of facade elements)	1,000,000.00
The Roma national minority		

Roma Community Centre "8th April" – the Museum of Roma Art	Material culture of Roma in Serbia – Permanent Exhibition	850,000.00
The Museum of Roma Culture	Common law	1,000,000.00
Association of Citizens "An old Sound" in Niš	Musical heritage of Roma	150,000.00
The Slovak national minority		
Fund "International Ethno Centre" Babka Kovačica	Marking the International Mother Language Day, proclaimed by UNESCO on 21 February 2010 (10th Jubilee)	180,000.00
Institute of the Culture of Vojvodina Slovaks	Bursovanie	100,000.00
Slovak Matica in Serbia	Slovak folk celebrations	141,000.00
The Croatian national minority		
Institute of the Culture of Vojvodina Croats	18 th Century Baroque Painting in Roman Catholic Churches in Vojvodina	270,000.00
Cultural and Educational Community of Croats of Šokadi Sont	Shokci Attire	100,000.00
Institute of the Culture of Vojvodina Croats	Baroque Painting	308,000.00

3.2.2. Financial support from the budget of AP of Vojvodina

The Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, within its planned budget, subsidises provincial cultural institutions including, *inter alia*, those established with the aim to preserve, promote and develop culture and arts of national communities. Granted funds are earmarked for the implementation of activities and programmes of the provincial institutions and the implementation of programmes/projects of a broader social significance and importance for the development of the culture of each individual national community. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information (hereinafter referred to as the Provincial Secretariat for Culture) announces annual competitions for the allocation of funds, within its planned budget, for programmes/projects of institutions and organisations ensuring the development of culture of persons belonging to national minorities in the territory of AP of Vojvodina.

The Table below gives an overview of funds earmarked for culture and artistic creativity of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina by national minorities in the period of 2007-2011.

National minority	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ashkalia	60,000.00	270,000.00	90,000.00	110,000.00	65,000.00

Bulgarians	100,000.00	100,000.00	50,000.00	190,000.00	50,000.00
Bunjevtsi	625,000.00	749,000.00	380,000.00	520,000.00	605,000.00
Egyptians	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	-	-
Jews	159,000.00	300,000.00	80,000.00	1,650,000.00	471,000.00
Hungarians	48,809,604.00	88,744,999.00	60,966,195.00	73,945,848.00	79,379,330.00
Macedonians	126,500.00	1,130,000.00	125,000.00	440,000.00	280,000.00
Germans	407,000.00	208,000.00	1,614,000.00	510,000.00	787,267.00
Roma	1,404,000.00	3,139,000.00	2,478,000.00	4,141,700.00	2,485,000.00
Romanians	8,812,000.00	16,030,000.00	9,646,500.00	14,861,000.00	15,985,000.00
Russians	-	-	-	-	30,000.00
Ruthenians	4,839,000.00	12,825,000.00	10,200,000.00	12,165,000.00	12,582,000.00
Slovaks	10,602,000.00	22,483,000.00	14,279,500.00	19,629,000.00	18,690,000.00
Slovenians	22,000.00	22,000.00	11,000.00	-	24,000.00
Ukrainians	205,500.00	330,000.00	60,000.00	420,000.00	430,000.00
Croats	1,227,000.00	9,118,000.00	7,684,000.00	18,585,000.00	23,281,000.00
Tzintzars	-	-	-	250,000.00	-
Montenegrins	-	-	-	40,000.00	40,000.00
Czechs	168,000.00	168,000.00	84,000.00	150,000.00	394,000.00
Total:	77,577,104.00	155,626,999.00	107,748,195.00	147,607,548.00	155,578,597.00

3.2.2.1. Financing of cultural institutions

Funds for activities of professional provincial cultural institutions performing its work in minority languages whose founder, i.e. whose founding rights are taken over by the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, are fully provided from the budget of AP of Vojvodina, specifically:

- Publishing House "Forum" – Forum Könyvkiadó Intézet in Novi Sad, established by the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the National Council of Hungarian National Minority, as a provincial institution for the preservation, promotion and development of the publishing business of Hungarians. Within its programme of activities, Publishing House "Forum" publishes 35 books a year, as well as the magazine for literature and art *Híd (Bridge)*, a magazine for the society, science and culture *Létünk (Reality)*, and participates in book fairs in the country and abroad, gives three awards in the area of culture and arts.

- The National Theatre - Népszínház of Subotica is a professional theatre from Vojvodina that operates two ensembles: Drama in Serbian language and Drama in Hungarian language. This theatre occasionally stages plays in Croatian language as well, and the establishment of Drama in Croatian language is planned after the opening of the new Theatre facility. By staging plays in Serbian, Hungarian and occasionally in Croatian language, the Theatre does not foster only the dramatic work in those languages but also multilingualism and multiculturalism and by its actions, fully respecting high aesthetic values, contributes to spreading of tolerance, enhances mutual understanding and promotes the value of cultural diversity and openness in communication. The current repertoire of the Theatre is trying to take account of different structures and to meet different interest of the public and to restore the old practice of visits to all places in Vojvodina, by spreading the theatre culture in Serbian, Hungarian and Croatian languages.

In the process of reconstruction of the Theatre facility, the Government of Serbia, the Government of AP Vojvodina and the Assembly of the Municipality of Subotica, concluded the Protocol in which they agreed to jointly fund the project documentation, reconstruction and construction of the facility, whereby the Government of Serbia participates with 45%, the Government of AP Vojvodina with 45% and the Municipal Assembly of Subotica with 10%.

- Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Hungarians – Vajdasági Magyar Művelődési Intézet in Senta, Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Slovaks – Ústav pre kultúru vojvodinských Slovákov in Novi Sad, Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Romanians – Institutul de Cultură al Românilor din Voivodina in Zrenjanin, Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Ruthenians in Novi Sad and Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Croats were all established by the Assembly of AP Vojvodina and national councils of the stated national minorities at the beginning of 2008 for the purpose of maintaining, improving and developing their culture. For the time being, Serbia is the only country in the Balkans and perhaps in Europe which has established this profile of institutions.

Each of these five institutions established an electronic database on the culture of their national minority. These institutions achieved significant results in scientific and research work in the field of social and humanitarian sciences, in the publishing business, in organising of cultural and artistic events and other programmes in the field of culture, in the collection, sorting and processing of archive stock that is relevant for these national minorities in Vojvodina, in the implementation of vocational training programmes and other and have fully justified the reasons for their establishment. They also carry out extensive and diverse cooperation with the institutions in neighbouring countries that share a common language (joint scientific and research projects in the field of humanitarian sciences, common editions, presentations of books, books exhibitions, vocational training programmes, artists' visits and other).

The Table below gives an overview of funds earmarked for cultural institutions of national minorities since their establishment in 2011.

Cultural Institution	2008	2009	2010	2011
Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Hungarians - Vajdasági Magyar Művelődési Intézet in Senta	12,000,000.00	8,300,000.00	13,500,000.00	13,500,000.00
Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Romanians – Institutul de Cultură al Românilor din Voivodina in Zrenjanin	8,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	8,500,000.00	8,500,000.00
Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Ruthenians – Завод за културу войводянских Руснацох in Novi Sad	6,500,000.00	3,250,000.00	7,000,000.00	7,000,000.00
Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Slovaks – Ústav pre kultúru vojvodinských Slovákov in Novi Sad	10,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	9,000,000.00	9,000,000.00
Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Croats in Subotica	5,500,000.00	4,150,000.00	9,270,000.00	9,000,000.00
Total:	42,000,000.00	24,700,000.00	47,270,000.00	47,000,000.00

National councils give an opinion regarding the annual work programme and financial plan of institutions established by AP Vojvodina and national councils, under which the Government of Vojvodina adopts the stated documents of these institutions.

3.2.2.2. Co-financing of programmes in the field of culture and arts

Programmes that are significant for the development of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina on the basis of announced competitions are also co-financed from the budget of AP of Vojvodina. Thus, for example, in 2011 the Provincial Secretariat for Culture announced competitions for co-financing of programmes/projects in the field of culture which included the terms and criteria, namely: co-financing of programmes and projects in the field of contemporary artistic creativity that is relevant for the Province;

co-financing of publishing of books that are relevant for culture and arts in AP of Vojvodina and co-financing of translations of important works; co-financing of magazines that are of particular importance for the development of culture and arts in AP of Vojvodina; co-financing of events that are relevant for the Province; financing of programmes that are relevant for the Province; making short-feature films, documentaries, and documentary-feature and animated film; making long-feature films; encouraging production of television programmes – broadcasts in the field of culture and arts in Serbian language and in languages of national minorities and ethnic communities in AP of Vojvodina; co-financing of programmes and projects in the field of traditional cultural and artistic creativity of national communities in AP of Vojvodina; co-financing of projects in the field of protection of cultural heritage of AP of Vojvodina; selection of inter-regional cooperation projects.

As for competitions for co-financing of programmes and projects in the field of traditional cultural and artistic creativity of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina, the Provincial Secretariat forwards the projects submitted for this competition to national councils of minorities in order to get an opinion on the projects and proposals for their co-financing. As of 2010, the national councils each year propose a list of events that are relevant for the Province and that require funding from the Provincial budget. The following paragraphs give an overview of approved funds by their purpose.

• Co-financing of publishing business in minority languages

The Assembly of AP Vojvodina and national councils of national minorities are founders of professional publishing houses in minority languages, namely: two publishing houses in the Hungarian language (“Magyar Szó” and “Forum” in Novi Sad), two publishing houses in the Slovak language (“Hlas L’udu” in Novi Sad and Slovak Publishing Centre in Bački Petrovac), one publishing house in the Romanian language (“Libertatea” in Pančevo), one publishing house in the Ruthenian language (“Ruske slovo” in Novi Sad), one publishing house in the Croatian language (“Hrvatska riječ” in Subotica), one publishing house in the Romani language (“Romane pustika” in Subotica), and one publishing house of Ukrainian (“Ukrainske slovo” in Kula), Macedonian (Macedonian Information and Publishing Centre in Pančevo) and Bunyevtsi national minority (Bunyevtsi Information Centre in Subotica).

Overview of funds earmarked for the publishing business in minority languages in the field of culture and arts (first editions of books, magazines⁴, activities of publishing houses) in the period of 2007-2011

National	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
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⁴ Funds earmarked for co-financing of magazines are explained in detail in the sections which refer to implementation of Article 9 of the Framework Convention

minority					
Ashkalia	-	90,000.00	60,000.00	80,000.00	65,000.00
Bunjevtsi	65,000.00	209,000.00	100,000.00	190,000.00	75,000.00
Jews	39,000.00	40,000.00	30,000.00	-	-
Hungarians	8,644,604.00	13,297,298.00	14,123,595.00	15,973,442.00	17,062,550.00
		0	0	0	0
Macedonians	26,500.00	90,000.00	60,000.00	70,000.00	110,000.00
Germans	39,000.00	40,000.00	30,000.00	40,000.00	35,000.00
Roma	244,000.00	509,000.00	598,000.00	322,700.00	95,000.00
Romanian	1,842,000.00	2,220,000.00	2,136,500.00	1,712,000.00	1,740,000.00
Ruthenians	1,089,000.00	2,170,000.00	2,050,000.00	1,515,000.00	1,552,000.00
Slovaks	3,602,000.00	5,615,000.00	2,434,500.00	1,861,000.00	1,900,000.00
Slovenians	-	-	-	-	24,000.00
Ukrainians	65,500.00	90,000.00	60,000.00	-	160,000.00
Croats	567,000.00	810,000.00	1,144,000.00	1,085,000.00	1,065,000.00
Tzintzars	-	-	-	250,000.00	-
Czechs	-	-	-	-	24,000.00
Total:	16,224,104.00	25,180,298.00	22,826,595.00	23,099,142.00	23,907,550.00
	0	0	0	0	0

For illustration purposes, in 2011 the Provincial Secretariat for Culture thus co-financed with RSD 5,560,000.00, the publication of 27 titles of important works in seven minority languages, translations of books that are important for culture and arts in AP of Vojvodina from Serbian or minority languages into other international languages, from Serbian into minority languages, from minority languages into Serbian language or into other minority language.

In the last five years, the Provincial Secretariat for Culture in collaboration with the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities, continued to promote the publishing activities of national minorities and cultural institutions whose founder is the Autonomous Province, by organising the Stand of publishing business in minority languages at the Book Fair in Novi Sad and at the International Book Fair in Belgrade. Exhibition of translated books is being organised at the Book Fair in Novi Sad and each years it exhibits other language. This is a unique way to promote the publishing business at most important events in our country and the manner of presenting the publishing business is quite unique in the region. Books that are being published in their own language are exhibited in all minority languages in Vojvodina, namely: Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Ruthenian, Croatian, Ukrainian, Macedonian, Roma, Czech, Slovenian, German, Bulgarian and Bunyevac language and Tzintzar-Aromanian and Ashkali dialect.

- **Co-financing the activities of professional and amateur theatres of national communities**

Currently, a total of 18 professional theatres, of which 10 are national minorities' theatres, operate in the territory of AP of Vojvodina. The Hungarian national minority operates 6 professional theatres in its own language (three in Subotica and three in Novi Sad). The professional theatres in Hungarian language annually prepare and stage nearly 25 premieres and nearly 300 repeated performances in its theatre and on tours in the country and abroad. Slovaks, Romanians and Ruthenians and Roma have one professional theatre, respectively since 2003 and 2007 (Slovaks in Bački Petrovac, Romanian in Vršac, Ruthenian in Ruski Krstur and Roma in Novi Karlovci), where they stage plays in their own language. Each of these theatres stages two premieres that are repeated in the theatre and on tours outside the theatre home scene.

A total of 196 amateur theatres operate in the territory of Vojvodina, of which 30 theatres stage plays in Hungarian language, 20 in Slovenian language, 12 in Romanian language, 15 in Ruthenian language, two are Croatian theatres, three are Bunyevtsi theatres, three are Roma theatres and one theatre is Ukrainian amateur theatre.

**Overview of funds earmarked for theatre creativity of national minorities
(activities of professional theatres and tours in AP of Vojvodina) in the period of
2007-2011**

National minority	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Hungarians	32,413,000.00	35,914,000.00	33,676,000.00	32,531,300.00	38,387,000.00
Roma	600,000.00	1,200,000.00	1,200,000.00	1,200,000.00	1,200,000.00
Romanians	2,500,000.00	2,650,000.00	1,225,000.00	2,450,000.00	2,500,000.00
Ruthenians	2,500,000.00	2,650,000.00	1,295,000.00	2,450,000.00	2,550,000.00
Slovaks	4,600,000.00	2,650,000.00	1,800,000.00	3,300,000.00	3,450,000.00
Total:	42,713,000.00	45,064,000.00	39,196,000.00	41,931,300.00	48,087,000.00

The competition for co-financing the promotion of theatre production of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina was announced for the first time in 2011. In the earlier period, the staging of plays of "Salaš Theatre" in the Hungarian language, Vojvodina Slovak's Theatre in Bački Petrovac, Ruthenian National Theatre "Petar Riznic-Djadja" in Ruski Krstur, scene in the Romanian language at the National Theatre in Vršac and the Roma Theatre and Roma Theatre "Sun e Rromengo" in Novi Karlovac, was co-financed based on concluded protocols or within the financial plan of the Provincial Secretariat for Culture.

Overview of funds disbursed for co-financing the performances of professional and amateur theatres in minority languages in 2011 on the basis of announced competitions

National minority	Name of the theatre staging performances	Total funds
Hungarians	Salaš Theatre, Novi Sad Theatre, Theatre "Kostolanji Deže"	2,150,000.00
Roma	Roma Theatre "Suno e Rromengo"	1,200,000.00
Romanians	National Theatre "Sterija" – scene in the Romanian language	2,500,000.00
Ruthenians	National Ruthenian Theatre "Djadja"	2,500,000.00
Slovaks	Vojvodina Slovak's Theatre, Art Centre "Hleba i igara"	3,450,000.00
Croats	Association of Citizens "Friends of children of Bač"- Theatre section	150,000.00

• Co-financing of contemporary fine arts and work and programmes of galleries that are important for the presentation of minority fine arts

The Provincial Secretariat for Culture co-finances work and programmes of the Naive Art Gallery of Kovačica (fostering naive art of Vojvodina Slovaks) and Gallery "Doina" of Uzdin (fostering naive art of Vojvodina Romanians). The work of fine artists belonging to national minorities is tracked by many professional galleries. In the last few years, co-financing included the organisation of exhibitions of Pal Deč, Jožef Nađ, Ištvan Torok, the organisation of Temerin Creative Art Colony, Biennale of Slovak Fine Artists, Contemporary Fine Arts Exhibitions of Romanians in Vojvodina, as well as the organisation of art colonies in Senta, Novi Bečej, Stara Moravica, Uzdin (Art Colony "Uzdin"), Vrbas ("Art Colony "Njaradi") and others.

Overview of funds earmarked for the work of national minority galleries in the period of 2007-2011

National minority	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Romanians	390,000.00	400,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00
Slovaks	450,000.00	450,000.00	360,000.00	300,000.00	200,000.00
Croats	-	40,000.00	25,000.00	170,000.00	200,000.00
Total:	840,000.00	890,000.00	585,000.00	670,000.00	600,000.00

• Co-financing contemporary and folk arts, organisation of events and other cultural and artistic programmes of professional creativity and artistic amateurism of persons belonging to national minorities

The Table below gives an overview of funds earmarked for cultural and artistic events of national minorities in the field of culture on the basis of competitions for culture in the period of 2007-2011.

National minorities	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ashkalia	60,000.00	180,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	-
Bulgarians	100,000.00	100,000.00	50,000.00	190,000.00	50,000.00
Bunjevtsi	560,000.00	540,000.00	180,000.00	140,000.00	530,000.00
Egyptians	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	-	-
Jews	120,000.00	120,000.00	40,000.00	1,400,000.00	171,000.00
Hungarians	4,582,000.00	10,262,000.00	3,406,000.00	4,976,000.00	3,789,000.00
Macedonians	100,000.00	1,040,000.00	65,000.00	330,000.00	170,000.00
Germans	168,000.00	168,000.00	84,000.00	70,000.00	143,000.00
Roma	560,000.00	680,000.00	641,000.00	1,930,000.00	490,000.00
Romanians	4,080,000.00	2,720,000.00	1,610,000.00	1,010,000.00	1,670,000.00
Russians	-	-	-	-	30,000.00
Ruthenians	1,250,000.00	1,505,000.00	2,360,000.00	1,135,000.00	1,250,000.00
Slovaks	1,750,000.00	3,250,000.00	1,220,000.00	179,000.00	2,120,000.00
Slovenians	22,000.00	22,000.00	11,000.00	-	-
Ukrainians	140,000.00	240,000.00	-	300,000.00	270,000.00
Croats	560,000.00	2,628,000.00	1,180,000.00	2,420,000.00	3,370,000.00
Montenegrins	-	-	-	40,000.00	40,000.00
Czechs	168,000.00	168,000.00	49,000.00	125,000.00	120,000.00
Multiethnic	500,000.00	700,000.00	445,000.00	-	-
Total:	14,730,000.00	24,333,000.00	11,371,000.00	14,275,000.00	14,213,000.00

The following events relevant for the Province were co-financed at the proposal of national councils, namely: Djendjesbokret and Durindo Festival, Senteleki's Days, the Rally of Slovak Amateur Arts, Festival of Slovak Music and Folklore, "Tancuj, tancuj", Festival "Theatre Days of Romanian", the Great Festival of Romanians from Serbia, Festival of Ruthenian Culture "Red Rose", Dramatic Memorial "Petar Riznic - Djadja" in Ruski Krstur, Harvest Festivity "Dužijanča" in Subotica, Days of Bunjevtsi Culture, Days of German Minority Culture, Days of Czech Culture, Days of Macedonian Creativity, Festival of the Ukrainian Culture "Kalina" and other, as well as contemporary art programmes also including: recording and concert performance of the new composition of Mezei Szilard, Linguistic Days "Sarvas Gabor", Biennale of Slovak Fine Artists from Serbia, Exhibition "Half a Century of Uzdin Naïve Art (1961-2011)" and other.

Co-financing of significant literary, theatre, fine arts, music and music and folklore events organised through competitions and at the proposal of national councils included the following events: Days of Culture of Vojvodina Hungarians, Days of Hungarian Culture, Senteleki's Days, Gatherings of Amateur Theatrical Societies of Vojvodina Hungarians, Tordjan Days of Culture, Tini Festival, Itebej Winter Gatherings, Festival of Hungarian Parlour Songs and Czardas VIVE in Debeljača, Domosh Fest, Festival "Fly Song, Fly", Festival of Singers Soloists "Meeting at the Pivnice's Field", Slovak Music Festival "Golden Key", Festival of Dramatic Staging by domestic authors DIDA, "Bay Leaf Wreath" – Slovak Theatre Festival, Festival of Romanian Music and Folklore from Vojvodina "Uzdin", Pop Music Festival "The Youth Sing-Tineretea Canta", Festival of Fanfare Trumpet "The Trumpet of Banat", Theatre Days of Romanians in Vojvodina, International Festival of Creativity in Romanian Banat Dialect "Jon Nice Sekočan", Festival of Ruthenian Original Folklore Creativity "Harvest in Kucur", Festival of Ruthenian Folk Orchestra "Melodies of the Russian Court", Literary event "Kostelnik's Autumn", Naïve Art Colony of Straw Techniques in Tavankut, International Festival of Tambourine "Days of Mika", Folklore event "The Youth are Dancing", Festival of Croatian Spiritual Songs "HosnaFest", Days of Roma, Romani Night, Gipsy Fires, Festival of Kuglof Cake in Sremski Karlovci, Days of Macedonian culture in Vojvodina, Festival of Bunyevac Creativity, Bunyevtsi Easter Customs, Days of Bunyevtsi Culture, Harvest Festivity "Dužionica", Bugarijada – Days of Bulgarian Culture in Vojvodina, International Day of Ashkali, etc.

• Co-financing film and television programmes⁵ production- broadcasts in the field of culture and arts in minority languages

The Provincial Secretariat for Culture financially supports film and television programme production – broadcasts in the field of culture and arts in minority languages of Vojvodina, thus contributing to fostering of language and culture in provincial electronic media, including broadcasting events, publishing information, ideas and opinions regarding events and individuals in the field of culture and arts.

Overview of funds earmarked for the production of films and television programmes on the culture of national minorities in the period 2009-2011

National minority	2009	2010	2011
Hungarians	960,000.00	1,360,000.00	3,580,000.00
Roma	-	600,000.00	600,000.00
Romanians	330,000.00	340,000.00	650,000.00
Ruthenians	800,000.00	-	-

⁵ Production of television program- broadcasts in the field of culture and arts in minority languages is explained in the sections which refer to implementation of Article 9 of the Framework Convention.

Slovaks	-	-	200,000.00
Total:	2,090,000.00	2.300,000.00	5,130,000.00

● **Co-financing of programmes for the protection of cultural assets**

On the basis of annual competitions for the protection of cultural heritage, the Provincial Secretariat for Culture co-financed research, protection and presentation of numerous multiethnic monuments – religious and other sacral objects in Vojvodina and multiethnic secular cultural monuments which also include the cultural heritage of national communities in Vojvodina, as well as the protection of cultural monuments of certain national communities such as: the development project of integrated protection of the heritage of Bač *Centuries of Bač*; international programme "Medieval monasteries as part of the collective cultural heritage tourism, and as a potentially important factor of sustainable development" (financed within IPA Cross border cooperation Hungary – Serbia in the period of 2010-2012, totalling to EUR 246,818.00); the reconstruction of the old straw house in Sremski Karlovci was completed in 2011 for the purpose of establishment of the German Homeland House - Museum of Vojvodina Germans (a total of RSD 2,409,266.00 provided); of which RSD 609,267.00 in 2011); conservation works on the repair and restoration of the Roman Catholic Church were implemented as part of the programme of restoration and reconstruction of the inner urban core of Sremski Karlovci (in the period of 2010-2011, a total of RSD 10,440,000.00 was allocated; continuation of works on the conservation and adaptation of Šlos castle in Golubinci, and another facility of multiethnic-heritage character relating to cultural heritage of Croats in Vojvodina/Serbia, for ethno exhibitions. Professional institutions - inter-municipal institutions for the protection of cultural monuments and the Regional Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments carry out protection programmes and presentations of intangible cultural assets, conservations and restorations of works of art, ethnographic research, publication of valuable books in this area in all languages that are spoken in the territory of Vojvodina, vocational training and organise permanent museum exhibitions.

Co-financing also included programmes aimed at preservation of intangible cultural heritage, on the basis of the annual competition for co-financing of traditional folk art of national minorities in Vojvodina. These programmes are being reviewed and proposed by national councils and they are intended for co-financing of folklore events and preservation of folk customs, old folk music competitions, projects of collection and preservation of folklore material and folk customs, ethnic camps, traditional handicrafts exhibitions, folk attire exhibitions and other.

Overview of funds earmarked for the protection of cultural heritage of national minorities in the period of 2007-2011

National minority	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bunjevtsi	-	-	55,000.00	190,000.00	-
Jews	-	140,000.00	-	-	-
Hungarians	1,170,000.00	1,004,000.00	250,000.00	894,000.00	1,491,000.00
Germans	200,000.00	-	1,500,000.00	400,000.00	609,267.00
Roma	-	-	30,000.00	89,000.00	100,000.00
Romanians	-	40,000.00	50,000.00	240,000.00	250,000.00
Ruthenians	-	-	-	65,000.00	-
Slovaks	200,00.00	368,000.00	-	80,000.00	90,000.00
Croats	-	140,000.00	330,000.00	4,590,000.00	7,616,000.00
Czechs	-	-	35,000.00	25,000.00	250,000.00
Total:	1,570,000.00	1,692,000.00	2,250,000.00	6,573,000.00	10,406,267.00

Research of intangible cultural heritage, its protection and presentation is also implemented through annual funding of regular programme activities of cultural institutions founded by AP of Vojvodina, such as: Department of Ethnology of the Museum of Vojvodina in Novi Sad which, in 2011, implemented an ethnological research “Customs of Slovaks in Srem“, preserved and restored objects in the Museum of the Romanian spirituality in Tork, implemented the ethnological project “Customs of Ruthenians“ and other, as well as the multicultural project “Living Together“, which includes research, conservation and presentation of exhibitions in the country and abroad - “Serbs and Hungarians“, “Serbs and Germans“ (completed) and “Serbs and Slovaks“ (under preparation); Theatre Museum of Vojvodina, implementing the project “Theatre Culture in the territory of Vojvodina”, with established editorial offices for each national minority editing publications based on its research.

• Co-financing of inter-regional cooperation – projects of minority cultural institutions and NGOs in the field of culture and arts contributing to linking national minorities with countries with which they share a common language

The Provincial Secretariat for Culture encourages programmes that promote inter-regional cultural cooperation of AP of Vojvodina with other neighbouring regions, and also within the European union and beyond, the programmes that represent inter-regional cultural cooperation at festivals and events in the country and abroad, and also encourages the cooperation through publications, exhibitions, multimedia clips, visual and other programmes.

Overview of funds earmarked for inter-regional cooperation of national minorities in the period of 2009-2011

National minority	2009	2010	2011
Bunjevtsi	45,000.00	-	-

Jews	40,000.00	250,000.00	300,000.00
Hungarians	100,000.00	3,711,106.00	190,000.00
Romanians	95,000.00	409,000.00	175,000.00
Ruthenians	445,000.00	-	-
Slovaks	465,000.00	798,000.00	1,620,000.00
Total:	2,020,000.00	6,208,106.00	4,065,000.00

There is a regular exchange of theatre, film, music and folklore guest visits and other cultural programmes including the exchange of experts, joints programmes in the field of publishing business, research in the field of culture and the like. Within its regular activities, cultural institutions of Vojvodina Hungarians, Slovaks, Romanians, Ruthenians and Croats maintain particularly successful regional cooperation with neighbouring countries with which they share a common language.

Co-financing included the following events within inter-regional cooperation, namely: guest performance of the Jewish Choir “Hasira” in Italy, Encounters of Nations from Carpathian Basin in Sajan, organisation of the event “Encounters of the Writers from the Border” (one year in Sečanj and the other year in Timisoara, with the participation of authors writing in Serbian, Hungarian and Romanian languages and the organisation of the round table and presentation of contemporary literature, 2011 in Timisoara), guest performance of the folklore ensemble of Culture-Artistic Association “Jednota” of Gložan in Melbourne and other Australian cities, the project relating to guest performance of the Chamber Choir “Zvony” of Selenča in Slovakia, “Let All the Bells Ring”, theatre guest performance of Art centre “Bread and Play” in Slovakia, the exchange of performances between the National Theatre of Sombor and the Croatian National Theatre in Varaždin and also multicultural projects such as: Days of Vojvodina in Istra, promotion of culture as part of the event “Danube Festival in Ulm”, guest theatre performance of the Regional Creative Centre “Jožef Nadj”, „Untitled/Untitledo“ in Macedonia, Poland, Hungary and some other European countries, organisation of the exhibition ”Art in Vojvodina Today – the only choice possible” in New York, NGOs project “New Optimism” in Balkan countries, “Vojvodina Recommended“, Days of Vojvodina and Serbian Film in Italy/Days of Italian Film in Novi Sad, Days of Holland, etc.

● Co-financing of multicultural projects

Encouraging and co-financing multicultural projects and multicultural dialogue through announced competitions and regular activities programmes of provincial cultural institutions at the provincial level is also a practice that is being implemented in AP of Vojvodina.

In 2011, the Provincial Secretariat for Culture provided RSD 206,829,208.00 from the provincial budget for co-financing of more than 400 multinational projects. The most

significant co-financed projects were related to: the activities of the Translation Centre in Sremski Karlovci, established in 2010 by the Provincial Secretariat for Culture and the municipality of Sremski Karlovci and the Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society for the purpose of promoting the Serbian literature and the literature of national communities and organising translation workshops; *Interculturalism* magazine for the affirmation and promotion of intercultural communication, initiated in 2011 by the Cultural Institute of Vojvodina, which through its content gives theoretical contribution to the existing Strategy of Cultural Development of Vojvodina, that perceives culture as an open and dynamic system based on interethnicity and intercultural communicative and cultural practice; the Regional Creative Centre “Jožef Nadj” in Kanjiža, established by the Municipal Assembly of Kanjiža, which by its activities contributes to the spread of outstanding world values of contemporary drama, dance and music into our community, opens new perspectives for the inclusion of our country into the global processes of contemporary performing arts, thus allowing building of the intellectual and cultural long-span bridge that connects us with the world at the same time allowing artists and young population in the region to get equally involved in the international contemporary art trends.

Funds from the provincial budget were used for co-financing and organising of rallies, festivals and exhibitions in the field of contemporary art in 2011, such as: The Iwano Project, Sremska Mitrovica and Vojvodina Fine Arts Salon, Biennale of Contemporary Drawing in Pančevo, organisation of regular art colonies in Ečka, Kanjiža, Deliblato Sands, Tavankut, Temerin, Opovo, Novi Bečej, International Video Festival “Videomedija”, project “Critical Strategies in Art and Media”, Classical hood – publishing six editions of young composers, “Famus“ – Acoustic Music Festival, International String Festival, project “Bitef in Novi Sad”, Festival of Professional Theatres in Vojvodina, the oldest theatre event in Vojvodina, initiated in 1946, Sterija Scene in Novi Sad, and also the International Children’s Theatre Festival in Subotica, which hosted children’s theatres from almost all European countries, Novi Sad Jazz Festival, Rhythm of Europe, NOMUS Festival, “Exit”, “Golden Tamburica” Festival in Novi Sad, Theatre Autumn in Vršac, International Festival of Alternative and New Theatre – INFANT in Novi Sad, dedicated to tracking the current situation in national and international alternative and new theatre, International Literary Festival in Novi Sad, the European Film Festival in Palić, Film Festival “Cinema City Film and Media Festival” in Novi Sad, International Sculpture Symposium in Terracotta – Terra in Kikinda, Zmaj Children Games, etc.

3.2.3. Financial support from local self-government units

Local self-government units provide funds from their budget to finance and co-finance programmes/projects in the field of culture of importance for the municipality

and create the conditions for the activities of museums and libraries and other cultural institutions they established.

3.3. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia the Advisory Committee provided two recommendations related to Article 5 of the Framework Convention. The following paragraphs contain information on activities on their implementation undertaken by authorities.

The Advisory Committee urges Serbia to make the State Fund for the National Minorities, foreseen in the Law on National Minorities, operative with no further delay and ensure that both its composition and functioning adequately involve national minorities.

The Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, which was adopted in 2002, prescribes, pursuant to Article 20, the establishment of the State Fund for the promotion of social, economic, cultural and overall development of national minorities. The main task of the Fund is to take part in financing activities and projects from the budget related to the improvement of the status and development of cultural creative work of national minorities, with the requirement that the Federal Government passes more specific regulations defining the Fund's composition and activities. Neither the existing Federal Government nor the State Community of Serbia and Montenegro, created through the rearrangement of the constitutional relationship between the states of FRY in 2003, adopted a regulation provided for in the aforementioned provision of the Law. Constitutional Charter of the State Community of Serbia and Montenegro prescribes that the states shall regulate, ensure and protect human and minority rights and civil freedoms on their territories (Article 9). The State Community of Serbia and Montenegro ceased to exist in 2006, and the Republic of Serbia became an independent state and the legal successor of all stated preceding states. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities was enacted in 2009 and it prescribes in Article 119 paragraph 1 that the national councils shall participate in the process of distribution of funds from the budget fund of national minorities on the basis of public competitions for funding of projects and programmes in the field of culture, education, information and official use of a language and a script of national minorities, managed by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights. The Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia (2010) for the first time planned funds for the budget fund of national minorities in the symbolic amount of RSD 2,000,000.00. Despite the expressed political will of the then-existing Ministry of Human and Minority Rights to define more closely the criteria for the allocation of funds from the budget fund, no bylaw that would regulate this issue more closely was adopted, due to different opinions regarding the allocation of funds and consequently the budget funds planned for 2010 were not used. In 2011, the amount in

the budget of the Republic of Serbia earmarked for the budget fund of national minorities remained unchanged, but the issue regarding its distribution is still pending. The situation regarding the adoption of regulation that would allow the allocation of funds from the budget has become more complex, due to the fact that the rationalisation that was completed in March abolished a number of ministries including, *inter alia*, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, whose work was taken by the Ministry of Human Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government. Operations tackling human and minority rights were organised within the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights, as an administration body in the said Ministry, which had no jurisdiction in this area. Pursuant to provisions of Article 32 paragraph 2 of the Law on Public Administration, the Minister shall direct the work of the authority within the Ministry and shall pass legislation from the scope of its work.

With this in mind, it can be concluded that constant institutional changes in the organisation of operations relating to human and minority rights caused the existing dysfunction in the budget fund of national minorities. One can expect that the establishment of new government, with the political will also expressed through the funds allocated in the budget 2012, will result in an adequate solution as regards the issue of bylaw that should regulate the distribution of funds from the budget fund. In this regard, it should be emphasised that the competent ministry and the Provincial Secretariat of AP Vojvodina allocate funds to finance programmes and projects in the field of culture and information, and they are significantly higher than those planned for the budget fund of national minorities. Detailed information on the allocation of funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia and/or budget of AP Vojvodina for culture and information of persons belonging to national minorities is contained in the implementation of Article 5 and Article 9 of the Framework Convention.

The Serbian authorities should ensure that the existing funds for the preservation, promotion and development of minorities' culture are accessible to relevant actors other than the councils of national minorities, in particular NGOs and associations of national minorities.

Based on reviews of the funds allocated for the preservation, promotion and development of culture and all forms of artistic creativity of persons belonging to national minorities, contained in the section "Support to minority cultures" on the implementation of this Article of the Framework Convention, it is evident that the funds were mainly directed to projects and programmes of associations and national minority organisations.

Article 6

1 The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.

2 The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

4.1. Inter-ethnic relations and role of law-enforcement bodies

Tolerance, intercultural dialogue and mutual acceptance of diversity, as key elements of peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect and understanding among people from different cultures, are the goals pursued by every multiethnic society, such is the Republic of Serbia. The Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention contains information on the constitutional provisions proclaiming the promotion of understanding, appreciation and respect for the differences relating to the specific ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity of its citizens, as well as information on the legal framework governing this matter in certain areas of social life.

Within the period after the submission of the Framework Convention, the institutional framework for the promotion of dialogue and interethnic tolerance was expanded by establishing the Council of the Republic of Serbia for National Minorities. In 2009, the Government adopted a new Decree on the Council of the Republic of Serbia for National Minorities. The Council of the Republic of Serbia for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the Council) is responsible for the preservation, promotion and protection of national, ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural specific features of members of the national minorities in the Republic of Serbia. The competences of the Council include: endorsing symbols, emblems and holidays of national minorities at the proposal of the national councils of national minorities; reviewing draft laws and other regulations of importance for the exercising of the rights of national minorities and submitting opinions on these to the Government; monitoring and reviewing the situation with respect to the exercising of minority rights in the Republic of Serbia and the situation of interethnic relations in the Republic of Serbia; proposing measures for the promotion of full and effective equality of persons belonging to national minorities and reviewing measures proposed by other bodies and authorities; monitoring the progress of cooperation of national councils with the competent bodies of the Republic of Serbia, autonomous province, municipalities, cities and the City of Belgrade; reviewing the fulfilment of international obligations in terms of exercise of rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Serbia and international cooperation of national

councils; reviewing the list of candidates for the National Education Council in accordance with the Law on the Fundamentals of the Educational System and reviewing international or regional agreements relating to the status of national minorities and the protection of their rights in the process of their conclusion. The members of the Councils are the Prime Minister who is also the Chairperson of the Council, ministers from the then-existing ministries (of human and minority rights, of public administration and local self-government, of culture, of education, of youth and sports, of religion, of justice and of interior affairs), as well as representatives of the Government, chairpersons of national councils and the president of the Association of Jewish Municipalities in Serbia, whose position corresponds to that of a national council chairperson. The Decree prescribes that the Council shall meet as needed, but at least four times a year. The Council adopts decisions by majority of votes of all Government representatives and the majority of votes of all national councils chairpersons. At the request of chairpersons of at least half of national councils, the Chairperson of the Council is required to convene the session of the Council within a period not exceeding 30 days. The Decree stipulates that the professional and administrative-technical support to the activities of the Council is provided by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.

Since the submission of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention, the Council has been constituted in new convocation at the session held on 30 October 2009. At the request of national councils of national minorities, the Council endorsed symbols (flag and coat of arms) and national holidays of Bulgarian, Vlach, Macedonian, Romanian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian national minorities, while for the German and Slovak national minority it endorsed coat of arms and flags.

Newly established Office for Human and Minority Rights was the first to re-initiate the work of the Council in the new convocation which will correspond the organisation of the state administration after conducted parliamentary elections in 2012.

4.1.1. Interethnic incidents

Legal system of the Republic of Serbia protects the rights of national minorities and guarantees special protection to national minorities in order to realise full equality and preserve their identity, development and expression of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious and other specific features and prescribes effective measures against all forms of discrimination, threat, violence and hostility directed towards them as a result of their ethnic or other specificity. The prohibition of inciting racial, national and religious hatred is regulated in more detail by certain constitutional and statutory provisions.

According to data of the Ministry of Interior, in the period from 2007 until 1 March in 2012, the number of recorded incidents totalled to 1,411 incidents (in 2007 – 354, in 2008 – 329, in 2009 – 253, in 2010 – 202, in 2011, 242 and in the first two

months in 2012 – 31) that, in the broadest sense, may be of importance for international relations.

The structure of the incidents:

- Assaults - 117 (more than 60% directed against Roma people);
- Brawls between persons belonging to different minorities – 33;
- Anonymous threats – 31;
- Verbal conflicts – 212;
- Damaging religious facilities – 232;
- Defilement and desecration of graves and memorials – 41;
- Damaging facilities belonging to Albanian, Gorani and Turkish national minority – 81;
- Damaging Roma facilities – 32;
- Damaging other facilities – 23;
- Writing slogans, drawing graffiti and other symbols – 580;
- Other cases – 29.

Out of the total number of incidents, criminal charges were submitted for 503 offenses, as well as 197 requests for the initiation of criminal proceedings, whilst in other cases and in contact with the competent prosecutorial authorities it was determined that there were no elements of a criminal offense or infringement. Requests for the initiation of criminal proceedings include 413 members of different national minorities. Out of the total of 503 criminal offenses, a total of 303 were cleared up i.e. 60.2%, where criminal charges were submitted against 457 persons (347 persons of Serbian nationality, 34 Hungarians, 30 Muslims, 18 Roma, 6 Slovaks, 7 Albanians, 6 Croats, 2 Bosniacs and two persons of Romanian nationality and one person belonging to German, Turkish, Montenegrin, Macedonian and Vlach nationality).

The structure of criminal offenses is as follows: criminal offense of attempted aggravated murder (to the detriment of Gorani, cleared up); criminal offense of attempted murder (to the detriment of persons of Hungarian nationality- cleared up); nine criminal offenses of inflicting serious bodily harm (seven cleared up); nine criminal offenses of inflicting light bodily injury (all cleared up); 220 criminal offenses of inciting national, racial and religious hatred (133 cleared up); two criminal offenses of racial and other discrimination (one cleared up); 40 criminal offenses of violent behaviour (38 cleared up); 127 criminal offenses of destroying and damaging another's assets (41 cleared up); 23 criminal offenses of damaging graves (10 cleared up); five criminal offenses of causing of general danger (all cleared up); 14 criminal offenses of endangering the safety (13 cleared up); two criminal offenses of unlawful depriving of liberty (one cleared up); six criminal offenses of injuring the reputation due to racial, religious, ethnic or other affiliation (five cleared up); three criminal offenses of ruining the reputation of the Republic of Serbia (all cleared up); five cases of brawling (all cleared up); three criminal

offenses of violation of the freedom of religion and performing religious service (two cleared up); three criminal offenses of reaching for a weapon in brawl or quarrel (all cleared up); eight criminal offenses of illegal manufacturing, holding, carrying and selling firearms and explosives (six cleared up); 13 criminal offenses of preventing an official while performing duties of maintaining public order and peace and security (cleared up); criminal offense of preventing an official in discharge of duty (cleared up); criminal offense of violent behaviour at sport or public event; two criminal offenses of coercion (cleared up); criminal offense of helping a perpetrator after the commission of a criminal offense (cleared up); criminal offense of causing panic and disorder (cleared up); criminal offense of false reporting (cleared up); two other criminal offenses.

4.2. The role of media in encouraging tolerance and intercultural dialogue

The Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention contains a legal framework that governs the basic principles of radio and TV programmes broadcasting, that serve as the basis for measures for the promotion of mutual respect, understanding and co-operation in the field of media. Compliance of programmes broadcast by a public service with the programme principles is supervised by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Agency), and the Council of the Broadcasting Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Council) is responsible for all decision-making within the Agency's scope of competence. The Council consists of 9 members, appointed from the ranks of the most reputed professionals in the fields relevant to conducting the affairs within the Agency's competence (media experts, advertising experts, lawyers, economists, telecommunication engineers, et al.). Except in the case of the first convocation, Council members are appointed to tenure of six years. Pursuant to the Broadcasting Law, the Council members are appointed by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia at the proposal of authorised nominators. Authorised nominators of the Council members are defined by the Law, namely: competent Assembly Board; Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina; University Conference; Associations of broadcasting public media in the Republic of Serbia, Associations of journalists in the Republic of Serbia, Professional associations of film and drama artists in the Republic of Serbia and Professional association of composers in the Republic of Serbia, through the mutual agreement; domestic non-governmental organisations and citizen associations focusing on the protection of the freedom of expression and/or the protection of the rights of national and ethnic minorities, and the protection of the rights of the child, through mutual agreement and traditional churches and religious communities. The ninth member of the Council is nominated by previously appointed members of the Council, but they must nominate a candidate who works and lives in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and who fulfils the criteria for the Council membership determined by this Law. Nomination for the ninth candidate is deemed determined if at least five Council members have voted for it. On the grounds of the

above mentioned, it is clear that the composition of the Council is defined by the Broadcasting Law, and that there is a Council member nominated by national non-governmental organisations aimed at, *inter alia*, the protection of the rights of national and ethnic minorities. Council member whose nominators were national non-governmental organisations and citizen associations focusing on the protection of the freedom of expression and/or the protection of the rights of national and ethnic minorities, and the protection of the rights of the child, was elected on 11 December 2009 by the National Assembly, through mutual agreement.

Pursuant to Article 8 and Article 21 of the Broadcasting Law, the Agency is competent to take measures in the broadcasting sector with the aim of preventing the broadcasting of programmes which contain information inciting discrimination, hatred or violence against an individual or a group of individuals on grounds of race, religion, nationality, ethnicity or gender. The Agency also ensures that the broadcasters' programmes do not contain information inciting discrimination, hatred or violence against an individual or a group of individuals on grounds of their political affiliation, or their race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

For the purpose of the implementation of the stated provisions of the Broadcasting Law, broadcasters' programme contents are being supervised and analysed. These tasks are performed by two Agency's expert departments – the Supervision Department and the Analysis Department. There are three ways to supervise broadcasters' programmes: regular supervision – 24 hour supervision of all broadcasters with issued broadcasting licences for national coverage (six TV stations), as well as public service for Serbia and Vojvodina – Broadcasting Institution of Serbia and Broadcasting Institution of Vojvodina; *ex officio* – supervising a certain number of broadcasters, which is determined on a monthly basis (on average up to 10 broadcasters on a regional or local level); based on submissions/complaints – supervision of broadcasters on the grounds of submissions in accordance with the Broadcasting Law (on average 250 submissions per year).

Supervision Department and Analysis Department prepare their monthly reports that are reviewed by the Agency's Council, reporting on the behaviour of broadcasters in terms of the above mentioned legal framework. In case of violation of any part of the Law, including the part relating to the suppression of hate speech in programme contents, the Council shall initiate proceedings to pronounce sanctions envisaged by the Law (reprimand, warning, temporary or permanent revocation of broadcasting licence).

In the course of regular and *ex-officio* supervision no irregularities were observed in terms of the violation of the provisions of the Law relating to inciting discrimination or hate speech directed towards members of national minorities in programmes of national and certain regional broadcasters in regular supervision.

4.3. Displaced persons

At the beginning of the year 2011, the Government of the Republic of Serbia

adopted the National Strategy on Resolving Issues of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons for the period 2011-2014, with a special strategic aim to improve the system of resolving the housing needs, especially of the most vulnerable categories, which is based on clearly defined needs, criteria and priorities and coordinated collaboration of national, local and international entities.

Since the adoption of the Strategy in 2002, the issues of persons who had to leave their homes in the territory of former Yugoslavia have remained unresolved. The Republic of Serbia continues to provide support and assistance to nearly 75,000 refugees from the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as to 210,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija, of which more than 10% are Roma. The reduction in the number of refugees has in the main resulted from their integration in the Republic of Serbia. More than 250,000 refugees obtained the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, and this is the largest refugee integration process in contemporary Europe. Even though the number of persons with the refugee status has significantly reduced, nearly 300,000 persons that had a refugee status in the Republic of Serbia still require support in the process of their integration.

For the purpose of reception and provision of care to internally displaced persons and adequate living conditions, the Republic of Serbia has undertaken comprehensive measures and activities, in line with the current economic possibilities. Yet, most of these persons are still displaced, and many of them require further support. The issues regarding security, as well as the lack of access to rights that belong to them, diminish the prospects of their return.

A total of 41 collective centres operate in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, of which 13 centres are in Kosovo and Metohija, accommodating 3,476 persons, i.e. 607 refugees and 2,869 internally displaced persons. The Commissioner for Refugees is providing food and lodging to persons accommodated in collective centres. The plan is to close down collective centres in accordance with the provision of funds for the implementation of projects that follow the closing of collective centres.

In 2008, the Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and local self-governments started to implement the project of producing the action plans for municipalities and towns with the aim to adopt strategic documents and local action plans (LAP) for the improvement of the status of refugees and internally displaced persons.

In the period of 2008-2011, the Commissioner for Refugees allocated a total of EUR 7.1 million from the budget of RS to support the activities provided for in LAPs, namely to support activities provided for in LAPs for 145 municipalities/towns in RS, with the aim to improve housing conditions for 1,700 beneficiary families and for economic empowerment of 1,120 families. In the period of 2009-2011, UNHCR allocated USD 2.7 million to support LAPs activities for 29 municipalities/towns in RS, thus resolving housing issues for 199 beneficiary families and improving housing

conditions for 103 families and providing economic empowerment for 37 families. The EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 2011) provided EUR 1.5 million to support the activities provided for in local action plans for 20 municipalities and towns.

The Commissioner for Refugees has designed, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, adequate housing programmes in order to improve the living conditions of the population of internally displaced persons and to provide adequate housing solutions. The existing programmes are intended for all beneficiaries living in inadequate conditions, including persons accommodated in recognised and unrecognised collective centres. Currently, internally displaced persons may dispose of programmes of buying off households with land, a grant scheme for prefabricated facilities which represents a specifically favourable aspect for resolving the housing issues of the residents of non-hygienic settlements, a grant for packages of construction materials intended for finalising the initiated facilities or adapting unsuitable facilities and the provision of apartments intended for social housing in protected conditions for usage by persons who are unable to live without additional forms of support.

According to data of the Commissioner for Refugees, a total of 1,400 internally displaced persons are accommodated in 40 the so-called unrecognised collective centres. The unrecognised collective centres are considered those facilities which are occupied unlawfully. Due to unresolved property-legal relations over the stated facilities, the Commissioner for Refugees has not been able to conclude the necessary contracts with the owners of these facilities and to incorporate them in the system of official collective centres. In December 2009, the Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with UNDP conducted a research entitled "Support for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Resolving Issues of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons through an Analysis of Needs of Internally Displaced Persons Accommodated in Collective Centres in the Republic of Serbia", which included a research of 42 informal collective centres in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The research was conducted with the aim of analysing the opportunities for improving the conditions of residence of these persons and finding durable solutions so as to close the facilities and/or terminate its usage for the accommodation of refugees and internally displaced persons. Conditions were met in the previous period for closing two informal collective centres and the Commissioner for Refugees shall continue to find mechanisms for creating conditions for the closing thereof.

In the course of 2011, the International Organisation for Migration, within the project "Capacity Building of Institutions Involved in Migration Management and Reintegration of Returnees in the Republic of Serbia" (CBMM), funded by the EU, organised trainings for Council Migration and durable solutions in the field of migration. The trainings were also conducted for the revision of existing LAPs to include all migrant groups. CBMM project shall cover 40 municipalities in Serbia, where eight municipalities adopted amendments to LAPs so far and the revision and adoption of

LAPs is underway in 32 municipalities. In view of the fact that the majority of returnees under the readmission are Roma people, these activities will address their needs as well. Among the projects that have been implemented in the previous period, a total of 20 pre-fabricated facilities was built in Požarevac from the funds provided by IPA 2007, for the needs of internally displaced Roma accommodated in the collective centre “Rasadnik”; pre-fabricated facilities in the municipality of Medveđa were provided for the purpose of resettlement of internally displaced Roma from non-hygienic settlements and the construction of pre-fabricated housing units for 99 internally displaced persons belonging to Roma nationality is underway.

4.4. Human trafficking

The Republic of Serbia has inherited obligations undertaken by signing international acts that include a uniform policy of states to fight against human trafficking and illegal migration as a form of organised crime, which is usually carried out through territories of several states and is, as such, a common challenge for all actors in the international security policy.

Pursuant to provision of the Article 26 of the Constitution of the Republic, in the part relating to human rights and freedoms, it is explicitly forbidden to enslave any person or to keep anyone in the position similar to slavery and any form of human trafficking and forced labour is forbidden, whereby forced labour is determined as sexual or financial exploitation of person in unfavourable position.

By introducing human trafficking as a separate criminal offense in the Criminal Code (since 1 January 2006), a significant step was made towards the harmonisation of national legislation with international standards. Therefore, the criminal and legal responsibility of persons engaged in human trafficking is envisaged by the Criminal Code, namely in Article 388 – Human trafficking. Furthermore, the Criminal Code in its Article 389 prescribes sanctions for the criminal offense of trafficking in minors for the purpose of adoption and in Article 390 criminal offense of enslaving another person and transport of persons in slavery. However, since the Article 388 of the Criminal Code envisaged only mild sanctions for perpetrators, the Law on Amendments and Additions to the Criminal Code adopted in September 2009, introduced stricter penalty provisions for the criminal offense of human trafficking in all paragraphs, adding four new paragraphs (commission of a criminal offense by an organised criminal group, the case when the injured party is a minor, the fact that the perpetrator is aware that the person is a victim of human trafficking, but nevertheless abuses his/her position and the fact that the consent to exploitation given by the injured party does not affect the criminal offense itself).

The fact that the Law on Foreigners which has been in force since 1 April 2009 introduced temporary residence for victims of human trafficking speaks of the attention given to the victims of trafficking in the Republic of Serbia.

In order to reduce human trafficking to the greatest possible extent, the Government and the Ministry of Interior continually put forth their maximum effort. In this regard, in April 2009 the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for the period 2009-2011 was adopted and it represents a unique solution in the region, agreed upon by representatives of government, non-governmental and international organisations, and is as such an example of good practice and cooperation in the region. The National Plan of Action is designed for the implementation of the goals set in the Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

Protection of victims of trafficking in the Republic of Serbia and their social rehabilitation and integration implemented by the Agency for the Coordination of Protection of Victims of Trafficking is being carried out according to the programme which include the activities of the Agency to identify the victim, to provide the emergency aid, interpretation, communication, primary care, integration, to resolve civil and legal status, to provide medical care, legal aid, psycho-social support, education and skills training, workshops and trainings and help in sustainable integration – through funds for independent living.

In order to improve the fight against human trafficking, the Minister of Interior, the ministers and competent representatives from several line ministries (of foreign affairs, of finance, of labour and social policy, of defence, of justice, of economy and regional development) and the Commissioner for Refugees signed a Cooperation Agreement to Combat Human Trafficking (in November 2009). The Agreement persists on coordination of activities of public authorities in order to ensure sustainability of programmes of protection and reintegration of victims, especially through the accommodation programme. This is particularly important because in recent years the majority of victims of human trafficking in our country were citizens of the Republic of Serbia. Long-term programmes of protection and reintegration of victims of human trafficking provide for continuing education and professional development. An agreement in principle was reached to involve the National Employment Service (Ministry of Economy and Regional Development) in the work of the Republic Team for Combating Human Trafficking, as it can significantly contribute to the prevention and subsequently to the reintegration of victims of human trafficking, by adopting special programmes during the retraining of victims and by facilitating employment.

The Ministry of Interior undertakes measures and activities to raise the level of awareness on the issue of human trafficking, as a modern form of slavery, both of police officers and the citizens. In this regard, ever since 2007, October is traditionally celebrated as a month for combating human trafficking, involving various advertising campaigns, seminars and educational meetings. During this month, police officers from all police departments, in cooperation with the Office of the Minister - Office of Media Relations, took part in public panel discussions that were held in schools, while the mass media broadcast several radio and TV programmes dedicated to this issue.

Competent agencies of the Republic of Serbia implement intensive anti-trafficking activities. During the implementation of the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, a joint project was launched with the UN Agencies (IOM, UNHCR and UNODC) and the Government, headed by the Ministry of Interior, which is one out of six similar projects that was internationally developed within UN GIFT initiative and the only one that came to life, due to many activities undertaken in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and representatives of the above UN agencies in Serbia. The project was initiated in June 2010, and the main donors were the Government of Belgium, the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking and the Government of Switzerland, while the Ministry of Interior provided office premises for the work of the Project Team until the completion of the project. The overall objective of the project is to operationalise the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings by strengthening national capacities and by creating a sustainable framework for systematic prevention of human trafficking among particularly vulnerable groups, by strengthening the capacity of judiciary and police so as to improve investigations, trials and adjudication of human trafficking cases and to improve mechanisms for protection and (re)integration of potential and actual victims of human trafficking (children and adult). At the end of November, a round table was held in Belgrade, as part of this project, and it presented a Study on the Criminal Justice Response and Jurisprudence in the Area of Anti-Human Trafficking in the Republic of Serbia. The novelty of this programme is the inclusion of Law Faculties through the establishment of Legal Clinics on Combating Human Trafficking and the creation of students' modules for combating human trafficking. In the first stage, law professors undergo training on the issues of human trafficking. In the second stage, final year students attend seminars on the law related to the fight against human trafficking, and in a later stage they are offered an internship in the civilian sector or in the Victim Protection Service. Finally, in the third stage, law professors, trained to be instructors, organise trainings for judges and prosecutors through the Judicial Training Centre. The joint programme shall seek to establish links between activities in order to maximise the expertise that will be developed through the implementation of the programme.

In presenting the Annual Report on Human Trafficking in 2011, the State Department classified countries in four categories depending on how successful they have been in combating human trafficking and also their willingness to cooperate in the elimination of this “modern form of slavery”. The Republic of Serbia was ranked in the second category of countries that have not fully reached the standard criteria of the State Department, but nevertheless undertake serious efforts to reach them. The largest number of countries is classified in this group - 85 (out of 184 countries observed). It was estimated that the Government of Serbia is making significant efforts in combating human trafficking, but still does not fully comply with the standards for the elimination of trafficking. Yet, it was pointed out that Serbia made significant progress in 2010, when

it was a leader in the Balkan region in the number of victims it identified. In February 2011, the Government secured a separate yearly funding for the care of domestic and foreign trafficking victims, which was rated as a long-standing deficiency. Also, the Report stated that the Republic of Serbia made great efforts to improve law enforcement and to punish perpetrators in 2010. In addition, the capacities to protect trafficking victims were improved, and more efforts were made to inform the public and officials about human trafficking. It was recommended that the Government should improve implementation of victim identification procedures, vigorously prosecute perpetrators and accomplices and also improve capacities to provide assistance to victims. Furthermore, it is also necessary to provide training for police officers, social workers and others involved in human trafficking.

To this end, in 2011 the Ministry of Interior and the OSCE Mission to Serbia organised a specialised course in the field of combating human trafficking in Vrnjačka Banja, attended by 59 police officers from departments in the Ministry headquarters, regional police departments and regional centres. Members of the Ministry of Interior, judges, prosecutors and members of non-governmental organisation were the lecturers at this course.

Human trafficking in the Republic of Serbia in the period from 2007 until 2011 was characterised by the presence of so-called internal trafficking, due to the fact that persons aggrieved by this criminal act were Serbian citizens in most cases. Perpetrators of these criminal acts were mainly Serbian citizens. It is important to note that the number of children and minor trafficking victims aggrieved by this criminal act has significantly decreased in 2011 compared to previous years. Moreover, by analysing the number of persons aggrieved by human trafficking, one could observe a downward trend in the last two years. The specific feature of human trafficking in the Republic of Serbia, in the observed period, is that it usually refers to individual cases of human trafficking. Data on persons aggrieved by human trafficking, as well as on perpetrators of human trafficking are not maintained by the national affiliation, but only by the citizenship status.

Police officers of the Ministry of Interior filed criminal charges based on the reasonable doubt of the committed act of human trafficking set out in Article 388 of the Criminal Code. The Table below contains information on the total number of victims, number of victims belonging to national minorities and their sex and age structure.

According to data of the Border Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior covering the period from 2007 until 2012 (ending by 31 March 2012), a total of 399 persons, of whom 115 are persons belonging to national minorities⁶, were aggrieved by human trafficking referred to in Article 388 of the Criminal Code.

⁶ Not all persons declared their nationality.

**Tabular presentation of victims belonging to national minorities, by year,
nationality, gender and age structure**

Year	Total number of victims	The number of victims who declared their national affiliation	Nationality	Gender structure		Age structure		
				male	female	children	minor	adult
2007	96	25	20-Roma 2-Hungarians 2-Albanians 1-Croat	2	23	7	8	10
2008	55	13	12-Roma 1-Albanian	3	10	6	4	3
2009	85	33	24-Roma 3-Hungarians 3-Romanian 2-Slovaks 1-Muslim	10	23	11	13	9
2010	76	26	21-Roma 5-Hungarians	5	21	10	7	9
2011	74	15	9-Roma 5-Hungarians 1-Muslim	4	11	4	4	7
2012 (January-March)	13	3	3-Roma	/	3	/	2	1
Total	399	115	89-Roma 15-Hungarians 3-Albanians 3-Romanians 2-Slovaks 2-Muslims 1-Croat	24	91	38	38	39

The Agency for the Coordination of Protection of Victims of Trafficking, as a professional body within the social welfare system, operating within the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and responsible for the identification of victims and potential trafficking victims in the Republic of Serbia and the coordination of assistance and protection of victims, does not keep records on the nationality of the victim of human trafficking. Such decision was made because asking the victim directly about his/her

nationality would raise the victim's suspicion in the equal treatment of all victims by the Agency or other service providers.

Based on data of the Agency for the Coordination of Protection of Victims of Trafficking, as much as 54.2% persons did not declare their national affiliation and, according to their estimate, the majority were Serbian nationals. Among the remaining 45.8% of persons who declared themselves, most victims were Serbian nationals (23.4%), followed by Roma (21.4%), Vlach (0.4%) and Bosniacs (0.6%), but irrespective of their national affiliation the victims had exactly the same treatment. These data are reported on the basis of direct declaration in the direct work with victims.

Also, when it come to Roma population, as the most prominent of all national minorities in the Republic of Serbia in terms of human trafficking, it is characteristic that they are usually victims of human trafficking for the purpose of begging and forced marriage, and perpetrators of this criminal act (mainly the members of their families and persons in their immediate surrounding) are often referring to the "tradition" which is strongly rooted in their population.

4.5. Manifestations of violence against religious communities

Pursuant to Article 49 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, any inciting of racial, ethnic and religious inequity, hatred or intolerance is prohibited and punishable. Starting from the above provisions of the Constitution, national legislation prohibits manifestations of violence against religious communities, as well as the desecration of graves, while religious places, locations, temples and symbols are under special protection. The protection of religious places, locations and temples is governed by the Law on Churches and Religious Communities and the Criminal Code.

The Law on Churches and Religious Communities stipulates that churches and religious communities perform religious service and worship, ceremonies and other activities in temples, other structures and premises they own or rent (Article 31 paragraph 1). The Law prescribes that religious service and worship, ceremonies and other activities may be performed in public and/or open spaces, as well as in the places related to significant historical events or persons, in accordance with the Law. Religious services may also be performed in hospitals, military and police facilities, institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions, and other institutions and facilities, upon request of the competent body, while in schools and social and child care institutions religious service and ceremonies may be performed only on appropriate occasions. The Law specifically stipulates that the space and time of religious service and worship, including all aforementioned facilities and areas, are protected and inviolable in accordance with the Constitution, and the Law and autonomous regulations of churches and religious communities.

Protection of religious places, locations, temples and symbols in the legal system of the Republic of Serbia has its criminal and legal character and is governed by the

provisions of the Criminal Code. Article 317 of the Criminal Code stipulates that in the case of criminal act of inciting or exacerbating national, racial or religious hatred or intolerance among the people and ethnic communities living in Serbia, which is committed, *inter alia*, by exposure to derision of national, ethnic or religious symbols, damaging another's assets, desecration of monuments, memorials or graves, which is a more severe criminal offense, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment of one to eight years. Moreover, the Criminal Code provides for the protection of a grave as a special religious location. Article 354 of the Criminal Code envisages the criminal offense of desecration of a grave that exists not only in the case when a person without authorisation digs out, demolishes, damages or defiles a grave or other place where a deceased persons is buried, but also when this offense is committed by a person that damages or removes or defiles a monument or other memorial of a deceased person without authorisation. The perpetrator of this criminal offense shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment of up to three years. Respect and protection of religious places, locations, temples and symbols in accordance with the international humanitarian law is secured by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia providing for a separate criminal offense of destroying cultural assets by a person who, *inter alia*, by violating the international law in time of war or armed conflict, destroys religious facilities. This offense is punishable by imprisonment of three to fifteen years.

In accordance with the methodology of recording and tracking all events which, in the broadest sense can be characterised as interethnic incidents or provocations or lead to isolation or religious intolerance, are regularly and fully recorded and actions are prioritised according to information on the damage, desecration, drawing graffiti and writing slogans or physical or verbal attacks on the clergy of all religious communities that exist in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Criminal offenses, minor offenses and other acts committed against religious facilities, point to two basic forms of their degradation: a) those driven by the motive of obtaining illegal material gain and b) those which, by the manner and the setting, imply religious intolerance as the likely motive.

The majority of acts committed against religious facilities were driven by the motive of obtaining illegal material gain (in 2007 – 79.6%, in 2008 – 64.8%, in 2009 – 74.8%, in 2010 – 77.9%, in 2011 – 78.5% and as of 1 January and 1 March 2012 – 87.8% of the total number of committed acts), given the fact that in religious facilities most often are the incidents when the money is taken from the contributions of believers, as well as sacred objects, copper gutters and also objects of cultural, historical and religious importance. Acts driven by the motive of obtaining illegal material gain were usually committed against the Serbian Orthodox Church. In addition, some incidents directed against religious facilities which, by the manner and the setting, may be characterised as religious intolerance, were also recorded (breaking windows and drawing offensive graffiti on religious facilities) – (in 2007 – 83 or 20.4% of acts on religious facilities in

that year; in 2008 – 81 or 21.6%; in 2009 – 54 or 11.6%; in 2010. – 51 or 12.1%, in 2011-47 or 9.7%, and as of 1 January and 1 March 2012 – 4 or 5.4%).

Taking into account all manifestations of religious intolerance and compared to all other religious communities in the Republic of Serbia, it can be concluded that in 2007 the Advent Christian Church was most often the target of these arrogant and intolerant individuals (16 incidents of damaging facilities belonging to this religious community, of which nine in the territory of AP of Vojvodina). However, due to preventive measures undertaken by the Ministry of Interior, there has been a decrease in the expression of intolerance against this religious community in 2008, given the fact that 10 damages on their facilities were reported; in 2009 – 9 incidents were recorded; in 2010 – 10 incidents and in 2011 – 11 incidents. No events of manifestations of religious intolerance against the Advent Christian Church were recorded during the first two months in 2012.

The following can be also be put in the context of religious intolerance: damage on the Roman Catholic Church (10 - in 2007, 13 - in 2008, 9 - in 2009, 8 - in 2010, 5 - in 2011 and as of 1 January and 1 March 2012 - 2); on the Serbian Orthodox Church (10 - in 2007, 2 - in 2008, 4 - in 2009, and in 2010 and 2011 –one respectively; on facilities of religious community of Jehovah's Witnesses (8 respectively - 2007 and 2008, 7 – in 2009, 9 - in 2010, 5 in 2011 and one in the period from 1 January until 1 March 2012); on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter - day Saints (2 respectively - in 2007 and 2009, 7 - in 2008, 3 - in 2010 and one in 2011); on facilities of the Islamic religious community (1 - in 2007 , 4 - in 2008, 3 - in 2009, 2 - in 2010 and 5 - in 2011); on facilities of the Jewish religious community (2 respectively - in 2008, 2010 and 2011 and one in the period from 1 January until 1 March 2012), etc.

In the period from 2007 until March 2012, criminal charges were filed against 24 acts of inciting racial and religious hatred and intolerance committed on religious facilities or within them, mainly referring to drawing offensive graffiti - 14, while other charges were brought in connection with breaking windows or arson in religious facilities. In other instances the filed criminal charges mainly included destroying and damaging another's assets or misdemeanour charges. In addition, four charges were filed on the grounds of violation of freedom to profess faith and perform religious ceremonies (one in 2008 –when a Muslim person attempted to interrupt a prayer in the facility of the Islamic religious community in Novi Pazar and three in Belgrade in 2007, when a Serbian national disturbed the performance of a religious ceremony in the Serbian Orthodox Church; in Novi Pazar, when armed Muslim persons entered into the mosque and interrupted a prayer ceremony and in Pančevo, when an unidentified person broke a wooden cross which was placed during the consecration of plot for the construction of the Orthodox church). Out of four criminal charges three were cleared up.

As regards the protection of the Jewish religious community in the Republic of Serbia, certain enhanced measures and activities which are closely related to the complex security situation in the Middle East are being implemented for a few years now in

addition to enhanced measures that are being regularly implemented with the aim to protect all religious communities. Necessary measures of protection were ordered with the aim to prevent potential acts of terrorism and to provide more efficient protection when it comes to security of persons belonging to the Jewish community. In order to ensure adequate security in religious facilities, the police departments regularly analyse the situation and evaluate their vulnerability, and then on the basis of such analysis and evaluation produce and adopt preventive action plans. In the event that expressed security concerns do not require the establishment of the abridged patrol region, religious facilities and cemeteries of the Jewish religious communities are secured through regular patrol and security sector actions. Additionally, if security concerns require so, the security protection can also involve other enhanced measures.

Yet, it can be stated with certainty that anti-Semitism is not largely present among citizens of the Republic of Serbia, nor has it ever been, in historical terms, inherent feature of the Serbian people. The fact that anti-Semitism is not present in Serbia is underpinned by data of the Ministry of Interior which show that in the first two months of 2012 no cases of severe manifestations of intolerance against persons of the Jewish community were recorded. Not a single case of assault or brawl against persons belonging to the Jewish community, driven by the affiliation to this community, was reported. There were neither instances of verbal conflicts that insult the affiliation of these citizens, nor the incidents of desecration of the Jewish graves. In the period from 2007 until March 2012, a total of 37 incidents were recorded, namely: three anonymous threats (Pančevo, Novi Sad and Belgrade); 23 incidents of writing slogans insulting the dignity of the Jewish people (Sombor – 4, Novi Sad and Niš – 3 respectively, Zrenjanin, Čoka, Sivac, Municipality Kula, Pančevo, Subotica, Aleksinac and Jagodina – 1 respectively), five incidents of damaging facilities of the Jewish religious community (Niš and Zrenjanin – 2 respectively and Novi Sad – 1) and three incidents of damaging the Jewish cemetery (Subotica -2 and Belgrade -1) and other incidents (Zrenjanin -2 and Belgrade -1). In connection with these 37 incidents, criminal charges were filed for 16 criminal offenses, namely: inciting ethnic, racial and religious hatred and intolerance (seven), destroying and damaging another's assets (eight) and desecration of a grave (one). Out of the total number of committed criminal offenses, seven were cleared up. In addition, a request was submitted to initiate legal proceedings against an offense provided for in the Law on Public Order and Peace.

4.6. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia the Advisory Committee provided 10 recommendations related to Article 6 of the Framework Convention. The following paragraphs contain information on actions taken for their implementation.

The Serbian authorities should devote particular attention to measures aimed at developing contacts and interactions between the various communities living in Serbia. This would require taking nation-wide awareness-raising measures to promote Serbia's ethnic diversity. The Serbian authorities should also take measures to enhance mutual respect and understanding for each other's culture in the school context, including by promoting the teaching of minority languages to the majority. Specific efforts should be made in Sandžak and Southern Serbia to encourage interaction between the communities concerned.

In order to raise awareness on the promotion of ethnic diversity, numerous joint projects were launched by governmental and provincial bodies, non-governmental and international organisations in the past period. These projects included organisation of round tables, conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. with the main subject matter to promote tolerance and intercultural dialogue. The following paragraphs include illustrations of activities undertaken by authorities in the implementation of certain projects in nationally mixed environments including a large number of participants.

Since 2008, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights implemented a series of actions to mark the Day of Tolerance: publishing of manual on human rights “Don't Disturb, I'm Enjoying my Rights and Freedoms“, intended for elementary and secondary school pupils throughout Serbia, organising classes on tolerance in elementary and secondary schools with the aim to convey the importance of the principles of tolerance in everyday life, as well as in social functioning and to motivate pupils to more tolerant behaviour in schools and their environment. On this occasion, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights supplied schools with a handy promotional material (manual on human rights, CD) and submitted adequate guidelines for the organisation of classes on tolerance. On the basis of an open competition for the allocation of funds to associations for the projects aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights in the Republic of Serbia, and/or promotion of tolerance and acceptance of diversity, the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights granted funds to 11 associations in 2011, amounting to EUR 50,000. The Directorate also conducted an open competition for the projects of associations aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights in the Republic of Serbia, for the programme “Calendar of Human Rights 2012”. The basic concept of this programme is to dedicate and/or celebrate each month of the year with a series of activities which are implemented by civil society organisations selected through an open competition on the basis of their capacity and experience in the specific area of the thematic group. The aforementioned activities will add to the improvement of the status and rights of certain groups and/or minorities, and the promotion of desirable behaviour patterns and values, as well as the fight against discrimination. The choice of areas/topics is led by corresponding UN international holidays which are celebrated on that day and in all cases where possible, holidays that are being celebrated internationally in a certain month. April was the month dedicated to the improvement of the status and rights of

persons belonging to national minorities, as well as the celebration of the World Roma Day – 8 April, the month of May was dedicated to the promotion of diversity and the fight against discrimination, and 21 May was celebrated as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. “Calendar of Human Rights” also envisages the celebration of the Week of Tolerance and the International Day of Tolerance on 16 November.

Since 2005, the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina has been successfully implementing the project “Affirmation of Multiculturalism and Tolerance in Vojvodina” which entered in its seventh stage in September 2011 as reaction to the multiethnic incidents that occurred in Vojvodina in 2003 and 2004. The project outlines preventive measures in the field of education, culture, public information, judiciary and home affairs in order to systematically prevent the escalation of incidents, interethnic intolerance, to suppress socially dangerous incidents and to preserve good international relations and encourage a spirit of tolerance, with special emphasis on the actions directed towards the young people. This project has been designed as the complex multi-thematic and multi-cultural programme, aimed at the idea of strengthening of interethnic confidence among young people in Vojvodina. The project includes several sub-projects and, through the activities implemented throughout Vojvodina, it includes thousands of young people and elementary and secondary school pupils. The main goal of this project is to soothe ethnic tensions and in a long-term to develop a spirit of tolerance, mutual respect and confidence among the citizens of Vojvodina, with the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in Vojvodina. The project consists of three levels of work. The first level is to coordinate the activities within the Government of AP Vojvodina, directed towards administration bodies in order to achieve results in reaching the set goal of the project. The second level is the external activity in the implementation of certain sub-projects that will in different ways and with different approach to the same problem seek to positively improve the situation in the field of interethnic relations in Vojvodina. Third level is the gathering and coordination of non-governmental organisations, educational and cultural institutions and other relevant stakeholders, whose scope of activities includes contents and topics oriented towards the achievement of the main goal of this project. The implementing body and coordinator of the project is the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Minorities. The project is implemented in cooperation with other line provincial authorities, national and international organisations, public administration bodies, local self-governments, non-governmental organisations, educational and cultural institutions, depending on the specific sub-project. The following agencies and entities are included in the implementation of the project, namely: departmental provincial bodies, the Museum of Vojvodina, the City Museum of Subotica, Radio and Television of Vojvodina, sports organisations, civil society organisations, regional and local printed and electronic media in Vojvodina, educational

institutions (elementary and secondary schools) mostly from municipalities with a significant number of persons belonging to national minorities, Pedagogical Institute of Vojvodina, etc. Overall coordination and control over the entire project is carried out by a special commission of the Government of AP Vojvodina. Funds for the project are allocated on the basis of a decision on the budget of AP of Vojvodina rendered by the Provincial Assembly, while donations and sponsorships are used as additional sources of funding. The effects of the implementation of the project are as follows: the competitions within the sub project “Tolerance Cup” gathered nearly 3,000 contestants from more than 140 elementary and secondary schools from Vojvodina in earlier stages of the project; the third and the fourth cycle of the quiz “How Well We Know Each Other”, gathered as much as 368 participants from 92 secondary schools from Vojvodina (83% of the total number of secondary schools in Vojvodina), and each of 40 quiz competitions was backed up by 200 school supporters, reaching a total of nearly 8,000 viewers during the competitions, with 24 qualifying competitions in 12 places in Vojvodina and 16 in television studio in Novi Sad; since 2007, sub-project “Ethno Day“ was organised in more than 80 elementary schools and its activities included more than 8,000 pupils from more than 400 classes; the implementation of the sub project “Evaluation of State of Interethnic Relations Among the Young in Vojvodina” included more than 4,000 elementary and secondary school pupils.

Since 2010, 25 municipalities in the South and South-West Serbia have been implementing the European Partnership With Municipalities Programme – EU PROGRESS, a development programme, worth EUR 18,1 million, funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland for the period of 2010-2013, with the aim to contribute to enhanced stability and socio-economic development of these municipalities. Direct beneficiaries of the programme are municipal assemblies, executive councils and municipal administrations, and also institutions and public utility companies established by municipalities, civil society organisations and media in the territory of the following local self-governments: Ivanjica, Nova Varoš, Novi Pazar, Priboj, Prijepolje, Raška, Sjenica and Tutin in the South-West Serbia; Blace, Žitorađa, Kuršumlija and Prokuplje in Toplica District; Bojnik, Vlasotince, Lebane, Leskovac, Medveđa, Crna Trava, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vladičin Han, Vranje, Preševo, Surdulica and Trgovište in the Southern Serbia. By its comprehensive approach, by focusing on working on the implementation of the priority infrastructure projects and creating the conditions for greater investment by preparing technical documentation, by applying the principles of good governance and improving municipal and inter-municipal management capacity and also promoting the development potential, programme EU PROGRESS contributes to the growth and improvement of the overall living conditions in the focussed areas. The implementation of the programme results in the promotion of participatory, accountable and transparent governance, through the partnership between the civil society and local self-government institutions, the establishment of Citizen’s

Advisory Services, the support to local self-governments by organising public hearings during the stage of budget preparation, provision of information and resources and the promotion of ethnic and gender equality in decision-making. EU PROGRESS is also focused on raising awareness on important socio-economic issues in the focussed areas and the encouragement of citizen's activism.

Programme “Peacebuilding and Inclusive Local Development“ (PBILD) is being implemented by a team of six UN agencies (ILO, IOM, UN- HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNDP), in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Serbia (8 public authorities) in the period from 2009 until 2013. PBILD is an initiative worth USD 9 million, funded by the Governments of Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, with the aim to build capacity of professional resources in the Southern Serbia towards inclusive, peaceful and sustainable development and is focused on four areas: increasing community cohesion and human capital, more equitable and improved access to public services, increasing economic development and building capacity for migration management. One segment of work is directed towards raising awareness of ethnic diversity.

Some project activities implemented so far are: training for 24 journalists and editors from 16 electronic, printed and online media on gender, minority and conflict-sensitive reporting, through making of 20 documentary films, articles, etc; support through the provision of services of legal aid to 2,000 refugees and displaced persons in order to facilitate access to basic socio-economic and property rights, assisting 402 persons belonging to Roma minority in the Southern Serbia in obtaining personal documents; 84 teachers from 19 elementary schools from the municipality of Bujanovac, Preševo, Medveđa and Bosilegrad teaching Serbian as non-mother tongue to persons belonging to national minorities improved their teaching skills; support to the Government in closing down collective centres; training for nearly 70 persons on the existing procedures for handling the reintegration of returnees under readmission agreements and distribution of revised ”Guidelines for Actions in the Integration of Returnees” and “Information Booklet for Returnees under the Readmission Agreements” in Albanian, Roma and Serbian languages, etc.

Public authorities are giving special attention to the implementation of measures aimed at developing contacts and interaction between the various ethnic communities living in Serbia. Measures undertaken in certain areas of social life (e.g. education, culture, public information) are based on legal provisions governing these issues and are contained in sections on the implementation of relevant articles of the Framework Convention.

Enhancing mutual respect and understanding for each other's culture in the school context is also facilitated by teaching the subject Mother Tongue with elements of the national culture, which is, in some nationally mixed communities, studied both by majority population and persons belonging to other national minorities. Promoting the

teaching in minority languages should be facilitated by the implementation of the initiative of the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Minorities communicated to the Ministry of Education and Science in the beginning of 2012, to introduce the teaching subject Social environment language in the curricula. These are languages that are in official use in the territory of AP of Vojvodina namely: Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian language. The initiative requested to extend the list of elective subjects with the subject Social environment language that will relate to environments in which one of the minority languages is in official use and where pupils could choose that subject as the third compulsory elective subject.

In the field of culture numerous measures were undertaken to enhance understanding, appreciation and respect for differences existing due to the specificity of religious identity of Serbian citizens. The Ministry of Religion and Diaspora in cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government provided financial and organisational support to the Museum of Roma Culture for the event “St. George Roma Meetings”. A round table on the topic “Roma and Faith” was organised as a part of this event. The aim of this round table was to address the most important issues regarding the position of Roma towards other religions and vice versa. The important segment of this scientific meeting was also the consideration of certain issues related to some authentic Roma perceptions in this area.

Raising awareness about the exercising of the right to diversity, as a continuous process, is supported by the government through co-financing of multicultural projects in the field of information and culture. Information on the activities of public authorities are contained in sections which refer to implementation of Article 5 and Article 9 of the Framework Convention.

The Serbian authorities should ensure that the measures taken to relocate Roma living in informal settlements to other areas are carried out in a manner that promotes transparency and consultation with the inhabitants of the areas concerned by the relocation, and the Roma population to be resettled.

Section 2.3.2 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report contains information regarding the measures taken by authorities in connection with the relocation of Roma living in illegal settlements.

The Advisory Committee urges Serbia to ensure that its criminal justice system adequately addresses hate crimes by preventing, thoroughly investigating and prosecuting acts of violence targeting persons belonging to national minorities. The Advisory Committee recommends that Serbian criminal law explicitly provide that the racist motivation of an offense constitutes an aggravating factor.

The criminal law of the Republic of Serbia does not provide for a criminal offense of “hate speech”, but two other criminal offenses: injury to reputation due to racial, religious, ethnic or other affiliation (Article 174 of the Criminal Code), incitement of national, racial and religious hatred and intolerance (Article 317 of the Criminal Code), and racial and other discrimination (Article 387 of the Criminal Code). The authorities of the Republic of Serbia, aware of the need that criminal acts of hate speech must be defined more clearly and punished more severely, adopted the Law on Amendments and Additions to the Criminal Code on 31 August 2009, and improved and supplemented the provisions of Article 174 (injury to reputation due to racial, Religious, ethnic or other affiliation) by stating that whoever publicly exposes to ridicule a person or a group of people in connection with their affiliation with a certain race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic origin or other personal characteristic shall be punished with a fine or term of imprisonment of up to one year. In addition, Article 387 of the Criminal Code (racial and other discrimination), has been supplemented with two new paragraphs. According to the first one, whoever spread or otherwise make publicly available texts, images or any other representation of ideas or theories advocated or encourages hatred, discrimination or violence against any person or group of persons based on race, colour, religious affiliation, nationality, ethnic origin or other personal property, shall be punished by imprisonment of from three months to three years. According to the second added paragraph, whoever publicly threatens a person or group of persons because of their race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic origin or other personal property with a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment exceeding four years shall be punished by imprisonment of from three months to three years. Offenses falling within the group of criminal offenses against life and limb should be added here, namely: murder, aggravated murder, serious bodily harm, light bodily injury, brawling, threatening with dangerous implements in brawl and quarrel, which in addition to its basic form, can also be inspired by racist and xenophobic motives. The Criminal Code also defines the bias/motive as a separate factor that entails more severe punishment. For example, at pronouncing the sentence, the judge should explicitly state that the robbery was committed with a racist motivation. The Law on Amendments and Additions to the Criminal Code adopted in 2009 introduced stricter penalties for nearly one third of criminal offenses, which strengthens the general prevention and deters potential offenders.

As regards the investigation and criminal prosecution of acts of violence directed towards persons belonging to national minorities, the methodology of tracking interethnic incidents in the Republic of Serbia involves both recording all cases with at least some indications that they were committed on the grounds of national hatred or intolerance, and those incidents directed towards the persons belonging to national minorities and committed by unknown persons (motive unknown). The established wide-scope monitoring includes, *inter alia*, assaults, brawls between persons belonging to different minorities, so called verbal conflicts, and/or insults on ethnic or religious grounds,

desecration of graves, damaging religious facilities, damaging facilities belonging to national minorities, writing slogans and drawing graffiti offending the honour and dignity. The police only determine the assumed motive, while judicial authorities give their final word on the motive (gain, revenge, ethnic, religious or racial hatred).

The Serbian authorities should increase their efforts to train both the members of the police and the judiciary on discrimination issues and tolerance. They should also ensure that these bodies adequately reflect the ethnic diversity of the population in the region where they operate. At the same time, an effective and independent supervisory mechanism should be in place to monitor police conduct, and established cases of misdemeanour and human rights abuse by the police should be adequately sanctioned.

Public authorities undertake continuous activities to train both the members of the police and judiciary on discrimination issues and tolerance. Ministry of Interior (MoI) has undertaken a series of activities in the past years to educate police officers on the protection and respect of human rights and also on the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Serbia. Basic Police Training Centre in Sremska Kamenica implemented Curricula and the legal regulation programme addressing, *inter alia*, the protection of human rights and freedoms of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia (subject Human Rights and Code of Police Ethics). This important segment of vocational training is mandatory for all future police officers and is organised prior to assuming the police duty and/or before entering into employment relations with the police. Furthermore, this segment is also intended for instructors and police mentors participating in the training process.

MoI implemented a series of courses, seminars, workshops, round tables and conferences in the field of modern standards of policing, human rights, community policing, strategic management, analysis and problem-oriented policing, with the aim to raise awareness of police officers on modern standards of policing and cooperation with all stakeholders, also including national minorities, so as to improve the security situation.

MoI is giving special attention to human and minority rights and development of communication with citizens through various police officers education programmes. For the purpose of establishing better communication, police officers in some multilingual areas learn minority languages that are in use in local communities. At the beginning of May 2011, a six-month course of the Hungarian language was initiated in Novi Sad and Subotica, within a joint programme of the Ministry of Interior and the Republic of Hungary, funded by IPA funds of the European Union, as part of the minority language learning programme in the territory of AP of Vojvodina. The rationale for the implementation of this programme is the fact that knowledge of minority languages is one of the best ways to build trust and cooperation between citizens and police. This

training was attended by 40 police officers from police departments in Novi Sad and Subotica and Regional Centre of the Border Police to Hungary.

Various activities are undertaken to improve policing of marginalised, minority and socially vulnerable groups. A number of organised round tables were attended both by representatives of the police and representatives of marginalised, minority and socially vulnerable groups. Numerous organised trainings tackled the issues of improving communication and cooperation of the police with the aforementioned groups. Trainings included members of MoI who were determined to engage in the education of police officers in their police departments and to improve communication and cooperation with representatives and members of these groups. A training of police officers from all regional police departments on improving communication and cooperation with minority, marginalised and socially vulnerable groups was realised with the assistance of OSCE Mission to Serbia in the Republic of Serbia and representatives of the Police College in Kent, England.

In view of the fact that Roma population is considered to be most vulnerable, special attention is being given to the improvement of communication with the representatives and persons belonging to Roma community, as well to the stimulation and encouragement of persons belonging to this community to apply for vacancies in the police. In addition, training for police officers – instructors in this area, provides opportunities for representatives of Roma community to present the customs and security needs of local Roma communities that are of importance for policing and their security protection. Members of MoI take part in activities of other governmental structures aimed at improving security and social protection in this ethnic community. By way of illustration, in 2010 police officers from the Police Directorate for the City of Belgrade, in the organisation of the Secretariat for Social Welfare within the City Administration for the City of Belgrade held a lecture on the topic "Domestic Violence and Begging". The implementation of the programme "Roma and Police" was initiated in 2006 in cooperation with OSCE Mission to Serbia, and it included periodic organisation of joint meetings with the representatives of Roma community with the aim to improve mutual communication, understanding, and tolerance, to reduce bias and to reach a higher level of mutual trust.

Continuing vocational training is being carried out according to annual programmes adopted by the Ministry of Interior, and is mandatory for police officers who directly apply police powers. This training covers the field of human rights, with a tendency to bring into the light the practical needs by including case studies and other appropriate methods during the training aimed at better understanding and adoption of the curriculum. The vocational training programme for police officers in 2008 also included two-hour teaching activity related to policing of marginalised, minority and socially vulnerable groups. The training that is being carried out on this specific topic for police officers in all regional police departments is conducted on the basis of prepared class

implementation plan and manuals for instructors. The Programme for 2010 provides for the implementation of the following teaching topics: communication skills and conflict management; protection of human and minority rights; policing of minority, marginalised and socially vulnerable groups; treating children and minors and others.

In order to sensitise the policing of persons belonging to national minorities, all incidents perpetrated by members of MoI are sanctioned if determined that they were driven by ethnic, racial or religious intolerance. Moreover, police officers are familiar with OSCE Recommendations on Policing in Multi-Ethnic Societies that contain general principles of policing in multi-ethnic environments, recruitment and representation, training and professional development of police, cooperation with ethnic communities, operational practices and the prevention and conflict management.

The Judicial Academy was established in 2010 in accordance with the Law on Judicial Academy with the purpose of contributing to professional, independent, unbiased and efficient performance of judicial and prosecutorial function as well as to the professional and efficient performance of duties of judicial and prosecutorial staff. This institution organises special anti-discrimination training programmes.

The continuous training programme for judges and prosecutors included the following topics: the topic “UN Convention Against Discrimination, Standards and Practices of the Committee“, was discussed on 7 one-day seminars, and it was attended by 163 trainees, and the lectures were delivered by judges and prosecutors as well as national experts on discrimination issues; the topic “Standards of the European Court of Human Rights, Article 14 of the European Convention and Protocol No. 12 to the Convention“ was discussed on 12 one-day seminars organised for judges and prosecutors, and it was attended by 325 trainees, and the lectures were delivered by judges and prosecutors and national instructors of the Council of Europe; the topic “Prohibition of Discrimination“ – national and international standards“, was discussed on 6 one-day seminars organised for high court judges, and it was attended by 164 trainees; the topic “Prohibition of Discrimination“ – national and international standards“, was discussed on 8 seminars organised for high court prosecutors and special attention was paid to anti-discrimination standards of the Council of Europe and the obligation to conduct investigation in cases of discrimination.

The initial training programme for future judicial officials, that lasts two years, includes a theoretical part: Prohibition of Discrimination – thematic unit covering national legal framework and international standards, delivered to trainees through lectures and exercises lasting five days; The European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms includes the study of the Convention and standards of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, delivered through lectures and exercises, lasting 12 days.

Whilst fully respecting the editorial independence of the media, the Serbian authorities

should identify measures to encourage national and provincial media outlets to develop programmes aimed at promoting tolerance and inter-cultural understanding.

In the field of media, effective measures for the promotion of mutual respect, understanding and cooperation are based on legal provisions governing the basic principles of radio and TV programme broadcasting, which in the sphere of public information, stipulate that the programme content of public media should ensure the satisfaction of the needs and expression of cultural and linguistic identity of national minorities (Article 78, item 4 of the Law on Broadcasting). According to Article 4 item 9 of the Law, the public broadcasting service involves production, purchase, editing and broadcasting of the informative, educational, cultural artistic, children's, entertainment, sports and other radio and TV programmes in the general interest of citizens, and especially those aimed at realisation of human and civil rights, exchange of ideas and opinions, nurture of political, gender, interethnic and religious tolerance, as well as the preservation of national identity. Information on measures undertaken by authorities with the aim to encourage media to produce and broadcast programmes aimed at the promotion of tolerance and intercultural understanding is contained in the section of the Report which refers to implementation of Article 9 of the Framework Convention.

Bearing in mind that the Republic of Serbia is multi-confessional state, carriers of the public broadcasting service are required to provide, in the sphere of religious tolerance, adequate time slots for broadcasting content related to activities of religious communities in the area where the programme is being broadcast. On the basis of this legal provision, Radio Television of Serbia has signed an agreement with representatives of traditional churches and religious communities in the Republic of Serbia on the production of programmes related to the religious and cultural heritage of these communities. Moreover, the Public Broadcasting Service broadcasts religious ceremonies of various churches and religious communities.

The Serbian authorities should ensure that cases of hate speech are adequately investigated and prosecuted so as to prevent such acts in the future. Consideration should be given to the introduction of a specific provision on hate speech in Serbian criminal legislation.

The term "hate speech" is clearly expressed and contained in the provisions of the Law on Public Information (the Article 38). The Article 39 of the Law provides for the possibility to file "lawsuit over the breach of the prohibition of hate speech", and seek injunction of repeated publication of the information. Pursuant the provisions of the Law on Public Information, it is forbidden to publish ideas, information and opinions that incite discrimination, hatred or violence against an individual or a group of individuals on grounds of their race, religion, nationality, ethnicity or sex, or their sexual inclination, notwithstanding whether a criminal offense has been committed by such publication.

The person, to whom the information applies personally, as a member of a group, has the right to bring legal charges against the author of the information and against the responsible editor of the media outlet that published information, to seek an injunction on repeated publication of the information of the court ruling at the expense of the defendants. Charges may also be brought against the author and the responsible editor by any legal person whose objective is to protect human and civil rights and freedoms, as well as by organisations whose objective is to protect the interests of relevant groups.

The Court ruling delivered in 2009 was the first ruling that recognised the need to sanction the hate speech in accordance with the Law on Public Information. This was a starting point of the case law where texts containing hate speech are being sanctioned. That is, in the section Economics of March 16, 2006, daily newspaper “Glas Javnosti” published an advert titled “Boycott”. Apropos the published text, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Belgrade filed a lawsuit to the First Municipal Court in Belgrade toward prohibition of hate speech pursuant to Article 38 and Article 39 of the Law on Public Information. On 15 September 2008, the First Municipal Court delivered a ruling upholding the lawsuit filed by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights. The ruling found the text of the advertisement to constitute hate speech, at the same time prohibiting republication of this or similar texts which contain ideas, information or opinions that incite discrimination, hatred or violence against other nations and which constitute hate speech. Editor of “Glas Javnosti” was required to publish, free of charge, the ruling in its entirety, with no commentary. The Ruling delivered by the First Municipal Court was upheld by District Court in Belgrade on April 1, 2009, which made it unappealable and final. In June 2009, “Glas Javnosti” published the first instance ruling in its entirety.

Greater attention should be paid to vocational training of journalists and other media professionals in order to improve media reporting on minority issues. The monitoring work of the RBA Council should be strengthened and its composition should include an adequate representation of national minorities.

Information on vocational training of journalists is contained in the section which refers to implementation of Article 9 of the Framework Convention, and both the activities related to the monitoring of the RBA and the issue of its composition are contained in Section 4.2 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report.

The Advisory Committee calls on the Serbian authorities to adopt a comprehensive strategy for dealing with refugees and internally displaced persons, with clear annual targets and effective monitoring arrangements and ensure that adequate means, both in terms of budget and human resources, are allocated to its implementation. Such a strategy should aim at finding durable solutions to these persons, including local integration, and address their lack of personal documentation as a matter of priority.

Information on the National Strategy for Resolving Issues of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons for the period 2011-2014, and activities that are being undertaken to find durable solutions for these persons are contained in Section 4.3 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report.

The Advisory Committee urges the Serbian authorities to take further measures to put an end to human trafficking. They should also ensure the effective involvement of representatives of the Roma community and in particular Roma women in the context of the implementation of their anti-trafficking strategy.

Section 4.4 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report contains activities of the authorities towards the eradication of human trafficking.

The Advisory Committee urges the Serbian authorities to take the necessary measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute all forms of violence against religious communities, including anti-Semitic attacks.

Bearing in mind that the Republic of Serbia is complex multi-confessional state composed of persons belonging to different religious, such as Orthodox, Catholic, Muslim, Jewish and also persons belonging of other numerous smaller religious communities it is clear that Serbia is particularly interested in ensuring equal protection and human rights, irrespective of nationality, religious and any other existing diversity. To this end, member of MoI do not only record but also take immediate actions as regards all discovered and reported cases of violence against religious communities, including manifestations of anti-Semitism in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. All criminal offenses in Republic of Serbia are qualified by the Public Prosecutor's Office that raises indictments. All attacks deemed as criminal offenses by Public Prosecutor's Office are prosecuted, and the Public Prosecutor's Office is independent in qualifying criminal offenses.

Number of committed criminal offenses which in its broadest sense constitute violation of protection of religious places, sites, temples and symbols is not high in practice, as demonstrated by data presented in Section 4.5 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report. Even though the number of religiously motivated incidents in the Republic of Serbia has significantly reduced and the degree of multi-confessional cooperation has risen to a higher level, this issue has been given special attention because such incidents in multi-confessional and multi-ethnic communities acquire different connotation. In order to ensure adequate security in religious facilities, the police departments of MoI regularly analyse and evaluate their vulnerability, and then on the basis of such analysis and evaluation make security assessments and adopt action plans. On several occasions, the Ministry of Religion and Diaspora strongly condemned all forms of attacks on

religious facilities in its statements and urged the authorities to shed light on such cases and to additionally protect religious facilities and religious communities.

Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

5.1. Freedom of assembly

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, under Article 54 governs the freedom of assembly, as one of guaranteed human freedoms. The above Article stipulates that citizens may assemble freely, and that the assembly held indoors is not subject to permission or registering, whilst gathering, demonstrations and other forms of assembly held outdoors must be reported to the public authority, in accordance with the law. It is also prescribed that the freedom of assembly may be restricted by the law only if necessary to protect public health, morality, rights of other or the security of the Republic of Serbia.

The freedom of assembly is more closely regulated by the Law on Citizens Assembly. Activities to ensure protection of safety of person and property of participants of the public assembly and other citizens, maintaining public order and peace, safety of traffic and other activities relating to securing the public assembly, are conducted by the Ministry of Interior. The Ministry, in accordance with its competence and statutory powers, undertakes a series of activities related to organisation of the public assembly, such as the collection of operative information on the number of participants, the nature and type of the public assembly, security risks and other factors that are important for safe public assembly. On the basis of collected data, the assemblies are being ranked according to the degree of risk and, if necessary, other specialised units of the Ministry are engaged in addition to police officers performing uniformed police duties.

5.2. Freedom of association

One of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia is the freedom of association. Namely, under Article 55, the Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of political, union and any other form of association, and the right to stay out of any association, as well as the right to form associations without prior approval and entered in the register kept by a public authority, in accordance with the law. Freedom of association is guaranteed to all the citizens and therefore to persons belonging to national minorities, in the manner prescribed by the law and also in ratified international treaties and generally accepted rules that are, pursuant to Article 194 paragraph 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, part of the legal system of the Republic of Serbia and are directly applied in this area. The period following the submission of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention witnessed many significant

changes as regards the legal framework for the exercising of the right to freedom of association, due to the fact that both the Law on Political Parties and the Law on Associations were adopted in 2009.

The Law on Political Parties governs the establishment and legal status of political parties, their entry and removal from the Registry of Political Parties, the cessation of political parties and other issues of importance for the activities of political parties. According to the provisions of this Law, political party is a free and voluntary association of citizens established for the purpose of achievement of political goals by means of democratic formation of political will of citizens and participation in elections. Article 3 of the Law specifies the notion of a political party of some national minority, as a political party whose activities, in addition to the properties of a political party, are particularly directed to presentation and representation of the interests of a national minority and protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to that national minority in accordance with the Constitution, law and international standards, as defined by the articles of association, programme and statute of the political party. The Law prescribes that the political party may be established by at least 10,000 citizens, whilst the political party of some national minority may be established by at least 1,000 citizens who are of age and who have business capacity in the Republic of Serbia (Article 8 and Article 9 of the Law). Article 18 paragraph 2 of the Law prescribes that the name of a political party of some national minority, if prescribed by the statute, may also be in the language and the script of that particular minority, and that name is being entered into the Registry after its name in Serbian language and Cyrillic script.

A political party is organised and performs its activities explicitly according to the territorial principle and the political party gains the status of a legal entity on the date it is entered into the Registry of Political Parties. The activities of a political party are public and a political party performs its activities in accordance with the Constitution, law, programme, articles of association and other general acts. The Law introduced a novelty – renewal of the entry into the Registry, according to which a political party is obliged to submit an application for the renewal of the entry into the Registry after the expiration of each eight years from the date of the entry into the Registry. The application must be submitted together with the statements of the members about the membership in the political party, containing verification of signatures of at least minimum number required for the establishment of the political party entered into the Registry. As an incentive measure for the active participation of political parties in public life, the Law exempts from the obligation to submit an application for the renewal of the entry into the Registry, a political party which independently or in coalition with political parties had obtained at least one mandate through participation in election for the members of the National Assembly, and/or the members of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province.

As at 10 April 2012, a total of 89 political parties were entered into the Registry of Political Parties, of which 51 were political parties of national minorities. The

following political parties of national minorities are entered into the Registry, namely: 6 Albanian minority political parties, 12 Bosniac minority political parties, 3 Bulgarian minority political parties, 3 Bunyevtsi minority political parties, 4 Vlach minority political parties, one Gorani political party, 6 Hungarian minority political parties, one Macedonian minority political party, 6 Roma minority political parties, 2 Romanian minority political parties, 2 Ruthenian minority political parties, 2 Slovak minority political parties, 2 Croatian minority political parties and one Montenegrin minority political party.

The Law on Associations specifies that an association is a voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organisation, founded upon the freedom of association of several natural or legal entities, established under the following conditions: an association may be founded by a minimum of three founders, whereby at least one of the founders must have residence, and/or registered office, in the territory of the Republic of Serbia; any legally capable natural or legal entity may be the founder of an association and a person under legal age may become the founder, provided that such person is not less than 14 years of age, and only with the statement of consent of his/her legal guardian, in accordance with the law. The Law has created a legal framework which, for the first time, allows a foreign association and/or its representative office in the Republic of Serbia to operate on the territory of the Republic of Serbia after registering into the Registry of Foreign Associations.

The name of the association, if prescribed by the statute, may also be in the language and the script of a national minority. The name in the language and script of a national minority is entered into the Registry after its name in Serbian language and Cyrillic script.

Provisions of the Law on Associations prescribe that the Government, and/or ministries in charge of the sector within which the association is pursuing its principal goals, allocate funds from the budget (Republic of Serbia, autonomous provinces, local self-government units) for the implementation of the associations programmes that are of public interest. Programmes of public interest refer, in particular, to programmes in the field of protection and promotion of human and minority rights. Criteria, requirements, scope, method, the procedure for allocation and the manner and procedure for reimbursement of incitement funds or shortage of funds for funding programmes implemented by associations, which are of public interest are more closely regulated by Decree on Incitement Funds for Programmes or Shortage of Funds for Financing Programmes of Public Interest Implemented by Associations.

The Law on Associations envisages that all social organisations, associations of citizens and their federations that were entered into the Registry according to the then-existing regulations continue to operate as an associations as of the date of the implementation of this Law, provided they bring their statute and other general acts into accord with the provisions of this Law within 18 months from the date of enactment

thereof and submit an application for registration of alignment into the Registry of Associations. The procedure of registration of alignment of associations of citizens, social organisations and their federations into the Registry of Associations ended on 22 April 2011. According to data of Business Registers Agency as of 5 April 2012, a total of 18,499 associations and their federations were entered into the Registry of Associations. Number of associations whose goal is to preserve the national identity of national minorities, as well as the number of associations founded by persons belonging to national minorities is unknown, since the Business Registers Agency does not keep records that include such classification.

In the Republic of Serbia, there are associations of persons belonging to national minorities which have been established for the purpose of preservation, fostering and promotion of their national identity. Attachments provided by certain associations which have agreed to participate in drafting of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention state the objectives of their establishment. Thus, according to the statement of the Citizens Association “Bunjevačko Kolo“ from Sombor, the main goal of their re-establishment was “preserving and fostering the culture, customs and written word, folklore heritage, as well as the cooperation with all Bunjevtsi institutions in the country and abroad”.

The German Association “Donau”, having a twenty-year long tradition emphasises that it is, as the most active association, an organiser of numerous traditional events of the German community in Serbia. This associations believes that authorities in AP of Vojvodina are “very selective in providing funds and that the authorities allocated only RSD 290,000.00 per year for 12 associations (German national minority), whilst no funds are being allocated from the Republic budget for the activities of the association of the German community“.

Many associations of persons belonging to national minorities have been established with the aim of strengthening the friendship between its members, the majority population and also the persons belonging to another national minorities living in this region. One of such associations is the Society of Slovenians in Belgrade – Society “Sava“, stating that in addition to the aforementioned aim their establishment also aims to “raising awareness of the need to develop tolerance in mutual relationships“.

5.2.1. Financial support to associations and national minority organisations

In the period of 2008-2011, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights provided financial support to associations and national minority organisations for various purposes with the aim of implementing their programmes and activities. The largest number of associations and organisations which received financial support from the Republic budget were Roma associations and organisations, mainly for the implementation of affirmative measures and processes of integration of Roma within the “Decade of Roma”, (RSD

26,546,710.00), as well as Roma associations whose programmes were targeted at the improvement of the status of this minority (RSD 16,923,901.00). In the period of 2008-2011, the then-existing Ministry of Human and Minority Rights financially supported both associations and organisations: Bosniac national minority (RSD 145,000.00), Bunyevtsi national minority (RSD 2,148,430.00), Vlach national minority (RSD 120,000.00), Jewish national minority (RSD 95,000.00), Hungarian national minority (RSD 2,150,000.00), Ruthenian national minority (RSD 1,645,000.00) and Tzintzar national minority (RSD 85,000.00).

The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities takes part in financing of national community organisations having their registered offices in the territory of AP of Vojvodina based on the Decision on Allocation of Budget funds for Grants to Ethnic Communities. Funds earmarked for this purpose are provided from the budget, whilst the largest portion of these funds is being awarded based on Competitions for grants to organisations of ethnic communities in AP of Vojvodina, which are announced at least once a year. Only registered legal entities are eligible to take part in the competition – organisations and associations of persons belonging to national communities with their registered offices in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, whose activities are based on preservation and promotion of inter-ethnic tolerance.

Amounts paid to the associations and national community organisations having their registered offices in the territory of AP of Vojvodina are contained in the table below.

Financial support to associations and national community organisations in AP of Vojvodina for the period of 2007-2011

National community	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ashkalia	181,000.00	124,400.00	110,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Bosniacs			15,000.00		
Bulgarians	310,000.00	343,726.00	240,000.00	135,000.00	2,040,000.00
Bunyevtsi	970,000.00	2,100,000.00	1,865,000.00	1,080,000.00	1,130,000.00
Greeks	50,000.00	100,000.00	60,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00
Egyptians	30,000.00	62,000.00	15,000.00		100,000.00
Jews	280,000.00	400,000.00	190,000.00	90,000.00	175,000.00
Hungarians	14,110,000.00	25,277,000.00	23,690,000.00	16,680,000.00	16,670,000.00
	0	0	0	0	0
Macedonians	720,000.00	1,480,000.00	1,200,000.00	680,000.00	680,000.00
Germans	850,000.00	1,935,000.00	1,120,000.00	296,000.00	296,000.00
Roma	2,611,060.00	4,505,800.00	2,575,500.00	3,550,000.00	1,499,500.00
Romanians	2,070,000.00	5,344,000.00	4,184,140.00	2,330,000.00	2,330,000.00

Russians				50,000.00	50,000.00
Ruthenians	1,645,000.00	3,945,000.00	2,470,000.00	1,480,000.00	1,200,000.00
Slovaks	2,320,000.00	5,739,480.00	5,110,000.00	3,130,000.00	3,160,000.00
Slovenians	270,000.00	300,000.00	210,000.00	110,000.00	75,000.00
Ukrainians	718,000.00	1,560,000.00	935,000.00	424,000.00	424,000.00
Croats	2,296,082.00	5,450,000.00	5,110,000.00	3,130,000.00	3,130,000.00
Montenegrins			420,000.00	270,000.00	270,000.00
Czechs	230,000.00	350,000.00	210,000.00	130,000.00	130,000.00
Multicultural projects	1.230.000,00	2.043.000,00	4.380.000,00	3.955.000,00	3.950.000,00

5.3. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia the Advisory Committee provided one recommendation related to Article 7 of the Framework Convention.

The Serbian authorities should ensure that the freedom of assembly, as contained in the Constitution, is systematically interpreted and applied in a manner that is consistent with Article 7 of the Framework Convention. This implies that no undue citizenship requirement should apply to the exercise of freedom of assembly.

Comments of the Republic of Serbia on the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the protection of national minorities contain the viewpoint of authorities regarding the issue of compatibility of the Constitutional provision with Article 7 of the Framework Convention and, within this meaning the position that it does not constitute an undue limitation to national minorities' right to assemble.

As already expressed, the Working Group for the Promotion of Freedom of Assembly was established in 2011, with the aim to harmonise the regulations governing the freedom of assembly with international standards and to start an initiative with the competent authority on amendments of the legislation on assembly of citizens based on guidelines and suggestions of the Working Group.

Article 8

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations.

6.1. Freedom of religion

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, under Article 43, guarantees the freedom of thought, conscience, beliefs and religion. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the same Article no person is obliged to declare his/her religious or other beliefs, whilst the paragraph 3 prescribes that everyone has the freedom to manifest his/her religion or religious beliefs in worship, observance, practice and teaching, individually or in community with others, and to manifest religious beliefs in private or public. Pursuant to the same Article of the Constitution stipulates that the freedom of practicing religion or beliefs may be restricted by law only if that is necessary in a democratic society to protect lives and health of people, morals of democratic society, freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Constitution, public safety and order, or to prevent inciting of religious, national and racial hatred.

The establishment of religious institutions, organisations and associations is regulated by constitutional provisions set forth in the Law on Churches and Religious Communities. All citizens of the Republic of Serbia have equal rights to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations in accordance with the Law on Churches and Religious Communities and the Law on Associations (which in terms of registration of churches and religious communities shall be applied with respect to certain issues which are not regulated by the Law on Churches and Religious Communities). The Law on Churches and Religious Communities explicitly prescribes in Article 2 paragraph 3 that there is no state religion, whilst in Article 4 it determines that holders of religious freedom according to this Law are traditional churches and religious communities, confessional communities and other religious communities. Article 10 of the Law stipulates that traditional churches and religious communities are the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Slovak Evangelical Church (a.c.), the Christian Reformed Church, the Evangelical Christian Church, the Islamic Religious Community and the Jewish Religious Community.

The Law prescribes that churches and religious communities are entered in a special Register of churches and religious communities, kept by the Ministry competent for religious affairs. It is prescribed that traditional churches and religious communities for the entry of churches and religious communities into the Register, file a notification to the Ministry containing name of the church or religious community, address of the seat of the church or religious community and name, surname and capacity of the person authorised to represent and act on behalf of the church or religious community. Other

churches and religious communities, in the time of entry into the Register, must also submit a decision by which the religious organisation has been established, with names, surnames, identification document numbers and signatures of founders of at least 0.001% adult citizens of the Republic of Serbia having residence in the Republic of Serbia according to the last official census, or foreign citizens with permanent place of residence in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, statute or another document of religious organisation containing: description of organisational structure, governance method, right and obligations of members, presentation of the key elements of religious teaching, religious ceremonies, religious goals and main activities of the religious organisation, as well as data on permanent sources of income of the religious organisation.

Persons belonging to national minorities (nearly 99%) exercise their right to religion within: the Roman Catholic Church with Greek Catholic Church (Hungarians, Croats, Bunyevtsi, Shokci, Czechs, Germans, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Ukrainians and Ruthenians), the Islamic Religious Community (Bosniacs, Albanians, Roma, Egyptians, Ashkalia and Gorani), the Slovak Evangelical Church a.c. (Slovaks), the Christian Reformed Church (Hungarians), the Jewish Community (Jews), the Diocese of the Romanian Orthodox Church “Dakia Felix” (Romanians), and also within the Serbian Orthodox Church (Roma, Vlach, Bulgarians, Macedonians and Montenegrins).

The then existing Ministry of Religion and Diaspora has been cooperating with all Churches and religious communities very effectively. In the previous years many small religious communities have been entered into the Register: the Free Church of Belgrade, the Jehovah's Witnesses – a Christian religious community, the Testament Church of Zion, the Union Seventh Day Adventists Reform Movement, the Protestant Evangelist Church “Spiritual Centre” and the Christ Evangelical Church. In addition, apart from the traditional churches and religious communities and those listed herein, the following have been entered into the Register of Churches and Religious Communities as well: the Diocese of the Romanian Orthodox Church “Dakia Felix”, the Christian Adventist Church, the Evangelist Methodist Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Evangelist Church in Serbia, the Church of the Love of Christ, Spiritual Church of Christ, Union of Christian Baptist Churches in Serbia, the religious community of Christian Nazarene, the Church of God in Serbia, The Church of Brothers in Christ in Serbia and the Protestant Christian Community in Serbia. Among the founders of the said churches and religious communities were persons belonging to national minorities as well.

On the ground of the above mentioned, it can be concluded that the religious pluralism in the Republic of Serbia is well developed and that persons belonging to national minorities exercise their right to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations, as an important part of constitutionally guaranteed freedom of religion, through already registered churches or religious communities or are in the process of establishing of new churches and religious communities and their organisational units,

and at much easier legal criteria compared to those that exist in most member states of the Council of Europe.

6.1.1. Religious education of national minorities in primary and secondary schools

Freedom of expression of religious beliefs in the Republic of Serbia is also present in religious education in primary and secondary schools. Article 43, paragraph 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that parents and legal guardians shall have the right to ensure religious and moral education of their children in line with their own beliefs, while Article 48 of the Constitution states that the Republic of Serbia, through measures applied in education, *inter alia*, shall promote understanding, recognition and respect of diversity arising from specific religious identity of its citizens.

These constitutional provisions create a legal framework for the introduction of religious education in the Republic of Serbia's public education system. In line with provisions of the Law on the Fundamentals of the Educational System, the Law on Primary Education, and the Law on Secondary Education, there are two elective courses, religious education and civic education. The right of organising religious education is further guaranteed by Article 40 of the Law on Churches and Religious Communities, which guarantees the right to religious education in state-owned and private primary and secondary schools, in accordance with the Law. When registering a child for primary school, a parent or a guardian has the right and obligation to decide whether that pupil will attend religious education or civic education classes. After the parent or guardian has selected one of the two aforementioned optional courses, that course becomes mandatory for that pupil in that school year. The pupil who selected one of two optional courses, i.e. religious education or civic education, may change the optional course during the primary education cycle, i.e. until completion of the secondary education. In practice, pupils, i.e. their parents, decide on one of the alternatively established courses which they do not attend in so much to be stigmatised by those courses, and there is no forming of special classes of pupils attending religious education and those attending civic education.

Textbooks and teaching materials for religious education are approved by the Minister of Education, at a joint proposal of traditional churches and religious communities. The Minister of Education also determines a list of religious education teachers.

Since religious education is an integral part of the public education system of the Republic of Serbia, implementation of such education and teachers are financed from the state budget, the same as education and teachers of all other courses in primary and secondary schools. Religious education is not mandatory – pupils who do not want to attend religious education have an option to study another optional course, i.e. civic education. That means that the other optional course, i.e. civic education in the public education system, is also financed from the budget.

Traditional churches and religious communities are involved in the implementation of religious education of members of national minorities. Among the pupils, members of national minorities, who decided to attend religious education, a vast majority attends religious education whose implementation involves: the Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Catholic Church (Hungarians, Croats, Bunyevtsi, Shokci, Czechs, Germans, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Ukrainians and Ruthenians), the Islamic Religious Community (Bosniacs, Albanians, Roma, Egyptians, Ashkali and Gorani), the Slovakian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (Slovaks), the Reformed Christian Church (Hungarians), the Jewish Community (Jews), the Eparchy of the Romanian Orthodox Church “Dacia Felix” (Romanians), as well as the Serbian Orthodox Church (Roma, Vlachs, Bulgarians, Macedonians and Montenegrins).

6.2. State assistance to churches and religious communities

According to Article 48 of the Constitution, the Republic of Serbia shall promote understanding, recognition and respect of diversity arising from specific ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity of its citizens through measures applied in education, culture and public information. The Republic of Serbia, in line with its possibilities, seeks to take efficient measures to promote respect, understanding and cooperation among people of different religious convictions and to promote tolerance and respect for all religions and beliefs and understanding of their system of values. Such measures are stipulated by laws in various fields of social life and they are implemented through various projects.

In line with its authorities, a newly formed body for relations with churches and religious communities, the Office for Cooperation with Churches and Religious Communities (2012), implements programmes which assist churches and religious communities in the following fields: cultural and scientific activities, protection of sacral heritage and cultural goods, information and publishing activities, construction, religious schooling and education, social rights of priests, i.e. church clerks, etc.

The then existing Ministry of Religion and Diaspora invited churches and religious communities to participate in scientific symposiums and round tables, where the issues of development of religious rights and position of churches and religious communities in our society were debated. Owing to adequate legal solutions, particularly application of the Law on Churches and Religious Communities, an inter-confessional dialogue between churches and religious communities has been improved, as well as their cooperation and relations with the state. In line with the positive legislation, some churches and religious communities have formed preschool institutions, secondary schools and faculties. In the previous period, the Ministry has used every opportunity, in line with available resources, and per request of churches and religious communities, to assist various aspects of their cultural, educational, architectural and social activities. The

tables below give an overview of the Ministry of Religion and Diaspora's assistance to churches and religious communities in the period of 2008-2011.

Assistance to the Roman Catholic Church

2008	
Grant for the renovation of the Roman Catholic Church in Telečka	500,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the roof of the parish church in Petrovaradin	700,000.00
Grant for the renovation of St. Ana Church in Bela Crkva	1,500,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the church in Markovac	1,000,000.00
Grant to Virgin Mary's Birth parish in Đurđevo	800,000.00
Grant as one-time assistance for regulating contributions for the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance for church clerks	500,000.00
Grant for the medical treatment of nuns	300,000.00
Grant for organising study tour for priests and nuns	500,000.00
Grant for the establishment of an inter-religious website	200,000.00
Grant for the publishing of "Blagovest" magazine	600,000.00
Grant for organising spiritual programmes for the children of St. Josafat parish and Vasilians' Monastery in Kula	100,000.00
Grant for the publishing of "Dzvoni" magazine	200,000.00
Grant for the preparation of the multimedia presentation "Religious facilities on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina"	350,000.00
Grant for the undergraduate studies at the Theological-Catechist Institute	3,545,000.00
Grant to pupils for boarding schools	2,340,000.00
Grant to the classical grammar school "Paulinum" for payment of salaries, fees and contributions for teachers and other staff	3,500,000.00
Grant for the purchase of computer equipment for "Paulinum" grammar school	300,000.00
Total	16,935,000.00
2009	
Grant for the renovation of the church of the Ascension of the Holy Cross in Ruma	500,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the church of St. Rok in Morović	500,000.00
Grant for the rehabilitation of the church in Čoka	700,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the church of St. Vladimir in Vrbas	400,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the rectory – pastoral centre	500,000.00
Grant for the reconstruction of the parish church in Šid	1,750,000.00
Grant for the restoration of John Mertz' painting owned by Zrenjanin Diocese	300,000.00
Grant for the assistance to 20 priests and nuns	157,200.00

Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	1,989,604.86
Grant for the work of Archdiocese and organisation of Christmas celebration	1,000,000.00
Grant for the performance of regular activities of Srem Diocese	500,000.00
Grant for the performance of regular activities of Zrenjanin Diocese	1,000,000.00
Grant for the performance of regular activities of Subotica Diocese	1,000,000.00
Grant for the performance of regular activities of Apostolic Exarchate	500,000.00
Grant for the undergraduate studies at the Theological-Catechist Institute	1,782,000.00
Grant to pupils for boarding schools	2,240,000.00
Grant to the classical grammar school "Paulinum" for payment of salaries, fees and contributions for teachers and other staff	6,000,000.00
Grant for the purchase of equipment for "Paulinum" grammar school	300,000.00
Grant for the opening of a bookstore and a library of an ecumenical and inter-religious character	250,000.00
Grant for the publishing of "Blagovest" magazine	600,000.00
Grant for the publishing of "Dzvoni" magazine	200,000.00
Grant for the printing of the newspaper "Zvonik"	200,000.00
Grant for the implementation of projects for the publication of prayer books and church song books and organisation of "Paulus" library	600,000.00
Total	22,968.804.86
2010	
Grant for the construction of the church in Stara Bingula	800,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the St. Trinity Church in Čoka	500,000.00
Grant for the final works on St. Ana Church in Bela Crkva	1,000,000.00
Grant for the finalisation of reconstruction of the parish church in Šid	1,000,000.00
Grant for the finalisation of reconstruction of the church in Trešnjevac	1,000,000.00
Grant for the rehabilitation of the church in Futog	1,000,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	2,783,763.01
Grant for the work of Srem Diocese and organisation of Christmas celebration	575,000.00
Grant for the work of Archdiocese and organisation of Christmas celebration	1,000,000.00
Grant for the work of Subotica Diocese and organisation of Christmas celebration	500,000.00
Grant for the work of Apostolic Exarchate for Greek Catholics	300,000.00

Grant for the work of Zrenjanin Diocese and organisation of Christmas celebration	500,000.00
Grant for the printing of a monograph and organisation of an exhibition on the occasion of 150 years of the “Pokrov Presvete Bogorodice” parish in Vrbas	100,000.00
Grant for the organisation of a spiritual concert in Doroslovo pilgrimage	165,000.00
Grant for the printing of the newspaper “Zvonik”	200,000.00
Grant for the organisation of the event “Gathering of Subotica Diocese Children’s Choirs - Silver Bell”	60,000.00
Grant for the publishing of “Blagovest” magazine	600,000.00
Grant for the publishing of “Dzvoni” magazine	200,000.00
Grant for the publishing of “Hirvivo” magazine	150,000.00
Grant for the printing of the book “Belgrade Roman Catholic (Arch) Diocese, its Archpriests and Churches through Epochs: 1521 – beginning of the 19 th century“	500,000.00
Grant for the organisation of the event “Šandor Remenjik Evenings”	100,000.00
Grant for the printing of an inter-religious calendar	150,000.00
Grant for the printing of a trilingual prayer book	50,000.00
Grant for the organisation of the spiritual music concert of the “Proroci” vocal and instrumental group	180,000.00
Grant for the undergraduate studies at the Theological-Catechist Institute	4,254,000.00
Grant to Belgrade Archdiocese for students	395,000.00
Grant to pupils for boarding schools	2,340,000.00
Grant to the classical grammar school “Paulinum” for payment of salaries, fees and contributions for teachers and other staff	5,500,000.00
Grant for payment of current expenses of “Paulinum” grammar school	400,000.00
Total	26,302,763.01
2011	
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	3,042,061.20
Grant for the renovation of the temple in Đurđevo	1,000,000.00
Grant for the seismic reinforcement of the structure of the church in Kraljevo	1,000,000.00
Grant for the reconstruction of the church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Šid	1,000,000.00
Grant for the floor heating of the St. Peter temple in Belgrade	1,076,000.00
Grant for the rehabilitation of the church in Čerević	500,000.00
Grant for the rehabilitation of churches in Ljuba, Erdevik and Bingula	500,000.00
Grant for the rehabilitation of the church of St. Ana in Jermenovci	500,000.00
Grant for the rehabilitation of the church of Holy Trinity in Čoka	500,000.00

Grant to the St. Cecilia singing choir for organisation of ecumenical gathering of singing choirs	200,000.00
Grant for the publishing of "Blagovest" magazine	300,000.00
Grant for the printing of the newspaper "Zvonik"	200,000.00
Grant for the publishing of "Dzvoni" magazine	150,000.00
Grant for the publishing of a brochure with Belgrade Archdiocese presentation	300,000.00
Grant for the reparation of pipe organs in the church of Christ the King	600,000.00
Grant to pupils for boarding schools	520,000.00
Grant to the classical grammar school "Paulinum" for payment of salaries, fees and contributions for teachers and other staff	1,500,000.00
Grant for the improvement of boarding standards in "Paulinum" grammar school	1,820,000.00
Grant for development and improvement of religious education in "Paulinum" grammar school	4,500,000.00
Grant for the improvement of equipment in "Paulinum" grammar school	305,000.00
Grant for the professional development of teachers in "Paulinum" grammar school	100,000.00
Grant for the undergraduate studies at the Theological-Catechist Institute	2,605,000.00
Grant to students of Belgrade Archdiocese	390,000.00
Grant for the improvement of theological studies at Belgrade Archdiocese	150,000.00
Total	22,758,061.20

Assistance to the Slovakian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession

2008	
Grant for the construction of the church in Hajdučica Church Municipality	1,000,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the rectory in Boljevci Church Municipality	330,000.00
Grant for the reparation of sanitary system and replacement of entrance doors in the building of Episcopalian Office of Slovakian Evangelical Church of A.C.	300,000.00
Grant for the concrete-work on pavement and entrance road near the gate of the rectory in Vajlovica	230,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	637,881.24
Grant for payment of scholarships	54,000.00
Total	2,551,881.24
2009	
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund	751,976.76

and health insurance	
Grant for the work of Diocese	500,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Evangelički Glasnik" magazine	600,000.00
Total	1,851,976.76
2010	
Grant for the rehabilitation and painting of the church in Ostojićevo	300,000.00
Grant for the church roof reconstruction in Belo Blato Church Municipality	200,000.00
Grant for the installment of the central heating system in the parish complex in Kovačica	600,000.00
Grant for rehabilitation of the rectory in Gložan	400,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	726,836.16
Grant for regular activities	300,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Evangelički Glasnik" magazine	600,000.00
Grant for the printing of the book "Biblika – Biblical Atlas"	140,000.00
Total	3,266,836.16
2011	
Grant for the construction of an internal gas installation in the Čelarevo Prayer House	700,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Evangelički Glasnik" magazine	300,000.00
Grant for the development of religious secondary education	180,000.00
Total	1,180,000.00

Assistance to the Reformed Christian Church

2008	
Grant for the construction of the rectory in Debeljača	2,000,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	637,881.24
Grant for payment of scholarships	48,000.00
Total	2,685,881.24
2009	
Grant for the reparation of the church roof in Vojlovica	500,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the church in Pačir	500,000.00
Grant for payment of medical expenses	141,000.00
Grant for regular activities	500,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Reformatus Elet" magazine	600,000.00
Total	2,241,000.00
2010	
Grant for the adaptation of the church building in Pačir	500,000.00
Grant for regular activities	300,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Reformatus Elet" magazine	600,000.00
Total	1,400,000.00

2011	
Grant for the reparation of the restituted church facility in Feketić	1,000,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Reformatus Elet" magazine	300,000.00
Total	1,300,000.00

Assistance to the Evangelical Christian Church of the Augsburg Confession

2008	
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	159,470.28
Grant for payment of scholarships	189,000.00
Total	348,470.28
2009	
Grant for the adaptation of the diocese building in Subotica	1,000,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	187,994.16
Grant for regular activities of the diocese	400,000.00
Grant for payment of scholarships	390,000.00
Grant for the purchase of pipe organs	250,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Alapko" magazine	400,000.00
Total	2,627,994.16
2010	
Grant for the finalisation of works on the diocese building in Subotica	850,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	726,836.16
Grant for regular activities	300,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Alapko" magazine	400,000.00
Grant for payment of scholarships	330,000.00
Total	2,606,836.16
2011	
Grant for the reconstruction of the diocese building in Subotica	1,000,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Alapko" magazine	200,000.00
Total	1,200,000.00

Assistance to the Islamic Religious Community

2008	
Grant for the purchase of a building with prayer space in Ledine	800,000.00
Grant as one-time assistance for medical treatment	90,612.00
Grant for the celebration of the 140 th anniversary of the Islamic Community of Serbia	500,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	797,351.40
Grant for the celebration of Ramadan and Kurban Bayram	1,000,000.00

Grant for the printing of the book "Big Mosque"	200,000.00
Grant for the implementation of cultural and educational activities	500,000.00
Grant for payment of salaries, fees and contributions for professors and other staff of the middle madrassa	3,500,000.00
Grant for the students of the middle madrassa boarding school	1,650,000.00
Grant for the equipping of the phonographic laboratory in the middle madrassa	300,000.00
Total	9,337,963.40
2009	
Grant for the construction of the middle madrassa in Tutin	2,000,000.00
Grant for the construction of an auxiliary building in the mosque in Sjenica	800,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	2,394,416.72
Grant for organising celebration of Ramadan Bayram	350,000.00
Grant for regular activities	1,000,000.00
Grant for payment of salaries, fees and contributions for professors and other staff of the middle madrassa	2,250,000.00
Grant for the students of the middle madrassa boarding school	900,000.00
Grant for the printing of the book "Gajret u Sjenici"	270,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Bilten" magazine	400,000.00
Total	10,364,416.72
2010	
Grant for the purchase of a prayer facility in Leskovac	1,000,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	276,777.83
Grant for regular activities	800,000.00
Grant for the printing of the book "101 Ders"	130,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Vakat" magazine	600,000.00
Grant for two doctoral students	200,000.00
Grant for student scholarships	330,000.00
Grant for payment of salaries, fees and contributions for professors and other staff of the middle madrassa	1,750,000.00
Grant for the students of the middle madrassa boarding school	750,000.00
Grant to "Sinan-Beg" and "Bakije Hanume" madrassas	2,600,000.00
Total	8,436,777.83
2011	
Grant for the finalisation of the mosque construction in Bajevica	1,000,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Vakat" magazine	960,000.00
Grant for providing financial assistance for the preparation and organisation of the three-day conference "First Inter-religious Dialogue of Serbia and Indonesia"	800,000.00
Grant for the printing of the brochure "Mosques in Tutin"	137,000.00
Grant for payment of salaries, fees and contributions for professors and other staff of the middle madrassa	750,000.00

Grant for the students of the middle madrassa boarding school	900,000.00
Grant for the improvement of work of the middle madrassa	2,700,000.00
Grant for the improvement of standard of "Bakije Hanume" madrassa	1,980,000.00
Grant for the improvement of standard of "Gazi Sinan Beg" madrassa	3,530,000.00
Grant for student scholarships	825,000.00
Grant for the Centre for Improvement of Theological Studies	500,000.00
Total	14,082,000.00

Assistance to the Islamic Community in Serbia

2008	
Grant for the implementation of the work plan	450,000.00
Grant to the Faculty for Islamic Studies for regulating Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance for permanent employees	3,468,612.00
Grant for the implementation of the Medzlis work programme	600,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	1,346,901.72
Grant for the printing of "Glas Islama" magazine	1,200,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Islamska Misao" almanac	150,000.00
Grant for payment of student scholarships	4,589,000.00
Grant for payment of scholarships for pupils	390,000.00
Grant to the pupils of "Gazi Isa Begova" madrassa for boarding school	5,850,000.00
Grant for the maintenance of the heating system in "Gazi Isa Begova"	800,000.00
Total	18,847,513.72
2009	
Grant for payment of student scholarships	4,236,000.00
Grant to the pupils of "Gazi Isa Begova" madrassa for boarding school	5,000,000.00
Grant for payment of scholarships for pupils	165,000.00
Grant for the maintenance of the heating system in "Gazi Isa Begova"	1,500,000.00
Grant for the publishing of "Glas Islama" magazine	240,000.00
Total	11,141,000.00
2010	
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	342,457.44
Grant for payment of student scholarships	3,287,000.00
Grant for payment of scholarships for pupils	330,000.00
Grant to the pupils of "Gazi Isa Begova" madrassa for boarding school	5,850,000.00

Grant for payment of current expenses of "Gazi Isa Begova" madrassa	200,000.00
Total	10,009,457.44
2011	
Grant for the improvement of standards in "Gazi Isa Begova" madrassa boarding school	5,850,000.00
Grant for the professional development of "Gazi Isa Begova" madrassa teachers	1,750,000.00
Grant for payment of student scholarships	1,830,000.00
Grant for the development of projects in the field of theology	300,000.00
Total	9,730,000.00

Assistance to the Jewish Religious Community

2008	
Grant for the installment of the heating system in the Belgrade Synagogue	500,000.00
Grant for the publishing of "Bilten" magazine	600,000.00
Grant for the organisation of the "David's Psalms" concert	150,000.00
Grant for website updating	70,000.00
Grant for the organisation of ceremonial academy marking the International Day of Fight against Fascism and the 70 th anniversary of the Crystal Night	80,000.00
Grant for the organisation of a concert for the promotion of Jewish music and culture	200,000.00
Total	1,600,000.00
2009	
Grant for the maintenance of the heating system in the Belgrade Synagogue	390,000.00
Grant for regular activities	500,000.00
Grant for the organisation of a concert for the promotion of Jewish music and culture	200,000.00
Grant for the publishing of "Bilten" magazine	400,000.00
Grant for website maintenance	100,000.00
Total	1,590,000.00
2010	
Grant for covering costs of heating and electricity in the Belgrade Synagogue	500,000.00
Grant for the work of Rabbis	500,000.00
Grant for the organisation of an event marking 10 years of work of "Šira Ufila" ensemble	50,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Jevrejski Pregled" magazine	400,000.00
Grant for the Serbian-Jewish Society's project "Not to be Forgotten"	200,000.00
Grant for website maintenance	100,000.00

Grant for one student	145,000.00
Total	1,895,000.00
2011	
Grant for covering heating costs in the Belgrade Synagogue	600,000.00
Grant for the implementation of the project "Never to be forgotten, Holocaust never to repeat"	400,000.00
Grant for the printing of the book "Prominent Jews of Serbia"	300,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Jevrejski Pregled" magazine and its web presentation	500,000.00
Grant for one student	75,000.00
Total	1,875,000.00

Assistance to the Eparchy of the Romanian Orthodox Church "Dacia Felix"

2008	
Grant for the reparation of the church roof in Banatsko Novo Selo Church Municipality	400,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the St. Archangels Michael and Gabriel in Malo Središte Church Municipality	600,000.00
Grant for the reparation of the church roof in Nikolinci	350,000.00
Grant for the reparation of the church roof in Straža	450,000.00
Grant for the restoration of the church exterior in Vladimirovac	200,000.00
Grant for payment of overdue fees for the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	183,850.00
Grant for regular vicar duties	200,000.00
Grant for the preparation and printing of "Stražerul" magazine	180,000.00
Total	2,563,850.00
2009	
Grant for the exterior restoration of the "Sv. Nikola Letnji" temple in Dolovo	300,000.00
Grant for the exterior restoration of the temple in Markovac	800,000.00
Grant to the Mali Žam Church Municipality for church renovation	600,000.00
Grant for regular activities	300,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	187,994.00
Grant for the printing of "Stražerul" magazine	200,000.00
Total	2,387,994.00
2010	
Grant for the renovation of the church in Pančevo	400,000.00
Grant for the renovation of the rectory in Markovac	600,000.00
Grant for regular duties of eparchy vicar	300,000.00
Grant for regulating the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund and health insurance	219,986.00
Grant for regular activities	300,000.00
Grant for the printing of "Stražerul" magazine	218,000.00
Total	2,037,986.00

2011	
Grant for the printing of "Stražerul" magazine	238,000.00
Total	238,000.00

Financial assistance to churches and religious communities working on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina is provided by the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities. Funds for this purpose are provided from the provincial budget, and the largest part of the funds is awarded through the Competition for awarding funds to churches and religious communities working in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, which is announced at least once a year. The right to participate in this competition is reserved only for traditional churches and religious communities working in the territory of AP Vojvodina, and organisations and institutions founded by traditional churches and religious communities. A certain percentage of the funds not awarded through the Competition (the total amount of which shall not exceed the limit defined each year by the Provincial Parliament's Decision on AP Vojvodina Budget) is used for financing of extraordinary and unforeseen requests of churches and religious communities.

The following table contains data on financial assistance to churches and religious communities working in the territory of AP Vojvodina provided from the provincial budget in the period 2007-2011.

Churches and religious communities	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Roman Catholic Church	10,626,100.00	11,481,760.00	10,035,000.00	8,812,000.00	6,917,000.00
Romanian Orthodox Church	710,000.00	940,000.00	723,000.00	720,000.00	700,000.00
Reformed Christian Church	1,359,998.00	800,000.00	632,000.00	455,000.00	525,000.00
Greek Catholic Church	540,000.00	560,000.00	545,000.00	590,000.00	700,000.00
Evangelical Christian Church of Augsburg Confession	790,000.00	920,000.00	1,875,000.00	390,000.00	450,000.00
Slovakian	2,880,000.00	1,600,000.00	2,000,000.00	850,000.00	840,000.00

Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession					
Islamic Community	370,000.00	375,000.00	1,864,000.00	260,000.00	300,000.00
Jewish Community	540,000.00	523,000.00	1,719,500.00	1,620,000.00	450,000.00

6.3. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, the Advisory Committee issued three recommendations related to Article 8 of the Convention. The following paragraphs contain information on activities taken for purpose of their implementation.

The Advisory Committee urges the Serbian authorities to ensure that the right of persons belonging to a national minority to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations is fully guaranteed both in the legislation and in its subsequent implementation. This includes the need to remove any requirement that would go beyond the limitations foreseen in Article 9 paragraph 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights as interpreted by the European Court of Human Rights.

All citizens of the Republic of Serbia have an equal right to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations, in line with the Law on Churches and Religious Communities, and the Law on Associations (which, when it comes to registration of churches and religious communities, applies to certain issues not regulated by the Law on Churches and Religious Communities).

A registration procedure for churches and religious communities in the Republic of Serbia is easy and simple. The Law on Churches and Religious Communities stipulates that, with the application for registration, statute, decision on establishment, overview of the religious teachings foundation and data on permanent income sources, a church or religious community can be established by at least 0.001% of adult citizens of the Republic of Serbia or foreign citizens with permanent residence in the territory of the Republic of Serbia (the Rulebook on Content and Management of the Registry of Churches and Religious Communities defines this as 100 members), which means that possibilities for establishment of new churches and religious communities are big and achievable. Solutions provided by the Law are more liberal than valid solutions in many other countries, including some member countries of the Council of Europe. The fact that should be especially emphasised is that the Law contains solutions which allow for elimination of all the requests exceeding limitations stipulated in Article 9, paragraph 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights, as interpreted by the European Court of

Human Rights. Namely, Article 20, paragraph 5 of the Law clearly stipulates that before issuing the decision on application for entry into the Registry, the Ministry of Religion and Diaspora shall take into account the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as administrative or judicial decisions regarding registration or activities of pertinent religious organisation in one or several member states of the European Union.

Entry into Registry is, in any case, done when all the documentation required by the Law is submitted in the administrative procedure for registration of churches and religious communities. In that sense, one can talk about consistent application of the Law, and intention of the appropriate Ministry to ensure, through that application of the Law, the freedom of religion in the Republic of Serbia guaranteed by the Constitution and appropriate international instruments to be achieved consistently and under equal conditions. Interested parties have the right to contest the legality of the final decisions made in the procedure of entry into Registry of Churches and Religious Communities, in the administrative procedure before the court, so that the issue of whether there are any obstacles to registration, comes down to a court dispute in which the rights and interests of the parties can be protected, and which is decided, in the Republic of Serbia as in any other state with the rule of law, by independent, unbiased and legislation-based courts.

The Advisory Committee calls on the Serbian authorities to ensure that there is no unjustified limitation to the right of persons belonging to national minorities to practice their religion in public and in private, alone or in community with others.

The legal system of the Republic of Serbia provides many guarantees against unjustified limitation of the rights of members of national minorities to practice their religion in public and in private, alone or in the community with others. Not only that the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia prohibits discrimination against religious beliefs and any initiation of provocation or promotion of religious inequality, hatred and intolerance, but it also explicitly guarantees to members of national minorities, expression and protection of their religious specificity. According to Article 79 of the Constitution, members of national minorities, *inter alia*, have the following rights: expression, preservation, fostering, development and public expression of their religious specificity, while according to Article 81 of the Constitution, the Republic of Serbia, in the field of education, culture and information, shall promote the spirit of tolerance and an intercultural dialogue and undertake efficient measures for the enhancement of mutual respect, understanding and cooperation among all people living in its territory, regardless of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

Using the mentioned provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia as a starting point, the Law on Churches and Religious Communities prohibits religious discrimination, stipulating in Article 2, paragraph 1, that no one shall be subject to coercion which could impair freedom of religion, or be compelled to declare their

religious belief and religious conviction or absence thereof, and the paragraph 2 of the same article stipulates that no one shall be harassed, discriminated or privileged for their religious convictions, belonging or not belonging to a religious community, participating or not participating in religious services and religious ceremonies and exercising or not exercising guaranteed religious freedoms and rights.

Article 18 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination also talks about religious discrimination in the case of conducts contrary to the principle of free expression of religion or beliefs, or if an individual or a group of persons is denied the right to acquire, maintain, express and change faith or beliefs, or the right to express their beliefs, be it privately or publicly, or act in accordance with their beliefs.

Members of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia exercise freedom of religion without any obstructions, i.e. there are no practical cases of unjustified limitations of the rights of members of national minorities to practice their religion in public and in private, alone or in community with others.

The Advisory Committee encourages the Serbian authorities to ensure that adequate provision is made for the teaching of the history and culture of religions in the context of their planned revision of religious education.

In the previous process of monitoring of the Framework Convention implementation, appropriate bodies of the Republic of Serbia did not inform the Advisory Committee about potential intentions or plans for the revision of religious education in the Republic of Serbia. Contrary to that, in the current circumstances, those appropriate bodies stand at the position that religious education, with its content and method of implementation, reflects the needs and fulfils the rights of parents and students, and keeps a neutral status of the country. The Republic of Serbia expresses readiness to model its approach to religious education in accordance with actual situation in the society, the needs and rights of parents, guardians and students, legitimate interests of churches and religious communities to be involved in that process, as well as with standards defined in various international acts referring to religious education. In that sense, Serbian authorities specifically emphasise that the normative framework of religious education and method of its implementation are completely harmonised with solutions and recommendations from international acts, especially with Toledo Guiding Principles and the General Comment 22 of the UN Human Rights Committee, i.e. they ensure not only religious education of various religions, especially of those whose followers are members of minorities, but they also insure that children, i.e. their parents and guardians, have the right to choose, meaning that students not attending religious education have the option to attend an alternative course.

Teaching of the general history of religion is integrated in history curriculums and programmes and its content and presentation are neutral and objective.

Article 9

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference of public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure within the framework of their legal systems that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.

2 Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.

3 The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.

4 In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.

7.1. Legislative framework relating to minority media

7.1.1. Legislative amendments following the second monitoring cycle

In the period after submission of the Second Report on Implementation of the Framework Convention, regulations and strategic documents have been adopted in the Republic of Serbia that are important for the exercising the rights to providing information to members of national minorities in their native language. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009), *inter alia*, defines jurisdiction of national councils in the field of information, as one of the four fields in which national minorities may achieve self-government in the institutional way. Provisions of Articles 19-21 of the Law stipulate that national councils may, either independently or in co-operation with another legal entity, establish institutions and business organisations to perform the activities of newspaper-publishing and radio-television broadcasting, printing and reproduction of the recorded media and exercise the rights and obligations of the founder. The Republic, the autonomous province or the local self-government unit, as the founders of public companies and institutions in the field of public information which entirely or predominantly communicate information in the language of a national minority may, as to be agreed with the national council, delegate their rights to the establishment to a national council, either entirely or partially. The Law stipulates that

national councils shall give an opinion on the nomination procedure for the members of the Management Board, the Programme Board and the Managing Director of the Radio Television of Serbia and the Radio Television of Vojvodina, if these institutions broadcast programme in the language of a national minority, set criteria for the election of editor-in-chief of the programme broadcasted in the language of a national minority at the public service institution, propose that the Management Board of the Broadcasting Agency appoints the editor-in-chief of the programme broadcasted in the language of a national minority, and gives an opinion on candidates for the editor-in-chief of the programmes broadcasted in the language of a national minority at the Broadcasting Agency where the editor-in-chief is appointed for more than one programme broadcasted in the language of a national minority. National Council shall adopt a strategy for the improvement of information broadcasted in the language of a national minority and give suggestions to the Republic Broadcasting Agency in designing the Broadcasting Development Strategy. In addition, it shall also consider reports of the management and the programme boards of the Broadcasting Agencies of Serbia and Vojvodina and give suggestions and recommendations regarding the programmes broadcasted in the language of a national minority, give an opinion and recommendations to the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency regarding the communication of information in the language of a national minority, and appoint a representative at the Council to participate in its activities without the right to make decisions concerning the issues of information in the language of a national minority. National Council shall also give suggestions regarding the distribution of resources allocated through public tenders from the budget of the Republic, the autonomous province or the local self-government unit to legal entities and natural persons performing broadcasting activities in the language of a national minority.

In 2011, the Government adopted the Strategy for the Development of the Public Information System in the Republic of Serbia until 2016, which determines guidelines for development of the public information system with the primary goal of further strengthening of the established democratic relations in this field. The main idea in this Strategy is that the state shall not be the owner of the public media, neither directly nor indirectly. It can only be the founder of national, provincial and regional public radio-television services in order to ensure the public interest in the field of public information. National councils of national minorities may be the founders of the public media in the language of the national minority for which they have been established. One part of the Strategy (Chapter V, Point 5) is dedicated to the public media in languages of national minorities. Starting from the constitutional obligation by which the Republic of Serbia guarantees to members of national minorities achievement of the right to information in their own language for the purpose of preserving the national, cultural and linguistic identity and full equality of national minorities, the Strategy defines that minority public media may exist as commercial or civil sector outlets, as well as outlets of the national

councils of national minorities. National councils of national minorities may be the founders of public media outlets in the language of the national minority for which they have been established and those public media outlets shall have editorial independence in line with the law. The Republic of Serbia and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina shall assist, encourage and facilitate through co-funding of the best quality projects contributing to providing information in minority languages. Public media outlets founded by national councils of national minorities shall not be able to participate in competitions for project on the republic, provincial or local level.

The Strategy envisages that there should be a legal framework that would ensure, after the digitalisation of television, that the competent regulatory authority may condition the issuance of terrestrial broadcasting licences in every region with a minority population, by the outlet's production of part of the programme in a minority language proportionately to the share of the minority population in the population residing in the coverage area. If a minority population accounts for a significant share of the population in the coverage area and depending on the technical possibilities, the issuance of at least one licence shall be conditioned by broadcasting the entire programme in the minority language. Similar rules should apply to licences issued for analogue broadcasting of radio programmes at the local and regional level.

The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy envisages harmonisation of laws which regulate the public information field, not later than 18 months from the day of its adoption.

Provisions of the Law on Establishing Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (2009), as well as regulations adopted by provincial authorities, are of great importance for exercising the rights of members of national minorities to information in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. In Article 62, the Law on Establishing Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina which regulates competences of AP Vojvodina and other issues of importance for its position, defines the issue of public information at the provincial level. That article's provisions determine that AP Vojvodina, through its bodies, in the field of public information and in accordance with the Law, shall: define the public interest of the citizens of AP Vojvodina in the field of public information and broadcasting; adopt the development strategy in the field of public information in the territory of AP Vojvodina in accordance with the Republic strategy in the field of public information; provide a part of funding or other conditions for the work of the public media in the languages of national minorities and ethnic communities, for the purpose of exercising the right of national minorities and ethnic communities to information in their own language, and fostering of their own culture and identity; establish cooperation at the regional level; provide a part of funding or other conditions for unhindered exercise of rights of persons with special needs in the field of public information, and particularly in the sphere of free exchange of ideas, information and opinions; and, select members of the Programme Board of the Broadcasting Institution of

Vojvodina. In accordance with provisions of Article 63 of that Law, the AP Vojvodina, through its bodies, in the field of public information and in accordance with the law, shall supervise implementation of the law regulating the field of public information in the territory of AP Vojvodina.

For the purposes of exercising the rights of citizens to information in Serbian, Hungarian, Slovakian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Croatian, Roma, Ukrainian, Bunyevtsi and Macedonian language, the Decision has been adopted on Allocation of Funds from the Budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina for Publishing Newspapers of Provincial Relevance (2008) and the Decision defines criteria for the financing of publishing of newspapers of provincial relevance. The newspapers of provincial relevance are defined, *inter alia*, as newspapers relevant for the national minorities whose national councils have a seat in the territory of AP Vojvodina.

7.1.2. Impact of the privatisation process on the national minorities' media

Sustainability of media in minority languages in the process of privatisation has also been drawing attention in the previous period covered by the Report. In 2001, when the Law on Privatisation came into force, the legal framework was established to implement comprehensive privatisation of the state-owned media. In accordance with provisions of Article 101, paragraph 2, of the Public Information Law, media outlets founded by the state or a territorial autonomy entity, or a predominantly state-owned institution, or media outlets wholly or predominantly funded from public revenues and to which provisions of the Broadcasting Law do not apply, shall cease to operate within three years from the day this Law comes into effect (until April 24, 2006). In accordance with provisions of Article 96, paragraph 10, of the Broadcasting Law, radio and/or TV stations of a local community (founded by a municipal assembly) and regional community (founded by two or more municipal assemblies, or by a city assembly) shall be under obligation to become privatised by 31 December 2007. The law stipulates that only Radio Television of Serbia and Radio Television of Vojvodina, as public broadcasting service institutions, may be state-owned, but with a specific status defined by the Law.

The aforementioned legal provisions have never been consistently applied, so the process of privatisation of public information services in the Republic of Serbia has not been completed yet. On 27 December 2007, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Conclusion confirming the Information on the need to stop the process of privatisation of radio and/or television stations and other electronic media broadcasting programmes in minority languages. The Conclusion was adopted on the basis of assessment that those electronic media, as non-commercial, would cease to broadcast programmes in minority languages after their privatisation. After that, the Agency for Privatisation has stopped the process of privatisation of such media.

7.2. Establishment and use of media outlets

Having in mind that provisions of Article 50 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guarantee freedom of media, everyone shall have the freedom to establish newspapers and other forms of public information without prior permission and in a manner laid down by the law, while the establishment of television and radio stations is subject to the issuing of the broadcasting licence by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RBA).

National minority councils, being an institutional form of self-government, also in the field of information, are the founders of legal entities publishing newspapers in their language, as following: the Albanian national minority (publishing the newspaper "Nacionali"); Bulgarian (Newspaper Publishing Institution (NPI) "Bratstvo"); Bunyevtsi (NPI Bunyevtsi Information Centre); Egyptian (publishing "The Egyptian"); Hungarian ("Mađar So" and "Het Nap"); Macedonian (NPI Macedonian Information and Publishing Centre); Roma (publishing "Romano Nevipe"), Romanian (NPI "Libertatea"), Ruthenian (NPI "Ruske Slovo"), Slovakian (NPI "Hlas Ljudu"), Ukrainian (NPI "Ridne Slovo"), Croatian (NPI "Hrvatska Riječ") and the Czech national minority (publishing "Beseda Češka"), while the Executive Board of the Association of Jewish Municipalities in Serbia, carrying out national council functions, publishes the newspaper "Jevrejski Pregled".

Regarding establishment of radio and television stations, legal or natural person registered for the business of developing and broadcasting radio and television programmes acquires the status of broadcaster when awarded a broadcasting licence, and may produce and broadcast radio and television programmes as: a public broadcasting service institution, commercial station, civil sector station and station of a local or regional community (public companies which are still owned by municipal assemblies).

7.2.1. Public service broadcasters

Section 9.3.3 of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention describes a legally defined position and activities of the public broadcasting service institutions, Radio Television of Serbia (RTS) and Radio Television of Vojvodina (RTV). Having in mind that the programmes created and broadcasted by public broadcasting services are of a general interest, their specific obligations are determined by law. They provide variety and mutual harmonisation of contents which promote respect of human rights and respect of cultural, national, ethnic and political pluralism of ideas and opinions.

As part of the RST public broadcasting service, the Channel One of the Radio Belgrade broadcasts a daily 30-minute news programme called *Romano Them*, in the Roma and Serbian language. According to the data received from RTS, the total of 10259 minutes of that programme was broadcasted in 2010.

Since 2009, as part of the RTS television programme, a 25-minute news show *Građanin* has been created and broadcasted once a week (on Saturdays) intended for all national minorities in the Republic of Serbia. In 2010, 49 premiere shows and one rerun were broadcasted, while in the first five months of 2011, 19 premiere shows and 10 subsequent reruns were broadcasted. The programme primarily focused on our Diaspora around the world and broadcasted via satellite, in 2010, included 36 issues of the show *Građanin* broadcasted on Saturdays and Sundays in various time slots. In 2011, there were 12 premiere shows.

RTS 2 broadcasts once a week the following programmes in the Romani language: entertainment and music show *Romane Ođile*, show about Roma culture and tradition *Kulturako Aresipe*, and news programme *Amen Adjes*.

Radio Television of Vojvodina Public Broadcasting Service has a special responsibility to broadcast programmes in minority languages since national minorities account for significant percentage of AP Vojvodina population. According to the data from that public broadcasting service, Radio Novi Sad broadcasts programmes in 9 minority languages. On 13 August 2011, it started broadcasting a radio programme for the Ashkali national minority, half an hour, once a week. The following tables contain data on the number of minutes of programmes broadcasted in minority languages on RTV.

Annual broadcasting of radio programmes in minority languages, in minutes

Language of broadcasting	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bunjevtsi	1.632	1.632	1.530	1.590	1.590
Hungarian	525.600	527.040	525.600	525.600	525.600
Macedonian	1.380	1.590	1.560	1.560	1.560
Roma	57.570	58.225	57.420	56.220	55.410
Romanian	150.618	150.688	150.480	151.710	151.590
Ruthenian	143.850	143.183	144.165	144.945	145.185
Slovakian	152.250	152.680	152.190	151.620	151.500
Ukrainian	18.300	18.042	18.255	17.955	18.135
Programme in Ashkali mother tongue	-	-	-	-	630

Television of Vojvodina broadcasts programmes in 9 minority languages; there are daily broadcasts in Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovakian and Croatian (from March 1, 2010) and once a week in the Bunjevtsi, Macedonian and Ukrainian language.

Annual broadcasting of TV programmes in minority languages, in minutes

Language of broadcasting	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Hungarian	40.091	53.682	54.764	73.211	81.415
Roma	32.064	28.779	28.099	33.358	34.106
Romanian	20.748	24.096	22.943	29.356	29.077
Ruthenian	22.204	23.656	23.883	30.655	29.077
Slovakian	20.898	26.989	30.950	41.120	42.702

Television of Vojvodina produces and broadcasts once a week a show called “Zajedno” (Together) in all 10 languages, with Serbian subtitles.

7.2.2. Availability of public information media

Based on the data received from national minority councils, and collected by the Office for Human and Minority Rights in September and October 2011, an overview of the minority public information media availability was prepared. The data received from national councils are systematised in such a way to show the number, frequency and topics of published newspapers, as well as the number, type of broadcaster and duration of broadcasts in minority languages in the electronic media. The overview especially highlights state-owned broadcasters: public broadcasting service institutions, as well as broadcasters with special obligations defined by the law, and local and regional community stations which, as long as they have a public company status, must adhere in production and broadcasting to the legal provisions referring to special obligations of the public broadcasting service.

Members of the **Albanian** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- One printed newspaper, weekly – *Nacionali*, Bujanovac;
- Programmes on 3 radio stations of the local community - Radio Bujanovac (12 hours per day), Radio Preševo (12 hours per day) and Radio Medveđa (2.5 hours per week);
- Programmes on 3 TV stations, 2 TV stations of the local community - TV Bujanovac (4 hours per day) and TV Preševo (20 hours a day), one TV station of other types of broadcasters - TV Aldi, Preševo (24 hours per day).

Members of the **Ashkali** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- One printed newspaper, cultural magazine - *Horizonti*, Novi Sad;
- Programme on one radio station, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Radio Novi Sad (0.5 hours per week).

Members of the **Bosniac** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 4 printed newspapers, weeklies – *Sandžačke novine*, Novi Pazar and 3 magazines in the field of culture – *Bošnjačka riječ*, Tutin, *Sandžak*, Novi Pazar and *Sent*, Novi Pazar and bilingual weekly – *Polimlje*, Prijepolje;
- Programmes on two radio stations, one radio station of the local community - Radio Novi Pazar (12 hours per day), one radio station with other types of broadcasters - Bošnjački radio, Tutin (24 hours per day);
- Programmes on 3 TV stations, two TV stations of the local community - TV Tutin, Tutin (24 hours per day) and Regionalna TV, Novi Pazar (12 hours per day); and one TV station of other types of broadcasters - TV Forum, Prijepolje (12 hours per day) .

Members of the **Bulgarian** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 3 printed newspapers, weeklies – *Bratstvo*, Niš, children's magazine- *Drugarče*, Niš and magazines in the field of culture – *Most*, Niš;
- Programmes on 2 radio stations, both radio stations of the local community – Radio Bosilegrad (17 hours per day) and Radio Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad (4 hours per day);
- Programmes on one TV station of the local community - TV Caribrod Dimitrovgrad (3.5 hours per day).

Members of the **Bunjevtsi** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 3 printed media outlets, 2 monthlies – *Bunjevačke novine*, Subotica, *Rič Bunjevačke matice*, Subotica and children's magazine – *Tandrčak*, Subotica;
- Programmes on 4 radio stations, provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Radio Novi Sad (0.5 hours per week), one radio station of the local community - Radio Subotica (1.5 hours per week); 2 radio stations of other types of broadcasters - Radio Sombor (1.5 hours per week) and Radio Trend, Bačka Topola (1.5 hours per week);
- Programme on one TV station, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Televizija Vojvodina (0.5 hours per week).

Members of the **Vlach** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- Programmes of 4 radio stations, 2 radio stations of the local community - Radio Petrovac, Petrovac na Mlavi (7.5 hours per week) and Radio Požarevac (4 hours per week); and 2 radio stations of other types of broadcasters - Zvižd, Kučevo (1 hour per week) and Radio F, Zaječar (0.5 hours per day);

- Programmes on 2 TV stations, one TV station of the local community - TV Bor (1 hour per week); one TV station of other types of broadcasters - TV F, Zaječar (2.5 hours per week).

Among statements of the associations involved in the preparation of the Report, we would like to highlight the position of the Association “Gergina” from Negotin stating that the lack of media in the Vlach language is a major problem in the promotion of positive values of the Vlach community in Serbia, which would provide coordinated information and articulation of needs of this community. “The coordinator of the media activities should be the Vlach National Council, which would have several centres according to the number of members of this community. At the present, there are only attempts by some electronic media in some towns which have their own programmes in the Vlach language. However, given the sensitivity of the issue and the existence of strong lobbying embodied in some non-governmental organisations and political parties that advocate "Romanisation" of the Vlachs, a standpoint of members of “Gergina" is to address this issue to our home state, Serbia, which should help a lot more."

Members of the **Egyptian** national minority exercise their right to information through:

- One printed publication, quarterly – *Egipćanin*, Belgrade (which is published in the Serbian language).

Members of the **Jewish** national minority exercise their right to information through:

- 3 printed publications, monthly- *Jevrejski pregled*, Belgrade, bimonthly – *Mišpaha*, Belgrade and cultural magazine- *Zbornik Jevrejskog istorijskog muzeja*, Beograd (which are published in Serbian).

Members of the **Hungarian** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 30 printed media outlets, daily newspaper – *Magyar Szó*, Novi Sad; 5 weeklies – *Új Kanizsai Újság*, Kanjiža, *Családi kör*, Novi Sad, *Temerini Újság*, Temerin, *Hét Nap*, Subotica and *Dunatáj*, Sombor; 5 monthlies – *Tordai Újság*, Torda, *Fecske*, Feketić, *Szó-Beszéd*, Mali Idoš, *Csantavéri Újság*, Čanavir and *Horgosi Kisújság*, Horgoš; 5 quarterlies – *Muzslyai Újság*, Mužlja, *Kisoroszi Hirmondó*, Rusko Selo, *Csernyei Újság*, Nova Crnja, *Magyarittabéi Hirmondó*, Novi Itebej and *Kispiaci Hirmondó*, Male Pijace; 2 multi monthlies – *Kisújság*, Stara Moravica and *Ludasi Hirharang*, Ludoš; 2 children's magazines – *Jó Pajtás*, Novi Sad and *Mézéskalács*, Novi Sad; youth magazine – *Képes Ifjúság*, Novi Sad; 9 magazines in the field of culture – *Sikoly*, Mužlja, *Híd*, Novi Sad, *Létünk*, Novi Sad, *DNS*, Novi Sad, *Hungarološka saopštenja*, Novi Sad, *Symposion*, Subotica, *Üzenet*, Subotica, *Bácsország*, Subotica and *Aracs*, Subotica; 4 multilingual weeklies – *Novi glas komune*, Apatin, *Bečejski mozaik*, Bečej, *Zrenjanin*, Zrenjanin and

Kikindske, Kikinda; 5 multilingual monthly magazines – *Moj Kovin* (addition *Igaz Szó*), *Kovin*, *Čokanski hronika*, *Čoka*, *Opštinska panorama*, *Ada*, *Kulska komuna*, Kula and *Novokneževačke novine*, Novi Kneževac; multilingual multi monthlies - *Ogledalo*, Novo Orahovo, 4 multilingual cultural magazines – *Magazin pod vulkanom*, Senta, *Oglinda*, Sečanj, *Regional*, Subotica and *Karton*, Subotica;

- Programmes on 26 radio stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Radio Novi Sad (24 hour per day), 13 radio stations of the local communities - Radio Subotica (14 hours per day), Radio Regije, Bačka Topola (6 hours per day), Radio Bela Crkva (1 hour per week), Radio Vrbas (6 hours per week), Radio Zrenjanin (1 hour per day), Radio Kikinda (6.5 hours per week), Radio Kovačica (1 hour per day), Radio Novi Bečej (18 hours per week), Radio Odžaci (2 hours per week), Radio Sečanj (1 hour), Radio Kulska komuna (1.5 hours per day), Radio Temerin (5 hours per day), and Radio Bačka, Bač (1 hour per week), and 12 radio stations of other types of radio broadcasters - Pannon Radio, Novi Sad (24 hours per day), Radio Ada (12 hours per day), Trend Radio, Bačka Topola (0.5 hours per day), Radio Active, Bečej (4 hours per day), Panda Radio, Kanjiža (17 hours per day), Radio Bus, Kovin (1.5 hours per week), Yu Eco Radio, Subotica (2 hours –per day), Radio Sombor (2 hours per day), Radio Srbobran (30 hours per week), Max Radio, Čoka (4 hours per day), No Limit, Senta (1 hour per week) and Radio Marija Subotica (6 hours per day);

- Programmes on 8 TV stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Televizija Vojvodina (64 hours per month), 3 TV stations of the local community - OK TV, Kovačica (0.5 hours per day), TV Pančevo (0.5 hours per week) and Novosadska TV (7.5 hours per month), and 4 TV stations of other types of broadcasters - TV Mozaik, Novi Sad (12 hours per day), TV Kanal 25, Odžaci (0.5 hours per week), YU ECO TV, Subotica (2 hours per day) and Pannon TV, Subotica (6 hours per day).

Members of the **Macedonian** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 3 printed media outlets, monthlies – *Makedonska videlina*, Pančevo, children's magazine – *Sunica*, Pančevo and cultural magazine- *Videlo*, Pančevo;
- Programme of one radio station, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Radio Novi Sad (0.5 hours per week);
- Programmes on 2 TV stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service – Televizija Vojvodina (0.5 hours per week); one TV station of the local community - TV Pančevo (0.5 hours per week).

Members of the **German** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- One printed media outlet, quarterly – *Fenster*, Sremski Karlovci;

- Programmes on 4 radio stations, all radio stations of the local communities - Radio Subotica (0.5 hours per week), Radio Kulska komuna (1 hour per month), Radio Regije, Bačka Topola (0.5 hours per month) and Radio Zrenjanin (0.5 hours per month).

German Association “Donau” from Novi Sad pointed out the need to produce and broadcast programmes on RTV Vojvodina, intended for the German national minority. Also, it also states that, on several occasions, it was discussed and agreed with the management of that public service to broadcast programme in the German language, but which has not been implemented up to now.

Members of the **Roma** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 2 printed newspapers, monthlies - *Nevipe e Ternate*, Trstenik; cultural magazine – *Romologija*, Deronje; bilingual monthly magazine – *Romano Nevipe*, Belgrade;
- Programmes on 19 radio stations, two public broadcasting services (republic and provincial) - Radio Beograd (0.5 hours per day) and Radio Novi Sad (1 hour per day); and 8 radio stations of the local communities - Radio Bela Crkva (1 hour per week), Radio Kikinda (4 hours per week), Radio Novi Bečej (1 hour per week), Radio Odžaci (2 hours per week), Radio Trstenik (0.5 hours per week), Radio Zrenjanin (16 hours per month), Radio Kruševac (16 hours per month) and Radio Požarevac (8 hours per month); and 9 radio stations of other types of broadcasters - Radio Nišava, Niš (24 hours per day), Radio Ema, Bujanovac (16 hours per month), Radio Bus, Kovin (1 hour per month), Radio Rom, Obrenovac (24 hours per day), Radio Blue, Odžaci (0.5 hours per week), Radio Sombor (1.5 hours per day), Radio Srbobran (1 hour per week), Radio Točak, Valjevo (16 hours per month) and Puls Radio, Despotovac (2 hours per week);
- Programmes on 10 TV stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service – Televizija Vojvodina (58 hours per month); 7 TV stations of the local communities - TV Bujanovac (1 hour per week), TV Valjevo (1 hour per day), TV Kruševac (1 hour per week), TV Trstenik (2 hours per month), TV Pančevo (0.5 hours per week), Alt TV, Aleksinac (0.5 hours per week) and TV Raška (3 hours per month); two TV stations of other types of broadcasters - TV Nišava, Niš (24 hours per day) and TV Klisura, Grdelica (1 hour per week).

Members of the **Romanian** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 14 printed media outlets, weeklies – *Libertatea*, Pančevo; one monthly magazine – *Kuvntul romanesk*, Vršac; quarterly – *Strazerul*, Straža; 2 multi monthlies – *Familia*, and “ladimirovac *Vorb noastra*, Zaječar, children's magazine – *Bucuria Copilor*, Pančevo; youth magazine – *Tineretea*, Pančevo, 7 cultural magazine – *Lumina*, Pančevo, *Limba Romana*, Vršac, *Traditia*, Novi Sad, *Tibiscus*, Uzdin, *Europa*, Novi Sad, *Floare de latinitate*, Novi Sad and *Thesaurus romanesk*, Pančevo; 3 multilingual monthly

magazines – *Vršaćka kula*, Vršac, *Zrenjanin*, *Zrenjanin Municipal Bulletin*, Alibunar and multilingual cultural magazine – *Oglinda*, Sečanj;

- Programmes on 10 radio stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Radio Novi Sad (5 hours per day); 5 radio stations of communities - Radio Bela Crkva (1 hour per week), Radio Zrenjanin (1.5 hours per week), Radio Kikinda (2 hours per week), Radio Kovačica (2.5 hours per day) and Radio Sečanj (1 hour per week); 4 radio stations of other types of broadcasters - Radio Far, Alibunar (4 hours per day), Radio Bus, Kovin (1 hour per week), Radio Santos, Zrenjanin (1 hour per week) and Radio Victoria, Vršac (24 hours per day);

- Programmes on 6 TV stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Televizija Vojvodina (58 hours per month); 2 local communities - OK TV, Kovačica (2.5 hours per day) and TV Pančevo (1 hour per week); 3 of other types of broadcasters - TV Viktorija, Vršac (12 hours per day), TV Santos, Zrenjanin (0.5 hours per week) and TV Banat, Vršac (0.5 hours per week).

Members of the **Ruthenian** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 7 printed media outlets, weeklies – *Ruske slovo*, Novi Sad; monthly – *Dzvoni Ruski Krstur*; multi monthly *Kalendar*, Novi Sad; children's magazine – *Zagradka*, Novi Sad; youth magazine – *Mak*, Novi Sad; 2 cultural magazines – *Švetlosc*, Novi Sad, *Studio Rutenika*, Novi Sad; multilingual monthly – *Kulska komuna*, Kula, multilingual multi monthly – *Glas Soyuzu*, Novi Sad and multilingual cultural magazine *Erato nad Kucurom*, Novi Sad;

- Programmes on 8 radio stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Radio Novi Sad (5 hours per day); 4 radio stations of the local communities - Radio Regije, Bačka Topola (0.5 hours per week), Radio Vrbas (1 hour per day), Šid Radio (0.5 hours per week) and Radio Kulska Komuna (1.5 hours per day); 3 radio stations of other types of broadcasters - Trend Radio, Bačka Topola (1 hour per week), Blue Radio, Odžaci (0.5 per week) and Radio Blue Plus Odžaci (0.5 hours per week);

- Programmes on 3 TV stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Televizija Vojvodina (58 hours per month); one TV station of the local community - TV , Bačka, Vrbas (1 hour per month); one TV station of other types of broadcasters - TV Kanal 25, Odžaci (0 , 5 hours per week).

Members of the **Slovak** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 16 printed media outlets, weeklies - *Hlas L'udu*, Novi Sad; 2 monthlies – *Petrovske novine*, Bački Petrovac, *Evangeliska hlasnik*, Novi Sad; 3 quarterlies - *Novi Rod*, Bački Petrovac, *Večni život*, Bački Petrovac and *Padinske zvoni*, Padina; 3 multi monthlies – *Evanjelička ročenka*, Novi Sad, *Narodni calendar*, Bački Petrovac and *Pazovski*

Kalendar, Stara Pazova; children's magazine – *Zornička*, Novi Sad; youth magazine – *Vzlet*, Novi Sad; 5 cultural magazines – *Novi život*, Bački Petrovac, *Majak*, Novi Sad, *Obzori*, Novi Sad, *Traf*, Novi Sad and *Aurora*, Stara Pazova; 2 multilingual weeklies – *Zrenjanin*, Zrenjanin and *Nedeljne Novine*, Bačka Palanka and multilingual monthly – *Pazovački revija*, Stara Pazova;

- Programmes on 14 radio stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Radio Novi Sad (5 hours per day); 9 radio stations of the local communities - Radio Bačka, Bač (5 hours per week), Radio Zrenjanin (1.5 hours per week), Radio Kovačica (6 hours per day), Radio Odžaci (2 hours per week), Radio Stara Pazova (5 hours per day), Radio Šid (1 hour per week), Radio Petrovac, Bački Petrovac (24 hours per day), Radio Kisač, Novi Sad (51 hours per week) and Radio Beočin (0.5 hours per week), and 4 radio stations of other types of broadcasters - Radio Far, Alibunar (1 hour per day), Trend Radio, Bačka Topola (1 hour per week), Blue Radio, Odžaci (0.5 hours per week) and Radio Blue Plus, Odžaci (0.5 hours per week);

- Programmes on 9 TV stations - provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Televizija Vojvodina (58 hours per month); 5 TV stations of local communities - OK TV, Kovačica (2 hours per day), TV Pančevo (0.5 hours per week), TV Bap, Bačka Palanka (0.5 hours per week), Novi Sad TV (8 hours per month) and TV Stara Pazova (1 hour per day); 3 TV stations of other types of broadcasters - TV Petrovac, Bački Petrovac (24 hours per day), Sremska TV, Šid (0.5 hours per week) and TV Kanal 25, Odžaci (0.5 hours per week).

Members of the **Slovenian** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 6 printed publications, quarterlies – *Kredarica*, Novi Sad, 3 multi monthlies – *Bilten*, Belgrade, *Bilten*, Vršac and *Slovenski izseljenski calendar*, Zrenjanin, 2 cultural magazines – *Bilten*, Slovenian Niš *Slovenska beseda*, Zaječar.

Members of the **Ukrainian** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 5 printed media outlets, monthlies – *Ridne slovo*, Kula; children's magazine – *Solovejko*, Novi Sad; 3 cultural magazines – *Slovo*, Novi Sad, *Ukrajinske slovo*, Novi Sad and *Kalendar*, Novi Sad;

- Programmes on 4 radio stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Radio Novi Sad (6 hours per week); 3 radio stations of the local community - Radio Vrbas (1 hour per week), Radio Indija (1 hour per week) and Radio Kulska komuna (1.5 hours per week);

- Programmes on one TV station, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Televizija Vojvodina (0.5 hours per week).

Members of the **Croatian** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 15 printed media outlets: weeklies – *Hrvatska riječ*, Subotica; 3 monthlies – *Glas Ravnice*, Subotica, *Zvonik*, Subotica, *Glasnik Pučke kasine*, Subotica; quarterly – *Miroљjub*, Sombor, 5 multi monthlies - *Otac Gerard*, Sombor, *Glas Šokadije*, Sonta, *Hrvatski Majur*, Subotica, *Gupčeva lipa*, Tavankut and *Hosana*, Stari Žednik; children's magazine – *Hrcko*, Subotica, youth magazine – *Kužiš?!*, Subotica; 3 cultural magazines – *Godišnjak za znanstvena istraživanja*, Subotica, *Klasje naših dana*, Subotica and *Subotička Danica*, Subotica; multilingual weekly – *Glas Komune*, Apatin; 2 multilingual cultural magazines – *Regional* and *Karton Subotica*, Subotica;
- Programmes on 4 radio stations, three radio stations of the local community - Radio Subotica (3 per day), Bačka Radio, Bač (0.5 hours per week), Radio Odžaci (0.5 hours per week); one radio station of other types of broadcasters - Radio Sombor (1 hour per week);
- Programmes on 2 TV stations, the provincial Public Broadcasting Service - Televizija Vojvodina (10 hours per month); one TV station of other types of broadcasters - TV Spektar, Sombor (0.5 hours per week).

Members of the **Czech** national minority receive information in their mother tongue through:

- 2 printed media outlets, quarterlies – *List jižního Banatu*, Bela Crkva and bilingual monthly magazine – *Sermon Czech*, Bela Crkva;
- Programme at one radio stations of the local community – Radio Bela Crkva (1 hour per week).

7.3. Measures for easier access to media

7.3.1. Financial support to minority media

Information in minority languages, regardless of their ownership status, is supported by public authorities. For the purposes of achieving national minorities' rights to information in their native language, enriching minority language media content, and in line with budget possibilities, the Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society financially assists these activities through competitions for the co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information in minority languages, through subsidies and through providing funds for individual projects. Competitions for co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information in minority languages are usually announced once a year for the co-financing of production and/or distribution of contents of public media outlets in minority languages. Subsidising newspapers in minority languages (Roma, Bosniac and Albanian) started in central Serbia in 2006, while in the previous period only the newspapers in Bulgarian exercised that right. In

2009, due to the need for budget funds rationalisation, precise criteria were defined for further subsidising of the above-mentioned newspapers with previous consultations with national councils of those national minorities. That way, in accordance with circulation and frequency of newspapers, subsidies were given to cover the costs of printing, distribution and salaries of a certain number of editorial board employees. During 2010, financial assistance to newspapers in central Serbia was provided through competitions for the allocation of funds for the co-financing of newspapers in minority languages; in 2011, the funds for assistance to newspapers were included in the funds allocated through a joint competition for the co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information in minority languages. Since 2008, periodical publications in the field of minority arts and culture have been financed from the republic budget, through a special competition.

According to the rulebook and competitions of the Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information, financial assistance is provided annually to the founders of public media outlets in the territory of AP Vojvodina. In line with AP Vojvodina budget possibilities, funds for the publishing of newspapers of provincial relevance are allocated separately and distributed to those newspapers publishers. There is co-financing of culture, literature and art magazines, magazines for youth and magazines for children, printed or in an electronic form, in minority and ethnic community languages; funds are also provided for the promotion of TV programme production in the field of art and culture in minority languages.

Public companies – radio and TV stations founded by local self-government units are financed from those units' budgets.

National minority councils actively participate in the process of making decisions on the allocation of budget funds to the support of media and information in minority language, by providing opinions on competition participants' projects.

The following segments of the Report contain data on financial assistance to national minorities' information from the budget of the Republic of Serbia and AP Vojvodina in the period 2007-2011, classified per national minority.

Albanian national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
Albanian cultural association “Perspektiva“,	Children’s magazine <i>Diellori</i>	900,000.00

Bujanovac		
PC RTV Bujanovac, Bujanovac	Technical equipment	321,980.00
2008		
Cultural association “Perspektiva“, Bujanovac	Life Without Drugs	285,000.00
TV Bujanovac, Bujanovac	TV LAJMET – TV news programme in the Albanian language	600,000.00
2009		
RTV Aldi, Preševo	Integration of Young People from the Municipalities of Preševo and Bujanovac	480,000.00
“Vranjske“ Ltd, Vranje	“What Connects and Separates Serbs and Albanians in Southern Serbia“	304,000.00
2010		
Broadcasting company “Spektri“ sh.comp, TV Spektri, Bujanovac	“ Youth Programme“, establishing of the youth editorial staff	299,600.00
Radio Aldi, Preševo	Evening shows for young people	326,179.00
2011		
Radio Aldi, Preševo	“Povezivanje“ – “Connecting”	250,500.00

• Subsidies (i.e. funds awarded in a competition) for printed media in the Albanian language, *Perspektiva*, Bujanovac, and starting from 2011, weekly *Nacionali* (founded by the National Council of the Albanian National Minority), in the total amount of RSD 21,486,354.00, as follows:

Year	Printed media	Subsidy/competition
2007	<i>Perspektiva</i> , Bujanovac	4,500,000.00
2008	<i>Perspektiva</i> , Bujanovac	6,972,000.00
2009	<i>Perspektiva</i> , Bujanovac	6,644,322.00
2011	<i>Nacionali</i> , Bujanovac	3,370,032.00

• Individual projects – publication of children’s magazine *Diellori* (2008), in the amount of RSD 900,000.00.

Ashkali national minority

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina have been allocated for:

• The co-financing of magazines which are especially significant for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina (2009-2011), in the total amount of RSD 205,000.00, as follows:

Beneficiary	Magazine	Approved funds
Ashkali Matica, Novi Sad	<i>Horizonti</i> , a magazine for	105,000.00

	culture, art and social issues	
Fund KONA, Novi Sad	<i>Flutura (Butterfly)</i>	100,000.00

Bosniac national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
Bosniac National Council, Novi Pazar	Internet presentation	440,000.00
Public information company "Novi Pazar", Novi Pazar	Technical equipment	1,022,175.00
2008		
Public information company "Novi Pazar", Regional TV Novi Pazar, Novi Pazar	Series of programmes "Cultural Monuments of Bosniacs from Sandžak"	1,000,000.00
Public information company, Information centre "Tutin", TV Tutin, Tutin	Documentary programmes "Heart Filled with Homeland"	1,000,000.00
2009		
Information company "Polimlje", Prijepolje	"Bridges and Crossings – Identity of the Bosniac National Minority"	475,900.00
TV Forum, Prijepolje	Paths of Bosniac Culture	636,000.00
2010		
Forum of Women of Prijepolje, TV Forum, Prijepolje	"Traditional Contemporary World of Bosniacs", series of 5 half an hour shows	454,800.00
Public information company, Information centre "Tutin", TV Tutin, Tutin	Series of interviews, sayings and conversations with contemporary Bosniac writers "Has-Basča Muhabeta"	305,880.00
2011		
Information company "Polimlje", Prijepolje	Information services for the members of the Bosniac national minority in the municipality of Prijepolje	408,300.00
Public information company, Information centre "Tutin", TV Tutin, Tutin	Nasi adeti	193,000.00

- Subsidies (i.e. funds awarded in a competition) for printed media in the Bosniac language, *Bošnjačka riječ*, Novi Pazar, and starting from 2008 *Sandžačke novine*, Novi Pazar, in the total amount of RSD 23,909,196.00, as follows:

Year	Printed media	Subsidy/competition
2007	“ <i>Bosnjačka riječ</i> ”, Novi Pazar	1,460,000.00
2008	<i>Sandžačke novine</i> , Novi Pazar	7,000,000.00
2009	<i>Sandžačke novine</i> , Novi Pazar	5,573,334.00
2010	<i>Sandžačke novine</i> , Novi Pazar	5,573,334.00
2011	<i>Sandžačke novine</i> , Novi Pazar	4,302,528.00

- Two individual projects (2008 and 2009), in the total amount of RSD 1,590,000.00, as follows:

Beneficiary	Project name	Approved funds
“Sandžacče Novine”, Novi Pazar	Improvement of publishing activity in 2009	1,050,000.00
Information centre Tutin, Tutin	News programme of Bosniac radio	540,000.00

- The co-financing of periodical publications in the field of art and culture of the Bosniac national minority – *Bosnjačka riječ*, published by the National Council of the Bosniac National Minority, Novi Pazar (2008, 2009 and 2010), in the total amount of RSD 1,000,000.00.

Bulgarian national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
Cultural centre “Bosilegrad“, Bosilegrad	Technical equipment	344,000.00
RTV Caribrod, Cultural centre Dimitrovgrad	Technical equipment	525,000.00
2008		
Public information company RTV Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad	“Good Evening Caribrod“	1,117,364.00

Video production "Astra", Pirot	Documentary film "Keepers of Tradition"	579,188.00
2009		
Video production "Astra", Pirot	"Bulgarians in Vojvodina"	507,477.00
2010		
RTV Pi Kanal doo, TV Pi kanal, Pirot	"336 hours", series of 30 minute shows	495,000.00
Public information company RTV Caribrod, TV Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad	"Kids and Hlapeta", series of 30 minute shows	350,000.00
Cultural centre "Bosilegrad", Radio Bosilegrad, Bosilegrad	"Young Reporters"	360,000.00
Video production "Astra", Pirot /Television Caribrod, Bosilegrad	"Belgrade-Sofia via Caribrod"	403,973.00
2011		
PC Niška televizija – NTV, Niš	NTV Novini	628,000.00
Public information company RTV Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad	Meals – cult hallmarks	100,000.00
Cultural centre "Bosilegrad", Radio Bosilegrad, Bosilegrad	Young Reporters – children's radio show	290,000.00

• Subsidies (i.e. funds awarded in a competition) for printed media in the Bulgarian language, *Bratstvo*, Niš, in the total amount of RSD 79,169,651.00 (in 2007 and 2008, funds were allocated for the financing of the work of Newspaper publishing company "Bratstvo"), as follows:

Year	Printed media	Subsidy/competition
2007	<i>Bratstvo</i> , Niš	30,000,000.00
2008	<i>Bratstvo</i> , Niš	30,000,000.00
2009	<i>Bratstvo</i> , Niš	7,513,303.00
2010	<i>Bratstvo</i> , Niš	7,513,303.00
2011	<i>Bratstvo</i> , Niš	4,143,045.00

• Individual projects – marking of the jubilee of Newspaper publishing company "Bratstvo", Niš (2009), in the amount of RSD 980,000.00.

• The co-financing of periodical publications in the field of art and culture of the Bulgarian national minority (2008, 2010 and 2011), in the total amount of RSD 780,000.00, as follows:

Beneficiary	Project name	Approved funds
Designer studio Link, Pirot	<i>Preserving of Cultural Tradition of Settlements in Old Nountains in the Territory of RS</i> (municipality of Dimitrovgrad, Knjaževac, Pirot)	80,000.00
Newspaper publishing company "Bratstvo", Niš	Children's magazine <i>Drugarče</i>	350,000.00
Newspaper publishing company "Bratstvo", Niš	Magazine <i>MOST</i>	350,000.00

Bunjevtsi national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages – project of radio shows in Bunjevtsi dialect "Bunjevačka rič" by the Bunjevtsi Cultural Centre, Subotica (2007), in the amount of RSD 257,000.00.
- The co-financing of periodical publications in the field of art and culture of the Bunjevtsi national minority (2008 and 2010), in the total amount of RSD 210,000.00 as follows:

Beneficiary	Project name	Approved funds
Bunjevtsi cultural centre Subotica, Subotica	<i>Bunjevtsi Calendar</i> for 2009 (almanac)	150,000.00
Bunjevtsi cultural centre Subotica, Subotica	<i>Bunjevtsi Calendar</i> for Holy 2011	60,000.00

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina have been allocated for:

- The financial support for the media outlets and other media products in Bunjevtsi dialect, as follows:

Newspapers founded by the National Council of the Bunjevtsi National Minority		
Media outlet	Grounds	Approved funds 2007-2011
Monthly publication <i>Bunjevačke novine</i> , Subotica	Subsidy	25,809,000.00
Children's publication <i>Tandrčak</i> , Subotica	Subsidy	8,493,000.00
Radio programme in Bunjevtsi dialect		

Radio Trend, Bačka Topola	Equipment, programme improvement, public information services, informing the public	2,051,562.00
Radio Sombor, Sombor	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	5,801,000.00
Radio Subotica, Subotica	Equipment, programme improvement, public information services, informing the public	4,552,000.00

• The co-financing of magazines which are especially significant for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina (2009-2009), in the total amount of RSD 175,000.00, as follows:

Beneficiary	Magazine	Approved funds
Newspaper publishing company Bunyevtsi Information Centre, Subotica	Children's magazine <i>Tandrčak</i>	120,000.00
Bunyevačka Matica, Subotica	<i>Rič Bunjevačke Matice</i>	55,000.00

Vlach national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

• The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
STV Negotin	STV news in the Vlach language	387,600.00
2008		
RTV Zaječar, Zaječar	TV journal in the Vlach language (TV News)	357,000.00
RTV "Krajina" AD, Negotin	Programme in the Vlach language – documentary reportages	400,000.00
Radio "Đerdap" AD, Kladovo	"Buna zia prieteni – aici radio Djerdap"	409,000.00
RTV Kladovo, Kladovo	"Life and Customs of Vlachs in Ključ"	742,600.00
2009		
RTV Zaječar, Zaječar	"Speech Defeated the Language"	807,000.00
ZA Media Ltd, Zaječar	"Quackery and Healing with Magical Rites by Vlachs"	641,250.00
RTV Krajina, Negotin	Information programme in the Vlach language	276,000.00
Radio Magnum Ltd, Zaječar	"So It Is Not Forgotten" – Vlach	480,000.00

	information centre and series of shows on life and customs of the Vlach people	
Pek Ton Ltd, Radio Zvižd, Kučevo	“Applause, Please!“ – show dedicated to young people	200,000.00
2010		
RTV Kladovo, Kladovo	“Vlachs and Vlach Customs in Podunavlje“, series of 6 half an hour shows	392,800.00
UTP Siti Ltd, Radio Čičica 89,1 MHZ, Svilajnac	“Vorba Rumunska“ – “Vlach word“, 52 shows	332,800.00
Radio Magnum 18 Ltd, Zaječar	Radio magazine “From the Treasury of Vlach Tradition“	281,666.00
Company for RTV programme broadcasting “Sezam“, RTV Sezam, Bor	Festival of Vlach national music “Vlach Pearl Box 2010“, series of 30 radio and TV shows	197,000.00
Folkdisk Ltd, Zaječar, TV Folkdisk salaš, Zaječar	“Saptamana“ – “Week“	300,000.00
2011		
PC “Šrif“, Bor	Half a Century of Tradition	300,000.00
Sh.comp. Timok radio and television, Timočki radio, Zaječar	“Vlach Iris“ and “Sunday in Vlach “	700,000.00
UTP Siti Ltd, Radio Čičica, Svilajnac	In Lumina – Among the people	317,600.00

Jewish national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2009		
Association of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia, Belgrade	<i>Jevrejski pregled</i>	600,000.00
2011		
Association of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia, Belgrade	<i>Jevrejski pregled</i> and website of Association of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia	516,333.00

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina have been allocated for:

- The co-financing of the magazines which are especially significant for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina – for the magazine *My Experiences from the*

Holocaust (Life Stories from the World War II), published by the Jewish municipality Novi Sad (2009), in the amount of RSD 20,000.00.

Hungarian national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
Club of Mužljanci, Mužlja	<i>Mužljanske novine</i>	100,000.00
“Magyar Szo“ Ltd, Novi Sad	“New Website for New Generations “	300,000.00
UNIT graphics agency, Novi Sad	<i>Vajdaság M</i> ” – development of the network of correspondents	200,000.00
“Zöld Dombok“, Feketić	Providing timely information	50,000.00
“Amicus - Jó Pajtás“, Novi Sad	Children’s magazines in the Hungarian language	200,000.00
SZR “Temerini Újság“ , Temerin	Hiring younger staff	116,160.00
Hungarian cultural and arts association “Večera Šandor“, Bačka Palanka	Show in the Hungarian language “Dunakanjar“	120,000.00
Klub Tordana, Torda	Magazine <i>Tordai Újság</i>	50,000.00
Hét Nap Ltd, Subotica	Development of photo equipment for the purposes of providing undisturbed work of the redaction	85,820.00
2008		
TV production D.B. Trade CO, Bačka Topola	TV shows for children in the Hungarian language “Kiki es Miki“	400,000.00
Mozaik Ltd, Bečej	Specialised addition “A Step Forward”	253,000.00
Pannonia Alap – Fund “Panonija“, Subotica	Improvement of quality of information in the Hungarian language in the programmes of Pannon RTV	400,000.00
UNITgraphics agency, Novi Sad	“Vajdasag Ma”, maintaining the section “Selection of Topics in the Serbian Language “	513,540.00
Hét Nap Ltd, Subotica	Co-financing of printing costs for the weekly magazine in the Hungarian language	498,850.00
“Temerini Újság”, Temerin	Informing the public about the work of local organisations	125,000.00
“Magyar Szo“ Ltd, Novi Sad	“Be The Best...“ new technologies in the service of community strengthening	396,000.00
PC Radio Subotica,	Serbian Monasteries in Fruška Gora	276,000.00

Redaction of the programme in the Hungarian language		
PC Radio Subotica, Redaction of the programme in the Hungarian language	Documentary radio programme about the culture of Hungarians in Vojvodina	116,000.00
2009		
“Logos print” Ltd, Totovo Selo	Co-financing of regular sections in weekly “Nova Kanjiške novine“	123,500.00
TV production “D.B. Trade CO“, Bačka Topola	“De-arte“ – show for children and youth in the Hungarian language	579,126.00
“Santos-comerce“ Ltd, TV Santos, Zrenjanin	Entertaining – informative show “Kepes Lap“	150,000.00
Foundation “Mozaik“, Novi Sad	Daily informative show in the Hungarian language	150,000.00
PC Radio Subotica, programme in the Hungarian language, Subotica	Women and social issues	180,000.00
PC Radio Subotica, programme in the Hungarian language, Subotica	Everyday ecology	160,000.00
Public information company “Bačka Topola“, Bačka Topola	“Optimist“ – programme in the Hungarian language	210,000.00
Association for the development of environment and community “Zöld Dombok“, Feketić	Let’s Get to Know Activities at the Local Level	110,000.00
2010		
TV production “D.B. TRADE CO“, Bačka Topola/14 TV station in Vojvodina	“Etno" Hungarian National Costume“, series of 12 shows	200,000.00
Production “PostPesimisti“, Kikinda/ Radio VK Kikinda	News programme in the Hungarian language on Regional VK radio	241,440.00
Foundation “Mozaik“, TV Mozaik, Novi Sad	“KULTUR –TER“ – “Cultural Heritage”	390,000.00
“Panon Marketing“ Ltd, Panon TV, Novi Sad	Production of TV shows on holidays of Hungarians in Vojvodina	460,000.00
Spektar Ltd, export-import and marketing, TV Spektar, Sombor	“TOP TEEN“, series of 50 minute shows	533,000.00
Company for telecommunications, trade and services “Asterias“, Novi Kneževac/Radio Maks, Čoka	“Children in Action“, 30 one hour shows	303,920.00

Public information company "Bačka Topola" , Radio Regije, Bačka Topola	"Mutual Space", series of 50 shows	218,400.00
"Radio Sombor" sh.comp., Radio Sombor, Sombor	Programme in the Hungarian language	319,140.00
"Radio Active" Ltd, Bečej	Subsidies of news programme in the Hungarian language, focused on the education of staff	241,760.00
PC Radio Subotica, Redaction of the programme in the Hungarian language Subotica	"From the Young to the Young" – show with the workshop and course for young journalists	329,075.00
2011		
Mozaik Ltd. Bečej, <i>Bečejski mozaik</i> , Bečej	"How to Reach Intercultural Environment?" – except for singing and dancing, the minorities do other things as well	352,000.00
Santos-Comerce Ltd, Zrenjanin	Hírek	550,000.00
RTV Rubin , Kruševac O.D, Branch TV Rubin, Kikinda	Hírek – news programme and weekly overview in the Hungarian language	300,000.00
Company for telecommunications, trade and services "Asterias", Novi Kneževac/Radio Maks, Čoka	Cultural heritage, tradition and customs of the Hungarian national minority in the Northern Banat region	269,140.00
Radio Srbobran, Srbobran	Show "Nedeljna hronika" (Weekly Overview)	177,500.00
Pannónia Alap – Fund "Panonija", Pannon RTV, Subotica	Fortresses on the Borders of Contemporary Vojvodina	410,000.00
SZTR and TV and video production "Dinovizija", Subotica	Preparation of documentary-informative film: "Getting to Know Hungarian Youth from Vojvodina "	109,000.00
Association for the development of the environment and community "Zöld Dombok", Feketić	Let's Get to Know Activities at the Local Level	96,000.00

● The co-financing of periodical publications in the field of art and culture of the Hungarian national minority (2008-2010), in the total amount of RSD 1,540,000.00, as follows:

Beneficiary	Project name	Approved funds
Art scene "Siveri Janoš", Mužlja	Magazine <i>Sikoly</i>	90,000.00

“Lajoš Sabo“, Subotica	Magazine <i>Bácsország</i>	50,000.00
Publishing House “Forum“, Novi Sad	<i>Hid</i> , magazine for literature, art and social issues	650,000.00
Publishing House “Forum“, Novi Sad	<i>Létünk</i> , magazine for society, science and culture	320,000.00
Association of Citizens “Simposion“, Subotica	Magazine <i>Symposion</i>	380,000.00
Vojvodina association for home country “Bačorsag“, Subotica	Periodical <i>Bácsország</i>	50,000.00

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina have been allocated for:

- The financial support for the media outlets and other media products in the Hungarian language, as follows:

Newspapers founded by the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority		
Media outlet	Grounds	Approved funds 2007-2011
Daily newspaper <i>Magyar Szó</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy	352,887,000.00
School newspaper <i>Jó Pajtás</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy	21,279,800.00
Children’s magazine “Mézés Kalács”, Novi Sad	Subsidy	8,398,000.00
Youth newspaper <i>Képes Ifjúság</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy	32,461,600.00
Weekly newspaper <i>Hét Nap</i> , Subotica	Subsidy	125,345,000.00
Newspapers in the Hungarian language		
<i>Kisoroszi Hírmondó</i> – <i>Ruskoselski Gerald</i> , Rusko selo (Kikinda)	Informing the public, technical-technological equipment	550,000.00
<i>Családi kör</i> – <i>Family Circle</i> , Novi Sad	Service of providing information, informing the public, improving the standards, improvement of programme	17,098,640.00
<i>Muzslyai újsá</i> – <i>Mužlja Paper</i> , Mužlja (Zrenjanin)	Informing the public	150,000.00
<i>Tordai újság</i> – <i>Torda Paper</i> , Torda (Žitište)	Informing the public, technical-technological equipment	500,000.00
<i>Új Kanizsai Újság</i> – <i>Kanjiža</i>	Informing the public	100,000.00

<i>Paper, Kanjiža</i>		
<i>Temerini Ujság – Temerin Paper, Temerin</i>	Informing the public	100,000.00
<i>Vajdaság ma”, Novi Sad</i>	Informing the public	700,000.00
Newspapers which have pages in the Hungarian language		
<i>Bečejski mozaik, Bečej</i>	Technical-technological equipment, informing the public	1,620,000.00
<i>Moj Kovin, (addition “Igaz Szó”), Kovin</i>	Informing the public, technical-technological equipment	350,000.00
<i>Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin</i>	Technical-technological equipment, informing the public, service of providing information	2,404,000.00
<i>Kovinske novine, Kovin</i>	Informing the public	100,000.00
<i>Čokanski glasnik, Čoka</i>	Technical-technological equipment	133,200.00
<i>Kikindske, Kikinda</i>	Service of providing information, informing the public	1,290,000.00
Radio programme in the Hungarian language		
RTV Pannon, Subotica	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	12,742,500.00
Radio Subotica, Subotica	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	4,552,000.00
Radio programme which is also in the Hungarian language		
Radio Ada, Ada	Informing the public	150,000.00
Radio Bačka, Bač	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	4,528,000.00
Radio regije, Bačka Topola	Informing the public	700,000.00
Radio Trend, Bačka Topola	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	2,051,562.00
Radio Bela Crkva, Bela Crkva	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	1,950,000.00
Radio Active, Bečej	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	1,446,000.00
RTV Vrbas, Vrbas	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	4,862,520.00

Radio Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	4,143,000.00
Radio Panda, Kanjiža	Informing the public	270,000.00
Radio Kikinda, Kikinda	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	904,000.00
RTV Kovačica Radio Kovačica, Kovačica	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	7,446,200.00
Radio Bus, Kovin	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	1,904,000.00
Radio Kula Radio Kulska komuna, Kula	Equipment, informing the public	700,000.00
Radio Novi Bečej, Novi Bečej	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	950,000.00
Radio Odžaci, Odžaci	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	1,418,600.00
Radio Blue, Odžaci	Service of providing information, informing the public	1,452,000.00
Radio Blue Plus, Odžaci	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	1,052,000.00
Radio Sečanj, Sečanj	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	2,411,000.00
Radio Sombor, Sombor	Equipment, service of providing information, informing the public	5,801,000.00
Radio Srbobran, Srbobran	Service of providing information, informing the public	1,075,007.00
Radio Temerin, Temerin	Equipment, informing the public	446,800.00
Television programme in the Hungarian language		
TV Mozaik, Novi Sad	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	4,938,000.00
RTV Pannon, Subotica	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	12,742,500.00
Television programme which is also in the Hungarian language		
RTV Kovačica TV Kovačica, Kovačica	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	7,446,200.00
TV Kanal 25, Odžaci	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	4,203,000.00
RTV Pančevo TV Pančevo,	Equipment, programme	3,541,600.00

Pančevo (in 2009, the funds were also allocated to the radio)	improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	
RTV YU ECO, Subotica	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	14,969,000.00
Internet		
www.vajma.info	Informing the public	700,000.00

• The co-financing of the magazines which are especially significant for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina (2009-2011), in the total amount of RSD 1,825,000.00, as follows:

Beneficiary	Magazine	Approved funds
Art scene "Siveri Janoš", Mužlja	Magazine <i>Sikoly</i>	190,000.00
Faculty of Philosophy, Novi Sad	<i>Hungarológiai Közlemények (Hungarology Announcements)</i>	210,000.00
Hungarian College for Higher Education in Vojvodina, Novi Sad	Magazine "DNS"	97,000.00
Magyar Szo Lapkiado KFT Ltd, Novi Sad	Children's magazine <i>Jó Pajtás</i>	95,000.00
Magyar Szo Lapkiado KFT Ltd, Novi Sad	Children's magazine <i>Mezőskalács</i>	95,000.00
Magyar Szo Lapkiado KFT Ltd, Novi Sad	Youth magazine <i>Képes Ifjúság</i>	95,000.00
Association of Citizens "Symposion", Subotica	<i>Symposion</i>	190,000.00
Association for education on the region of Vojvodina "Bácsország", Subotica	<i>Bácsország</i> , magazine presenting local area	190,000.00
Organisation for the culture of village Aracs, Subotica	<i>Aracs</i> , a Délvidéki Magyarság Közéleti Folyóirata	190,000.00
Association of Citizens "Zobodka", Subotica	<i>Üzenet</i>	62,000.00
Association for the development of the region and community "Zöld Dombok", Feketić	<i>Fecske</i>	30,000.00
Association of Citizens "Zetna", Senta	Internet magazine <i>Zetna, Magazin a vulkán alatt (Magazine under volcano)</i> (in the Hungarian and Serbian language)	242,000.00
Fokus Foundation, Subotica	<i>Karton</i> (in the Hungarian and	139,000.00

	Serbian language)	
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- The incitement of production of TV programmes in the field of culture and art in minority languages (2009-2011) – projects, TV Pannon, Subotica, *Vitraž*, in the amount of RSD 1,160,000.00 and TV Mozaik, Novi Sad, *Kultur-Ter (Culture, Art)*, in the amount of RSD 1,160,000.00.

Macedonian national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2008		
Macedonian Information and Publishing Centre Ltd, Pančevo	Makedonska videlina- expansion of the network of correspondents	180,000.00
2009		
Agency “Astral video“, Kruševac	“Šar-planina“, a collage-type programme	542,000.00
2011		
Guliver Production, Kruševac	“Pod Bagdalom Šar-planina”	165,000.00

- The co-financing of periodical publications in the field of art and culture of the Macedonian national minority – magazine *Videlo*, published by Newspaper publishing company Macedonian information and publishing centre, Pančevo (2008 and 2011), in the total amount of RSD 100,000.00.

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina have been allocated for:

- The financial support for the media outlets and other media products in the Macedonian language, as follows:

Newspapers founded by the National Council of the Macedonian National Minority		
Media outlet	Grounds	Approved funds 2007-2011
Monthly publication <i>Makedonska videlina</i> , Pančevo	Subsidy	23,470,000.00
Television programme which is also in the Macedonian language		

RTV Pančevo TV Pančevo, Pančevo (in 2009, funds were allocated to the radio as well)	Equipment, programme improvement, service of providing information, informing the public	3,541,600.00
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• The co-financing of the magazines which are especially significant for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina (2009-2011), in the total amount of RSD 240,000.00 as follows:

Beneficiary	Magazine	Approved funds
Newspaper publishing company Macedonian Information and Publishing Centre, Pančevo	<i>Videlo</i> , magazine for literature, art and culture	135,000.00
Newspaper publishing company Macedonian Information and Publishing Centre, Pančevo	<i>Sunica (Rainbow)</i> , children's magazine	105,000.00

German national minority

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina have been allocated for:

• The co-financing of the magazines which are especially significant for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina – magazine *Fenster*, published by the German association for good neighborhood relations Karlowitz, Sremski Karlovci (2009-2011), in the amount of RSD 105,000.00.

Roma national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

• The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
PC Regional TV Valjevo, Valjevo	Programme in the Romani Language “Ej Romalen“	360,000.00
PC RTV Krajina, Negotin	Programme in the Romani Language “Bibijako djive“	200,000.00
PC RTV Trstenik, Trstenik	Programme in the Romani Language “Lacho Dje“	250,000.00
Developmental centre “Rom”, Obrenovac	Our radio Roma radio	450,000.00
Association of NGOs – RTV Nišava, Niš	Roma informative programme	440,000.00
TV Šabac and Association	Programme in the Romani Language	250,000.00

of Roma organisations, Šabac	“Amaro them“	
Rominterpress, Beograd	Web site for Roma and about Roma	400,000.00
2008		
Studio MAG, Obrenovac	Series of TV programmes “Through Time“	671,000.00
NIDOO “Naš glas“, Smederevo	“I Want the Real Information “	272,000.00
Information centre Kikinda – Radio Kikinda	“Romano suno“ – “Roma Dream“	200,000.00
Broadcasting company “EMA“, Bujanovac	“Roma and Civil Society“	500,000.00
Company “M“ O.D, Vranje – RTV “FOCUS“, Vranje in cooperation with RNGO “Romani Asvi“ – “Romska suza“, Vranje	“Ka shunamen ka dhikamen“ – “Lets Hear and See Each Other“	462,000.00
Jutro Production Ltd, Gornji Milanovac, PJ Radio Ozon Čačak	Series of radio shows “Voice of Roma“	250,000.00
Developmental centre “Rom“, Obrenovac	“Listen to Radio Rom“	690,000.00
PC RTV Šabac, Šabac	“Amaro them“, TV programme in the Romani language	408,312.00
“Radio Srbobran“ Ltd informative, Srbobran	Production and broadcasting of the programme of Radio Srbobran in the Romani language	300,000.00
RTV Zaječar, Zaječar	“Te ashunamen“ – “Lets Hear Each Other“	600,000.00
RTV Trstenik, Trstenik	“Lačo – dje“ – “Good Day”	310,000.00
PC RTV Kragujevac, Kragujevac	Series of radio and TV programmes “Info Rom“	500,000.00
Association of NGOs – RTV Nišava, Niš	“Mirror“, radio productions	240,000.00
RTV VG – 4 Knjaževac	“Aven amenca“ – “Be With Us“	240,000.00
Regional RTV Kruševac, Kruševac	TV programme “Romano alav“ – “Word of Roma”	310,000.00
PC Regionalna TV Valjevo, Valjevo	TV series “Providing Information to Roma“	604,800.00
2009		
Agency for TV production “Liberty production“, Niš	Documentary TV film “Education of Roma“	534,375.00
Developmental centre "Rom“, Obrenovac	“Romano alav“ – “Word of Roma“	408,940.00
PC “RTV Vranje“, Vranje	“Romano-info“, news programme in the Romani language	365,000.00
JNIRTVP “Reč radnika“, RTV Alt, Aleksinac	“Roma Info“	135,000.00

Association of NGO – RTV Nišava, Niš	“What, Where, How?”	607,430.00
Radio press PC Paraćin, Paraćin	Roma on radio	378,510.00
Anipres Ltd, Radio Sport Plus, Pirot	“Pralipe – bahtalipe“ – “Fraternity – Happiness“	446,000.00
Broadcasting company “Ema“, Bujanovac	News programme in the Romani language	320,000.00
Radio “Spektar plus“, Trgovište	“The Roma Are Also Entitled To The Truth“	336,000.00
2010		
Production “Kreativni tim Petković“, Požarevac	“Real Face“, series of 15 TV programmes	475,000.00
Production “Elpromont“ Ltd/TV Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad	“Stories from Roma Cultural Heritage“, series of 10-minute programmes	624,400.00
RTV Trstenik, Trstenik	“Lačo – dje“ – “Good Day“, series of radio and TV programmes	372,000.00
Hit radio, Požarevac	“Amaro turnip“ – “Our Youth“	197,640.00
Radio press PC “Paraćin“, Radio Paraćin, Praline	“Meeting Roma“	300,220.00
RTV AS radio broadcasting company, Šabac	“Amaro them 2010“, TV programmes	288,000.00
Information company “Press Company“, Radio Karajan, Doljevac	“Amaro them“ – “Our Corner“	192,000.00
Company for RTV activities, RTV Svrlijig, Svrlijig	“Informative Educational Programme“, TV programmes	294,276.00
Ani pres Pirot, Radio Sport Plus, Pirot	“Bahtale romane 194ave“ – “A Smile of a Roma Child“	296,000.00
RDP “Ema“, Radio Ema, Bujanovac	“O Roma akana“ – “Roma People Now“	456,000.00
PC “Informativni pres centar“, Radio Han, Vladičin Han	“The Most Beautiful Fairytales in the Romani Language“	250,000.00
“Euro Alfa“ Ltd, City TV, Subotica	“Both Like This and Like That“, a documentary film	207,000.00
TV “Mag“, Obrenovac	“Rota po devel“ – “Wheel In The Sky“	542,850.00
PC RTV Vranje, Vranje	Romano info	331,996.00
Association of NGO – RTV Nišava, Niš	“Prejudice is Ignorance”	481,500.00
“Elektrometal-elektronik“ Ltd, Regional EM radio, Knjaževac	“Aven amenca“ – “Be With Us“	211,098.00
Radio Srbobran Ltd. informative, Srbobran,	Production and broadcasting of the programme in the Romani language	115,000.00

RTV Kuršum Ltd. Kuršumljija, Kuršumljija	“Voice of Roma“	211,000.00
Radio “Rom“, Obrenovac	“Anthropological Cycle with Roma“	266,293.00
SNOMA Ltd. for marketing, TV Info channel, Subotica	The Roma in history and culture	210,000.00
PC RTV Kruševac, Kruševac	“Romano alav“ – “Word of Roma“	314,640.00
PC Radio Leskovac, Leskovac	“Romano krlo“ – “Voice of Roma“	238,680.00
Public information company “Novi put“, Radio Jagodina Jagodina	“Voice of Roma“	282,000.00
2011		
OD for broadcasting of RTV programme Žarko Timotijević and others, “Sezam“, Bor	“I amen trais tumencar“ – “We Also Live With You“	200,000.00
Ozon media Ltd, Gornji Milanovac	Krlo e Romengo – Voice of Roma	400,000.00
PC RTV Kruševac, Kruševac	TV programme “Romano alav“ – “Word of Roma“ in the Rasina region	235,200.00
RTV Belle Amie Ltd, Niš	Informative programme “Dikhavno e Romengo” – “Picture of Roma“	415,000.00
Radio Rom, Obrenovac	Rromano Nevipe	360,000.00
“Medijski centar Blu” Ltd, Odžaci	“Events Behind Us“	220,000.00
PD “Hit“ Ltd, Požarevac	Romano Alav	330,100.00
Roma Democracy Centre, Radio Točak, Valjevo	“Better Days for Roma People“	489,000.00
PC Informative press centre “Vladičin Han“, Vladičin Han	The Most Honorable Roma in the World – Culture and Customs of Roma	80,000.00
“Vranjske“ Ltd, Vranje	Position of Roma in Southern Serbia	334,000.00
Company for television activities “Klisura produkcija“ Ltd. TV Klisura, Grdelica	Romano krlo (Voice of Roma)	263,400.00
Agency for production of radio and TV programme “Studio 101“, Zaječar	Roma, Our Neighbors	523,000.00
Public information company Novi put, Jagodina	Roma in the Media	265,000.00
“Elektrometal-elektronik“ Ltd, Regional EM radio, Knjaževac	Thara (Tomorrow)	176,700.00
RTV Kragujevac	The Young Can Do It	300,000.00

Kraljevačka TV Ltd, Kraljevo	Customs of Roma	300,000.00
Albos Ltd, Kruševac	Romano Foro (City of Roma)	270,000.00
TV Protokol K-1 Ltd, Leskovac	Therutne – Members of a Household	388,700.00
Agency for TV production “Liberty production“, Niš	Documentary television film “Employment of Roma“	377,425.00
Avalon for production and trade Ltd, Odžaci	Roots that Signify Life	125,000.00
Radio and press PC “Paraćin“, Paraćin	Info Rom	275,000.00
Ani Press Ltd. Pirot, Plus radio, Pirot	Dzangav to ternipe (Awake Your Youth)	332,775.00
Agency for audio and video production and marketing “Kreativni tim Petković“, Požarevac	Book Underneath the Head	500,000.00

• Subsidies (i.e. funds awarded in a competition) for printed media – bilingual media outlet in the Romani and Serbian language, *Romano Nevipe*, Belgrade, in the total amount of RSD 21,546,957.00 as follows:

Year	Printed media	Subsidy/competition
2008	<i>Romano Nevipe</i> , Belgrade	6,500,000.00
2009	<i>Romano Nevipe</i> , Belgrade	6,500,000.00
2010	<i>Romano Nevipe</i> , Belgrade	4,719,912.00
2011	<i>Romano Nevipe</i> , Belgrade	3,827,045.00

• Three individual projects (2008), in the total amount of RSD 1,149,403.00, as follows:

Beneficiary	Project	Approved funds
“Romano Nevipe“, Belgrade	Expansion of the network of correspondents in 2009	960,000.00
Developmental Centre “Rom” – Radio Rom, Obrenovac	Preparation of technical documentation for obtaining the licence from RATEL	95,403.00
RTV Nišava, Niš	Preparation of technical documentation for obtaining the licence from RATEL	94,000.00

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina have been allocated for:

• The financial support for the media outlets and other media products in the Romani language, as follows:

Newspapers founded by the National Council of the Roma National Minority		
Media outlet	Grounds	Approved funds 2007-2011
Bi-weekly magazine list <i>Them</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy (starting from 2009, funds have not been paid due to misuse of funds and unsolved incorporation related issues)	25,718,000.00
Children's magazine <i>Chavorrengo Them</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy (starting from 2009, funds have not been paid due to misuse of funds and unsolved incorporation related issues)	5,176,000.00
Radio programme which is also in the Romani language		
Radio Bačka, Bač	Equipment, programme improvement, public information services, informing the public	4,528,000.00
Radio Bela Crkva, Bela Crkva	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	1,950,000.00
Radio Kikinda, Kikinda	informing the public	904,000.00
Radio Bus, Kovin	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	1,904,000.00
Radio Novi Bečej, Novi Bečej	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	950,000.00
Radio Odžaci, Odžaci	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	1,418,600.00
Radio Blue, Odžaci	Public information services, informing the public	1,452,000.00
Radio Sombor, Sombor	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	5,801,000.00
Radio Srbobran, Srbobran	Public information services, informing the public	1,075,007.00
Television programme which is also in the Romani language		
RTV Pančevo TV Pančevo, Pančevo (in 2009, the funds were allocated for radio as well)	Equipment, programme improvement, public information services, informing the public	3,541,600.00
Web site		
Association of Roma, Novi Bečej	informing the public	100,000.00
Association of Roma Students, Novi Sad	informing the public	150,000.00

Educational Centre of Roma, Subotica	informing the public	100,000.00
RROTA EDU-INF	informing the public	100,000.00

• The co-financing of the magazines which are especially significant for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina – magazine *Romologija*, published by the Association of Roma Teachers in Vojvodina, Deronje (2009-2011), in the amount of RSD 105,000.00.

Romanian national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

• The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
NIU "Libertatea", Pančevo	"Flows of Multiculturalism"	250,000.00
"Danelli" Ltd, Radio Far, Alibunar	Programme in the Romanian language "Cultural Mosaic"	40,000.00
Radio Victoria, Vršac	Radio programme in the Romanian language	60,000.00
Cultural and arts society "Tibiscus", Uzdin	Tibiscus 2007	50,000.00
2008		
Radio Victoria, Vršac	Informative mosaic	300,000.00
RTV Kladovo Ltd, Kladovo	Transparency in Life and Customs of Romanians	341,800.00
Radio Far, Alibunar	Series of programmes "Young for the Young"	140,000.00
Dj-media, Kikinda	Internet information in the Romanian language	135,000.00
2009		
Panovizija Ltd, Vršac	Puppetry, programme for the children	510,000.00
Company for broadcasting and telecommunications "Bus" Ltd, Kovin	"Romanian Voice of Banat from Kovin" (Vocea Bantului)	170,000.00
2010		
Company for trade of goods and services "Danelli" Ltd, Radio Far, Alibunar	"Under Family Protection", radio-reportage programme	290,000.00
PC Radio Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin	"European Bridge – Banat Bridge"	345,326.00
Association of Fans of Romanian Music and	"Art as a Challenge" – "Arta ca sio tentative"	250,000.00

Culture “Victoria“, RTV Victoria, Vršac		
2011		
Danelli Ltd, Radio Far, Alibunar	Series of radio programmes “Art-way to Get to Know Each Other “ – “Arta-moda de-a ne cunoaste“	292,600.00
Association of Fans of Romanian Music and Culture “Victoria”, Vršac	“Cultural Identity” – “Identitatea cultural” series of TV and radio programmes	242,500.00

• The co-financing of periodical publications in the field of art and culture of the Romanian national minority – magazine *Limba Romana*, published by the Association for the Romanian language in Vojvodina, Vršac (2009), in the amount of RSD 80,000.00.

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina have been allocated for:

• Financial support for the media outlets and other media products in the Romanian language, as follows:

Newspapers founded by the National Council of the Romanian National Minority		
Media outlet	Grounds	Approved funds 2007-2011
Weekly magazine <i>Libertatea</i> , Pančevo	Subsidy	130,448,000.00
Children’s magazine <i>Bucuria Copilor</i> , Pančevo	Subsidy	11,437,000.00
Youth magazine <i>Tineretea</i> , Pančevo	Subsidy	11,437,000.00
Newspapers which are also in the Romanian language		
<i>Vršačka kula</i> , Vršac	Public information services	150,000.00
<i>Zrenjanin</i> , Zrenjanin	Technical-technological equipment, public information services, informing the public	2,404,000.00
<i>Kovinske novine</i> , Kovin (not published anymore)	Public information services	100,000.00
Radio programme in the Romanian language		
RTV Victoria, Vršac (funds allocated for RTV)	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	5,009,500.00
Radio programme which is also in the Romanian language		

Radio Far, Alibunar	Technical-technological equipment, informing the public	1,150,000.00
Radio Bačka, Bač	Equipment, programme improvement, public information services, informing the public	4,528,000.00
Radio Bela Crkva, Bela Crkva	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	1,950,000.00
Radio Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	4,143,000.00
Radio Kikinda, Kikinda	Informing the public	904,000.00
Radio Kovin, Kovin (does not broadcast anymore)	Equipment, public information services	346,000.00
Radio Bus, Kovin	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	1,904,000.00
Radio Sečanj, Sečanj	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	2,411,000.00
Television programme which is also in the Romanian language		
RTV Victoria, TV otvorena 2009, Vršac (funds allocated for RTV)	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	5,009,500.00
RTV Kovačica TV Kovačica, Kovačica	Technical-technological equipment, programme improvement, public information services, informing the public	7,446,200.00
RTV Pančevo TV Pančevo, Pančevo (in 2009, funds allocated for radio as well)	Equipment, programme improvement, public information services, informing the public	3,541,600.00

• The co-financing of the magazines which are especially significant for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina (2009-2011), in the total amount of RSD 1,205,000.00, as follows:

Beneficiary	Magazine	Approved funds
Newspaper publishing company Libertatea, Pančevo	Literary magazine <i>Lumina</i>	351,000.00
Newspaper publishing company Libertatea, Pančevo	Children's magazine <i>Bucuria Copilor</i>	42,000.00
Romanian Society for Ethnography and Folklore, Torak - Begejci	Magazine for ethnography and folklore <i>Traditia</i>	149,000.00
Literary Artistic Society Tibiscus, Uzdin	Magazine for culture and art <i>Tibiscus</i>	134,000.00

Fund Evropa, Novi Sad	Multicultural magazine <i>Europa</i> , (in the Romanian and Serbian language)	260,000.00
Fund Evropa, Novi Sad	Children's magazine <i>Prinčinndel - Kid</i> (in the Romanian and Serbian language)	130,000.00
KPZ of the municipality of Sečanj, Sečanj	Magazine <i>Oglinda - Mirror</i> (in the Romanian and Serbian language)	139,000.00

- Support of production of TV programmes in the field of culture and art in minority languages – project “KULT-TURA – KULT-TURALL“, Association of fans of Romanian music and culture Victoria, Vršac (2009-2011), in the amount of RSD 1,170,000.00.

Ruthenian national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia have been allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information services in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
Newspaper publishing company “Ruske slovo“, Novi Sad	News agency “Ruthen Press“	300,000.00
2008		
Newspaper publishing company “Ruske slovo“, Novi Sad	Electronic issue of newspaper in the Ruthenian language “Ruske slovo plus“	120,000.00
Public information company “Bačka Topola“, regional radio, Bačka Topola	News programme in the Ruthenian language	80,000.00
Newspaper publishing company “Mitrovačke novine“, Sremska Mitrovica,	“Ruthenians in Srem - Then and Now “	100,000.00
2009		
<i>Mitrovačke M novine</i> , Sremska Mitrovica	“Od stredi do stredi“	200,000.00
2010		
Sremska TV, Šid	“Srim včera, nješka, jutre“, 8 theme programmes	320,000.00
Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Ruthenians, Novi	Ruthenians and strategies of local self-administrations, cycle of radio programmes	129,600.00

Sad		
2011		
Sremska TV, Šid	Srim večera, nješka, jutre	376,560.00

- The co-financing of periodical publications in the field of art and culture of the Ruthenian national minority – magazine *Švetlosc*, published by the Newspaper publishing company “Ruske slovo“, Novi Sad (2011), in the amount of RSD 50,000.00.

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina have been allocated for:

- Financial support for the media outlets and other media products in the Ruthenian language, as follows:

Newspapers founded by the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority		
Media outlet	Grounds	Approved funds (2007-2011)
Weekly magazine <i>Ruske slovo</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy	125,348,000.00
Children’s magazine <i>Zagradtka</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy	11,437,000.00
Youth magazine <i>Mak</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy	30,844,000.00
Radio programme which is also in the Ruthenian language		
Radio Trend, Bačka Topola	Equipment, programme improvement, public information services, informing the public	2,051,562.00
RTV Vrbas, Vrbas	Equipment, public information services, informing the public	4,862,520.00
Radio Zenit, Kula	Technical-technological equipment, programme improvement	1,703,000.00
Radio Blue, Odžaci	Public information services, informing the public	1,452,000.00
Radio Blue Plus, Odžaci	Technical-technological equipment, public information services, informing the public	1,052,000.00
Radio Šid, Šid	Technical-technological equipment, public information services, informing the public	1,144,000.00
Television programme which is also in the Ruthenian language		
TV Kanal 25, Odžaci	Equipment, programme improvement, public information	4,203,000.00

	services, informing the public	
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- The co-financing of the magazines which are especially significant for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina (2009-2011), in the total amount of RSD 787,000.00, as follows:

Beneficiary	Magazine	Approved funds
Newspaper publishing company Ruske slovo, Novi Sad	Magazine for literature, culture and art <i>Švetlost</i>	351,000.00
Newspaper publishing company Ruske slovo, Novi Sad	Children's magazine <i>Zagradka</i>	92,000.00
Newspaper publishing company Ruske slovo, Novi Sad	Cultural – political magazine <i>MAK</i> (Youth Activity, Creativity)	92,000.00
Association for the Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture, Novi Sad	<i>Studia Ruthenica</i> , collection of works	171,000.00
Cultural and arts society DOK, Kucura	Magazine <i>Erato nad Kucurom/Kocurom</i> , (in the Ruthenian and Serbian language)	81,000.00

- Support of production of TV programmes in the field of culture and art in minority languages – TV programme of Srem television, *Šid* (2009), in the amount of RSD 800,000.00.

The Slovak national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia were allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmemes in the field of public information in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
Sremska TV Ltd, <i>Šid</i>	“Slovak Magazine”	200,000.00
PC Radio Stara Pazova, Stara Pazova	“Schooling in the Slovak Language – Then and Now”	35,000.00
UIC “Bački Petrovac“, Bački Petrovac	Programmes in the Slovak language	100,000.00
2008		
Association for the Preservation of Culture, Tradition and Art “Selenča”, Selenča	TV show “250 th Harvest”	500,000.00
“Avlon“ Ltd, Regional Blue	“The ‘Blue’ Weekly” (in the Slovak	100,000.00

Plus Radio, Odžaci	language)	
Public information company “Bačka Topola“, Radio Regije, Bačka Topola	News programme in the Slovak language	50,000.00
RTV Kovačica, TV Kovačica, Kovačica	“The Treasure of our History”	693,000.00
“Medijski Centar Blue“, Ltd, Regional Radio Blue, Odžaci	Radio show “The Treasure of our Culture”	350,000.00
2009		
“Avalon“ Ltd, Regional Blue Plus Radio, Odžaci	“Let’s Meet Vojvodina”	270,000.00
“Medijski Centar Blue“, Ltd, Regional Radio Blue, Odžaci	“A Minute Before Hell”	358,000.00
PC Radio Šid, Šid	“Woman - a Pillar of the Slovak Evangelical Church in Šid”	84,000.00
2010		
Video production “Res Media“, Novi Sad/RTV Vojvodina	“The Sun over the Plains” – a mini series	591,000.00
UIC “BAČSKY PETROVEC“, Radio Bački Petrovac, Bački Petrovac	“In the Steps of our Ancestors” – “Po stopach predkov“	272,000.00
2011		
UIC “Bačsky Petrovec“, Bački Petrovac	Digitisation of the music library	257,500.00
Public news company Radio Stara Pazova, Stara Pazova	Latest news from Vojvodina – Aktuality z Vojvodiny	500,000.00

- The co-financing of periodical publications in the field of arts and culture of the Slovak national minority – *New Life* Journal, published by the Slovak Publishing Centre, Bački Petrovac (2008 and 2011), in the amount of RSD 300,000.00

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina were allocated for:

- Financial support to public media and other media products in the Slovak language, as follows:

Newspapers founded by the National Council of the Slovak National Minority		
Media	Grounds	Approved funds for 2007-2011
Weekly newspaper <i>Hlas L’udu</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy	131,177,000.00
Young people’s magazine	Subsidy	11,423,000.00

<i>Vzlet</i> , Novi Sad		
Children's magazine <i>Zornička</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy	10,796,000.00
Newspapers containing pages also in the Slovak language		
<i>Zrenjanin</i> , Zrenjanin	Technical and technological equipment, informing the public, information services	2,404,000.00
Radio programme in the Slovak language		
Radio Bačsky Petrovec, Bački Petrovac	Technical and technological equipment, information services, improvement of programmes, informing the public	2,533,512.00
Radio programme also in the Slovak language		
Radio Far, Alibunar	Technical and technological equipment, informing the public	1,150,000.00
Radio Bačka, Bač	Technical and technological equipment, improvement of programmes, information services, informing the public	4,528,000.00
Radio Trend, Bačka Topola	Technical and technological equipment, improvement of programmes, information services, informing the public	2,051,562.00
Radio Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin	Technical and technological equipment, information services, informing the public	4,143,000.00
Radio Kisač, Kisač (Novi Sad)	Information services, informing the public	1,613,000.00
RTV Kovačica, Radio Kovačica, Kovačica	Technical and technological equipment, information services, improvement of programmes, informing the public	7,446,200.00
Radio Odžaci, Odžaci,	Technical and technological equipment, information services, informing the public	1,418,600.00
Radio Blue, Odžaci	Information services, informing the public	1,452,000.00
Radio Blue Plus, Odžaci	Technical and technological equipment, information services,	1,052,000.00

	informing the public	
Radio Stara Pazova, Stara Pazova	Technical and technological equipment, information services, informing the public	2,500,000.00
Radio Šid, Šid	Technical and technological equipment, information services, improvement of programmes, informing the public	1,144,000.00
Television programme in the Slovak language		
TV Petrovac, Bački Petrovac	Technical and technological equipment, information services, informing the public	5,995,486.00
Television programme also in the Slovak language		
RTV Kovačica, TV Kovačica, Kovačica	Technical and technological equipment, improvement of programmes, information services, informing the public	7,446,200.00
TV Kanal 25, Odžaci	Equipment, improvement of programmes, information services, informing the public	4,203,000.00
RTV Pančevo TV Pančevo, Pančevo (in 2009 funds were also awarded to the radio)	Equipment, improvement of programmes, information services, informing the public	3,541,600.00

• The co-financing of magazines that are of special importance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina (2009-2011), in the total amount of RSD 1,058,000.00 as follows:

Beneficiary	Magazine	Approved funds
Slovak Publishing Centre, Bački Petrovac	Journal of literature and culture <i>Nový živo</i>	349,000.00
Slovak Publishing Centre, Bački Petrovac	<i>Rovina</i> , family magazine	232,000.00
Slovak Publishing Centre, Bački Petrovac	Children's magazine <i>Zornička</i>	145,000.00
Newspaper publishing company Hlas L'udu, Novi Sad	Magazine <i>Obzory</i>	168,000.00
Newspaper publishing company Hlas L'udu, Novi Sad	Youth magazine <i>Vzlet</i>	149,000.00
Department of Slovak Studies, Faculty of Philosophy, Novi Sad	Youth magazine <i>Traf</i>	15,000.00

The Slovenian national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia were allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information in minority languages – project “Linden Tree at the Foot of Bagdala” by “Gulliver Productions”, Kruševac (2010), in the amount of RSD 160,000.00.

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina funds were allocated for:

- The co-financing of magazines that are of special importance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina – *Letni poročevalec* magazine, published by the Association of Slovenians “Planika”, Zrenjanin (2011), in the amount of RSD 24,000.00.

The Ukrainian national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia were allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
“Prosvita“, Novi Sad	Magazine <i>Ukrajinske slovo</i>	100,000.00
2009		
Public information company RTV Indija, Indija	Documentary and news programme in the Ukrainian and Serbian language	264,000.00
2010		
Public information company “Radio Television Indija“, Indija	“Zvonik”	204,500.00
2011		
Newspaper publishing company “Ridne slovo“, Novi Sad	A Joyful Guide to the Ukrainian Language	130,000.00

- The co-financing of periodical publications in the fields of art and culture of the Ukrainian national minority – *Ukrajinske slovo* magazine, published by the Association for Ukrainian Language, Literature and Culture “Prosvita“, Novi Sad (2008), in the amount of RSD 100,000.00.

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina were allocated for:

- Financial support to public media and other media products in the Ukrainian language, as follows:

Newspapers founded by the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority		
Media	Grounds	Approved funds 2007-2011
Monthly newspaper <i>Рідне слово</i> , Kula	Subsidy	14,232,600.00
Children's magazine <i>Соловейко</i> , Novi Sad	Subsidy	5,110,000.00
Radio programme also in the Ukrainian language		
RTV Vrbas, Vrbas	Equipment, improvement of programmes, information services.	4,862,520.00
Radio Zenit, Kula	Technical and technological equipment, improvement of programmes	1,703,000.00

- The co-financing of magazines that are of special importance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina (2009-2011), in the total amount of RSD 120,000.00 as follows:

Beneficiary	Magazine	Approved funds
Newspaper publishing company <i>Рідне слово</i> , Kula	Journal of Culture, Literature and Art <i>Слово</i> (Word)	90,000.00
Newspaper publishing company <i>Рідне слово</i> , Kula	Children's magazine <i>Соловейко</i>	30,000.00

The Croatian national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia were allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2007		
PC Radio Subotica, Subotica	A series of radio dramas in Croatian	500,000.00
Newspaper publishing company "Hrvatska riječ", Subotica	Youth newspaper in Croatian	200,000.00
2008		
Association of Citizens "Cro	Television and radio show "Kronika"	400,000.00

Media“, Subotica		
Newspaper publishing company “Hrvatska riječ“, Subotica	Daily electronic edition of “Hrvatska riječ“, enriched with audio and video content	220,000.00
2009		
Association of Citizens “CroV“, Subotica	“Young Croats to Remain in the Srem Villages”	113,000.00
Association of Citizens “CroV“, Subotica	“Let’s Write About Each Other”	130,000.00
Croatian Cultural-Educational Society “Matija Gubec”, Tavankut	Improvement of the website WWW.MatijaGubec.org.rs	84,750.00
Association of Citizens “Cro Media“, Subotica	TV and radio show in Croatian “Kronika”	312,000.00
2010		
Public Broadcasting Company Radio Bačka, Bač	“The Sounds of the Bačka Plain”	192,000.00
2011		
Public information company RTV Indija, Indija	Exchange of the radio show of Pitomi Radio from Pitomača (the Republic of Croatia) intended for Croats living abroad, for the show “Spona” (<i>Nexus</i>) of Radio Indija intended for the Serbian community in Croatia	290,500.00

• The co-financing of periodical publications in the fields of art and culture of the Croatian national minority (2008-2011), in the total amount of RSD 530,000.00 as follows:

Beneficiary	Project	Approved funds
Croatian Academic Society, Subotica	<i>Lexicon of Danubian Croats - Bunjevtsi and Shokci</i>	130,000.00
Newspaper publishing company “Hrvatska riječ“, Subotica	<i>Klasje naših ravni</i> magazine	400,000.00

Funds were allocated from the budget of AP Vojvodina for:

• Financial support to public media and other media products in the Croatian language, as follows:

Newspapers founded by the National Council of the Croatian National Minority

Media	Grounds	Approved funds 2007-2011
Weekly newspapers <i>Hrvatska riječ</i> , Subotica	Subsidy	105,839,000.00
Children's magazine <i>Hrcko</i> , Subotica	Subsidy	11,423,000.00
Youth magazine <i>Kužiš?!</i> , Subotica	Subsidy	8,491,000.00
Radio programme also in the Croatian language		
Radio Bačka, Bač	Equipment, improvement of programmes, information services, informing the public	4,528,000.00
Radio Sombor, Sombor	Equipment, information services, informing the public	5,801,000.00
Radio Subotica, Subotica	Equipment, improvement of programmes, information services, informing the public; in 2009 for daily news in Croatian through an interactive portal	4,552,000.00 150,000.00
Television programme also in the Croatian language		
RTV YU ECO, Subotica	Equipment, improvement of programmes, information services, informing the public; in 2009 for a show in Croatian	14,969,000.00 200,000.00
Independent audio production		
Z Video Studio/broadcaster Radio Subotica	Documentary radio shows "Slike 20. stoljeća" (Images of the 20 th Century)	200,000.00
Independent video production		
"Cro Media"/ broadcasters K23-LTV Subotica, TV Spektar, Sombor and RTV, Novi Sad	"Videos on Cultural Heritage of Bačka and Srijem"	200,000.00

- The co-financing of magazines that are of special importance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina (2009-2011), in the total amount of RSD 649,000.00 as follows:

Beneficiary	Magazine	Approved funds
Newspaper publishing company "Hrvatska riječ", Subotica	<i>Klasije naših ravni</i>	351,000.00
Newspaper publishing company "Hrvatska riječ", Subotica	Children's magazine <i>Hrcko</i>	149,000.00
Newspaper publishing company "Hrvatska riječ", Subotica	Youth magazine <i>Kužiš?!</i>	149,000.00

The Czech national minority

Funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia were allocated for:

- The co-financing of projects/programmes in the field of public information in minority languages, as follows:

Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
2008		
SPR Studio Lui, Bela Crkva	"The Czechs Around Us" (TV production)	96,000.00
2009		
Public information company "BC Info", Bela Crkva	"The Preservation and Promotion of the Czech Cultural Heritage in the Bela Crkva Municipality"	253,346.00
2011		
National Council of the Czech National Minority, Bela Crkva	Newspaper <i>Beseda Češka</i>	220,500.00

Funds from the budget of AP Vojvodina were allocated for:

- The co-financing of magazines that are of special importance for the development of culture in AP Vojvodina – *List Jižniho Banatu* magazine, published by the Cultural-Educational Association "Czechs of Southern Banat", Bela Crkva (2011), in the amount of RSD 24,000.00

7.3.2. Measures to facilitate access to the media aimed at enhancing tolerance and cultural pluralism

In order to encourage the production of media content that promotes respect for differences resulting from specificities of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, the tender for financing of projects/programmes in the field of public

information in minority languages includes, *inter alia*, the following criteria: contribution to the diversity of media content and to pluralism of ideas and values, as well as programmes with multicultural and intercultural contents aimed at developing a culture of dialogue, better acquaintance and understanding between different communities. Based on tender documents, a noticeable tendency indicates a growing number of media and productions that compete with multilingual and intercultural events.

The table below contains data on the projects supported by budget funds of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the stated tender criteria.

2007		
Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
Public information company "Bačka Topola", Bačka Topola	Programme in minority languages	417,100.00
RTV Kovačica, Kovačica	Subtitling of programmes in the languages of national minorities into Serbian	360,000.00
Radio Sunce - Voice of Southern Banat, Bela Crkva	Multiculturality 2007	100,000.00
PC Radio Sečanj, Sečanj	Broadcasting of programmes in Hungarian and Romanian languages	160,500.00
Fedra Foundation, Zrenjanin	"EURORADIO" – multilingual news radio programme	96,000.00
PC Radio Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin	Broadcasting of programmes in the languages of national and ethnic communities	432,000.00
2008		
Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
Jug Press - Agency of the Centre for Democracy and Development of Southern Serbia	Capacity Building of Editorial Offices in the Albanian and Romani language	400,000.00
RTV Panonija, Ltd, Novi Sad	Multiethnic and Multiethnic Archive	480,000.00
Agency for business services, production and broadcasting of radio programme "Zlatna lopta", Zrenjanin	"Slojeviti putevi" (Layered Roads)	134,000.00
Agency for TV production "Liberty production", Niš	National Minorities in Southern Serbia, Multimedia workshop	660,000.00
Play Ground Production,	ТВ магазин „Портал“	750,000.00

Novi Sad	TV magazine "Portal"	
PC Radio Sečanj, Sečanj	"Mini-multiethnic Vojvodina"	324,000.00
PC Radio Zrenjanin, Zrenjanin	Young people in programmes in the languages of national minorities and ethnic communities	340,000.00
Joint stock newspaper publishing company "Zrenjanin", Zrenjanin	Expanding the network of associates	442,584.00
Association NVO, RTV Nišava, Niš	"Enjoy the Differences" – TV production	500,000.00
RTV Aldi, Preševo	News programmes in the Serbian and Romani language	830,000.00
2009		
Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
PC RTV Bujanovac, Bujanovac	Call-in programme in the Albanian and Romani language	450,000.00
Impres Ltd – Radio Trend, Bačka Topola	Programmes on tolerance in four languages	450,000.00
SAT TV Communications Ltd, Požarevac	"I Know You Know", creative students' championship in the Vlach, Roma and Serbian language	400,000.00
PC RTV Kovačica, Kovačica	Divadlo, szinhaz, teatru, a documentary film about amateur theatres	590,000.00
Cultural information centre "Lukijan Mušicki", Radio Temerin, Temerin	"Usud suživota" (The Fate of Coexistence)	320,000.00
Radio Broadcasting Company B92 JSC, Belgrade	Web page of B92 in the Hungarian and Albanian language	444,000.00
Regional News Agency "Jug Press", Leskovac	Sstrengthening the capacity of the regional news agency "Jug press" - formation of the Bulgarian editorial office and the work of editorial offices in the Albanian, Roma and Serbian languages	1,032,000.00
2010		
Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
Beta Press Ltd, Belgrade	News service in minority languages, Internet	972,283.00
Centre for Democracy and Development of Southern Serbia, Regional news agency "Jug Press",	Strengthening the dialogue between national minorities, news updates on the website, news on the Jug Press internet radio	990,000.00

Leskovac		
Public information company "BC Info", Radio Bela Crkva, Bela Crkva	"I Also Want to Know and Understand", 24 radio shows	383,760.00
Company for RTV activities Radio 216, Banatsko Karadorđevo	"Chronicle of the Žitište Municipality in Hungarian and Romanian", 25 shows	147,000.00
PC Radio Sečanj, Sečanj	"Multiethnic Tolerance - the Road of Optimism", a series of thematic programmes	217,192.00
Public information company RTV Kovačica, Radio Kovačica, Kovačica	"From Our Point of View", 36 thematic programmes	248,400.00
Playground Production Ltd/TV Apolo, Novi Sad	TV series "Inclusion... Countdown"	317,940.00
Yu Eco Ltd, Subotica	"Differences that Connect"	396,480.00
Radio Broadcasting and Telecommunications Company "Bus" Ltd, Radio Bus, Kovin	"At least 2% (of space on the radio) for 5% (the percentage of persons belonging to the Roma and Romanian national minorities in the Kovin Municipality)"	194,260.00
"Belafons"/TV Vojvodina, Novi Sad	"Ruthenian (Lemki) Fire"	564,835.00
Mozaik Ltd Bečej, "Bečejski mozaik", Bečej	"Planning the Future-Implementation of the Development Strategy"	334,500.00
Television Aldi, Preševo	Multicultural information of youth in Southern Serbia	388,800.00
RTV Panonija, Novi Sad	"Multiethnic"	500,000.00
2011		
Project/programme submitted by	Project name	Approved funds
Video production Astra, Pirot	"... for Better or for Worse..."	456,250.00
RTV Panonija, Novi Sad	"Multiethnic"	290,500.00
Sat TV communications, Požarevac	I Know, You Know, We Know	400,000.00
"Romanov" Ltd, Radio D-65, Odžaci	Untitled	140,000.00
Information and advertising centre "Kula" Ltd, Kula	"Living Together"	393,550.00
Public Broadcasting Company RTV Pančevo, Pančevo	Translation of programmes in minority languages on TV Pančevo to Serbian	104,000.00
Radio Đerdap, JSC, Kladovo	Ce ieste nou la voi – What's New With You	291,000.00

Centre for Democracy and Development of Southern Serbia, Leskovac	Strengthening the capacity of editorial staff of the Regional News Agency “Jug Press” in the Albanian, Roma and Bulgarian language, through the Agency’s video service	300,000.00
Beta Press Ltd, Belgrade	Сервис вести на мањинским језицима News service in minority languages	649,217.00
Radio Broadcasting and Telecommunications Company “Bus“ Ltd, Radio Bus, Kovin	We are Worth More When We Understand Each Other Better	210,000.00
Agency “K23“ for radio and television activities, Subotica	Programme of the Croatian and Bunyevtsi national minority	520,000.00

7.4. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, the Advisory Committee made 5 recommendations relating to Article 9 of the Framework Convention. The following paragraphs contain information about the activities that the authorities have undertaken to implement the recommendations.

The Serbian authorities should ensure that there are no discrepancies in the legal framework relating to minority media. The authorities should ensure that the legal solution found maintains the obligation of the State to guarantee adequate conditions for the right of national minorities to create and use their own media and pay due attention to its consequences on media content in order to ensure the existence of plurality and adequate coverage of minority issues.

The authorities of the Republic of Serbia have noticed the discrepancies between certain provisions of the regulations governing the issue of property relations in the field of public information, including the minority media, which will, as noted above, be eliminated in the coming period. However, the statutory provisions regulating the manner of exercise of the right of persons belonging to national minorities to create and use their own media fully comply with the Constitution which guarantees that right. The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and the laws regulating the manner of exercise of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including the right to public information in their own language, fully guarantee the right of persons belonging to national minorities to create and use their own media, which is achieved in practice.

The Serbian authorities should exempt explicitly broadcasters using minority languages from the obligation to have 50% of the broadcasting time in Serbian.

In the Comments of the Republic of Serbia on the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia, relating to paragraph 153, it was emphasised that the **legal solution clearly excluded application of the language quota to broadcast programmes in minority languages** and that it was fully implemented in practice.

The switchover to digital TV should be carefully prepared, in due consultation with national minorities, including through their national councils, with a view to ensuring that such a change results in positive developments for the access to media of persons belonging to national minorities.

The switchover from analogue to digital television broadcasting in the Republic of Serbia creates new opportunities for minority media. The digitisation of the television system in the Republic of Serbia through multiplexes (a larger number of digital frequencies) is expected to offer more channels for distribution at the national level, but at the same time fewer channels at the local level. The digital distribution system would encourage centralisation at the regional level through networking, or shared use of transmission channels, which would have positive effects on broadcasting in minority languages as well. Currently underway in the Republic of Serbia are activities for determining which broadcasters can become part of programme packages of the Initial Network for testing of the digital TV signal. Bearing in mind the criterion for broadcasting in the languages of national minorities, the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency has designated the broadcasters that may be included in these programme packages. Thus, for the package that will be broadcast from transmitter sites in Vojvodina, it determined that the programme of the Broadcasting Agency of Vojvodina – RTV 1 and RTV 2 must be included in the offer, given that this programme not only meets the general public interest but also has programmes in the languages of national minorities. For the package that will be transmitted digitally from transmitter sites of Novi Pazar, Priboj, Raška, Valjevo and Loznica, the Council decided in favour of broadcasting of programmes of Regional TV, Novi Pazar, which also broadcasts programmes in the Bosnian language.

The Serbian authorities are encouraged to take positive measures to facilitate access of national minorities to broadcasting licences both at regional and local levels. This would be particularly important for those minorities who are not compactly settled on the territory of Serbia.

Under the provisions of the Broadcasting Law, for a radio and television station to become operational it needs to have a broadcasting licence issued exclusively based on a public tender. A public tender is launched when, based on the Radio Frequency Assignment Plan, possibilities exist for the issuance of new broadcasting licences. The Assignment Plan clearly defines the number of radio and/or television stations at all broadcasting levels. The Radio Frequency Assignment Plan is issued by the ministry responsible for telecommunications and it determines the allocation of radio frequencies in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, while the RBA launches the public tender based on the Plan.

When deciding on the issuance of the licences, the RBA Council assessed the tender documents according to criteria that were published and made available to the applicants and all other stakeholders. During all these tender procedures, one of the criteria that remained unchanged for the civil sector stations is contribution to the exercise of rights of national minorities, religious communities or the specific area in which the organisation or association of citizens is engaged. When applying for tenders, the civil sector stations in most cases submitted documents stating that, as associations of citizens, they would broadcast the programme that is specific for national minorities, whether they contained programme content in the languages of national minorities or broadcast specific music in the language of a national minority.

The RBA Council provides support to all broadcasters that choose to broadcast in the languages of national minorities. An example of such practice is the recent approval of the change of programme survey of Radio Drina Ltd from Mali Zvornik – Radio Drina, which plans to introduce in its programme schedule the shows that would deal with topics of importance to the local community, which is partly composed of representatives of the Bosniac national minority. The shows would be aired in the Bosnian language and are of importance for that national minority in the territory of the Mali Zvornik municipality. The broadcaster intends to include in its programme a carousel (collage-type) show that would be aired once a week in the duration of 45 minutes, with topical news from various fields of social life, guest participation, audio reports, listener call-ins, and a weekly one-hour programme dedicated to religion and religious practices.

In the period since 2006, at seven public tenders the RBA has issued 172 licences to broadcasters for broadcasting in the languages of national minorities. The number of licences issued to radio and TV stations broadcasting in the languages of national minorities was obtained by examining the documents, i.e. the broadcasters' programme survey.

The table below contains data on issued licences based on the broadcasters' programme survey, by the broadcasting language.

No.	Broadcasting of programmes in the languages of national	RADIO	TELEVISION
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	minorities		
1	Albanian language	4	4
2	Bosnian language	2	1
3	Bulgarian language	3	2
4	Vlach language	3	1
5	Hungarian language	32	8
6	German language	2	-
7	Romani language	28	8
8	Romanian language	10	3
9	Ruthenian language	13	1
10	Slovak language	22	5
11	Ukrainian language	8	-
12	Croatian language	11	-
13	Czech language	1	-
Total:		139	33
TOTAL: 172 RTV stations			

The switchover to digital television broadcasting in the Republic of Serbia, as mentioned above, creates greater opportunities for offering more channels for distribution at the national level, which should have positive effects on the availability of programmes to persons belonging to national minorities who are not compactly settled in a certain part of Serbia.

The Serbian authorities should take measures to promote the development of professional training, including vocational training of journalists belonging to national minorities.

The Republic of Serbia is taking measures to improve the provision of information in the languages of national minorities by upgrading the quality of media products and encouraging the minority media to produce independent and professional content. In addition to financial assistance for technical and technological equipping that it provides to the media reporting in minority languages, human resources capacity building activities are also undertaken. In this regard, it is important to note that one of the criteria in tenders for co-financing of projects/programmes in the languages of national minorities is professional training and rejuvenation of the journalist staff, expansion of the correspondent network, launching of internet sites, special newsrooms and programmes in minority languages, etc., thus motivating the media outlets to intensify their activities related to the improvement and advancement of information in the languages of national minorities, both in technical terms and in terms of training of journalists. In order to contribute to such a commitment, a part of the budget funds was earmarked for projects that contribute to capacity building of newsrooms reporting in national minority languages, rejuvenation of professional staff and expansion of the correspondent network, and for projects for the organisation of trainings, workshops,

courses for young journalists, etc. Data on the allocation of budget funds for these purposes are contained in the previous chapter of the Report.

The commitment of the state to create opportunities for the engagement of young, professional and qualified staff for working in newsrooms in the languages of national minorities is also illustrated by the following examples. The project of engaging Roma media representatives which the then Ministry of Culture carried out in late 2008 in cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and the National Council of the Roma National Minority included 18 participants of the training for Roma media representatives, which was conducted for one participant in each of the 16 towns in Serbia and two participants in Belgrade. Upon the completion of the training, which had two phases, the project envisaged the engagement of Roma media representatives in the local communities on the editing of programmes and coverages and placement of information of importance for the Roma community through the local media.

In 2009, the Provincial Secretariat for Culture and Public Information adopted the Rulebook on scholarships for students of journalism, other media professions and other occupations necessary for the public media. Based on the Rulebook, a tender was launched, where founders of the public media seated in the territory of AP Vojvodina could apply, along with a proposal and expressed need for staff - the student of their own choice. Although the budgetary resources could support a dozen scholars, only three candidates met the requirements of the tender, including one national minority media – the Newspaper Publishing Company “Hrvatska riječ”. Given the poor response of the public media founders, the tender for supporting the employment of young professionals in the media was never re-launched.

Article 10

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

3 The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself on this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

8.1. Use of minority language in relations with local administrative authorities

The Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention presented in detail the legal framework related to the use of minority languages in relations between persons belonging to national minorities and authorities at all levels of the government. As already mentioned, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that persons belonging to national minorities, in addition to the right to use their language and script, are entitled to have the proceedings also conducted in their language before public authorities, organisations exercising public powers, bodies of autonomous provinces and local self-government units, in the areas where they make up a significant part of the population.

In areas that are traditionally or significantly inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities, the legislation of the Republic of Serbia provides for the possibility of introducing the official use of a minority language. This issue is regulated by the Law on the Official Use of Language and Script. With the adoption of its amendments in 2010, the Law was harmonised with the Constitution, and at the same time with ratified international treaties and the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities. Amended Article 11 of the Law stipulates that the language and script of national minorities may be in equal official use within their respective territories of the local self-government units that are traditionally inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities (paragraph 1). A local self-government unit shall equally introduce the official use of the language and script of a national minority where the percentage of the persons belonging to that national minority within the total number of population in its territory reaches 15 percent according to the results of the last population census (paragraph 2). Paragraph 3 of that Article defines what in particular is implied under the

official use of minority language (use of languages of national minorities in administrative and judicial proceedings and conducting administrative and judicial proceedings in the languages of national minorities; use of languages of national minorities in communication between the authorities exercising public powers and the citizens; issuance of public documents and keeping of official records and personal data bases in the languages of national minorities and recognition of documents written in these languages as valid; use of languages of national minorities on ballot papers and electoral materials; use of languages of national minorities in the work of representative bodies), and paragraph 4 stipulates that the names of authorities exercising public powers, names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms shall in the territories referred to in paragraph 2 also be written in the language of national minorities, in accordance with their tradition and orthography. Languages of national minorities that are in official use in the work of provincial authorities shall be determined by their statutes (paragraph 5). Laws and regulations are also published in languages of national minorities, in accordance with the special law (paragraph 6). Paragraphs 7 and 8 of this Article stipulate the right of persons belonging to national minorities that account for at least 2% of the total population of the Republic of Serbia according to the last census, to address the republic authorities in their own language and to receive a reply in that language, and the right of persons belonging to national minorities whose numbers do not reach 2% of the total population of the Republic of Serbia to address the republic authorities in their own language and to receive a reply in that language through the local self-government unit in which the language of that national minority is in official use, whereby the local self-government unit shall provide the translation and bear the costs of translating the letter addressed to the republic authority and the reply of that authority.

Given that the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities established (in 2002) and the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia constitutionalised (in 2006) the right of national minorities to cultural autonomy through the possibility of establishing national councils of national minorities, the Law on National Councils of National Minorities prescribed the competences of national councils also in terms of exercising the right to official use of minority languages. Article 22 of the Law has determined the competences relating to the official use of language and script, according to which the national councils: 1) define the traditional names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographic names in the language of the national minority, if the language of the national minority is in official use in the territory of the local self-government unit or settlement; the names defined by the national council become names in official use in addition to the name in Serbian, and are published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, and in the case of national councils seated in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, in the “Official Journal of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina”; 2) propose to the competent authority to display

the names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographic names in the language of the national minority; 3) propose the establishment of the minority language and script as the official language and script in the local self-government unit; 4) propose the changing of names of streets, squares, quarters, hamlets, other parts of settlements, and institutions determined to be of particular importance for a national minority; 5) give opinions in the process of determining the names of streets, squares, quarters, hamlets and other parts of settlements, if the minority language is in official use in the territory of the local self-government unit or settlement; 6) propose supervision of the official use of language and script of a national minority to the competent authority; 7) propose to competent authorities the measures and activities for improving the translation of regulations to languages of national minorities that are in official use; 8) take measures and actions to promote the official use of language and script of a national minority; 9) decide on other issues in this area that have been entrusted to it by law, act of the autonomous province or the local self-government unit.

8.1.1. The territory and minority languages in official use

In the period following the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, some local self-government units have, by their statutes, established the official use of certain minority languages, whereby the number of local self-government units, settlements or local communities⁷ where a language of a national minority is in official use was increased.

The Albanian language and script are in official use in 3 municipalities: Bujanovac, Preševo and Medveđa.

The Bosnian language and script are in official use in 4 local self-government units: the town of Novi Pazar and the municipalities of Prijepolje, Sjenica and Tutin. After the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, the official use of the Bosnian language and script was also established in the Prijepolje municipality.

The Bulgarian language and script are in official use in the municipalities of Bosilegrad and Dimitrovgrad. After the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, official use of the Bulgarian language and script was also established in the Ivanovo settlement, as envisaged under the Statute of the Town of Pančevo.

⁷ Article 8 Paragraph 3 of the Decision on More Detailed Regulation of Specific Issues of Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Territory of AP Vojvodina prescribes that when language and script of a national minority are not in official use in the entire territory of the local self-government unit, the language and script of the national minority shall be introduced into official use in the settlement or local community if the percentage of persons belonging to a particular national minority in that settlement or local community reaches 25% according to the results of the latest census.

The Hungarian language and script are in official use in the entire territory of 28 towns and municipalities, namely: Ada, Bač, Bačka Topola, Bela Crkva, Bečej, Vrbas, Vršac, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža Kovačica, Kovin, Kula, Mali Idoš, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Kneževac, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Plandište, Senta, Sečanj, Sombor, Srbobran, Subotica, Temerin, Titel and Čoka. Furthermore, the Hungarian language is in official use in two settlements (Kupusina, Svilojevo) in the municipality of Apatin, in four settlements in the municipality of Kikinda (Banatska Topola, Kikinda, Rusko Selo and Sajan), and in the Ivanovo settlement and the cadastral municipality of Vojlovica in the town of Pančevo. After the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, by amending its statute in early 2008 the municipality of Vršac re-introduced the official use of the Hungarian language and script in the entire territory of the municipality, instead of its official use in certain settlements only, and the town of Pančevo established the official use of the Hungarian language and script in the Ivanovo settlement and the cadastral municipality of Vojlovica.

The Macedonian language is in official use in the settlements of Jabuka (town of Pančevo) and Dužine (municipality of Plandište), and was introduced into official use after the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention

The Romanian language is in official use in the following 9 towns and municipalities: Alibunar, Bela Crkva, Vršac, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kovačica, Kovin, Plandište, Sečanj, and in the settlement of Banatsko Novo Selo within the town of Pančevo. After the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, official use of the Romanian language and script was established in Banatsko Novo Selo (the town of Pančevo), and the Vršac municipality, which, by amending its statute in early 2008, re-introduced the official use of the Romanian language and script in the entire territory of the municipality instead of just some particular settlements.

The Ruthenian language is in official use in 4 local self-government units: Vrbas, Žabalj, Kula, Novi Sad and Šid. Moreover, the language is in official use in the settlement of Novo Orahovo (municipality of Bačka Topola).

The Slovak language in official use in the territory of 10 towns and municipalities, namely: Alibunar, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bački Petrovac, Zrenjanin, Kovačica, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Plandište and Šid. The language is also in official use in the settlements of Stara Pazova (municipality of Stara Pazova), Bajša (municipality of Bačka Topola) and Lug (municipality of Beočin).

The Croatian language is in official use in the town of Subotica, and in the territory of settlements of Sonta (municipality of Apatin), Bački Breg and Bački Monoštor (the town of Sombor), Stara Bingula (the town of Sremska Mitrovica), Sot and Batrovci (municipality of Šid). After the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, the official use of the Croatian language and script was established in Bački Breg, Bački Monoštor, Sot and Batrovci.

The Montenegrin language is in official use in the municipality of Mali Idoš, introduced after the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention.

The Czech language is in official use in the municipality of Bela Crkva.

8.1.2. The practice of using minority languages in relations with local government authorities

The legal obligation to introduce the official use of languages and scripts of national minorities in ethnically mixed areas implies consistent use of minority languages in administrative proceedings, as well as the conduct of administrative proceedings in minority languages; use of minority languages in communication between local-self government authorities and the citizens, issuance of public documents in the languages of national minorities and acceptance of documents in those languages as valid, etc.

The right of persons belonging to national minorities to address local self-government authorities in their own language is exercised in practice, as verified by the data obtained from particular local self-government units. Since there are no centralised records in the Republic of Serbia on how many times persons belonging to national minorities addressed local self-government authorities in their own language, the then Directorate for Human and Minority Rights sent an invitation to all local self-government units in which a minority language is in official use, for participation in the development of the Third Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention, in order to obtain information, *inter alia*, on the number of oral and written communications in the languages of national minorities. Of the 48 local self-government units where minority languages are in official use in addition to Serbian, less than half responded to the invitation and thus the data obtained can serve not as indicators of the overall volume but rather as examples confirming that persons belonging to national minorities have the possibility to address local self-government units in their own language. Thus in 2011, according to the work records of the Municipal Administration of Ada, the total of 16,251 administrative proceedings were instituted in the Hungarian language at the request of the parties, and 28 certificates were issued in Hungarian in accordance with Articles 161⁸ and 162⁹ of the Law on General Administrative Procedure; in the municipality of Alibunar one administrative proceeding was conducted in the Slovak language; to the authorities of the Municipal Administration of Dimitrovgrad only two applications were submitted in the Bulgarian language, and no administrative proceedings were conducted in the

⁸ Provisions of Article 161 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure prescribe that the authorities issue certificates or other documents concerning the facts on which they keep official records. Certificates and other documents on the facts contained in official records must be issued in accordance with the data from the official records, and such certificates or other documents have the status of public documents.

⁹ Provisions of Article 162 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure prescribe that the authorities also issue certificates or other documents on the facts on which they do not keep official records if the law or other regulations so prescribe, and in that case, the facts shall be determined in the prescribed procedure.

Bulgarian language because the parties made no such requests; in the municipality of Žabalj none of the applicants addressed the authorities in the Ruthenian language; in the municipality of Kanjiža, 532 administrative proceedings were conducted in the Hungarian language; in the municipalities of Nova Crnja and Novi Bečej, municipal authorities were not addressed in the minority language and no administrative proceedings were conducted in the minority language; the City Administration of Novi Sad received 3 applications in the languages of national minorities, one in Hungarian, one in Slovak and one in Ruthenian; the authorities of the Town of Sombor, municipalities of Titel and Šid, were not addressed in minority languages; the Bujanovac Municipal Administration received 722 petitions, proposals, applications, complaints and requests in the Albanian language in the period 2009-2011; the Town Administration of Novi Pazar did not receive any requests, petitions, proposals or applications, and no administrative proceedings were conducted in the Bosnian language; in the first three months of 2012, in the Municipal Administration of Preševo 84 applications in Albanian were filed with the service for child allowance, 138 applications were filed with the municipal council and the fund for utility and construction work, and 35 applicants addressed the service for civil statuses in Albanian; at the level of the Town Administration of Subotica, the number of applications in the languages of national minorities in the period from 2007 to 2012 (until April) was as follows: 10 requests in the Hungarian language for interpretation relating to the application of the Law on Property Restitution and Compensation; 66,711 administrative cases in the languages of national minorities, including 36,932 in Hungarian and 29,779 in Croatian; 2 administrative proceedings were conducted in Hungarian; 2 decisions and one certificate were issued in Hungarian, and there were 3,643 other communications in Hungarian.

The available data that the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights gathered from local self-government units also allow a partial insight into the issuance of excerpts and certificates from civil registers of some municipal administrations. Thus in 2011:

- In the Ada Municipality, of 7,000 certificates, 2,700 were issued on Serbian-Hungarian bilingual forms;
- In the Alibunar Municipality, 2 birth certificates¹⁰ were issued on the Serbian-Romanian form and one on the Serbian-Slovak form;
- In the Kanjiža Municipality, 5,965 birth certificates, 2,241 marriage certificates¹¹ and 408 death certificates¹² were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form; 3 certificates from the register of citizens were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form;
- In the Nova Crnja Municipality, 180 birth, marriage and death certificates and other certificates were issued on Serbian-Hungarian bilingual forms;

¹⁰ Certificates from the Birth Register

¹¹ Certificates from the Marriage Register

¹² Certificates from the Death Register

- In the Novi Bečej Municipality, 85 birth, marriage and death certificates and 3 other certificates from civil registers (vital records) were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form;
- In the town of Novi Pazar, due to technical unfeasibility, the issuance of birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates on the Serbian-Bosnian form did not commence until August 2011; since then 11,500 such certificates have been issued;
- In the City of Novi Sad: of birth certificates, 399 were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form and 434 on the Serbian-Slovak form; of marriage certificates, 89 were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form and 171 on the Serbian-Slovak form; of death certificates, 50 were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form and 9 on the Serbian-Slovak form; of certificates from the register of citizens, 82 were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form and 137 on the Serbian-Slovak form;
- In the Odžaci Municipality, 320 birth, marriage and death certificates and other certificates were issued on Serbian-Hungarian and Serbian-Slovak forms;
- In the Plandište Municipality, 22 birth certificates and 30 marriage certificates were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form; 11 birth certificates and 3 marriage certificates were issued on the Serbian-Slovak form, and there were no applications for the issuance of certificates on the Serbian-Romanian form;
- In the town of Sombor, 467 certificates from civil registers were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form;
- In the Titel Municipality, 11 certificates from civil registers were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form;
- In the Čoka Municipality, of 3,622 birth certificates, 1,699 were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form; of 1,351 marriage certificates, 331 were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form; of 951 death certificates, 175 were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form;
- In the Šid Municipality, a total of 34 certificates from civil registers were issued on the Serbian-Slovak form, of which 29 were birth certificates and 5 were marriage certificates;
- In the Bujanovac Municipality, 4,400 birth, marriage and death certificates were issued on Serbian-Albanian bilingual forms in the period 2009-2011;
- In the Town Administration of Zrenjanin, 693 bilingual certificates from civil registers were issued in the period 2007-2011, including 571 on the Serbian-Hungarian form (516 birth certificates, 38 marriage certificates and 17 death certificates), 112 on the Serbian-Slovak form (109 birth certificates and 3 marriage certificates), 10 on the Serbian-Romanian form, and 54 certificates of citizenship in the Hungarian language.

- In the Preševo Municipality, 2,653 certificates from civil registers, 1,487 certificates of citizenship and 18 certificates of marital status were issued on the Serbian-Albanian form in the period between January and March 2012;
- In the Town Administration of Subotica, in the period from 1 January 2007 to 10 April 2012, a total of 43,605 birth, marriage and death certificates and other certificates from civil registers in languages of national minorities were issued in bilingual forms, of which 34,884 were issued on the Serbian-Hungarian form and 8,721 on the Serbo-Croatian form.

According to the data of the National Bank of Serbia – Institute for Manufacturing Banknotes, which under the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths exclusively develops and prints the forms of certificates from civil registers, in the period from 1 May 2011 to 1 July 2012 city, town and municipal administrations in the Republic of Serbia acquired a total of 202,200 bilingual forms of certificates from civil registers (which are printed in the Serbian language, Cyrillic script, and in the minority language and script that are in official use in a particular local self-government unit – Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Macedonian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Croatian and Czech), namely 135,200 birth certificate forms, 41,100 marriage certificate forms and 25,900 death certificate forms. According to the data received from the stated administrative authorities, a total of 111,546 certificates were issued in the same period, namely 100,829 birth certificates, 7,311 marriage certificates and 3,406 death certificates.

As an indicator of the scope of use of minority languages in relations with local self-government authorities in the territory of AP Vojvodina, the Information on the Results of the 2010 Survey relating to the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities that are in Official Use, in the Work of Provincial Authorities of AP Vojvodina, Town and Municipal Administration Authorities and Judicial Authorities in the Territory of AP Vojvodina¹³ could be used. Completed forms were submitted by 30

¹³The Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Communities of AP Vojvodina, in accordance with its competences, monitors the situation relating to the exercise of the right to official use of language and script of national minorities. With a view to implementing the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the implementation of the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Republic of Serbia, the Secretariat collected the data on the use of languages and scripts of national minorities that are in official use, in the work of provincial authorities of AP Vojvodina, town and municipal administration authorities and judicial authorities in the territory of AP Vojvodina. Provincial administration authorities, town and municipal administrations and judicial authorities in the territory of AP Vojvodina were circulated the following questionnaires: the first, of a general nature, was related to the data on the authority and structure of employees by ethnicity, by knowledge of the minority language that is in official use and by the level of education; the second was related to the authority's oral and written communication with the parties in minority languages that are in official use in its territory; the third was delivered to respondents conducting the administrative proceedings and was related to the number of administrative cases, issued certificates, legal remedies filed in relation to the number of current cases in minority languages that are in official use; the fourth questionnaire was

local self-government units in whose territory some of the languages and scripts of national minorities are in official use. Completed forms were not submitted by the following municipal administrations: Bela Crkva, Beočin, Kovačica, Kovin, Mali Idoš, Novi Kneževac, Pančevo, Sečanj and Žitište.

According to the processed data from the survey, 27 local self-government units in the territory of AP Vojvodina have a board with the name of the authority, information boards and other notices for the parties written in minority languages that are in official use in the territory of the municipality or town concerned. In 12 local self-government units (Ada, Alibunar, Bač, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bečej, Vrbas, Kanjiža, Senta, Subotica, Temerin and Titel) websites are also operational in minority languages that are in official use.

In the local self-government units that have submitted the data, there were a total of 3,582 civil servants and other employees. For 475 job posts (13.26%), the Act on Job Systematisation has envisaged the knowledge of languages of national minorities as a requirement for the job. The structure of employees by the mother tongue and by the knowledge of the minority language that is in official use is provided in the tables below.

Structure of employees by mother tongue of town and municipal administrations in the territory of AP Vojvodina

Mother tongue	Number of employees	Share in the total number of employees, %
Serbian	2,603	72.66
Hungarian	443	12.36
Romanian	74	2.06
Ruthenian	23	0.64
Slovak	83	2.31
Croatian	41	1.14
Undeclared	20	0.55

Structure of employees by knowledge of the national minority language that is in official use

National minority language	Number of employees	Share in the total number of employees, %
Hungarian	449	12.53
Romanian	79	2.20
Ruthenian	21	0.58

delivered to judicial authorities, and was related to the number of judicial proceedings conducted in minority languages that are in official use in the territory under the jurisdiction of the judicial authority.

Slovak	82	2.28
Croatian	161	4.49

The majority of municipal and town administrations in the territory of AP Vojvodina where minority languages are in official use have employees who know the minority language that is in official use and thus verbally communicate with the parties in that language or assist their colleagues who are responsible for such communication. Only in the Town Administration of Zrenjanin none of the employees have the skills to verbally communicate with the parties in the language of the national minority that is in official use. Other town or municipal administrations have made sure to have a certain number of employees who know the minority language that is in official use and who assist their colleagues who do not know the language, or certified court interpreters and translators are engaged. In municipal administrations in Bački Petrovac, Senta, Ada, Kanjiža and Čoka, when orally addressing the municipal authorities, most parties use the minority language that is in official use, and further communication with the parties is continued in that language, whereas in Temerin, most parties address the municipal authorities in their oral communication in the minority language that is in official use, but further communication with the parties is continued in that language in a smaller number of cases. In municipal administrations in Bačka Topola, Bečej, Nova Crnja, Subotica and Alibunar, less than half of the parties address the municipal administration authorities in the minority language that is in official use, when orally communicating with them, and in that case the municipal administration authorities also communicate with the parties in that language. In municipal administrations in Bač, Novi Bečej, Kikinda and Kula, when orally addressing the municipal authorities, less than one-fourth of the parties use the minority languages that are in official use, in which case the municipal authorities also communicate with the parties in that language. In Stara Pazova, Vršac, Apatin, Srbobran, Sombor, Plandište and Zrenjanin the parties only exceptionally address the municipal authorities in the languages of national minorities, and in municipal administrations in Vrbas, Titel, Žabalj, Bačka Palanka, Novi Sad, Sremska Mitrovica, Odžaci and Šid, the parties address the municipal authorities solely in the Serbian language in oral communication, regardless of their mother tongue.

According to the results of the survey, in 3 municipal administrations in the territory of AP Vojvodina (Odžaci, Plandište, Kikinda), forms and other documents used for the exercise of the rights of the parties are not available in minority languages that are in official use, while in other town or municipal administrations, they are fully or partly available. The most common reason for the lack of forms and other documents in the languages of national minorities is the lack of funds for these purposes. In all municipal and town administrations, with the exception of the municipal administration of Odžaci, there are employees who have been trained for written communication with the parties, or else, certified translators and court interpreters are engaged. In the municipal administration of Kanjiža, most parties in their written communication address the

authority in the minority language that is in official use and employees communicate with them in that language. In Subotica, Bački Petrovac, Bečej and Bačka Topola, less than half of the parties in their written communication address the municipal authorities in the minority language that is in official use, in which case the municipal authorities also communicate with the parties in that language. In municipalities of Nova Crnja, Senta and Subotica, in written communication less than one quarter of the parties address the municipal authorities in the minority language that is in official use, and in this case the municipal authorities also communicate with the parties in that language. In the municipality of Bač, most parties in their written communication address the municipal authorities in the minority language that is in official use, but further communication continues in the language of the national minority in a small number of cases. In municipalities of Stara Pazova, Kula, Vršac, Kikinda, Apatin, Temerin, Ada, Srbobran, Bačka Palanka, Sombor, Plandište, Čoka, Novi Bečej, Zrenjanin and Alibunar, when addressing the municipal authorities in written, the parties only in exceptional cases do so in the minority languages that are in official use. In the municipalities of Vrbas, Vršac, Žabalj, Titel, Novi Sad, Sombor, Šid, Odžaci, Sremska Mitrovica, the parties in their written communication address the municipal authorities solely in the Serbian language, regardless of their mother tongue.

Out of a total of 261,504 administrative cases in municipal and town administrations in the territory of AP Vojvodina that were conducted in minority languages at the time of this survey, 69,145 proceedings (26.44%) were conducted in the Hungarian language, one proceeding was conducted in Romanian, 230 proceedings (0.08%) were conducted in Slovak, and 81 proceedings (0.03%) were conducted in the Croatian language. Out of a total of 285,065 certificates issued in accordance with Article 161 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure, 4,895 (1.71%) were issued in the Hungarian language, 10 (0.003%) were issued in Romanian, 102 (0.03%) were issued in Ruthenian and 556 certificates (0.19%) were issued in the Slovak language. A total of 2,214 legal remedies were filed against first instance decisions, of which 14 (0.63%) were in Hungarian and one (0.045%) was in the Slovak language.

8.2. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, the Advisory Committee made one recommendation relating to Article 10 of the Framework Convention. The following paragraphs contain information about the activities undertaken to implement the recommendation.

The Serbian authorities should make additional efforts to ensure a more consistent implementation of the existing legal framework relating to the use of minority languages in relations with local administrative authorities and make the necessary resources

available to this end.

Local self-government units establish the official use of language and script in their territory by their statutes. In this regard, local self-government units have an obligation to introduce the language and script of a national minority into equal official use if the percentage of persons belonging to the national minority in the total population in its territory reaches 15% according to the latest census, in accordance with Article 11 of the Law on Official Use of Language and Script. In 2011, in accordance with its legal powers, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-government instituted the proceedings for the assessment of constitutionality and legality of the statute of the Priboj municipality before the Constitutional Court on grounds of violation of the said legal obligation. Otherwise, the Ministry had no information that any of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to use their language and script in local self-government units in accordance with the law were violated.

Considering that it is up to local self-government units to determine the minority languages that are in official use in their territories, the state uses special incentives to encourage local self-government units to consistently apply the regulations in this field. Thus, for example, the provision of the Law on Determining the Maximum Number of Employees in Local Administration (2009),¹⁴ which allows the local self-government units in which one or more minority languages are in official use to increase the number of employees for each language that is in official use by 0.1 per each 1,000 inhabitants, can be considered a particular form of support to local self-government units.

In order to advance the right to official use of language and script of minority national communities, the Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Communities launches a tender every year for the allocation of budgetary resources to authorities and organisations in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina where the languages and scripts of minority national communities are in official use. Funds awarded through the tender are used for co-financing of projects aimed at advancing the right to official use of languages and scripts of national minorities in Vojvodina. The right to participate in the tender belongs to the authorities of municipalities, cities and towns in the territory of AP Vojvodina where their statutes envisage the official use of languages and scripts of minority national communities in the entire territory of the municipality, city or town, or settlement within their territory, and to local self-governments and other bodies, organisations, services and institutions in the territory of those municipalities, cities and towns. The funds are allocated for the

¹⁴ In accordance with the provisions of the stated law, local administration consists of: authorities of local self-government units, including the authorities of city and town municipalities, institutions financed from the budget, except for institutions in the fields of education, health care and preschools; companies and other forms of association that are founded solely by the local self-government unit, except for public companies, and that are financed from the budget.

financing or co-financing of the following: training of employees in bodies and organisations that use the minority language that has been established as a language in official use, especially for those working on jobs involving contact with the parties (by participation in courses, seminars and other trainings organised for this purpose), and for the development of the e-government system for work in a multilingual environment; the costs of production and setting up of boards with the names of the bodies and organisations, names of settlements on signposts, names of streets and squares written in the minority languages that are in official use in the municipality, city, town or settlement, and for the printing of bilingual or multilingual forms, as well as the printing of official journals and other publications.

For co-financing of projects aimed at advancing the right to official use of languages and scripts of national minorities in AP Vojvodina, the Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Communities approved the allocation of the following amounts from the budget: in 2007 – RSD 7,906,000.00 for 136 applications, in 2008 – RSD 13,800,000.00 for 79 applications, in 2009 – RSD 8,850,000.00 for 176 applications, in 2010 – RSD 10,700,000.00 for 131 applications, and in 2011 – RSD 6,650,000.00 for 83 applications. The table below contains the awarded funds for the co-financing of projects in various local self-government units shown by language of the national minority. Given that in some local self-government units several minority languages are in official use, it should be noted that the same funds were used for different languages, namely that the funds shown in the table below partially overlap.

Funds awarded from the budget of AP Vojvodina based on the tender for the advancement of the right to official use of language and script of national minorities

National minority language	Year	Paid out funds
Local self-government units in which the Hungarian language is in official use	2007	5,071,000.00
	2008	11,608,000.00
	2009	7,164,000.00
	2010	7,929,000.00
	2011	5,658,000.00
The Romanian language	2007	-
	2008	1,714,000.00
	2009	723,000.00
	2010	2,394,000.00
	2011	756,000.00
The Slovak language	2007	-
	2008	3,301,000.00
	2009	649,000.00
	2010	1,490,000.00
	2011	995,000.00
	2007	389,000.00

The Croatian language	2008	1,500,000.00
	2009	1,212,000.00
	2010	1,645,000.00
	2011	1,004,000.00

Article 11

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

2 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.

3 In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.

9.1. Names and surnames in minority languages

The Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention contains information on the provisions of the Constitution, relevant laws and by-laws, as well as the regulations of AP Vojvodina governing the issues related to the right to use the name and surname in the minority language. Following the submission of the Report, the legal framework regulating the manner of the exercise of this right in the Republic of Serbia was improved. The 2010 Amendments to the Law on the Official Use of Language and Script have added a new Article 18a, which stipulates that persons belonging to national minorities have the right to freely choose and use their names and the names of their children, as well as the right to enter these personal names in all public documents, official records and registers of personal information according to the rules of the language and orthography of the national minority, which does not exclude the corresponding entry of names in Serbian orthography and script.

The Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, adopted in 2009, regulated for the first time in a uniform manner the entry of personal names of persons belonging to national minorities in civil registers, and the bylaw - Guidelines for Keeping Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Their Forms regulated, *inter alia*, how the civil registers are kept, how the birth, marriage and death certificates and certificates on the registered facts and data are issued, as well as the prescribed forms of all these certificates.

In accordance with Article 17, paragraph 1 of the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, personal names of children, parents, spouses and the deceased are entered in the register in the Serbian language, in Cyrillic script, and persons belonging to

national minorities have the right for their name to be entered according to the language and orthography of the national minority, which does not exclude the corresponding entry of the personal name in the Serbian language, Cyrillic script. Item 15a of the stated Guidelines stipulates that the personal name of the child, parent, spouse or deceased person belonging to a national minority is entered into the register in the language and script of the national minority, below the entry in the Serbian language, Cyrillic script, and in the same font.

Provisions of Article 81 of the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths prescribe that birth, marriage and death certificates and other certificates from civil registers are issued based on the data contained in the registers, which means that if the personal name of a child, parent, spouse or deceased person belonging to a national minority is entered also in the language and script of the national minority, according to item 97a of the Guidelines, the personal name in the language and script of the national minority shall be written on the certificate below the personal name written in the Serbian language, Cyrillic script, and in the same font.

In case a person belonging to a national minority, after the completion of the basic registration (when the personal name of the person belonging to a national minority was not entered in the language and script of the national minority), files an application for registration of the personal name also in the language and script of the national minority, subsequent entry of such data in the register shall be made in accordance with Article 26 of the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, or based on the decision of the competent authority referred to in Article 6, para. 2 and 4 of the stated Law (municipal administrations or city and town administrations or administrations of the City of Belgrade and city administrations responsible for keeping civil registers for the territory of Kosovo and Metohija), under the procedure conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Law on General Administrative Procedure.

In the local self-government units that have, by their statutes, introduced the equitable official use of a language and script of a national minority, forms of certificates from civil registers referred to in items 134-136 of the Guidelines (birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates) are printed also bilingually, in the Serbian language and the Cyrillic script, and in the language and script of the national minority whose language is in official use. The text of columns in the language and script of the person belonging to the national minority is written below the text in Serbian, in the same font. The forms of certificates from civil registers are technically developed and printed exclusively by the National Bank of Serbia – Institute for Manufacturing Banknotes.

In practice, persons belonging to national minorities whose language is in official use in the local self-government unit do exercise their right to obtain certificates from civil registers in their own language as well. Section 8.1.2 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report provides examples of birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates issued on bilingual forms in certain local self-government units.

9.2. Topographical signs

The Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention contains the constitutional and relevant statutory provisions that provide for the writing of names of settlements, squares and streets in the minority language in areas where languages and scripts of national minorities are in official use alongside the Serbian language and script.

As already mentioned, following the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, the Law on National Councils of National Minorities was adopted. Its Article 22 prescribes the competences in the field of official use of language and script. The provisions of the stated article prescribe that national councils of national minorities shall, *inter alia*: establish the traditional names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographic names in the language of the national minority, if the language of the national minority is in official use in the local self-government unit or settlement; names established by the National Council shall become names in official use, alongside the name in the Serbian language and shall be published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, and in the case of national councils seated in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, in the “Official Journal of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina”; propose to the competent authority to display the names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographic names in the minority language; propose the changing of names of streets, squares, quarters, hamlets, other parts of settlements, and institutions determined to be of particular importance for a national minority, and give opinions in the procedure for establishing the names of streets, squares, quarters, hamlets and other parts of settlements, if the language of the national minority is in official use in the territory of the local self-government unit or settlement.

Section 11.3 of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention contains decisions on establishing traditional names of municipalities and settlements in the languages of national minorities that were adopted by the national councils of the Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak minority (2003), as well as the Decision of the Executive Council of AP Vojvodina on the Establishment of Traditional Names of Municipalities and Settlements in the Ruthenian language (2006), considering that the national council of that national minority had not done it within the envisaged timeline.

The following paragraphs of the Report outline the decisions on the traditional names of settlements in other minority languages, as well as the supplements of decisions establishing traditional names for particular settlements.

In 2012, the National Council of the Albanian National Minority adopted the Decision on the Establishment of Traditional Names of Settlements in the Albanian Language in Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa. The established names of settlements are as follows:

Preševo municipality

Name of the settlement (inhabited place, township, village, neighbourhood) in Serbian	Name of the settlement (inhabited place, township, village, neighbourhood) in Albanian
Alidërce	Geraj
Berčevac	Bërçec
Bujić	Buhiç
Bukarevac	Bukuroc
Bukovac	Bukoc
Buštranje	Bushtran
Gare	Gare
Golemi Dol	Golemidoll
Gornja Šušaja	Shoshajë e Epërme
Gospodince	Gosponicë
Depce	Depcë
Donja Šušaja	Shoshajë e Poshtme
Žujince	Zhunicë
Ilince	Ilincë
Kurbalija	Kurbali
Ljanik	Lanik
Mađare	Maxhere
Miratovac	Miratoc
Norča	Norçë
Oraovica	Rahovicë
Pečeno	Peçenë
Preševo	Preshevë
Rajince	Raincë
Ranatovce	Ranatoc
Reljan	Leran
Svinjište	Svinjishtë
Sefer	Sefer
Slavujevac	Bugarinë
Stanevce	Stanec
Strezovce	Strezoc
Trnava	Tërnavë
Cakanovac	Cakanoc
Cerevajka	Caravajkë
Crnotince	Corroticë
Čukarka	Çukarkë

Bujanovac municipality

Name of the settlement in the Serbian language	Name of the settlement in the Albanian language
Bujanovac	Bujanoc

Baraljevac	Baralec
Biljača	Bilaç
Bogdanovac	Bogdanoc
Božinjevac	Bozhinjevç
Borovac	Boroc
Bratoselce	Bratisellë
Breznica	Breznicë
Brnjare	Bërnjare
Buštranje	Bushtran
Veliki Trnovac	Tërnoc
Mali Trnovac	Maltërnoc
Vogance	Vogancë
Vrban	Vërban
Gornje Novo Selo	Novosellë e Epërme
Gramada	Gramadë
Dobrosin	Dobrosin
Donje Novo Selo	Novosellë e Poshtme
Drežnica	Drezhnicë
Đorđevac	Gjergjec
Žbevac	Zhbecë
Žuželjica	Zhuzhelicë
Zarbince	Zarbincë
Jablanica	Jablanicë
Jastrebac	Jastreb
Karadnik	Karadnik
Klenike	Klenik
Klinovac	Klinoc
Končulj	Konçul
Košarno	Kosharnë
Krševica	Krshevicë
Kuš	Kushticë
Levosoje	Levosojë
Letovica	Letovicë
Lopardince	Llapardincë
Lukarce	Llukarcë
Lučane	Lluçan
Ljiljance	Lilancë
Muhovac	Muhoc
Negovac	Negoc
Nesalce	Nasalçë
Oslare	Oslarë
Pretina	Pretinë
Pribovce	Priboc
Ravno Bučje	Ramabuçë
Rakovac	Rakoc

Rusce	Ruscë
Samoljica	Samolicë
Sveta Petka	Shënpetka
Sebrat	Serbrat
Sejace	Sejac
Spančevac	Spançec
Srpska Kuća	Srpska Kuqë
Starac	Starac
Suharno	Suharnë
Trejak	Trejak
Turija	Turijë
Uzovo	Uzovë
Čar	Çarr

Medveđa municipality

Name of the settlement in the Serbian language	Name of the settlement in the Albanian language
Medveđa	Medvegja
Sijarinska Banja	Bajë e Sijarinës
Đulekare	Gjylekresht
Kapit	Kapit
Tupale	Tupallë
Sijarina	Sijarinë
Ravna Banja	Rama Bajë
Grbavce	Grbavc
Stara Banja	Bajë e Vjetër
Svirce	Svirçë
Borovac	Boroci
Bogunovac	Bogunoc
Velika Braina	Brahinë e Madhe
Vravce	Vrabcë
Gazdare	Gazdarë
Gornja Lapaštica	Llapashticë e Epërme
Gornji Bučumet	Biçmetë i Epërm
Gornji Gajtan	Gajtan i Epërm
Gubavce	Gubac
Gurgutovo	Gurgutovë
Donja Lapaštica	Llapashticë e Poshtme
Donji Bučumet	Buçmet i Poshtëm
Donji Gajtan	Gajtanë i Poshtëm
Drence	Drencë
Lece	Lec
Mala Braina	Brahina e Vogël
Marovac	Marovc
Mačedonce	Maqedonc

Medevce	Medevc
Mrkonje	Mërkonj
Negosavlje	Negosavlë
Petrlje	Petrlë
Poroštica	Poroshticë
Pusto Šilovo	Shillovë e Shkretë
Retkocer	Retkocel
Varadin (Retkocersko)	Varadinë
Rujkovac	Rukoc
Sponce	Sponcë
Srednji Bučumet	Buçmet i Mesëm
Stubla	Stubëll
Tulare	Tullar
Crni Vrh	Maja e Zezë
Čokotin	Çokotin

In 2009, the National Council of the Bosniac National Minority adopted the Decision on the Establishment of Traditional Names of Local Self-government Units and Settlements in the Territories of Novi Pazar, Tutin, Sjenica and Prijepolje, where Bosnian language is in official use. The established traditional names of local self-government units and settlements are as follows:

Novi Pazar – settlements: Haluloviće, Bajevica, Banja, Bare, Batajnik, Bjekova, Bijele Vode, Boturovina, Brđani, Brestovo, Varevo, Vjever, Vidovo, Vitkoviće, Vojkoviće, Vojniće, Vranovina, Vučiniće, Vučija Lokva, Golice, Gornja Tušimlja, Goševo, Građanoviće, Gračane, Grubetiće, Deževa, Dojinoviće, Dolac, Doljani, Dragočevo, Dramiće, Žunjeviće, Zabrdë, Zlatare, Ivanča, Izbice, Jablanica, Javor, Janča, Joha, Kašalj, Kovačevo, Kožlje, Koprivica, Kosuriće, Kruševo, Kuzmičevo, Leča, Lopuzinje, Lukare, Lukarsko Goševo, Lukocrijevo, Miščiće, Mur, Muhovo, Negotinac, Odojeviće, Okose, Osaonica, Osoje, Oholje, Pavlje, Pasji Potok, Pilorete, Pobrđe, Požega, Požežina, Polokce, Pope, Postijenje, Prćenova, Pusta Tušimlja, Pustovlah, Radaljica, Rajetiće, Rajkoviće, Rajčinoviće, Rajčinovička Trnava, Rakovac, Rast, Sebečevo, Sitniće, Skukovo, Slatina, Smilov Laz, Srednja Tušimlja, Stradovo, Sudsko Selo, Tenkovo, Trnava, Tunovo, Hotkovo, Cokoviće, Čašić Dolac, Šavci, Šaronje, Štitare.

Prijepolje – settlements: Haljinovići, Balići, Bare, Biskupići, Bjelahova, Brajkovac, Brvine, Brodarevo, Bukovik, Vinicka, Vrbovo, Gojakoviće, Gornje Babine, Gornje Goračići, Gornji Stranjani, Gostun, Gračanica, Grobnice, Divci, Donje Babine, Donji Stranjani, Drenova, Dušmanići, Đurašići, Zabrnji Toci, Zavinograđe, Zalug, Zastup, Zvijezd, Ivanje, Ivezići, Izbičanj, Jabuka, Junčevići, Kamena Gora, Karaula, Karoševina, Kačevo, Kašice, Kovačevac, Koprivna, Kosatica, Koševine, Kruševo, Kučin, Lučice, Mataruge, Međani, Mijani, Mijoska, Milakovići, Mileševo, Milošev Dol, Miljevići, Mrčkovina, Muškovina, Orovac, Orašac, Osoje, Oštra Stijena, Potkrš, Potok,

Pravoševa, Pranjci, Rasio, Ratajska, Sedobro, Seljane, Seljašnica, Skokuće, Slatina, Sopotnica, Taševo, Hisardžik, Hrta, Crkveni Toci, Čadinje, Čauševići, Džurovo;

Sjenica – settlements: Aliveroviće, Bagačice, Bare, Bačija, Bioc, Blato, Boguti, Boljare, Borišice, Boroviće, Breza, Brnjica, Buđevo, Vapa, Veskoviće, Visočka, Višnjeva, Višnjice, Vrapci, Vrbnica, Vrhšenice, Goluban, Gonje, Gornje Lopize, Goševo, Grabovica, Gradac, Grgaje, Doliće, Donje Goračice, Donje Lopize, Dragojloviće, Draževiče, Družiniće, Dubnica, Duga Poljana, Dujke, Dunišice, Žabren, Žitnice, Zabrđe, Zaječice, Zahumsko, Jevik, Jezero, Kalipolje, Kamešnica, Kanjevina, Karajukića Bunari, Kijevce, Kladnica, Kneževac, Koznik, Kokošice, Krajnoviče, Krivaja, Krnja Jela, Krstac, Krće, Lijeva Rijeka, Ljutaje, Mašoviće, Medare, Međugor, Milići, Papiće, Petrovo Polje, Plana, Poda, Ponorac, Pralja, Raždaginja, Rasio, Raspoganče, Rastenoviće, Raškoviće, Skradnik, Strahiniće, Stup, Sugubine, Sušica, Crešnjevica, Trijebine, Tuzinje, Tutiće, Uvac, Ugao, Ursule, Ušak, Fijulje, Caričina, Cetanoviće, Crvsko, Crčevo, Čedovo, Čipalje, Čitluk, Šare, Štavalj, Šušure;

Tutin – settlements: Harapoviće, Baljen, Batrage, Bačica, Bijohane, Blace, Bovanj, Boroštica, Bračak, Bregove, Brniševo, Bujkoviće, Velje Polje, Veseniće, Vrapče, Vrba, Glogovik, Gluhavica, Gnjila, Godovo, Gornji Crniš, Gradac, Gujiće, Gurdijelje, Guceviće, Devreče, Delimeđe, Detane, Dobri Dub, Dobrinje, Dolovo, Draga, Dubovo, Dulebe, Đerekare, Ervenice, Žirče, Župa, Žuče, Zapadni Mojstir, Izrok, Istočni Mojstir, Jablanica, Jrebica, Jezgroviće, Jeliće, Južni Kočarnik, Kovače, Koniče, Ljeskova, Lipica, Lukavica, Melaje, Mitrova, Morani, Naboje, Nadumce, Namga, Noćaje, Oraše, Orlje, Ostrovica, Paljevo, Piskopovce, Plenibabe, Pokrvenik, Pope, Popiće, Potrijeb, Pružanj, Raduhovce, Raduša, Ramošev, Reževiče, Ribariće, Rudnica, Ruđe, Saš, Sjeverni Kočarnik, Smoluća, Starčeviče, Strumce, Suhodo, Točilovo, Čulije, Kadiluk, Čarovina, Čmanjke, Čukote, Šaronje, Šipče, Špiljane.

By its Decision on Establishing Hungarian Names of Settlements in Vojvodina (2003), the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority established a list of traditional names of settlements in the territory of 28 local self-government units. After the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority also established traditional names for the following settlements:

Name of the settlement in the Serbian language	Name of the settlement in the Hungarian language	Municipality/Town
Kupusina	Kupuszina	Apatin
Svilojevo	Sílagy	Apatin
Karadorđevo	Karadorđevo	Bačka Topola
Njegoševo	Njegoševo	Bačka Topola
Tomislavci	Tomislavci	Bačka Topola
Pobeda	Pobeda	Bačka Topola
Svetičevo	Svetičevo	Bačka Topola

Novo Miloševo	Beodra-Karlova	Novi Bečej
Ivanovo	Sándoregyháza	Pančevo
Sutjeska	Sarcia	Sečanj

The National Council of the Romanian National Minority established the traditional names of towns, municipalities and settlements (2003). After the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, the traditional names of settlements were also determined for the following settlements in the Žitište municipality:

Name of the settlement in the Serbian language	Name of the settlement in the Romanian language	Municipality/Town
Žitište	Jitiște	Žitište
Banatski Dvor	Banatski Dvor	Žitište
Banatsko Višnjićevo	Banatsko Višnjićevo	Žitište
Banatsko Karadorđevo	Banatsko Karadjordjevo	Žitište
Međa	Međa	Žitište
Novi Itebej	Novi Itebej	Žitište
Ravni Topolovac	Ravni Topolovac	Žitište
Srpski Itebej	Srpski Itebej	Žitište
Torda	Torda	Žitište
Hetin	Hetin	Žitište
Čestereg	Čestereg	Žitište

By its Decision adopted in 2003, the National Council of the Slovak National Minority established the traditional names for towns, municipalities and settlements in the Slovak language. The supplements to the Decision have defined the traditional names for another 22 settlements in the territory of the Bačka Palanka and Bačka Topola municipalities, as follows:

Name of the settlement in the Serbian language	Name of the settlement in the Slovak language	Municipality/Town
Bagremovo	Bagremovo	Bačka Palanka
Bačka Topola	Báčska Topol'a	Bačka Topola
Bački Sokolac	Báčsky Sokolac	Bačka Topola
Bogaroš	Bogaroš	Bačka Topola
Gornja Rogatica	Gornja Rogatica	Bačka Topola
Gunaroš	Gunaroš	Bačka Palanka
Zobnatica	Zobnatica	Bačka Topola
Karadorđevo	Karadorđevo	Bačka Topola
Kavilo	Kavilo	Bačka Topola
Krivaja	Krivaja	Bačka Topola
Mali Beograd	Malý Belehrad	Bačka Palanka
Mićunovo	Mićunovo	Bačka Topola

Novo Orahovo	Novo Orahovo	Bačka Topola
Njegoševo	Njegoševo	Bačka Topola
Obornjača	Obornjača	Bačka Topola
Tomislavci	Tomislavci	Bačka Topola
Panonija	Panónia	Bačka Topola
Pačir	Pačir	Bačka Palanka
Pobeda	Pobeda	Bačka Topola
Svetičevo	Svetičevo	Bačka Topola
Srednji Salaš	Srednji Salaš	Bačka Topola
Stara Moravica	Stara Moravica	Bačka Topola

In 2009, the National Council of the Croatian National Minority established a list of 8 traditional names of settlements in the Croatian language in five municipalities, namely:

Name of the settlement in the Serbian language	Name of the settlement in the Croatian language	Municipality/Town
Bajmok	Bajmak	Subotica
Ljutovo	Mirgeš	Subotica
Stari Žednik	Žednik	Subotica
Sonta	Sonta	Apatin
Bački breg	Bereg	Sombor
Bački Monoštor	Monoštor	Sombor
Stara Bingula	Stara Bingula	Sremska Mitrovica
Sot	Sot	Šid

9.3. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, the Advisory Committee made three recommendations relating to Article 11 of the Framework Convention. The following paragraphs contain information about the activities undertaken to implement the recommendations.

The Serbian authorities should ensure that the legal regulations governing the right to use personal names in minority languages and their official recognition are interpreted in conformity with Article 11 of the Framework Convention. In this respect, they should remove any territorial limitations to this right. They should ensure that the conditions for the proper and consistent implementation of this right are in place, including by adopting harmonised procedures and by training registry officers. They should further ensure that the procedures for restoring names function effectively and that persons belonging to national minorities are sufficiently informed of their existence.

As stated in Section 9.1 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report, the adopted legislation enables the persons belonging to national minorities to exercise their right to use their name and surname in their own language, in accordance with Article 11 of the Framework Convention, and fully eliminates the territorial limitations to that right. In accordance with the provisions of the Law on Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, personal names in the language and script of national minorities are entered not only in the civil registers kept for the territory of local self-government units where, under the statute, the language and script of the national minority are in official use, but are also entered in all civil registers kept in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Moreover, the Law provides for entry of personal names of persons belonging to national minorities within the basic registration of a certain fact in the civil register, but also for subsequent registration (after the completion of the basic registration) of data on the personal name in the language and script of the national minority.

In order to ensure consistency in the work of the authority responsible for keeping civil registers, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government gave an opinion on the application of regulations on civil registers relating to the procedure of registration of personal names of persons belonging to national minorities. Likewise, a notice was drafted to inform the persons belonging to national minorities of their right to register their personal name in the minority language and script as well. The notice was to be displayed on bulletin boards of the town or municipal administrations, and in all territories covered by local self-government units for which civil registers are kept. In local self-government units where the language of a national minority is in official use, the municipal or town administrations also display the notice in the language and script of the national minority.

All authorities ensuring the keeping of civil registers were indicated the provision of Article 15 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure, which prescribes that the authority conducting the procedure shall ensure that the ignorance and illiteracy of the parties and other participants in the proceedings shall not be to the detriment of the rights that belong to them by law, and were to that effect ordered to instruct the parties undergoing the procedure of registration of certain facts (of birth, marriage, death) about the procedure and method for exercising the right of entering the personal name of the person belonging to the national minority in the registers, also in the language and script of the national minority.

The Advisory Committee calls on the Serbian authorities to ensure that Article 20 of the Law on the Official Use of Language and Script of Serbia is brought in line with Article 11 of the Framework Convention.

As presented in the Comments on the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee, Serbian authorities take the view that the findings of the Advisory Committee regarding the interpretation of Article 20 of the Law on the Official Use of

Language and Script are not complete, given that paragraph 3 of that Article also contains a provision stipulating that a company, or business, shall not be obliged to write the name or part of the name used as a trademark in Serbian or in the minority language that is in official use, regardless of its linguistic origin. The authorities have interpreted the above provision as a legal basis that allows the information of a private nature to be publicly expressed in all languages, and thus also in the minority languages that are not in official use. The practice fully confirms this interpretation – in settlements in Serbia, names of companies or businesses are written in all languages and scripts, namely they are written in the way the companies or businesses are officially registered.

The Serbian authorities should monitor the implementation of the legal guarantees concerning the display of traditional place names and topographical signs in minority languages, in consultation with the national councils of the national minorities concerned and should ensure that they are consistently implemented throughout Serbia.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 111, paragraph 2 of the Law on State Survey and Cadastre, the Republic Geodetic Authority is responsible for marking the names of settlements, streets and squares, and for marking buildings with house numbers. The method and procedure for marking the names of settlements, streets and squares are prescribed by the Decree on Marking the Names of Settlements, Streets and Squares, Enumeration of Buildings and Keeping of the Register of House Numbers of Streets and Squares (2012) and the Rulebook on the Address Register (2012). The provision of Article 14, paragraph 1 of the stated Rulebook stipulates that the names of settlements, streets and squares are written in accordance with the law governing the official use of languages and scripts, and the law governing the protection of the rights and freedoms of national minorities. Bearing in mind the legal provisions and the provisions of by-laws prescribing the method and procedure for marking the settlements, streets and squares, when marking the names of settlements, streets and squares in local self-government units where the language and script of a national minority are in official use alongside the Serbian language, the Republic Geodetic Authority, or the real estate cadastre services as its internal units, are obliged to ensure that the names are also written in the language and script of the national minority whose language is in official use.

Article 12

1 The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.

2 In this context Parties shall, *inter alia*, provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teacher of different communities.

3 The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.

10.1. Teacher training and textbooks

10.1.1. Professional teacher training

After the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, the 2009 Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System was adopted. The Law, *inter alia*, prescribes continuing training for employees at all levels of education. Pursuant to Article 21 of the stated Law, the Institute for the Advancement of Education, within the Centre for Professional Development in Education, performs technical tasks relating in particular to the drafting of competency standards for the teaching profession and their professional development, and the competences of directors; improvement of the system of continuing professional training and development of staff in preschool, primary and secondary education. Provisions of Article 22 of the Law stipulate that the Institute for Education Quality and Evaluation performs technical tasks relating to the monitoring and evaluation of the education level, implementation of general principles, achievement of educational objectives, standards of achievement by the level and type of education, and other tasks, in accordance with the law, founding act and statute. The Institute may have separate organisational units for issues of education of national minorities, as well as other organisational units, in accordance with the statute. Article 38 of the Law regulates the establishment of training centres, which, under the law governing public services, may be established by territorial autonomy units or local self-government units, independently or in cooperation with other local self-government units. In addition to other tasks, the Professional Training Centre selects the approved training programmes and prioritises those programmes which, according to its assessment, most meaningfully ensure the attainment of general standards of achievement. Under the provisions of Article 41 of the Law, educational institutions are autonomous and can independently adopt professional training and development plans for primary and preschool teachers and professional associates, and can connect and cooperate with relevant institutions in the country and abroad. View a

view to promoting education and exchanging experiences, for the purpose of improving education, institutions can network into professional associations.

The Rulebook on Continuing Professional Training and Acquisition of the Status of Primary School Teacher, Preschool Teacher and Professional Associate, adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science, prescribes that continuing education of primary school teachers, preschool teachers and professional associates is carried out according to special programmes that may be compulsory or elective (Article 4) and that primary school teachers, preschool teachers and professional associates are obliged to attend at least 100 hours of the programme in the course of 5 years, including at least 60 hours from the list of mandatory programmes and up to 40 hours from the list of elective programmes (Article 10).

The *Catalogue of Professional Training Programmes for Primary School Teachers, Preschool Teachers, Professional Associates and Directors* includes the list of approved professional training programmes for teachers educating national minorities and is available on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science (www.mpn.gov.rs).¹⁵

The provision of Article 38 of the Law on Establishing the Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina stipulates that AP Vojvodina, through its authorities, shall specifically regulate and ensure the exercise of rights of national minorities in the territory of AP Vojvodina pertaining to education in their mother tongue, at all levels of education and in accordance with the law.

¹⁵ The following programmes have been approved: Beyond the Seven Mountains and the Seven Seas – The Role of Fairy Tales in Children’s Personality Development; The History of Hungarians in the Teaching Process; How to Respond to Specificities of Different Ages – Efficient and Cost-effective Techniques; Towards a Contemporary Teaching of the Hungarian Language and Literature in Primary School; Learning Clubs as Models of Personal Training and Development of Teachers and Roma Assistants; Creative Class Teacher; Course for Preschool Teachers Teaching in the Slovak Language; Course for Primary and Secondary School Teachers - General Education Subjects in the Slovak Language; Course for Managers of Educational Institutions Teaching in the Slovak Language; Summer Academy – The Science and Methods of Teaching in the 21st Century – Education in the Hungarian Language; Hungarian Folk Tale – Learning and Teaching Methods of Traditional Storytelling; We and the Others; On the Wings of a Fairy Tale – Covering Folk Tales using Drama Pedagogy Methods; Science – Teaching – Professional Development; Teaching the Slovak Language from Tradition to Modernity; Neither Black nor White – Creating Inclusive Educational Strategies – Sensitisation to the Needs of Children and Families from Minority and Marginalised Groups; Neither Black nor White – a Programme for Working with Children and Youth - Education for Overcoming Prejudice, Developing Tolerance and Fostering Interculturality; New Methods and Techniques in Written and Oral Forms of Expression; Training of Preschool and Primary School Teachers and Roma Assistants for Working with Roma Children; Pedagogic Diagnostics, Inclusion, Development of Individual Education Plans; Pedagogic Creativity; Enabling Environment and Support for Roma Children in Kindergarten and School; Helping Children with Mathematical Difficulties; The Romanian Language Orthography in Textbooks and Teaching Practice; Preparatory Motivational Training – “Wow, Isn’t School Fun!” (“Au, što je škola zgodna”); Developing and Nurturing Communicative Abilities and Skills in the Native (Hungarian) Language in Preschool and Primary School Children; Developing and Nurturing the Mother and Non-mother Tongues and Interculturality in Children in Vojvodina; Roma Through Time; Roma Children and School; Modern Version of Fairytales in Compulsory Home Reading in Lower Grades of Primary School; School Without Prejudice.

In 2008/2009, the then Provincial Secretariat for Education of AP Vojvodina undertook an analysis of the teaching staff/professional representation of teachers in the territory of AP Vojvodina, including those teaching in minority languages. The analysis showed that the biggest problems in ensuring professional teaching staff have resulted from territorial ramification of persons belonging to particular national minorities, their working in two or more schools, and the problem of reimbursement of travel expenses if working in two or more schools involves travelling to several different places. Faced with the problem of an insufficient number of teachers who are proficient in both Serbian and the minority language and knowledgeable in professional pedagogical terminology, and based on the conducted analysis, a need was noticed for establishing methodical centres, for example for the socio-linguistic group of subjects, the science and mathematics group of subjects and the group of technical subjects, which would integrate the work on implementing the methodical practice of future teachers, trainee teachers and current teachers, not only in terms of continuous training, but also in order to enable them to pass the instructorship exam for individual subjects and languages, prepare bilingual/trilingual technical basic dictionaries of terms and expressions for individual subjects.

As of 2010/2011, the Pedagogical Institute of Vojvodina was assigned responsibility for accrediting registered professional teacher-training programmes conducted in the languages of national minorities, which enhanced the possibility of better quality teacher-training in minority languages. The table below contains the number of accredited professional teacher-training programmes for instruction in the languages of national minorities.

Year	Hungaria n	Slova k	Croatia n	Ukrainia n	For the Roma minorit y	Ruthenia n	Tota l
2010/1 1	12	6	-	-	-	-	18
2011/1 2	13	4	2	1	2	1	23
Total	25	10	2	1	2	1	41

In addition to the possibilities of training the teachers based on cooperation programmes in the fields of education, culture, youth and sports between the Republic of Serbia and the governments of home countries of particular national minorities living in Serbia, and based on interstate agreements on the protection of national minorities, at bilateral meetings with representatives of countries from the region, the authorities of the Republic of Serbia advocate the setting up of language departments in the territory of both states. This would contribute to better quality education for both the persons belonging to a particular national minority living in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, and the persons belonging to the Serbian national minority living in the territory

of a particular state, in terms of better adoption and better mastering of their mother tongue, especially the technical terminology. Relations with language instructors from their home country should ensure continuous enhancement of knowledge of their mother tongue and preserve their national identity in terms of language, culture, customs and tradition.

Bearing in mind the tremendous importance of creating optimal conditions for professional training of teachers in the mother country, by enabling the teachers from the Republic of Serbia who teach in minority languages to attend seminars in their mother country, or by enabling the teachers teaching in the Serbian language in neighbouring countries to attend seminars in the Republic of Serbia, the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities of AP Vojvodina advocates that this type of training should be recognised as a must in Serbia as well, and that it should become a part of the legal obligation to provide 100 hours of professional training for teachers.

10.1.2. Availability of textbooks and teaching materials

Access to textbooks and other teaching materials is regulated by a special law. The Law on Textbooks and Other Teaching Materials was adopted in 2009 and it regulates the preparation, approval, publishing and selection of textbooks and textbook sets for primary and secondary schools, as well as their monitoring and evaluation as they are used in the instruction. The Law prescribes that textbooks are printed in the Serbian language, in Cyrillic script, or in the minority language and script for students who attend classes in that language, whereby the content or layout of the textbooks and other teaching materials must not jeopardise, disparage, discriminate against or single out groups and individuals, or encourage such behaviour on all grounds established by the law governing the prohibition of discrimination, *inter alia*, on the basis of racial, national, ethnic, linguistic or religious affiliation. (Articles 3 and 4). At the proposal of the Institute for the Advancement of Education and the National Minority Council, the National Education Council determines the existence of the need to publish textbooks in minority languages and in the interest of national minorities (Article 9). Textbooks are prepared under the procedure established by the Law, and the Minister of Education approves the textbooks for minority languages and for specific subjects of interest to national minorities, at the proposal of the National Education Council and based on the positive opinion of the national council of the national minority. Textbooks approved by the Minister for publication in Serbian – after being translated into the minority language and script, are approved upon obtaining the expert assessment of the quality of the textbook manuscript provided by the Institute for the Advancement of Education (Article 20, para. 3 and 4). In accordance with Article 21 of the Law, the provincial authority responsible for education approves the publication and use of textbooks in the territory of the autonomous province, at the proposal of the competent Council and the National Council

of the National Minority. The Law provides the Minister, or the provincial authority responsible for education, with the possibility to approve the textbook for a particular subject and grade that is used in the mother country and that is printed in the minority language and script, upon the reasoned request of the respective professional school body and after obtaining a positive opinion of the national council of the national minority and the Institute for the Advancement of Education (Article 28, para. 3 and 4). The provisions of Articles 32 and 33 of the Law lay down the obligations of national textbook publishers, relating, *inter alia*, to participation in the provision of funds for the issuance of low-circulation textbooks, such as the textbooks of national minorities, in proportion to their circulation, and to their publication not later than on the first day of the school year.

National councils of national minorities, as holders of the right to self-government in the areas specified by law (culture, education, information in the minority language and the official use of language and script), have competences in respect of textbooks and teaching materials as well. The provisions of Article 14 of the 2009 Law on National Councils of National Minorities stipulate that if the instruction is in the minority language, the National Education Council shall propose to the minister responsible for education to approve the use of textbooks and teaching materials whose contents express the particularities of the national minority, with prior approval of the National Council. At the proposal of the national minority council, the minister responsible for education approves the use of domestic or imported textbooks in the minority language in the instruction.

Textbooks for primary and secondary school are published by the Institute for Textbook Publishing (“Zavod za udžbenike”), and by other private publishers. The Ministry of Education and Science publishes on its website a catalogue (register) of textbooks published in minority languages. The following paragraphs of the Report contain the approved textbooks in minority languages for primary and secondary school issued by domestic and foreign publishers, by year of approval.

The Albanian language

2007

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing (“Zavod za udžbenike”)	Čarolija reči (The Magic of Words), reader for 3rd grade
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language)
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug (Let me Ride a Star for a Day), reader for 4th grade
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 4th grade

2008

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Kreativni centar	Botarrethnesh 1 (The World Around Us 1), textbook
Second	Kreativni centar	Botarreth nesh 2 (The World Around Us 2), textbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 5th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pegavo detinjstvo (Freckled Childhood), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika i pravopisa (Lessons Drawn from the Language and Orthography), Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pletivo od reči (Words Intertwined), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue

2009

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	U ogledalu sunca (Mirrored by the Sun), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar book for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue

2010

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue additional to the reader "Čarolija reči" (Magic of Words)
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue additional to the reader "Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug" (Let me Ride a Star for a Day)
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue additional to the reader "Pegavo detinjstvo" (Freckled Childhood)
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar 8 - Serbian as non-mother tongue
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nedokučive tajne uma i srca (Unfathomable Secrets of the Mind and Heart), reader for

		Serbian as non-mother tongue
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade

2011

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	KLLET	ABC Book and Workbook in Albanian, for 1st grade
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Reader for 2nd grade of primary school in Albanian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook additional to the reader for 2nd grade of primary school in Albanian
Third	ALBAS, Tirana	Reader 3 and Workbook 3
Third	ALBAS, Tirana	Reader, Mathematics 3 and Workbook 3
Fourth	ALBAS, Tirana	Reader for Albanian 4 and Workbook 4
Fourth	KLLET	Mathematics 4 (textbook and workbook)
Fifth	KLLET	Mathematics 5 (textbook and workbook)
Fifth	KLLET	Geography for 5th grade of primary school in Albanian
Sixth	KLLET	Mathematics 6, textbook for 6th grade
Sixth	KLLET	Mathematics 6, Collected exercises

Bulgarian language

2007

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Bulgarian Language for 2nd grade
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Bulgarian Language for 3rd grade
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čarolija reči (The Magic of Words), reader for 3rd grade
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 3rd grade
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Bulgarian Language for 4th grade
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug (Let me Ride a Star for a Day), reader for 4th grade
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language) for 4th grade

2008

Primary school		
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Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	ABC Book in Bulgarian
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 5th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pegavo detinjstvo (Freckled Childhood), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika i pravopisa (Lessons Drawn from the Language and Orthography), Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pletivo od reči (Words Intertwined), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Bulgarian Language

2009

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chrestomathy
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Bulgarian Language for 7th grade
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	U ogledalu sunca (Mirrored by the Sun), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar book for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue

2010

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue additional to the reader “Čarolija reči” (Magic of Words) for 3 rd grade
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue additional to the reader “Daj mi zvedzu jedan krug” (Let me Ride a Star for a Day) for 4 th grade
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue additional to the reader “Pegavo detinjstvo” (Freckled Childhood)
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar 8 – Serbian as non-mother tongue
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nedokučive tajne uma i srca (Unfathomable Secrets of the Mind and Heart) – reader for

		Serbian as non-mother tongue
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8 th grade

2011

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Reader for 1 st grade of primary school in Bulgarian
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Bulgarian Language for 5th grade of primary school
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Bulgarian language, textbook for 6th grade

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Физика и астрономия за 10. клас за профилирана подготовка, Physics and Astronomy for 1 st grade of grammar school NOTE: The textbooks are partially harmonised with the curriculum and syllabus in the Republic of Serbia and it is recommended that the lacking content be covered with the help of the respective textbooks in Serbian
First	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Математика за 9. клас за профилирана подготовка, Mathematics for 1 st grade
First	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Математика за 9. клас за задължителна подготовка, Mathematics for 1 st grade of secondary vocational school
First	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Химия и опознаване на околната среда за 9. клас за профилирана подготовка, Chemistry for 1 st grade of grammar school NOTE: The textbook is partially harmonised with the current curriculum for the first grade. It is necessary for teachers, by using the appropriate didactic- methodical approach, to preserve the logical structure of the Chemistry curriculum by providing the students with both textbooks at the beginning of schooling, and using the textbooks in Serbian for the lacking content
First	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Химия за 9. клас за задължителна подготовка, Chemistry for 1 st grade NOTE: The textbook is partially harmonised

		with the current curriculum for the first grade. It is necessary for teachers, by using the appropriate didactic- methodical approach, to preserve the logical structure of the Chemistry curriculum by providing the students with both textbooks at the beginning of schooling, and using the textbooks in Serbian for the lacking content
First	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Биология и здравно образование за 9. клас, за профилирана подготовка, Biology for 1 st grade NOTE: The textbook lacks about 70% of the curriculum for the first grade of secondary school and it is, therefore, recommended that this part of the curriculum be covered using the Biology textbook for the first year of high school in Serbian
First	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Биология и здравно образование за 9. клас, за задължителна подготовка, Biology for 1 st grade of secondary vocational school NOTE: The domains of the curriculum for the first grade of secondary vocational school, for the educational profile of tourism technician: Developmental Biology, Basics of Genetics and Basics of Evolution, are covered in the textbook Биология и здравно образование за 10. клас, за задължителна подготовка, on page 76
First	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Информационни технологии за 9. клас, профилирана подготовка, Information Technologies for 1 st grade of grammar school and secondary vocational school
First	“Matkom“, Sofia	Основи на туризма за 9. и 10. клас, The Basics of Tourism for 1 st grade of secondary vocational school NOTE: The textbook does not fully cover the curriculum for the first grade. For the lacking parts of the curriculum, use of textbooks in Serbian is recommended
First	“Dionis“, Sofia	Хотелиерско (организиране, обслужване и функциониране на хотела), Hotel Keeping for secondary vocational schools NOTE: The textbook does not cover the whole curriculum. For the lacking parts of the curriculum, use of textbooks in Serbian

		is recommended (examples and templates of booking systems used by Serbian hotel companies)
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Физика и астрономия за 11. клас за профилирана подготовка, Physics and Astronomy for 2 nd grade of grammar school
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Физика и астрономия за 10. клас за задължителна подготовка, Physics and Astronomy for 2 nd grade of secondary vocational school
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Математика за 10. клас за профилирана подготовка, Mathematics for 2 nd grade of grammar school
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Математика за 10. клас за задължителна подготовка, Mathematics for 2 nd grade of secondary vocational school
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Химия и опознаване на околната среда за 10. клас за профилирана подготовка, Chemistry for 2 nd grade of grammar school NOTE: The textbook is partially harmonised with the current curriculum for the first grade. It is necessary for teachers, by using the appropriate didactic- methodical approach, to preserve the logical structure of the Chemistry curriculum by providing the students with both textbooks at the beginning of schooling, and using the textbooks in Serbian for the lacking content
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Химия за 10. клас за задължителна подготовка, Chemistry for 2 nd grade of secondary vocational school
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Биология и здравно образование за 10. клас, за профилирана подготовка, Biology for 2 nd grade of grammar school NOTE: The textbook lacks about 80% of the curriculum for the 2 nd grade of high school and it is, therefore, recommended that this part of the curriculum be covered using the Biology textbook for the first year of high school in Serbian
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Биология и здравно образование за 10. клас, за задължителна подготовка, Biology for 2 nd grade of secondary vocational school
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Информационни технологии за 11. клас, профилирана подготовка, Information

		Technologies for 2 nd grade of grammar school and secondary vocational school NOTE: The curriculum for the first semester of second grade coincides with the first domains in the textbook, while the syllabus for the second semester coincides with the area of <i>Електронни таблици (Table Calculations)</i> in the textbook Информационни технологии за 9. клас, профилирана подготовка
Second	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Психология за 9 клас за задължителна подготовка, Psychology for 2 nd grade of grammar school and secondary vocational school
Second	“ЕКО-NET“, Sofia	Икономика на предприятието, Economics for 2 nd grade of secondary vocational school
Third	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Физика и астрономия за 12. клас за профилирана подготовка, Physics and Astronomy for 3 rd grade of grammar school NOTE: The textbook covers the content of the Physics curriculum for third grade of grammar school (<i>Talasna optika, Fotometrija i Geometrijska optika – Wave Optics, Photometrics and Geometric Optics</i>) and fully covers the content of the fourth grade, including Astronomy
Third	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Математика за 11. клас за профилирана подготовка, Mathematics for 3 rd grade of grammar school
Third	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Математика за 11. клас за задължителна подготовка, Mathematics for 3 rd grade of secondary vocational school
Third	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Биология и здравно образование за 11. клас, за профилирана подготовка, Biology for 3 rd grade of grammar school NOTE: The textbook does not cover the whole 3 rd grade Biology curriculum. For the lacking parts of the curriculum, use of the Biology textbook in Serbian is recommended
Third	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Информатика за 9. клас, профилирана подготовка, IT for 3 rd grade of grammar school
Third	“Nova zvezda“, Sofia	Психология и логика, част II, Логика (9-та задължителна подготовка), Psychology and Logic for 3 rd grade of grammar school

		and secondary vocational school
Fourth	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Физика и астрономия за 12. клас за профилирана подготовка, Physics and Astronomy for 4 th grade of grammar school
Fourth	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Математика за 12. клас за профилирана подготовка, Mathematics for 4 th grade of grammar school
Fourth	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Математика за 12. клас за задължителна подготовка, Mathematics for 4 th grade of secondary vocational school
Fourth	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Биология и здравно образование за 12. клас, за профилирана подготовка, Biology for 4 th grade of grammar school
Fourth	“Prosveta“, Sofia	Философия за 11. клас (задължителна подготовка), Philosophy for 4 th grade of grammar school and secondary vocational school

The Hungarian language

2007

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Anyanyelvápolás 2 - Nurturing the Language 2
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čarolije reči (The Magic of Words), reader for 3 rd grade of primary school
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language)
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug (Let me Ride a Star for a Day), reader for 4 th grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 4 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Olvasókönyv - Reader
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Olvasási munkafüzet - Workbook additional to the Reader
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Magyar nyelv – gyakorló nyelvtan - Grammar Workbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Математика - Mathematics
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematikai feladatgyűjtemény - Collected math exercises
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Történelem - History

	Publishing	
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Történelmi olvasókönyv és munkafüzet - History Reader with the Workbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Óskori történelmi atlasz - The Archaic Period History Atlas
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Földrajz - Geography
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Munkafüzet földrajzból - Geography Workbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biológia - Biology
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Műszaki oktatás és informatika - Technical and Computer Education
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Képzőművészet 5 + melléklet - Art Culture + addendum
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatika és számítástechnika - Informatics and Computing
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatika és számítástechnika - Informatics and Computing
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čarolija reči (The Magic of Words), reader for 3 rd grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language)
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Földrajz - Geography

2008

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Kreativni centar (Creative centre)	Matematika 1 - Mathematics 1 - textbook
First	Kreativni centar	Szórakoztató matematika 1 - Fun Mathematics 1
First	Kreativni centar	Környezetünk 1 - The World Around Us 1 - textbook
Second	Kreativni centar	Matematika 2 - Mathematics 2 - textbook
Second	Kreativni centar	Szórakoztató matematika 2 - Fun Mathematics 2
Second	Kreativni centar	Környezetünk 2 - The World Around Us 2 - textbook
Third	KLETT	Igra brojeva i oblika 3 (The Game of Numbers and Shapes 3), Mathematics for 3 rd grade of primary school (3a and 3b) in Hungarian
Third	Kreativni centar	Matematika 3 - Mathematics 3 - textbook
Third	Kreativni centar	Szórakoztató matematika 3 - Fun

		Mathematics 3
Third	Kreativni centar	Természet-éstársadalomismeret 3 - Nature and Society 3 - textbook
Fourth	Kreativni centar	Matematika 4 - Mathematics 4 – textbook
Fourth	Kreativni centar	Szórakoztató matematika 4 - Fun Mathematics 4
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 5 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pegavo detinjstvo (Freckled Childhood), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Olvasókönyv - Reader
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Magyar nyelv - Gyakorló nyelvtan - Working Grammar
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika i pravopisa (Lessons Drawn from the Language and Orthography), Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pletivo od reči (Words Intertwined), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika feladatgyűjtemény - Collected math exercises
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Történelem+ melléklet nemzeti történelemből - History + National History Addendum
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Földrajz - Geography
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biológia - Biology
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Munkafüzet biológiából - Biology Workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Fizika - Physics
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Fizika feladatgyűjtemény laboratóriumi gyakorlatokkal - Collected Physics exercises with lab exercises
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Műszakioktatás és informatika - Technical and Computer Education
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Műszakioktatás és informatika –munkafüzet Technical and Computer Education - workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatika és számítástechnika - Informatics and Computing
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatika és számítástechnika – munkafüzet Informatics and Computing -

		workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Képzőművészeti kultúra 6. + melléklet - Art Culture 6 + addendum
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Olvasási munkafüzet - Workbook additional to the Reader

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Collected math exercises 1 with solutions

2009

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika – tankönyv - Mathematics - textbook
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika – munkafüzet - Mathematics - exercise book
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 2 – tankönyv - Mathematics 2 - textbook
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 2 – munkalapok - Mathematics 2 - exercise book
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika3 – tankönyv - Mathematics 3- textbook
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 3- munkalapok, Mathematics 3 - exercise book
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Természet éstársadalom - Nature and Society textbook
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Az élet útja - Catholic religious education textbook
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 4 – tankönyv - Mathematics - textbook
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 4 – munkalapok - Mathematics 4 - exercise book
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Az egyház útja - Catholic religious education textbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	A törvény útja - Catholic religious education textbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Enek – zene 5 - Song-music 5
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Történelmi olvasókönyvés munkafüzet History reader and textbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Jezus útja - Catholic religious education textbook for 6 th grade

Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Olvasókönyv - Reader
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Magyar nyelv – gyakorló nyelvtan - Hungarian language – working grammar
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika - Mathematics
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematikafeladatgyűjtemény - Collected math exercises
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Földrajz - Geography
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Munkafüzet földrajzból - Geography workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biológia - Biology
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biológia munkafüzet - Biology Workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Fizika - Physics
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Feladatgyűjtemény fizikából laboratóriumi Gyakorlatokkal - Collected physics exercises
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Kémia - Chemistry
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Kémiai feladatok és laboratóriumi gyakorlatok Collected chemistry exercises
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Műszakioktatás és informatika - Technical Education and Computers
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Műszakioktatás és informatika- munkafüzet Technical Education and Computers - workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Képzőművészet - Art Culture
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatika és számítástechnika - Informatics and Computing
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatika és számítástechnika–munkafüzet Informatics and Computing - workbook

2010

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Anyanyelvápolás 3 - Nurturing the Language 3
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the reader “Čarolija reči” (Magic of Words) for 3rd grade of primary school

Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the reader “Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug” (Let me Ride a Star for a Day) for 4 th grade of primary school
Fourth	Kreativni centar	Természet-éstársadalomismeret 4, Nature and Society 4 – textbook with national addendum
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook additional to the reader “Pegavo detinjstvo” (Freckled Childhood) for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 5 th grade
Fifth	Kreativni centar	Mathematics for 5 th grade of primary school in Hungarian, textbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Munkafüzet biológiából - Biology workbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Műszakioktatás és informatika – munkafüzet Technical and Computer Education – workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Hungarian People in the Middle Ages – addendum to the History Workbook, for 6 th grade of primary school, in Hungarian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the reader “Čarolija reči” (Magic of Words) for 3 rd grade
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Olvasókönyv - Reader
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar 8 – Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8 th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nedokučive tajne uma i srca (Unfathomable Secrets of the Mind and Heart), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8 th grade
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8 th grade
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika - Mathematics
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biológia - Biology
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Kémia - Chemistry

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Second	PC “Institute for Textbook Publishing” (“Zavod za udžbenike“)	History – addendum “History of the Hungarian People and Hungary in the Middle Ages” for 2 nd grade of high school

2011

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	ATOS	Mathematics, collected exercises for 1 st grade of primary school in Hungarian
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Gledam i stvaram (I Look and I Create), Art Culture for 1 st grade of primary school in Hungarian
Second	ATOS	Mathematics, collected exercises for 2 nd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 2, textbook for 2 nd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 2, exercise book for 2nd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics, collected exercises for 2nd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Razmišljam i stvaram (I Think and I Create), Art Culture for 2nd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Third	ATOS	Mathematics, collected exercises for 3rd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 3, textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 3, exercise book for 3rd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 3, exercise book for 3rd grade of primary school
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nature and Society, textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zavičajnica (Homeland Book), workbook additional to the “Nature and Society“ textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Hungarian
Fourth	ATOS	Mathematics, collected exercises for 4th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 4, textbook for 4th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 4, exercise book for 4th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Istraživanka (Exploration Book), workbook additional to the “Nature and Society” textbook for 4 th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Fifth	KLETT	Mathematics 5 – (textbook and collected

		exercises) in Hungarian, for 5th grade of primary school
Fifth	KLETT	History, textbook for 5 th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Fifth	KLETT	Geography for 5 th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geography Workbook for 6 th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Sixth	KLETT	Geography 6, for 6 th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Art Culture for 6th grade of primary school
Seventh	GERUNDUJIM	Textbook - Mathematics for 7th grade of primary school in Hungarian and collected math exercises for 7th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Collected math exercises for 7th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Seventh	KLETT	Mathematics for 7th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	History, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	History for 7 th grade of primary school in Hungarian - addendum "History of the Hungarian People and Hungary from Mohacs to the Austro-Hungarian Compromise (1526-1867)"
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology Workbook for 7th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatics and Computing - exercise book for 7 th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics, textbook for 8th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Collected math exercises for 8th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Eighth	GERUNDUJIM	Mathematics for 8th grade of primary school (textbook) in Hungarian and the accompanying collected exercises
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geography, textbook for 8th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology workbook for 8th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology, textbook for 8th grade of primary

	Publishing	school in Hungarian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Physics - collected exercises with lab exercises for 8th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Physics, textbook for 8th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Lab exercises with Chemistry exercises for 8th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chemistry, textbook for 8th grade of primary school in Hungarian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education - workbook for 8 th grade of primary school in Hungarian

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	History for 2nd grade of high school - general and socio-linguistic orientations

Romanian language

2007

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Çarolija reçi (The Magic of Words), reader for 3 rd grade of primary school
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language)
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Carte de citire, Reader
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Limba română - Caiet de lucru, Worksheets for the Romanian language
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug (Let me Ride a Star for a Day), reader for 4th grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 4th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Carte de citire, Reader
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Limba română și cultura exprimării , Romanian Language and Linguistic Culture
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematica, Mathematics
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Culegere de exerciții la matematică, Collected math exercises
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Istoria, History + National History

	Publishing	addendum
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Lecturi istorice și caiet de lucru, History Reader with the Workbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Atlasistoric, The Archaic Period History Atlas
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geografia, Geography
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biologia, Biology
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Instrucție tehnică și informatică, Technical and Computer Education
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Cultura plastică, Art Culture
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatică și calculatoare, Informatics and Computing
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la informatică și calculatoare, Informatics and Computing exercise book
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geografia, Geography

2008

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Kreativni centar	Lumeadinjurulnostru, The World Around Us - textbook
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Cultura muzicală, Music Culture
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 5 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pegavo detinjstvo (Freckled Childhood), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	National History addendum
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Carte de citire, Reader
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Limba română și cultura exprimării, Romanian Language and Speaking Culture
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika i pravopisa (Lessons Drawn from the Language and Orthography), Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pletivo od reči (Words Intertwined), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematica, Mathematics
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Culegere de exerciții la matematică, Collected math exercises

Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Istoria, History
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geografia, Geography
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la geografie, Geography workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biologia, Biology
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la biologie, Biology workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Fizica, Physics
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Culegere de probleme cu lucrări de laborator la fizică, Collected Physics exercises with lab exercises
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Instrucție tehnică și informatică, Technical and Computer Education
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la instrucție tehnică și informatică, Technical and Computer Education workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Cultura plastică, Art Culture
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatică și calculatoare, Informatics and Computing
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la informatică și calculatoare, Informatics and Computing exercise book
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Limba română și cultura exprimării, Romanian Language and Speaking Culture
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatică și calculatoare, Informatics and Computing
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la informatică și calculatoare, Informatics and Computing exercise book

2009

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematica, Mathematics
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de exerciții la matematică, Mathematics exercise book
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematica, Mathematics
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Natura și societatea, Nature and Society - textbook
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la natură și societate, Homeland Book – exercise book additional

		to the “Nature and Society” textbook
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de exerciții la matematică, Mathematics exercise book
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematica, Mathematics
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Cultura muzicală, Music Culture
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Lecturi istorice și caiet de lucru, History Reader with the workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Carte de citire, Reader
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	U ogledalu sunca (Mirrored in the Sun), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue for 7th grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar book for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 7th grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Istoria, History
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la geografie, Geography workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biologie, Biology
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la biologie, Biology workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chimia, Chemistry
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Culegere de exerciții la chimie cu lucrări de laborator, Collected Chemistry exercises with lab exercises
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Instrucție tehnică și informatică, Technical and Computer Education
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la instrucție tehnică și informatică, Technical and Computer Education workbook

2010

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the “Čarolija reči” (Magic of Words) reader for 3 rd grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the “Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug”

		(Let me Ride a Star for a Day) reader for 4 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook additional to the reader “Pegavo detinjstvo” (Freckled Childhood) for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 5 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la biologie, Biology workbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Caiet de lucru la instrucție tehnică și informatică, Technical and Computer Education workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Istoria, History + National History addendum
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar 8 – Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8 th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nedokučive tajne srca (Unfathomable Secrets of the Mind and Heart), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8 th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8 th grade
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Fizica, Physics
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chimia, Chemistry
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Culegere de exerciții la chimie, Collected Chemistry exercises with lab exercises

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Romanian National History addendum for 1 st grade of primary school

2011

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics, textbook for 1 st grade of primary school in Romanian
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics, textbook for 1st grade of primary school in Romanian
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Svet oko nas (The World Around Us), textbook for 1st grade of primary school in Romanian
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Gledam i stvaram (I Look and I Create), Art Culture for 1st grade of primary school in

		Romanian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 2, textbook for 2nd grade of primary school in Romanian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 2, exercise book for 2nd grade of primary school in Romanian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Razmišljam i stvaram (I Think and I Create), Art Culture for 2nd grade of primary school in Romanian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Calet de exerciții la matematică, Mathematics exercise book
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 3, textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Romanian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 3, exercise book for 3rd grade of primary school in Romanian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nature and Society, textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Romanian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zavičajnica (Homeland Book), workbook additional to the “Nature and Society” textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Romanian
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 4, textbook for 4th grade of primary school in Romanian
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 4, exercise book for 4th grade of primary school in Romanian
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Music Culture for 5th grade of primary school in Romanian
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	History Reader with the workbook for 6th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	History, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geography Workbook for 7th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geography, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology Workbook for 7th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Physics, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Physics – collected exercises with lab exercises for 7 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chemistry, textbook for 7th grade of

	Publishing	primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Lab exercises with Chemistry exercises for 7 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatics and Computing for 7 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatics and Computing for 7 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatics and Computing, exercise book for 7 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Carte de citire, Reader
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Romanian Language and Speaking Culture for 8 th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics for 8 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Collected math exercises for 8 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geography, textbook for 8 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology Workbook, for 8 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Physics, textbook for 8 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chemistry for 8 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Lab exercises with Chemistry exercises
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education for 8 th grade of primary school in Romanian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education, workbook for 8 th grade of primary school in Romanian

The Ruthenian language

2007

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čarolija reči (The Magic of Words), reader for 3 rd grade of primary school
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language)

	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Музична култура 3, Music Culture 3
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug (Let me Ride a Star for a Day), reader for 4 th grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 4 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	История, History
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Историйна читанка зоз роботну теку History Reader with the workbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Историйски атлас за стари вик, The Archaic Period History Atlas
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Географія, Geography
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Подобова култура 5, Art Culture 5
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Информатика и рахункарство, Informatics and Computing
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Вежбанка за информатику и рахункарство Informatics and Computing exercise book
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Географія, Geography

2008

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Музична култура 4, Music Culture 4
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 5 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pegavo detinjstvo (Freckled Childhood), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Читанка, Reader
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika i pravopisa (Lessons Drawn from the Language and Orthography), Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pletivo od reči (Words Intertwined), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Збирка задаткох зоз математики, Collected math exercises
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	История Учебник + додаток зоз националней историї Руснацох, History

		Textbook + Ruthenian National History addendum
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Географія Geography
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Биология , Biology
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Фізика , Physics
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Збірка задаткох з фізики з лабораторійними вѣжбама, Collected Physics exercises with lab exercises
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Подобова культура 6, Учебнік + додаток з національної подобовей культури Руснацох, Art Culture 6, Textbook + Ruthenian National Art History addendum
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Інформатика и рахункарство, Informatics and Computing
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Інформатика и рахункарство. Вѣжбанка, Informatics and Computing. Exercise Book
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Читанка, Reader
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Збірка задаткох з фізики з лабораторійними вѣжбама, Collected Physics exercises with lab exercises
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Інформатика и рачунарство, Informatics and Computing
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Інформатика и рахункарство. Вѣжбанка Informatics and Computing. Exercise Book

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Physics for grammar school

2009

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Математика – учебнік, Mathematics - textbook
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Математика – вѣжбанка, Mathematics – exercise book
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Математика – учебнік, Mathematics - textbook
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Математика – вѣжбанка, Mathematics – exercise book

Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Природа и друштво, Учебник- Nature and Society, Textbook
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Родими край – работна тека гу учебнику Природа и друштво, Homeland Book – Workbook additional to the “Nature and Society” textbook
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Математика 4 – учебник, Mathematics 4 - textbook
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Математика – вежбанка, Mathematics – exercise book
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Историйна читанка зоз роботу теку, Учебник, History Reader with the Workbook, Textbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Руски јазик и култура висловйованя Ruthenian Language and Speaking Culture
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	U ogleдалu sunca (Mirrored in the Sun), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 7 th grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar book for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 7 th grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Биология, Biology
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Роботна тека за биологию, Biology Workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology, textbook for 7 th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Хемија , Chemistry
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Техничне и информатичне образоване Technical and Computer Education
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Техничне и информатичне образоване Роботна тека, Technical and Computer Education, Workbook

2010

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the reader “Čarolija reči” (Magic of Words) for 3 rd grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue– workbook additional to the “Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug” (Let me Ride a Star for a Day), reader

		for 4th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook additional to the reader “Pegavo detinjstvo” (Freckled Childhood) for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 5 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Музична култура, Music Culture
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Историйна читанка зоз роботу теку Учебник + додаток зоз националней историї Руснацох, History Reader with the Workbook Textbook + Ruthenian National History addendum
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Подобова култура 6 Учебник + додаток зоз националней подобовой култури Руснацох, Art Culture 6, Textbook + Ruthenian National Art Culture addendum
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Читанка 8, Reader 8
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Ruthenian Language and Speaking Culture
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar 8 – Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8 th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nedokučive tajne uma i srca (Unfathomable Secrets of the Mind and Heart), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8h grade of primary school

2011

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics for 1st grade of primary school in Ruthenian
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 1, exercise book for 1st grade of primary school in Ruthenian
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Razmišljanka (Food for Thought), workbook additional to the “Svet oko nas” (World Around Us) textbook, for 1 st grade of primary school in Ruthenian
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Svet oko nas (The World Around Us), textbook for 1st grade of primary school in Ruthenian
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Gledam i stvaram (I Look and I Create), Art Culture for 1st grade of primary school in Ruthenian

First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Religious Education for 1st and 2nd grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 2, textbook for 2nd grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 2, exercise book for 2nd grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Religious Education for 1st and 2nd grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 3, textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 3, exercise book for 3rd grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nature and Society, textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zavičajnica (Homeland Book), workbook additional to the “Nature and Society” textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 4, textbook for 4th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 4, exercise book for 4th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Collected math exercises for 6th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics for 6th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	History Reader with the Workbook for 6th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology Workbook for 6th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Music Culture for 6th grade of primary school
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Art Culture for 6th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatics and Computing, exercise book for 6th grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	History, textbook for 7 th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geography Workbook, for 7 th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology Workbook, for 7 th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Physics, collected exercises with lab exercises for 7 th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chemistry for 7 th grade of primary school in

	Publishing	Ruthenian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education for 7th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education, workbook for 7 th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatics and Computing for 7th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatics and Computing, exercise book for 7th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics for 8th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Collected math exercises for 8th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geography for 8th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology Workbook for 8th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology, textbook for 8th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Lab exercises with Chemistry exercises for 8th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chemistry, textbook for 8th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education for 8th grade of primary school in Ruthenian
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education - workbook for 8 th grade of primary school in Ruthenian

The Slovak language

2007

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čarolija reči (The Magic of Words), reader for 3 rd grade of primary school
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language)
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Hudobná kultúra 3, Music Culture 3
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug (Let me Ride a Star for a Day), reader for 4 th grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the

	Publishing	Language), for 4 th grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Hudobná kultúra 4, Music Culture 4
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Slovenský jazyk a kultúra vyjadrovania, Slovak Language and Speaking Culture
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Математика, Mathematics
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zbierka úloh z matematiky, Collected math exercises
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Dejepis, History
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Dejepisná čítanka s pracovným zošitom, History Reader with the Workbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Dejepisný atlas, The Archaic Period History Atlas
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zemepis, Geography
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biológia, Biology
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technické a informatické vzdelávanie Technical and Computer Education
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Výtvarná kultúra, Art Culture
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatika a výpočtová technika Informatics and Computing
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Cvičebnica z informatiky a výpočtovej techniky Informatics and Computing exercise book
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Výtvarná kultúra pre 7. a 8. Ročník, Art Culture for 7 th and 8 th grade
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Slovenčina, moja sila – slovenský jazyk s prvkami národnej kultúry – čítanka pre 7. A 8. Ročník, Slovak Language with Elements of National Culture – Reader for 7 th and 8 th grade
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zemepis, Geography
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Výtvarná kultúra pre 7. a 8. Ročník, Art Culture for 7 th and 8 th grade

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Art Culture for high schools and secondary vocational schools, addendum

2008

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zábavná matematika 1, Fun Mathematics 1
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 1- učebnica, Mathematics 1 – textbook
First	Kreativni centar	Svetvôkolnás 1 – učebnica, The World Around Us 1 - textbook
Second	Kreativni centar	Matematika 2 – učebnica, Mathematics 2 – textbook
Second	Kreativni centar	Zábavná matematika 2, Fun Mathematics 2
Second	Kreativni centar	Svetvôkolnás – učebnica, The World Around Us 2 - textbook
Third	KLETT	Igra brojeva i oblika 3 (The Game of Numbers and Shapes 3), Mathematics for 3rd grade - textbook
Third	Kreativni centar	Matematika 3 – učebnica, Mathematics 3 – textbook
Third	Kreativni centar	Zábavná matematika 3, Fun Mathematics 3
Third	Kreativni centar	Prirodaa spoločnosť 3 – učebnica, Nature and Society 3 - textbook
Fourth	Kreativni centar	Matematika 4 – učebnica, Mathematics 4 – textbook
Fourth	Kreativni centar	Zábavná matematika 4, Fun Mathematics 4
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čítanka, Reader
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 5 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pegavo detinjstvo (Freckled Childhood), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Slovenský jazyk a kultúra vyjadrovania Slovak Language and Speaking Culture
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika i pravopisa (Lessons Drawn from the Language and Orthography), Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pletivo od reči (Words Intertwined), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika, Mathematics
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zbierka úloh z matematiky, Collected math exercises
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Dejepis, History
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zemepis, Geography

	Publishing	
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biológia,Biology
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pracovný zošit z biológie, Biology Workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Fyzika, Physics
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zbierka úloh z fyziky s laboratórnymi cvičeniami, Collected Physics exercises with lab exercises
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technické a infromatické vzdelávanie, Technical Education and Computers
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technické a infromatické vzdelávanie – Technical and Computer Education – workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Výtvarná kultúra, Art Culture
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatika a výpočtová technika Informatics and Computing
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Cvičebnica z informatiky a výpočtovej techniky Informatics and Computing Exercise Book
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatika a výpočtová technika, Informatics and Computing
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Výpočtová technika a informatika – cvičebnica Computing and Informatics – exercise book

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Music Culture for high school, addendum

2009

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika , Mathematics
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 2 – cvičebnica, Mathematics – exercise book
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 3 , Mathematics 3
	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika – cvičebnica, Mathematics – exercise book
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 4 , Mathematics 4

	Publishing	
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika – cvičebnica, Mathematics – exercise book
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Dejepisná čítanka s pracovným zošitom History Reader with the Workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Slovenský jazyk a kultúra vyjadrovania Slovak Language and Speaking Culture
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	U ogledalu sunca (Mirrored in the Sun), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue for 7th grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar book for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 7th grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 7, Mathematics 7
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zbierka úloh z matematiky, Collected math exercises
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Dejepis 7, History 7
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zemepis 7, Geography 7
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biológia 7, Biology 7
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pracovný zošit z biológie, Biology Workbook
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Fyzika 7, Physics 7
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chémia 7, Chemistry 7
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zbierka úloh z chémie a laboratórne cvičenia Collected Chemistry exercises with lab exercises

2010

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the reader “Čarolija reči” (The Magic of Words) for 3rd grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the reader “Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug“ (Let me Ride a Star for a Day) for 4th grade of primary school

Fourth	Kreativni centar	Prirodaa společnost' 4 – učebnica, Nature and Society - textbook with national addendum
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook additional to the reader “Pegavo detinjstvo” (Freckled Childhood) for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 5th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pracovný zošit z biológie, Biology Workbook
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Hudobná kultúra, Music Culture
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technické a infromatické vzdelávanie – pracovný zošit, Technical and Computer Education – workbook
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čítanka, Reader
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Hudobná kultúra, Music Culture
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Dejepis, History
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Slovenský jazyk a kultúra vyjadrovania Slovak Language and Speaking Culture
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar 8 – Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nedokučive tajne uma i srca (Unfathomable Secrets of the Mind and Heart), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biológia, Biology

2011

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics, textbook for 1st grade of primary school
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics, exercise book for 1st grade of primary school
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Gladam i stvaram (I Look and I Create), Art Culture for 1 st grade of primary school in Slovak
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 2, textbook for 2nd grade of primary school in Slovak
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Matematika 2, exercise book for 2nd grade

	Publishing	of primary school in Slovak
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Svet oko nas (The World Around Us), for 2nd grade of primary school in Slovak
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Istraživanka (Exploration Book), workbook additional to the “Svet oko nas” (World Around Us), textbook for 2nd grade of primary school in Slovak
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 3, textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Slovak
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 3, exercise book for 3rd grade of primary school in Slovak
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Zavičajnica (Homeland Book), workbook additional to the “Nature and Society” textbook for 3rd grade of primary school in Slovak
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nature and Society for 3rd grade of primary school in Slovak
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 4, textbook za 4th grade of primary school in Slovak
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics 4, exercise book for 4th grade of primary school in Slovak
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	History Reader with the Workbook for 6th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Reader for 7th grade of primary school, in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Collected math exercises for 7th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics for 7th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology Workbook for 7th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Physics, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Collected Physics exercises for 7th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chemistry, textbook for 7th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Lab exercises with Chemistry exercises for 7th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education, workbook for 7th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education, for 7 th grade of primary school in Slovak

Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatics and Computing for 7 th grade of primary school in Slovak
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Informatics and Computing, exercise book for 7 th grade of primary school in Slovak
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čítanka, Reader
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Mathematics for 8 th grade of primary school in Slovak
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Geography for 8 th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology, textbook for 8 th grade of primary school in Slovak
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Biology workbook for 8 th grade of primary school in Slovak
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Chemistry for 8 th grade of primary school in Slovak
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education - workbook for 8 th grade of primary school in Slovak
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education for 8 th grade of primary school in Slovak
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Technical and Computer Education for 8 th grade of primary school in Slovak

The Ukrainian language

2007

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čarolija reči (The Magic of Words), reader for 3 rd grade of primary school
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language)

2010

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the reader “Čarolija reči” (Magic of Words) for 3 rd grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue – workbook additional to the reader “Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug“ (Let me Ride a Star for a Day) for 4 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook additional to the reader “Pegavo

	Publishing	detinjstvo” (Freckled Childhood) for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 5th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar 8 – Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nedokučive tajne uma i srca (Unfathomable Secrets of the Mind and Heart), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school

2011

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Ukrainian Language – textbook for nurturing the language, with elements of national culture for 1 st and 2 nd grade of primary school, in Ukrainian
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Ukrainian Language – workbook additional to the textbook for nurturing the language, with elements of national culture, for 1 st and 2 nd grade of primary school, in Ukrainian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Ukrainian Language – textbook for nurturing the language, with elements of national culture, for 1 st and 2 nd grade of primary school, in Ukrainian
Second	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Ukrainian Language – workbook additional to the textbook for nurturing the language, with elements of national culture, for 1 st and 2 nd grade of primary school, in Ukrainian

The Croatian language

2007

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čarolija reči (The Magic of Words), reader for 3rd grade of primary school
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language)
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug (Let me Ride a Star for a Day), reader for 4 th grade of primary school

Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 4 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 5 th grade of primary school

2008

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Drawn from the Language), for 5 th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pegavo detinjstvo (Freckled Childhood), reader for Serbian as Non-mother Tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika i pravopisa (Lessons Drawn from the Language and Orthography), Serbian as non-mother tongue
Sixth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pletivo od reči (Words Intertwined), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue

2009

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	U ogledalu sunca (Mirrored in the Sun), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 7 th grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 7 th grade of primary school
Seventh	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue

2010

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Kap, kap... slova slap (Drop by Drop... a Cascade of Letters), the first reader for 1 st grade of primary school
First	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Učimo pisati (Let's Learn How to Write), workbook for 1 st grade of primary school
Third	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Moji zlatni dani 3 (My Golden Days 3), workbook for 3 rd grade of primary school
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue - workbook additional to the reader "Čarolija reči" (The Magic of Words) for 3 rd grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as non-mother tongue - workbook additional to the reader "Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug" (Let me Ride a Star for a Day)

		for 4th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook additional to the reader “Pegavo detinjstvo“ (Freckled Childhood) for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 5th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar 8 – Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nedokučive tajne uma i srca (Unfathomable Secrets of the Mind and Heart), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school

2011

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Second	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Tajna slova 2 (The Secret of Letters 2), textbook for 2nd grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Second	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Tajna slova 2 (The Secret of Letters 2), Workbook A, for 2nd grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Second	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Tajna slova 2 (The Secret of Letters 2), reader for 2nd grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Second	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Tajna slova 2 (The Secret of Letters 2), workbook added to the reader for 2nd grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Third	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Moji zlatni dani 3 (My Golden Days 3), Croatian language textbook for 3rd grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Fourth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Zlatni dani 4 (The Golden Days 4), textbook for 4th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Fourth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Zlatni dani 4 (The Golden Days 4),

		workbook for 4th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Fourth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Moji zlatni dani 4 (My Golden Days 4), Croatian language and literature for 4th grade of primary school
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Croatian Language 5, textbook for 5th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Mathematics - collection of exercises for 5th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Gea 1, Geography textbook for 5th grade of primary school
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Gea 1, Geography workbook for 5th grade of primary school
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Nature study 5, textbook for 5th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching material for teachers - teacher's guide)
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Nature study 5, workbook for 5th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching material for teachers - teacher's guide)
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 5 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 5), textbook for 5th grade of primary school
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 5 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 5), workbook for 5th grade of primary school
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 5 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 5), worksheet map for 5th grade of primary school
Fifth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 5 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 5), collection of exercises for 5th grade of primary school
Sixth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Mathematics 6, textbook for 6th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Sixth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Mathematics 6, collection of exercises for 6th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)

Sixth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Nature study 6, workbook for 6th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching material for teachers - teacher's guide)
Sixth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Gea 2, Geography textbook for 6th grade of primary school
Sixth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Gea 2, Geography workbook for 6th grade of primary school
Sixth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 6 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 6), textbook for 6th grade of primary school
Sixth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 6 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 6), worksheet map for 6th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Sixth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Technical culture 6, workbook for 6th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Seventh	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Gea 3, Geography textbook for 7th grade of primary school
Seventh	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Gea 3, Geography workbook for 7th grade of primary school
Seventh	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Otkrivamo fiziku 7 (Discovering Physics 7), textbook for 7th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Seventh	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Otkrivamo fiziku 7 (Discovering Physics 7), collection of exercises for 7th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Seventh	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Otkrivamo fiziku 7 (Discovering Physics 7), workbook for 7th grade in primary school
Seventh	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 7 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 7), textbook for 7th grade of primary school
Seventh	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 7 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 7), collection of exercises for 7th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching material for teachers - teacher's guide)
Seventh	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 7 (The Marvelous

		World of Techniques 7), worksheet map for 7th grade in primary school
Eighth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Otkrivamo fiziku 8 (Discovering Physics 8), textbook for 8th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Eighth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Otkrivamo fiziku 8 (Discovering Physics 8), collection of exercises for 8th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Eighth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Otkrivamo fiziku 8 (Discovering Physics 8), workbook for 8th grade of primary school (Recommended in the Decision as another teaching/learning material for pupils)
Eighth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 8 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 8), textbook for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 8 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 8), collection of exercises for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	ŠKOLSKA KNJIGA	Čudesni svijet tehnike 8 (The Marvelous World of Techniques 8), worksheet map for 8th grade of primary school

2010

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Computer science 1, textbook for the first grade of general-programme, language and classical grammar schools NOTE: Partly harmonised with school curriculum and syllabus and is recommended as another teaching/learning material for students in the Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Physics 1, textbook for two-year and three-year Physics syllabus NOTE: Partly harmonised with school curriculum and syllabus, general outcomes and standards of education and is recommended as another teaching/learning material for students in order to master, check and expand knowledge, in the

		Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Collection of Physics exercises for secondary schools NOTE: Partly harmonised with school curriculum and syllabus, general outcomes and standards of education and is recommended as another teaching/learning material for students in order to master, check and expand knowledge, in the Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina.
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Mathematics 1, Part I, textbook for 1st grade of four-year vocational secondary school NOTE: Partly harmonised with school curriculum and syllabus, general outcomes and standards of education and is recommended as another teaching/learning material for students in order to master, check and expand knowledge, in the Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Mathematics 2, Part II, textbook for 1st grade of four-year vocational secondary school NOTE: Partly harmonised with school curriculum and syllabus, general outcomes and standards of education and is recommended as another teaching/learning material for students in order to master, check and expand knowledge, in the Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Croatian language 1, textbook for 1st grade of four-year vocational secondary schools NOTE: Harmonised to a less extent with curriculum and syllabus, general outcomes and standards of education and is recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide in the territory of AP Vojvodina
Fourth	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Ecology, Biology textbook for 4th grade of grammar school and vocational secondary schools NOTE: Harmonised to a less extent with

		curriculum and syllabus, general outcomes and standards of education and is recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide in the territory of AP Vojvodina
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2011

Secondary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Linguae Latinae elementa, workbook for the Latin textbook
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Koraci kroz vrijeme 1 (Steps Through Time 1), History textbook for 1st grade of grammar school NOTE: Harmonised to a less extent with curriculum and syllabus and is recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide in the Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Koraci kroz vrijeme 1 (Steps Through Time 1), History workbook for 1st grade of grammar school NOTE: Harmonised to a less extent with curriculum and syllabus and is recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide in the Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina
First	“Profil” Zagreb	Književni vremeplov 1 (Literary Time Machine 1), reader for 1st grade of grammar school
First	“Profil” Zagreb	Fon-fon 1, Croatian language workbook for 1st grade of grammar school
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Od molekula do organizma (From Molecules to Organisms), Biology textbook for 1st grade of grammar school NOTE: Harmonised to a less extent with curriculum and syllabus, general outcomes and standards of education and is recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide in the territory of AP Vojvodina
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Physics 1, textbook for 1st grade of grammar school
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Physics 1, collection of exercises with

		solutions for 1st grade of grammar school
First	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Computer science 1, textbook for 1st grade of general-programme, language and classical grammar schools
Second	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Physics 2, textbook for 2nd grade of grammar school NOTE: Partly harmonised with school curriculum and syllabus and is recommended as another teaching/learning material for students in the Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina
Second	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Physics 2, collection of exercises with solutions for 2nd grade of grammar school NOTE: Partly harmonised with school curriculum and syllabus and is recommended as another teaching/learning material for students in the Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina
Second	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Raznolikost živoga svijeta (Variety of Wildlife), Biology textbook for 2nd grade of grammar school NOTE: Partly harmonised with school curriculum and syllabus and is recommended as another teaching/learning material for students in the Croatian language and script, in the territory of AP Vojvodina
Second	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Fine Art 2, textbook for 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade of grammar school, secondary vocational and art schools NOTE: Harmonised to a less extent with curriculum and syllabus, general outcomes and standards of education and is recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide in the territory of AP Vojvodina
Third	“Alfa” Zagreb	History 3, textbook for 3rd grade of grammar school
Third	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Fine Art 2, textbook for 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade of grammar school, vocational secondary and art schools NOTE: Harmonised to a less extent with curriculum and syllabus, general outcomes and standards of education and is

		recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide in the territory of AP Vojvodina
Fourth	“Školska knjiga” Zagreb	Fine Art 2, textbook for 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade of grammar school, vocational secondary and art schools NOTE: Harmonised to a less extent with curriculum, general outcomes and standards of education and is recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide in the territory of AP Vojvodina

Czech language

2007

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Čarolija reči (The Magic of Words), reader for 3rd grade of primary school
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Pouke iz jezika (Lessons Learned from the Language)

2010

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
Third	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as Non-Mother Tongue – workbook as addition to the reader “Čarolija reči” (The Magic of Words), for 3rd grade of primary school
Fourth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Serbian as Non-Mother Tongue – workbook with reading book “Daj mi zvezdu jedan krug” (Let me Ride a Star for a Day) for 4th grade of primary school
Fifth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook as addition to the reader “Pegavo detinjstvo” (Freckled Childhood) for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 5th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Grammar 8 – Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Nedokučive tajne uma i srca (Unfathomable Secrets of Mind and Heart), reader for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school
Eighth	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Workbook for Serbian as non-mother tongue for 8th grade of primary school

2011

Primary school		
Grade	Publisher name	Textbook name
First	Institute for Textbook Publishing	Czech language with elements of the national culture - textbook for fostering the language with elements of the national culture for 1st grade of primary school

Pursuant to the Law on Establishing the Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, AP Vojvodina approves, through its bodies, in the field of preschool and primary education and upbringing (Article 33, paragraph 1, item 20), and in the field of secondary education (Article 34, paragraph 1, item 23), textbooks and teaching aids for minority language education; and, in agreement with the competent minister, AP Vojvodina also approves textbooks and teaching aids for particular subjects of interest to national minorities at the mentioned educational levels (Article 33, paragraph 1, item 22, and Article 34, paragraph 1, item 25 of the Law). The table below contains data on the number of the approved textbooks for preschool, primary and secondary education in minority languages in the period 2007–2011.

Year	in the Hungarian language	in the Slovak language	in the Romanian language	in the Ruthenian language	in the Croatian language	in the Ukrainian language	in the Czech language	Total
2007	6*,***	7*,***	7*,***	1	-	-	-	21
2008	3	5**	5	4***	4	-	-	21
2009	7	2	1	2	-	-	-	12
2010	8*	7	2*	6	-	-	-	23
2011	2	2	3	2	-	2	1	12
Total	26	23	18	15	4	2	1	89

Legend: * one of the approved textbooks is for secondary school students
 ** two of the approved textbooks are for secondary school students
 *** one of the approved textbooks is for preschool institutions

The procedure for approving textbooks, teaching materials and teacher's guides, used in home countries and printed in minority languages and scripts, is governed by the Law on Textbooks and Other Teaching Materials; thus, in 2010 and 2011, the primary

schools, the grammar school and the Polytechnic Secondary School from Subotica, where teaching is carried out in the Croatian language, submitted to the then existing Provincial Secretariat for Education of AP Vojvodina a request for approval to use the textbooks from their home country. In accordance with the Law, expertise of textbooks and harmonisation with the curriculum and syllabus valid in the Republic of Serbia were performed, and the Secretariat passed decisions on approving, i.e. rejecting requests for the approval to use textbooks, workbooks and collections of exercises for specific subjects and grades. In 2010, the total number of 90 textbooks from the Republic of Croatia were submitted for approval for use. Of this number, 71 requests were complete, and the Provincial Secretariat issued the following decisions: 9 textbooks were approved for use; 18 textbooks were recommended as another teaching/learning material for pupils and students; 8 textbooks were recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide; 36 textbooks were not approved since they were not in compliance with the applicable curriculum and syllabus and general outcomes and standards of education. In 2011, the total number of 150 textbooks from the Republic of Croatia were submitted for approval. Of this number, 76 requests were complete, and the Provincial Secretariat issued the following decisions: 24 textbooks were approved for use; 22 textbooks were recommended as another teaching/learning material for pupils and students; 9 textbooks were recommended as another teaching material for teachers – teacher’s guide; 21 textbooks were not approved since they were not in compliance with the applicable curriculum and the general outcomes and standards of education.

At the initiative of the then existing Provincial Secretariat for Education, a work meeting was held in February 2011 with the representatives of national councils, the Institute for Textbook Publishing and the Ministry of Education and Science in order to analyse the current situation and agree on providing textbooks in all languages of national minorities under the same conditions.

10.2. The Status of Roma

After the second cycle of monitoring of the implementation of the Framework Convention, numerous measures and activities were undertaken in the Republic of Serbia for creating conditions for the improvement of the status of the Roma national minority in the field of education. In 2009, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma and the accompanying Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy, with the projection of budget funds for the implementation of planned activities and measures in the period 2009-2011. Strategic goals in the education defined in the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma are as follows: inclusion of Roma in the educational system and providing education continuity; providing quality education for Roma; establishing mechanisms for encouraging tolerance and respect for differences, and fostering cultural identity.

The education reform implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science includes, *inter alia*, improvement of education of vulnerable social groups, national minorities, and particularly Roma as the most vulnerable ethnic community in the Republic of Serbia. The adoption of the new Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System (2009) provided preconditions for unsegregated inclusion of children in education and continuing schooling: increased duration of compulsory and free preschool preparatory programme from six to nine months; facilitated enrollment of children from socially vulnerable groups (e.g. enrollment in mother tongue); legal regulation of inclusive approach; specified mechanisms of support for children and teaching staff in its implementation. Improvement of Roma education is an integral part of the Ministry of Education Work Programme, within the following: international and national projects and strategies in the field of education; development of education programmes for the civil society and democracy; implementation of Projects from the Decade of Roma Inclusion; introducing principles and concepts of inclusive education; promotion of models of good practices of inclusive education; development of self-evaluation and evaluation of school work.

Data on the low inclusion of Roma children and young people at all educational levels, as well as data on dropping out of school required necessary measures for creating systemic conditions for the inclusion of Roma in the education system and their longer keeping within the system. For greater inclusion of the Roma population in the preschool education, the Ministry of Education and Science implemented, together with the National Council of the Roma National Minority and municipal authorities, in 2007 and 2008, the Project “Expanding Access to Preschool Education for Roma Children“ in 30 municipalities. The Project included approximately 2,200 children. In the school year 2007/2008 in AP Vojvodina, programme for early care and education of children in the age group from 6 months to 3 years, and programme for the education of children in the age group of 3 years until enrollment in primary school in the Romani language, were implemented for 1,002 children; while in the school year 2008/2009, the mentioned programmes were implemented for 960 children. According to data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in the school year 2008/2009, the preschool preparatory programme involved approximately 3,000 children of the Roma nationality.

The coverage within preschool preparatory programme in general population was between 88% and 96% in 2010/11, depending on the source used and the time when these data were collected. According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and UNICEF Survey (MICS - Multi Cluster Indicator Survey), the coverage of preschool preparatory programme concerning the children from Roma settlements is 78%. Among Roma children, a somewhat lower coverage is detected when girls are in question, compared to boys (72% versus 84%); and in the rural environment compared to the urban one (66% versus 84%), depending on parents’ education and economic situation of households.

According to data for the school year 2010/2011 - 2,136 pupils of the Roma nationality were enrolled in the first grade, which makes 7.41% of the total number of pupils. Regarding the previous school year the percentage increased by 9.87%. The reasons for such an increased percent of Roma children in the education system are as follows: conditional enrollment which enables enrollment without complete documentation (i.e. signing in without all personal documents or certificates for attending compulsory preschool preparatory programme) and distribution of free textbooks provided to all first grade pupils. MICS Survey data show considerable improvement of situation of the Roma population in relation to the primary school attendance rate over the past 5 years - the rate has increased from 74% to 88%. The number of children who dropped out of regular school is approximately 7.04% versus the number of the Roma children enrolled in the first grade. Children who drop out of a regular school are most frequently from marginalised groups and they either drop out of a regular school or continue education in adult education schools.

In order to improve the quality and availability of education, the Ministry of Education and Science is implementing the Project *Education For All*, for which funds have been provided through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance of the European Union, component 1(IPA 2008). The Project should ensure greater inclusion and quality of education of children from marginalised groups, where Roma also belong, at the preschool and primary school levels, through work with pedagogical assistants, who offer, as defined under the Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System, assistance and additional support to children and pupils in accordance with their needs; as well as work with teachers, preschool teachers and associates for the improvement of work with the children and pupils from socially vulnerable groups. Since the above mentioned Law envisages an individual curriculum for students who need support, the second part of the Project is aimed at professional training of preschool teachers and teachers, organised for the development of inclusive access. Beside the development of individual curricula, preschool teachers and teachers develop models of collaborative relations with pedagogical assistants, in order to reach, through sharing experience and knowledge, the most effective access and work model. In 48 preschool institutions and 80 primary schools, 180 pedagogical assistants were engaged, for whom introductory training was organised, and more than 500 teachers employed in schools, kindergartens and school administrative offices in Serbia.

Another project financed from the funds provided through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance of the European Union, component 1(IPA 2008), *Another Chance*, relates to establishing a system of functional primary education of adults who had dropped out of school before acquiring first qualifications and/or functional literacy. The Project will provide systemic solutions for the inclusion of adults in the primary education process, giving them a chance to accomplish their initiated primary education and continue their education in the secondary school, either through the system of

continuing training for labour market needs, or through the secondary education system according to curriculums adequate for the needs of adults. An experimental curriculum for adult primary education is implemented in 80 primary schools and primary schools for adult education in Serbia, while experimental standards for 30 training programmes will be implemented in 75 secondary vocational schools. Thus, *inter alia*, social inclusion has been affirmed as wider social need that requires coordination and collaboration of greater number of social partners.

Since 2005, the Ministry of Education and Science has actively participated in the international project *Decade of Roma Inclusion*. In this process The Ministry has developed a constructive relationships and partnership with the National Council of the Roma National Minority, whose representatives have participated in the Working Group for the revision and implementation of the Unique Action Plan on the Improvement of Education of Roma in Serbia. Criteria for the enrollment of students of the Roma nationality in secondary schools and faculties have been defined by working together on the implementation of affirmative measures. By applying affirmative measures, in secondary schools were enrolled as follows: 2007/2008 - 143 students; 2008/2009 - 190 students; 2009/2010 - 219 students; 2010/2011 - 266 students; and in the school year 2011/2012 - 380 students. Affirmative measures of enrollment of Roma in faculties have been applied since 2006. In colleges and faculties were enrolled as follows: 2006/2007 - 95 students, and since 2007/2008 - 100 students per year (except in the school year 2010/2011 when affirmative action measures were not applied).

For the improvement of Roma education, the then existing Provincial Secretariat for Culture, the Council for Roma Integration in AP Vojvodina and the Roma Student Association initiated in the school year 2007/2008 implementation of the four-year Project “Inclusion of Roma Students in Secondary Schools in AP Vojvodina“, with the goal to provide to Roma secondary school students, enrolled as regular students in regular secondary schools, financial and mentor support. Funds were provided by the donor (Roma Education Fund – REF from Budapest) and by the Provincial Secretariat and the Executive Council of AP Vojvodina. The Project ensured the total number of 855 scholarships for 355 students from the first to fourth grade of the secondary school in the territory of AP Vojvodina. Mentor support, for the first time in our pedagogical practice, provided, beside financial support, continuity and successful implementation of the foreseen effects of the Project.

Number of Roma students in the regular education system according to the education level, in the period from the school year 2004/2005 until 2010/2011

	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Preschool programme	n/a	n/a	544	820	881	736	704

Primary school	5,216	5,565	5,888	6,284	6,542	7,146	7,393
Secondary school	235	258	300	395	606	633	639
Higher education	18	39	52	72	132	135	141
Total	5,479	5,862	7,328	7,571	8,161	8,650	8,877

In favour of positive results speaks the fact that the percentage of dropping out of secondary school students, who belong to the Roma national community, decreased from 25% before the beginning of the Project, already after the first school year, to 7.30%, i.e. during the four-year period the percentage of dropping out was 4.15%.

During the four-year Project period, more Roma girls were included in the Project than Roma boys, while regarding the general academic performance, girls' performance on average was better.

School year	Number of scholars	Male	Female
2007/08	355	170	185
2008/09	267	123	144
2009/2010	170	79	91
2010/2011	66	26	40
total	858	398	460
Total number of scholars during 4 school years	390	179 (45.89%)	211 (54.10%)

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, a Scholarship Fund was established for poor secondary school students, within the State Programme for support to education of vulnerable social groups. 1,000 scholarships were granted mostly to scholars belonging to the Roma national minority as well as to other national minorities.

Owing to the enrollment of students in secondary schools and faculties by applying affirmative measures, the Roma Education Fund financed numerous projects that have increased motivation in the Roma population for education and provided support to continuing education. Some of them are as follows: creating conditions for increasing coverage and performance of Roma students in the secondary school: during this project support was provided in attaining better academic performance for 150 Roma students and their transition from the primary to secondary school, through additional and preparatory classes of the Serbian language and mathematics; creating conditions to expand access to state scholarships and increase academic performance of Roma children

in secondary schools: during this project 330 Roma students of seventh and eighth grade from ten primary schools enjoyed logistic support through organised individual tutoring and counselling; empowering Roma students in Novi Sad: during this project Roma students in Novi Sad enjoyed mentor support.

In the school year 2008/2009, the Ministry of Education awarded 117 secondary school student scholarships and 182 university student scholarships, and in 2009/2010 - 170 secondary school student scholarships. Bearing in mind that the Law on Pupils' and Students' Standard (2010) stipulates that pupils and students from vulnerable social groups exercise the right to accommodation and student standard according to special conditions, the Ministry of Education and Science passed extraordinary decisions for pupils and students of the Roma nationality on granting scholarships and accommodation and meals in student boarding schools. In 2011, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government provided one-time emergency assistance for 185 students of the Roma nationality of the first year totalling RSD 3,000,000 (approximately EUR 30,000).

In the Republic of Serbia, in 2009, the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination and the Law on National Councils of National Minorities were passed, which provided the key statutory framework for the improvement of protection of rights of national minorities and a kind of promotion of national identity, such as language, tradition and culture. The Ministry of Education and Science is implementing international and national projects and programmes relating to the fight against racism and discrimination, intended for students, teachers, local self-governments, and/or other departments, in order to create a safer and more encouraging environment for all children, and acquainting of the majority population with the problems they are facing. Beside protocols for the protection of children and pupils and students against violence, abuse and neglect, which relate to preventive activities and defining procedures in the protection of children against violence, these projects are as follows: *Indicators of Forms of Discrimination in Educational Institutions*, which relate to the implementation of measures for the solution and monitoring of forms of discrimination in school life and work; *Challenges and Solutions through the Education System for Roma Culture, History and Tradition* (during which draft recommendations were developed on possible directions of the programme development and activities of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Finance and Team of Deputy Prime Minister within the Strategy for Poverty Reduction); the Guide "Protection of Children of the Roma Nationality against Discrimination in Education", which was distributed to all primary schools; *Development of the Subject Civic Education in Primary and Secondary Schools and Improvement of the Status of the Subject in All Grades*, where the subject content as well as teacher's and student guides are prepared in cooperation with experts of the Council of Europe in charge of education, as well as the most successful teachers in the whole region; *Support to Anti-*

Discriminatory Education Environment for Children of the Roma Nationality (trainings for principles and school expert services, workshops for Roma parents), etc.

In order to fulfil a strategic goal - fostering the cultural identity, in the education system of the Republic of Serbia subject Romani language was introduced in schools of AP Vojvodina with elements of the national culture. In the school year 2009/2010, classes were organised in 27 primary schools in 14 local self-governments: in Ada, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Žabalj, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kanjiža, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Srbobran, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica, Novi Bečej and Titel. Classes included 723 Roma pupils. The University of Novi Sad implemented the Project “Establishing Roma Elite at the Novi Sad University“, whose goals was upgrading and developing the structure of the School of Romology at the Novi Sad University and assistance in the development of University programmes for the support to Roma students. The Programme included 69 students of the Roma nationality. Since 2010 The Academy of Professional Career Studies “Mihajlo Palov“ from Vršac has been organising classes for the education of preschool teachers in the Romani and Serbian languages. Since September 2012, a new pilot programme of the Romani language, developed at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, has been carried out. In the school year to come, training for future teachers of the Romani language will be organised; they will be able to teach in the whole territory of Serbia according to the needs expressed in primary schools.

10.3. Recognition of diplomas

Recognition of school certificates and diplomas acquired abroad at all educational levels is performed in accordance with procedures stipulated by law. In compliance with Articles 123-125 of the Law on Elementary Education, a Serbian citizen, who has acquired elementary education or completed certain grades of primary school abroad, shall have the right to request recognition of school certificate or diploma on acquired elementary education or specific completed grade of the primary school. Through nostrification, a foreign school certificate shall be equalised with the appropriate school certificate acquired in the Republic of Serbia, in terms of both the holder's right to continue education and the right to employment; while through recognition of equivalent qualifications a foreign school certificate shall be equalised with the appropriate school certificate acquired in the Republic of Serbia in terms of the right to continue education. Through the nostrification process, i.e. recognition of equivalent qualifications, the following shall be taken into account: education system in the country where the school certificate was acquired, the curriculum, years of school, the right given by the foreign school certificate to the school certificate holder, and other circumstances that may influence the decision making.

Pursuant to provisions of Articles 93-95 of the Law on Secondary Education, Yugoslav nationals who have completed school or specific grades of school abroad shall

have a right to request recognition of a foreign diploma or school certificate - nostrification or recognition of equivalence of these documents. Through nostrification, a foreign school document shall be fully equalised with the appropriate national school certificate in terms of both the holder's rights to continue education and the right to employment. Through recognition of equivalent qualifications, a foreign school certificate shall be equalised with the appropriate national school certificate in terms of the right to continue education. In the procedure of nostrification, i.e. recognition of equivalent qualifications, the following shall be taken into account: years of school, education system in the country, in which the school certificate was acquired, the curriculum, the rights guaranteed by the school certificate to the document holder, and other circumstances that might influence the decision making. Nostrification, i.e. recognition of foreign school certificate on acquired elementary education and qualifications or specific grades of elementary school, as well as foreign school certificate, shall be done by the Ministry of Education.

The Law on Higher Education stipulates in Article 104 that recognition of a foreign document of higher education shall mean a procedure on the basis of which the right of the holder of that document shall be established to continue education and/or to seek employment. The procedure for recognition for the purpose of continuing education within the higher education system shall establish the right of the holder of a foreign document of higher education to continue commenced higher education and/or the right to be admitted to the levels of higher education; and in the procedure for recognition for the purpose of employment shall establish the type and level of studies of the holder of a foreign document of higher education as well as his/her professional, academic and/or scientific title. Recognition shall be carried out by an independent higher education institution in the manner and according to the procedure prescribed by the general act of the institution. In the procedure of recognition of a foreign document of higher education, system of the country, in which the foreign document of higher education has been acquired, shall be taken into account as well as the study programme, conditions for admission to the study programme, the rights conferred by that document of higher education in the country, in which it has been acquired, and other facts of relevance for the recognition of a foreign document of higher education.

On the basis of the mentioned provisions, the process of recognition proceeds smoothly according to information obtained from the Ministry of Education and Science; in the recent period there have been no objections of the persons belonging to national minorities regarding the length of procedures concerning recognition of school certificates and diplomas, nor requests for reviewing necessary documentation submitted for recognition of the said school certificates and diplomas.

10.4. Equal opportunities in access to higher education

Since the second reporting cycle, beside measures in favour of persons belonging to the Roma national minority, the Republic of Serbia has undertaken measures to facilitate access to higher education to persons belonging to the Albanian national minority as well.

Since 2009, higher education of persons belonging to the Albanian national minority is carried out at the Departments of the Economic Faculty and Faculty of Law of the Niš University in Medvedja. Students from the Albanian community attend courses in Serbian language, and for all of them simultaneous interpretation is ensured. The Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja (hereinafter referred to as the Coordination Body) financed translation of all textbooks into the Albanian language, and enabled publishing of the first Serbian-Albanian Legal Lexicon of great help to the students of the Department of the Faculty of Law in Medvedja in mastering legal concepts. Since the opening of these Departments, three generations of students have been enrolled there, and the Coordination Body grants to them twice a year one-time scholarships.

The Economic Faculty from Subotica of the Novi Sad University opened in October 2011 a Faculty Department in Bujanovac, thus fulfilling one of the most important goals of the Government Programme for the South of Serbia. Opening of this institution of higher education is the result of multiannual efforts and work of the Coordination Body for the solution of issues of higher education in the Southern Serbia. Courses at the Department of the Economic Faculty are bilingual; namely, the students from Serbian and Roma communities attend courses in the Serbian language, while the students from Albanian community attend courses in the Albanian language. The curriculum enables to Albanian students to attend 14 courses in their mother tongue, out of 32 subjects, and to write their thesis in Albanian. Two coordinators are available to students for all issues, both to students who attend courses in Serbian and students who attend courses in Albanian. The Economic Faculty in Subotica signed Cooperation Agreement with the Economic Faculty of the State University in Tetovo (FYR Macedonia); thus, courses in the Albanian language are performed by professors and assistants from Tetovo.

The first generation of students began to attend courses on 31 October 2011, when 69 budget-financed students were enrolled, of whom 40 Albanians and 29 Serbs, while 24 students enrolled as students of the Economic Faculty in Subotica got permission to attend courses in Bujanovac. Municipality of Bujanovac has provided to this purpose premises of the Cultural Centre, whose adaptation was financed by the Coordination Body. The necessary IT equipment was provided by the Coordination Body and PBILD Programme of the United Nations, while the classrooms were equipped by the Municipality of Bujanovac.

10.5. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In its Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, the Advisory Committee gave 6 recommendations concerning Article 12 of the Framework Convention. The positions below include information on activities undertaken for their implementation.

The Serbian authorities should take additional measures to ensure that the availability of teacher training and textbooks adequately reflects the needs expressed by national minorities and that the related proposals made by their councils are followed-up. In so doing, the authorities should pay particular attention to the quality as well as the continuity of the training available and ensure that the textbooks' content is suited to the Serbian school curriculum.

The adopted regulations in the education field after the second monitoring cycle concerning the implementation of the Framework Convention, enable additional teacher training for the education of persons belonging to national minorities in their own language. As mentioned earlier, Centre for professional development of employees in educational institutions, as part of the Institute for Improvement of Education, is, *inter alia*, in charge of the improvement of the system of continuing professional training and development of employees in preschool, primary and secondary education, and approving programmes of continuing professional training, including participation in the implementation of European and international programmes in the field of professional development of the employees. The Centre for the development of programmes and textbooks, as part of the Institute for Improvement of Education, performs tasks related to the quality standards concerning textbooks and teaching/learning materials in the field of preschool education, and providing expert assessment of textbooks in primary, secondary general education and artistic education.

Determining legal competences of national councils of national minorities in the field of education, enables persons belonging to national minorities to adopt, when textbooks and teaching materials are in question, such solutions that express their needs, since they are, through proposals of their national councils, direct participants in the process of approving for use textbooks and teaching materials, whose content reflects specificities of national minorities. As already mentioned, at proposal of national councils

of national minorities, Minister of Education gives approval for the use of domestic or imported textbooks in a national minority language in education.

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to take all the necessary measures to put an end to the persisting practice of placing Roma children in “special schools” designed for children with mental disabilities. In particular, the authorities are urged to review the placement tests for such schools by involving Roma professionals and to ensure that such placements are only done on the basis of objective and standardised tests, that duly take into account the linguistic and cultural circumstances of the Roma.

Since the adoption of the Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System in 2009, which has enabled inclusive education, including the engagement of pedagogical assistants, and eliminating categorisation, all children are enrolled in regular primary schools. The Ministry of Education and Science gave a recommendation to all special schools to make a plan of achievements of Roma children in order to enable their enrollment in regular secondary schools.

Serbia should ensure that Roma teaching assistants are fully integrated into the teaching and education structure and that there is an increased awareness about their role among the teaching staff and school administration. Increased and meaningful involvement of Roma parents in the work of the schools is also needed.

The Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System introduced the institute of pedagogical assistants in preschool and primary education. In accordance with Article 117, paragraph 3 of the Law, pedagogical assistant shall extend assistance and additional support to children and students in keeping with their needs, but also to teachers, preschool teachers and psychologists/pedagogues for the purpose of improving their performance when working with children and students in need of additional education support. While performing his/her activities the pedagogical assistant shall establish cooperation with parents or caregivers, while at the same time he/she shall cooperate with the principle so as to establish cooperation with competent institutions, organisations, associations and the local self-government unit.

Article 58 of the Law stipulates that a parent's council is one of the bodies of educational institutions whose founder is the Republic of Serbia, Autonomous Province or a local self-government unit (except schools for the education of adults). The parents' council shall consist of one representative of parents of students of each class or preschool group if a school offers preschool programmes. If the members of a national minority or ethnic group are acquiring education in the institution, the representatives of that national minority or ethnic group shall also be proportionally included in the parents' council. In accordance with paragraph 5 of the mentioned article of the Law, the parents' council shall, *inter alia*: propose parents of children or students as the members of the managing body; propose its member to be a representative in the experts' team tasked with development planning as well as other teams of the institution; propose measures for

quality assurance and the improvement of educational and pedagogical work and activities; participate in the procedure for proposing elective subjects and in the procedure of textbook selection; review the proposal of the education and pedagogy programme, development plan, annual work plan, reports on their implementation, evaluation and self-evaluation and assessment. Pursuant to the mentioned provisions of the Law, the engagement of parents of persons belonging to national minorities, also the Roma national minority, is enabled.

The Serbian authorities should take appropriate monitoring measures in order to ensure that all schools, including preschools, comply with the instructions relating to the enrollment of pupils with incomplete documentation and remove any undue administrative and other obstacles. The Advisory Committee urges the Serbian authorities to ensure, including through the adoption of relevant regulations, that Roma displaced from Kosovo and Roma returnees from Western European countries, who lack proficiency in Serbian, are given adequate language learning support.

As mentioned earlier, authorities of the Republic of Serbia have undertaken additional measures for greater coverage of children of the Roma nationality for enrollment in primary school. One of the measures is enabling enrollment of children without all necessary personal documents or certificates on attending compulsory preschool preparatory programmes, through so called conditional enrollment. This measure has contributed, *inter alia*, to increase the number of children of the Roma nationality in the first grade of primary school.

As far as the education of children displaced from Kosovo and Metohija and the children of returnees from Western European countries on the basis of readmission is concerned, the Republic of Serbia within the general policy of care for the displaced persons and returnees undertakes measures in this field.

The leading principles concerning the displaced persons of the United Nations and Council of Europe, ratified by the Republic of Serbia, offer a framework for tackling the issue of internally displaced persons, while a strategic framework for solving the issues of refugees and displaced persons is given in the National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (2002).

Bearing in mind that the Republic of Serbia has a lot of returnees from the Western European countries, and acknowledging the complexity of the problems of deported persons and other vulnerable categories of population, such as persons belonging to the Roma national minority, internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija, and refugees from the former Yugoslavia, the Ministry of Education and Science engaged in the integration process, *inter alia*, its experts within the working groups for the reception of returnees in cooperation with the representatives of competent

ministries, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia, Team of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Serbia, NGOs, UNDP, UNHCR and OSCE.

When children of returnees who have started their education abroad are in question, and this education has been interrupted due to readmission - conditional enrollment in primary and secondary schools (except artistic ones) has been enabled, until diplomas and school certificates are obtained, i.e. until the completion of the process of nostrification or equivalency process. Staff of professional and administrative services in schools must provide all due assistance to parents. The Ministry of Education enabled exemption from paying nostrification and equivalency fees for children whose one parent or both parents are beneficiaries of the centre of social work. Translation fees concerning foreign school certificates by authorised court translators are still paid by the returnees, if there is no NGO involved in the procedure. Depending on interest and needs in some local self-governments, education of adult returnees is also organised. Traumatic experience of the return, ignorance of Serbian language and Cyrillic script as well as hard economic situation of parents represent a problem when complete integration of children of returnees in the school education system is in question.

In order to mitigate these problems – with the aim of their gradual solution, the Ministry of Education, school administration offices and schools in cooperation with NGOs, have undertaken a series of activities, such as:

- Improvement of quality of communication among children, teachers and parents, by developing tolerance, understanding and collaborative relationships;
- Workshops, experience-based learning and using contemporary teaching materials, which enable pupils and students to advance at their own individual pace in learning the Serbian language and other content, and to actively enter the learning process;
- Activities, which ensure that the children who do not speak Serbian are not treated as a problem, but to indicate that there is a problem in the society which must be solved;
- Education, informing and motivating parents to be a role model to their children;
- Providing teaching/learning materials (adapted to pupils' age);
- Providing books, food, clothing and footwear and personal hygiene items.

An important role in the inclusion of Roma children returnees have Roma pedagogical assistants and healthcare mediators, who help with joint efforts and together with Roma coordinators at the local level to parents and children returnees. The problems of Roma returnees are partly solved through the Decade of Roma Inclusion in Serbia, particularly when solving of social issues is in question.

The Serbian authorities are encouraged to find comprehensive and adequate solutions to the issue of recognition of diplomas issued by educational institutions in Kosovo. There is

also a need to ensure that the competent Serbian educational authorities issue their recognition decisions of diplomas of other institutional establishments of the region within a reasonable time frame.

The Serbian authorities have found comprehensive and adequate solutions concerning recognition of diplomas issued by educational institutions in Kosovo and Metohija, after the reached agreement in the dialogue between Belgrade and Priština under the facilitation and mediation of the European Union. On the basis of this agreement the Government of the Republic of Serbia passed in March 2012 Regulation on special manner of recognition of degrees and evaluation of study programmes of universities in the territory of Autonomous Province Kosovo and Metohija, whose activities are not in accordance with the regulations of the Republic of Serbia, in order to determine rights concerning continuing education, i.e. concerning employment of the holders of degrees from the territory of Autonomous Province Kosovo and Metohija during validity of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

Regarding the request of the Advisory Committee on the need to ensure that the competent Serbian educational authorities issue their recognitions of diplomas issued by other institutions in the region within a reasonable time frame, we would like to stress again that in the past period there were no appeals lodged in the Ministry of Education and Science, as competent public authority, on the length of procedure of recognition of diplomas and degrees of higher educational institutions in the region.

The Serbian authorities should pursue further their plans to provide Albanian students with adequate higher educational opportunities in Serbia, taking due account of the views expressed by representatives of the Albanian minority.

Pursuant to recommendations from the Feasibility Study on the Opportunities of Higher Education Development, supported by the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for Municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, the Minister of Education and Science appointed a special working group for the higher education issue in Bujanovac and Preševo, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, Coordination Body, National Council of the Albanian national minority, local expert for higher education and the representatives of the Office of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities from The Hague. All decisions of the Special working group concerning the opening of a higher education unit were made by consensus, and the National Council of the Albanian national minority actively participated in determining measures and recommendations for the opening of a higher education institution department in Bujanovac.

Since 2011, the Coordination Body grants scholarships to young people from the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo who wish to acquire higher education at the

faculties of the University of Novi Sad. This activity is in compliance with the set goals and priorities of the Coordination Body, which is increasingly focusing on work with the young people. In order to inform more young people on this activity, the Coordination Body prepared detailed information in Albanian and Serbian languages, which includes all essential data regarding the scholarship conditions. Furthermore, the Coordination Body organised meetings in schools in Bujanovac and Preševo with students and their parents and prepared a media campaign to ensure that all candidates in the age group from 18 to 22 have the opportunity to learn more on the conditions for getting scholarships. In 2011, in cooperation with the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities and the Rectorate of the University of Novi Sad, the Coordination Body organised a visit of secondary school students from Bujanovac and Preševo and their parents to Novi Sad. In order to acquaint them with the City and the University and find all about the conditions for studying there, a two-day visit to Novi Sad was organised for 88 young people from the Southern Serbia. In the first year of the implementation of the scholarship programme, 23 young people from Bujanovac and Preševo applied for a scholarship. The Scholarship Commission selected 13 candidates (6 from Serbian and 7 from Albanian community). Entrance examination passed 11 candidates – 6 from Serbian and 5 from Albanian community. In 2012 in the scholarship contest applied 46 candidates and the commission selected 21, of whom 11 candidates of the Albanian nationality.

For candidates whose mother tongue is not Serbian, the Coordination Body organised in the middle of 2012 an intensive three-month course of Serbian language attended by 11 candidates from the Albanian community.

Awarding scholarships to young people from multiethnic municipalities in the Southern Serbia is a new step in the implementation of the programme of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for their further integration in the country's social life. The Project is implemented with the support of the Government of AP Vojvodina, Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities and the Rectorate of the University of Novi Sad. This initiative of the Coordination Body was supported by the Ministry of Education and Science as well.

Article 14

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.

2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.

3 Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.

11.1. Teaching in and of minority languages

The Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention included constitutional and statutory frameworks under which persons belonging to national minorities have the right to learn their mother tongue. In the period after the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention in the Republic of Serbia, as already mentioned, the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (2009) was adopted, which, *inter alia*, regulates competences of national councils in the field of education and defines in more detail its scope and issues relating to curricula in languages of national minorities. Provisions of Article 13 stipulate that a national council shall: propose to the National Education Council general platforms of preschool syllabi, primary and secondary school syllabi as well as basic programmes of instructions, which cover the contents expressing specific features of a national minority, especially in history, music and art; propose to the National Education Council primary and secondary school syllabi for the language of a national minority, i.e. for the dialect of a national minority with elements of the national culture; give an opinion to the National Education Council with regard to syllabi for Serbian as the second language; recommend to the minister in charge of educational affairs the measures and educational programme for pupils' institutions, which refer to the affirmation of inter-ethnic tolerance and multiculturalism; comment on the school syllabi of the institutions, which have been defined to be of particular importance for a national minority. Pursuant to the mentioned provisions, the national councils as holders of the right to self-governing also in the field of education, have undertaken the responsibility for the education of persons belonging to national minorities in their mother tongue.

Education in the Republic of Serbia is regulated under the so called Education Laws, which govern education of persons belonging to national minorities. In the period after the second cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Framework Convention, the Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System (2009) was adopted, which

governs the fundamentals of the system of preschool, elementary and secondary education and pedagogy as follows: the principles, objectives and standards of education and pedagogy, manner and conditions for the delivery of preschool, elementary and secondary school education and pedagogy, establishment, organisation, funding and supervision of the operation of education institutions (hereinafter referred to as the institution) as well as other issues of importance to education and pedagogy. Provisions of Article 6 of the Law stipulate that every person shall have the right to education. The citizens of the Republic of Serbia shall be equal in exercising their right to education and pedagogy, regardless of their gender, race, national, religious and language background, social and cultural background, financial status, age, physical and psychological constitution, developmental impairments or disabilities, political opinion or another personal trait; while foreign citizens and persons without citizenship shall be entitled to education under same conditions and in the same manner as envisaged for the citizens of the Republic of Serbia. Provisions of Article 9 of the Law stipulate that the education and pedagogy work and activities shall be delivered in the Serbian language, while the education and pedagogy work and activities for the members of national minorities shall be delivered in their mother tongue. Exceptionally, it can be delivered either bilingually or in the Serbian language in accordance with the pertaining law.

An elementary school shall deliver school curriculum and syllabus and it may also deliver: an individual education programme for students and adults with developmental disabilities, individual programme of the Serbian language or a language of a national minority for students who are not familiar with the language instruction is in general delivered in, music and ballet education curriculum, adult education programme, a pedagogical programme for students living in a boarding school as well as other programmes in accordance with the pertaining law. A secondary school shall deliver school curriculum and syllabus for general, vocational and artistic education and it may also deliver: an individual educational programme for students and adults with developmental disabilities, individual program of the Serbian language or a language of a national minority for students who are not familiar with the language instruction is in general delivered in, music and ballet education curriculum, adult education programme, a pedagogical programme for students living in a boarding school, programmes for specialist and artisan education, practical skills training programme, professional skills training and training programme and other programmes in accordance with the governing law. Article 69 of the Law enables that both elementary and secondary schools may deliver, *inter alia*, an individual programme of a language of a national minority for students who are not familiar with the language instruction is in general delivered in. The programme of elementary and secondary education for the members of national minorities shall be adopted by the minister at the proposal of the national council of a national minority and opinion of the National Education Council (Article 79 of the Law). The Law on Establishing the Competences of AP Vojvodina (2009) stipulates that AP

Vojvodina through its bodies in the field of elementary and secondary education, *inter alia*, adopts curricula for the languages of national minorities, and in agreement with the competent ministry passes curricula concerning specific subjects of interest for national minorities, and determines conditions and manner of organising classes in the languages of national minorities.

11.1.1. Preschool education

The Law on Preschool Education (2009) regulates preschool education as a part of a unified system of education. Article 5, paragraph 2 of the Law stipulates that for members of minorities, education shall be carried out in their mother tongue, and may also be bilingual or in Serbian, if at least 50% of parents or legal guardians of children agree on that. Educational activities in a preschool institution are carried out according to the preschool programme, within which, according to Article 19 of the Law, implementation of specific and specialised programmes is allowed, including programmes for fostering language and culture of an ethnic minority, which shall be stipulated by the Minister. The Law also prescribes the number of children enrolled in an educational group, in which educational work with children is organised. Article 32 of the Law stipulates that education in bilingual educational groups shall be conducted with a 10% smaller number of children than the number stipulated by this Law.

Attending preparatory preschool programme as part of the regular programme of a preschool institution, which is conducted with children in the year before starting school, is obligatory for all children. Provisions of Article 22, paragraph 2 of the Law stipulates that preparatory preschool programme for the children who are not included in the regular programme of a preschool institution, shall be organised in a preschool institution, in some cases in a school, and in accordance with the Law and the Statute of the preschool institution, i.e. school. Local self-government authorities shall keep records and notify both the preschool institution, i.e. the school which conducts a preparatory preschool programme and parents, i.e. legal guardians, of the children who are matured for attending preparatory preschool programme, no later than April 1st of that year for the year to come. (Article 23, paragraph 1 of the Law). The Law stipulates that a fine shall be imposed on a preschool institution, i.e. a school implementing preschool programme, as well as principal, i.e. responsible person of the preschool institution for the infringement if they do not allow parents to choose the language on which a child shall attend preschool education.

Preschool education for persons belonging to national minorities is carried out in different languages and in different local self-government units. Paragraphs below include data obtained from the competent State and Provincial authorities and national councils of the national minorities, on the number of children covered with education in mother tongue by school years.

For persons belonging to **Albanian national minority** preschool education in Albanian language is organised in Bujanovac, Medvedja and Preševo. The following table contains data on the number of children covered with education in Albanian language in preschool institutions.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	3	5	56	997
2008/2009	3	5	54	958
2009/2010	3	5	54	843
2010/2011	3	5	54	843
2011/2012	3	5	54	843

Education in preschool institutions is also organised in a bilingual manner, Serbian and Albanian languages in Bujanovac, Medvedja and Preševo. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	3	3	3	31
2008/2009	3	3	3	35
2009/2010	3	3	3	36
2010/2011	3	3	3	35
2011/2012	3	3	3	35

For persons belonging to **Bosniac national minority** preschool education is organised in a bilingual manner, in Serbian and Bosnian language, in Novi Pazar, Sjenica and Tutin. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2009/2010	2	2	61	1,030
2010/2011	3	3	96	2,250
2011/2012	3	4	112	2,420

For persons belonging to **Bulgarian national minority** preschool education is organised in a bilingual manner, in Serbian and Bulgarian languages, in Babušnica,

Bosilegrad and Dimitrovgrad. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	2	2	15	324
2008/2009	2	2	16	341
2009/2010	2	2	16	330
2010/2011	3	3	20	222
2011/2012	3	3	20	222

For persons belonging to **Hungarian national minority** preschool education is organised in Hungarian language in the following local self-government units: Ada, Apatin, Bačka Topola, Bečej, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Kula, Mali Idjoš, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Kneževac, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Senta, Sombor, Srbobran, Subotica, Temerin and Čoka. The following table contains data on the number of children covered with education in Hungarian language in preschool institutions.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	22	23	256	4,839
2008/2009	24	24	245	4,602
2009/2010	21	23	231	4,447
2010/2011	23	25	231	4,447
2011/2012	23	25	231	4,447

Education in preschool institutions is organised in a bilingual manner, in Serbian and Hungarian languages, in the following local self-government units: Ada, Bačka Topola, Bečej, Žitište, Mali Idjoš, Indjija, Pančevo, Srbobran, Senta, Sombor, Subotica and Čoka. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	12	12	54	896
2008/2009	12	12	77	1,469
2009/2010	12	12	47	923

2010/2011	12	12	47	923
2011/2012	12	12	47	923

Education in preschool institutions is organised in a bilingual manner, in Hungarian and German languages, in Subotica. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	1	1	1	18
2008/2009	1	1	1	22
2009/2010	1	1	1	23
2010/2011	1	1	3	75
2011/2012	1	1	1	23

For persons belonging to **German national minority** preschool education is organised in a bilingual manner, in German and Hungarian languages, in Subotica. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	1	1	1	18
2008/2009	1	1	1	22
2009/2010	1	1	1	23
2010/2011	1	1	3	75
2011/2012	1	1	1	23

Education in a preschool institution in Novi Sad is organised in a bilingual manner, in Serbian and German languages as of school year 2011/2012. Bilingual education is attended by 40 children in two groups.

For persons belonging to **Roma national minority** preschool education is organised in a bilingual manner, in Serbian and Romani languages, in Vranje and Kruševac. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	1	2	6	230

2008/2009	1	2	6	150
2009/2010	1	2	2	55
2010/2011	2	6	19	205
2011/2012	2	6	19	205

For persons belonging to **Romanian national minority** preschool education in Romanian language is organised in the following local self-government units: Alibunar, Bela Crkva, Žitište, Kovačica, Plandište, Vršac, Zrenjanin and Pančevo. The following table contains data on the number of children covered with education in Romanian language in preschool institutions.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	4	4	15	175
2008/2009	5	5	14	183
2009/2010	8	9	17	137
2010/2011	8	9	17	138
2011/2012	8	9	17	138

Education in preschool institutions is organised in a bilingual manner, in Serbian and Romanian languages, in the following local self-government units: Alibunar, Kovačica, Vršac and Žitište. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	3	3	3	40
2008/2009	4	4	4	72
2009/2010	4	5	5	103
2010/2011	4	5	5	106
2011/2012	4	5	5	106

For persons belonging to **Ruthenian national minority** preschool education in Ruthenian language is organised in Vrbas, Žabalj and Kula. The following table contains data on the number of children covered with education in Ruthenian language in preschool institutions.

School year	Number of local self-	Number of preschool	Number of	Number of
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	government units	institutions	groups	children
2007/2008	3	3	10	173
2008/2009	3	3	11	213
2009/2010	3	3	8	171
2010/2011	3	3	7	160
2011/2012	3	3	7	154

For persons belonging to **Slovak national minority** preschool education in Slovak language is organised in the following local self-government units: Alibunar, Bač, Bački Petrovac, Stara Pazova, Novi Sad, Bačka Palanka, Kovačica, Odžaci, Beočin and Zrenjanin. The following table contains data on the number of children covered with education in Slovak language in preschool institutions.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	6	7	48	1,002
2008/2009	7	7	48	960
2009/2010	7	8	37	785
2010/2011	10	12	43	976
2011/2012	10	12	45	996

Education in preschool institutions is organised in a bilingual manner, in Serbian and Slovak languages in Pančevo, Bačka Palanka, Zrenjanin and Odžaci. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	3	3	3	50
2008/2009	3	3	3	49
2009/2010	2	2	2	66
2010/2011	3	3	3	81
2011/2012	4	4	4	85

For persons belonging to **Croat national minority** preschool education is organised in Croatian language in Subotica. The following table contains data on the number of children covered with education in Croatian language in preschool institutions.

School year	Number of local self-	Number of preschool	Number of	Number of
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	government units	institutions	groups	children
2007/2008	1	1	3	63
2008/2009	1	1	3	59
2009/2010	1	1	3	58
2010/2011	1	3	5	100
2011/2012	1	4	6	85

Education in preschool institutions was also organised in a bilingual manner, in Serbian and Croatian language, in Djurdjin (Municipality of Subotica), although from 2010 education for this group is also conducted in Croatian language. Data on the number of children covered with bilingual education are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2007/2008	1	1	1	22
2008/2009	1	1	1	20

11.1.2. Elementary education

In the period upon submission of the Second Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention, statutory regulation concerning the issue of elementary education has not been changed. Provisions of Article 5 of the Law on Elementary Education stipulate that for persons belonging to a national minority, curriculum shall be carried out in their mother tongue, and may also be bilingual, if at least 15 pupils are registered for enrollment in the first grade. The school may carry out the curriculum also in the language of a national minority, i.e. bilingually also when less than 15 pupils are enrolled in the first grade, subject to the consent of the Minister of Education. The Law on Establishing the Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina stipulates that AP Vojvodina, through its bodies, gives its consent concerning education and carrying out of curricula in the languages of national minorities for less than 15 pupils in institutions in the territory of AP Vojvodina. When the curriculum is carried out in the Serbian language, curriculum of mother tongue with the elements of the national culture is provided to the pupils belonging to national minorities. In 2012, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development drafted a new Law on Elementary Education, whose adoption is underway.

In the tables below are data on the number of pupils who attend classes in mother tongue and/or study the subject Mother tongue with the elements of the national culture, by national minorities.

For persons belonging to **Albanian national minority** instruction in Albanian language is in general delivered in primary schools in three local self-government units:

Bujanovac, Medvedja and Preševo. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in elementary education in Albanian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	3	17	411	8,775
2008/2009				N/A
2009/2010	3	17	416	8,327
2010/2011	3	17	416	8,327
2011/2012	3	17	416	8,327

For persons belonging to **Bosniac national minority** instruction in primary schools is in general delivered in Serbian language. The subject Bosnian language with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in four local self-government units: Novi Pazar, Prijepolje, Sjenica and Tutin. Data on the number of pupils who study Bosnian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	4	22	-	8,492
2008/2009	4	22	-	9,738
2009/2010	4	22	-	10,644
2010/2011	4	22	356	10,682
2011/2012	4	22	361	10,825

For persons belonging to **Bulgarian national minority** instruction in Bulgarian language in general, from school year 2007/2008 until 2009/2010 was delivered in primary schools in Bosilegrad and Dimitrovgrad, and from school year 2010/2011 in one primary school in Bosilegrad. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in elementary education in the Bulgarian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	2	2	4	26
2008/2009	2	2	4	47
2009/2010	2	2	3	46
2010/2011	1	1	14	98

2011/2012	1	1	14	98
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The subject Bulgarian language with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in four local self-government units: Babušnica, Dimitrovgrad, Ivanovo (Pančevo) and Surdulica. Data on the number of pupils who study Bulgarian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	2	2	-	672
2008/2009	2	2	-	675
2009/2010	2	2	-	1,330
2010/2011	4	5	57	736
2011/2012	4	5	57	736

Persons belonging to **Bunyevtsi national minority** attend classes in a primary school in Serbian language. The subject Bunyevtsi dialect with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in two local self-government units: Sombor and Subotica. Data on the number of pupils who study Bunyevtsi dialect with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	1	1	1	15
2008/2009	1	2	4	115
2009/2010	2	2	4	92
2010/2011	2	10	18	267
2011/2012	2	12	20	338

For persons belonging to **Hungarian national minority** instruction in Hungarian language is in general delivered in primary schools in 27 local self-government units: Ada, Apatin, Bačka Topola, Bela Crkva, Bečej, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Kula, Mali Idjoš, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Kneževac, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Pančevo, Plandište, Senta, Sečanj, Sombor, Srbobran, Subotica, Temerin and Čoka. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in elementary education in Hungarian language.

School year	Number of local self-	Number of	Number of	Number of
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	government units	schools	classes	pupils
2007/2008	27	78	934	16,780
2008/2009	27	77	946	16,373
2009/2010	27	77	969	16,168
2010/2011	27	82	971	15,810
2011/2012	27	75	889	15,350

The subject Hungarian language with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in 21 local self-government units: Ada, Bačka Topola, Bečej, Vrbas, Vršac, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Indjija, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kula, Novi Bečej, Novi Sad, Pančevo, Plandište, Senta, Sečanj, Sombor, Srbobran and Subotica. Data on the number of pupils who study Hungarian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	22	48	-	1,585
2008/2009	21	50	-	1,570
2009/2010	20	47	-	1,463
2010/2011	21	47	49	1,671
2011/2012	21	48	85	1,711

Persons belonging to **Macedonian national minority** attend classes in primary school in Serbian language. The subject Macedonian language with elements of the national culture is studied from school year 2010/2011 in primary school in Jabuka (Pančevo). Data on the number of pupils who study Macedonian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2010/2011	1	1	1	5
2011/2012	1	1	1	5

Persons belonging to **Roma national minority** attend classes in primary school in Serbian language. The subject Romani language with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in 12 local self-government units: Ada, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Žabalj, Kikinda, Kovačica, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Srbobran, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica

and Titel. Data on the number of pupils who study the Romani language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	13	28	15	802
2008/2009	11	26	13	584
2009/2010	12	23	13	695
2010/2011	12	23	13	659
2011/2012	12	23	23	695

For persons belonging to **Romanian national minority** instruction in Romanian language is in general delivered in primary schools in 10 local self-government units: Alibunar, Bela Crkva, Vršac, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kovačica, Pančevo, Plandište, Sečanj and Ovča (Belgrade Municipality of Palilula). The following table contains data on the number of pupils in elementary education in Romanian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	9	18	92	1,396
2008/2009	9	18	97	1,327
2009/2010	9	18	117	1,258
2010/2011	10	19	118	1,214
2011/2012	10	19	118	1,126

The subject Romanian language with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in nine local self-government units: Alibunar, Bač, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kovačica, Kovin, Plandište, Sečanj and Ovča (Belgrade Municipality of Palilula). Data on the number of pupils who study Romanian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	11	13	-	319
2008/2009	10	11	-	268
2009/2010	8	9	-	244
2010/2011	9	10	10	216
2011/2012	9	10	10	256

For persons belonging to **Ruthenian national minority** instruction in Ruthenian language is in general delivered in primary schools in three local self-government units: Vrbas, Žabalj and Kula. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in elementary education in Ruthenian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	3	3	35	588
2008/2009	3	3	35	559
2009/2010	3	3	34	523
2010/2011	3	3	35	518
2011/2012	3	3	33	487

The subject Ruthenian language with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in eight local self-government units: Bačka Topola, Vrbas, Žabalj, Kula, Novi Sad, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica and Šid. Data on the number of pupils who study Ruthenian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	7	22	-	286
2008/2009	7	24	-	216
2009/2010	7	27	-	266
2010/2011	7	27	33	257
2011/2012	8	28	41	334

For persons belonging to **Slovak national minority** instruction in Slovak language is in general delivered in primary schools in 12 local self-government units: Alibunar, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bački Petrovac, Beočin, Zrenjanin, Indjija, Kovačica, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Stara Pazova and Šid. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in elementary education in Slovak language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	12	17	166	3,233
2008/2009	12	17	168	3,226
2009/2010	12	17	172	3,178

2010/2011	12	17	172	3,117
2011/2012	12	17	170	3,183

The subject Slovak language with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in 12 local self-government units: Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Beočin, Vrbas, Zrenjanin, Kovačica, Novi Sad, Pančevo, Plandište, Šid and Surčin (settlements Boljevci and Dobanovci). Data on the number of pupils who study Slovak language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	11	34	-	588
2008/2009	10	37	-	616
2009/2010	11	38	-	620
2010/2011	12	39	39	663
2011/2012	12	39	39	548

Persons belonging to **Ukrainian national minority** attend classes in primary school in Serbian language. The subject Ukrainian language with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in five local self-government units: Vrbas, Indjija, Kula, Novi Sad and Sremska Mitrovica. Data on the number of pupils who study Ukrainian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	4	9	-	130
2008/2009	4	9	-	105
2009/2010	4	9	-	114
2010/2011	5	11	17	97
2011/2012	5	10	16	120

For persons belonging to **Croat national minority** instruction in Croatian language is in general delivered in primary schools in Subotica. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in elementary education in Croatian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	1	5	14	228

2008/2009	1	5	20	276
2009/2010	1	5	32	319
2010/2011	1	5	34	292
2011/2012	1	5	34	296

The subject Croatian language with elements of the national culture is studied in primary schools in five local self-government units: Apatin, Bač, Sombor, Sremska Mitrovica and Subotica. Data on the number of pupils who study Croatian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	3	7	-	255
2008/2009	3	6	-	257
2009/2010	5	12	-	374
2010/2011	5	9	32	407
2011/2012	5	10	33	417

Persons belonging to **Czech national minority** attend classes in primary school in Serbian language. The subject Czech language with elements of the national culture is studied from school year 2010/2011 in primary schools in Bela Crkva. Data on the number of pupils who study Czech language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2010/2011	1	1	1	7
2011/2012	1	2	2	25

11.1.3. Secondary education

Statutory framework for the regulation of secondary education in the period after drafting the Second Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention has not been changed. Under provisions of the Law on Secondary Education it is prescribed that the school shall implement the curriculum in the native ethnic minority language as well, i.e. bilingually, if at least 15 students in a grade I class opt for that; however, the school shall implement the curriculum in the native ethnic minority language as well, i.e. bilingually, even for a smaller number of students, subject to the consent of the Minister of Education. Students from ethnic minority groups who are attending school in Serbian

language shall have a right to study their native minority language including elements of the national culture. In 2012 the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development drafted a new Law on Secondary Education, whose adoption is underway.

For persons belonging to **Albanian national minority** instruction in Albanian language is in general delivered in secondary schools in three local self-government units: Bujanovac, Medvedja and Preševo. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in secondary education in Albanian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	3	4	-	2,863
2008/2009	3	4	-	3,517
2009/2010	3	4	127	3,825
2010/2011	3	4	127	3,825
2011/2012	3	5	127	3,825

For persons belonging to **Bulgarian national minority** instruction in Bulgarian language is in general delivered in secondary schools in Dimitrovgrad. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in secondary education in Bulgarian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2009/2010	1	2	2	41
2010/2011	1	2	8	87
2011/2012	1	2	8	87

The subject Bulgarian language with elements of the national culture is studied in secondary schools in two local self-government units: Bosilegrad and Dimitrovgrad. Data on the number of pupils who study Bulgarian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2009/2010	2	4	28	651
2010/2011	2	4	28	616
2011/2012	2	4	28	616

For persons belonging to **Hungarian national minority** instruction in Hungarian language is in general delivered in secondary schools in 12 local self-government units: Ada, Bačka Topola, Bečej, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Novi Sad, Novi Kneževac, Senta, Sombor, Subotica, Temerin and Čoka. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in secondary education in Hungarian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	12	35	312	6,648
2008/2009	12	35	308	6,487
2009/2010	12	36	312	6,502
2010/2011	12	38	330	6,997
2011/2012	12	38	326	7,092

The subject Hungarian language with elements of the national culture was studied in secondary schools in three local self-government units: Ada, Subotica and Temerin. Since school year 2011/2012 the subject Hungarian language with elements of the national culture is not studied in any school since there were no interested students for the subject. Data on the number of pupils who studied Hungarian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	2	2	2	9
2008/2009	1	1	1	5
2009/2010	3	3	3	12
2010/2011	3	3	3	12
2011/2012	-	-	-	-

For persons belonging to **Romanian national minority** instruction in Romanian language is in general delivered in secondary schools in two local self-government units: Vršac and Alibunar. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in secondary education in Romanian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	2	2	8	205

2008/2009	2	2	8	231
2009/2010	2	2	8	237
2010/2011	2	2	8	238
2011/2012	2	2	8	238

The subject Romanian language with elements of the national culture is studied in secondary schools in two local self-government units: Vršac and Kovačica. Data on the number of pupils who study Romanian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	2	2	2	37
2008/2009	2	2	2	32
2009/2010	2	2	2	28
2010/2011	2	2	2	28
2011/2012	2	2	2	28

For persons belonging to **Ruthenian national minority** instruction in Ruthenian language is in general delivered in secondary school in Ruski Krstur (Municipality of Kula). The following table contains data on the number of pupils in secondary education in Ruthenian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	1	1	4	69
2008/2009	1	1	4	60
2009/2010	1	1	4	60
2010/2011	1	1	4	60
2011/2012	1	1	4	65

The subject Ruthenian language with elements of the national culture is studied in secondary schools in two local self-government units: Novi Sad and Šid. Data on the number of pupils who study Ruthenian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
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2007/2008	1	1	1	3
2008/2009	2	2	2	25
2009/2010	2	2	2	41
2010/2011	2	2	3	70
2011/2012	2	2	3	72

For persons belonging to **Slovak national minority** instruction in Slovak language is in general delivered in secondary schools in three local self-government units: Bački Petrovac, Kovačica and Novi Sad. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in secondary education in Slovak language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	2	2	14	379
2008/2009	2	2	13	341
2009/2010	2	2	14	344
2010/2011	3	3	15	353
2011/2012	3	4	15	381

The subject Slovak language with elements of the national culture is studied in secondary schools in five local self-government units: Bačka Palanka, Bački Petrovac, Kovačica, Stara Pazova and Šid. Data on the number of pupils who study Slovak language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2007/2008	2	7	18	182
2008/2009	2	6	12	161
2009/2010	2	6	12	131
2010/2011	5	7	17	335
2011/2012	5	7	17	331

For persons belonging to **Croat national minority** instruction in Croatian language is in general delivered in secondary schools in Subotica. The following table contains data on the number of pupils in secondary education in Croatian language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
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2007/2008	1	1	1	15
2008/2009	1	1	2	43
2009/2010	1	1	2	32
2010/2011	1	2	6	97
2011/2012	1	3	7	128

The subject Croatian language with elements of the national culture is studied in secondary schools in Subotica. Data on the number of pupils who study Croatian language with elements of the national culture are shown in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
2009/2010	1	1	1	4
2010/2011	1	1	1	4
2011/2012	1	6	6	37

Of associations which participated in drafting this report, we would like to single out the opinion of the German Association “Donau“ from Novi Sad, according to which the main reason that there is no education in mother tongue of persons belonging to German national minority is the small number of school-age children and dispersed children population.

Association for Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture from Novi Sad has warned of the situation concerning the status of the subject Ruthenian language with elements of the national culture. The said Association notified the competent State and Provincial authorities “of inadequately low status of the subject Mother tongue with elements of the national culture, drastically reduced teaching staff number in school year 2011/2012, and elimination of classes in certain places-settlements of the City of Novi Sad (in primary schools in Petrovaradin and Sremska Kamenica)“, which to their opinion results in “undermining rights of the national minorities to education in their mother tongues“.

11.1.4. Higher education

The Law on Higher Education, which governs the higher education system, conditions and manner of carrying out higher education activities, financing and other matters of importance for the performance of these activities, in Article 8 stipulates that the right to higher education shall have all persons who have completed their secondary education irrespective of the race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin or social background, language, religion, political or any other opinion, birth, existence of a sense or movement handicap or property. Under provisions of Article 80,

paragraph 2, it is stipulated that a higher education institution may organise and implement studies and/or certain parts of studies, and organise the preparation and defense of a doctoral dissertation in the language of a national minority or in a foreign language, in accordance with the Statute; in accordance with paragraph 3 of the same Article, a higher education institution may carry out a study programme in the language of a national minority or in a foreign language if such a programme has been approved and/or accredited.

Pursuant to the aforementioned provisions of the Law, in the Republic of Serbia, at certain faculties and academies of professional career studies instruction has been organised in the languages of national minorities as well as studying the languages of national minorities.

Higher education in **Albanian language** is enabled by opening 2009 Departments of Economic Faculty and Faculty of Law of the Niš University in Medvedja. The following table contains the number of students who attend classes in Albanian language at the mentioned faculties.

School year	Department of Economic Faculty	Department of Faculty of Law	Total
2009/2010	4	7	11
2010/2011	4	7	11
2011/2012	4	7	11

In school year 2011/2012 Department of Economic Faculty from Subotica of the Novi Sad University was opened in Bujanovac, where instruction in Albanian language has been organised for 40 students of Albanian nationality.

There are studies of Albanian language and literature in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology, within the Albanology Department, Study programme for Albanian Language and Literature, module Albanian language, literature, culture.

Number of students who study Albanian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2007/2008	17	59
2008/2009	16	56
2009/2010	9	35
2010/2011	12	49
2011/2012	14	47

Bosnian language and literature are studied at the State University of Novi Pazar, Department of Philological Sciences, Study programme of Serbian literature and language. The subjects: Bosniac National Literature, History and Culture, Comparative Grammar of Serbian and Bosnian Languages, Serbian and Bosniac National Culture in the European Context and History of Grammar of Serbian Language with Dialectal Basis, include content in the sphere of Bosnian culture and tradition as well as elements of Bosnian language and literature. Furthermore, in subjects Phonetics and Morphology elements of Bosnian language are studied. Bearing in mind that this study programme has been expanded with sufficient elements of Bosnian Language and Literature, the Council of the State University in Novi Pazar made a decision that students who complete this study programme are trained to deliver instruction in Bosnian language in primary schools, and this fact is mentioned in the diploma supplement.

Number of students educated for delivering instruction for Bosnian Language at the State University in Novi Pazar

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	40
2008/2009	40
2009/2010	40
2010/2011	40
2011/2012	40

Bulgarian language and literature are studied in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology within the Department for Serbian Language with South Slavic Languages, Study programme for Bulgarian language and literature, module Bulgarian language, literature, culture.

Number of students who study Bulgarian language and literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2007/2008	13	49
2008/2009	12	46
2009/2010	13	25
2010/2011	10	32
2011/2012	13	41

Greek language is studied in the Republic of Serbia at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology within the Department for Serbian Literature with South Slavic literature, Study programme for Serbian literature and language and Study Programme for Serbian literature and language with a comparatistic approach as

compulsory contemporary foreign language (option) in the first four semesters of the first and second year. Greek language is studied at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad as compulsory optional foreign language.

Higher education in **Hungarian language** is in general delivered in the territory of AP Vojvodina at 4 faculties: Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad (Department of Hungarology, Section of Hungarian language and literature), Faculty of Teacher Education in Subotica, Faculty of Civil Engineering in Subotica and Academy of Arts in Novi Sad; at 3 academies of professional career studies: Academy of professional career studies for preschool teacher education in Novi Sad, Academy of professional career studies for preschool teacher education in Subotica and Academy of technical professional career studies in Subotica.

Number of students who study Hungarian language and literature in Hungarian language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	129
2008/2009	133
2009/2010	99
2010/2011	89
2011/2012	91

Number of students who attend classes in Hungarian language at academies of professional career studies

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	688
2008/2009	511
2009/2010	532
2010/2011	508
2011/2012	480

At Economic Faculty in Subotica, Department of Economic Faculty in Subotica at the Novi Sad University and Faculty of Sciences in Novi Sad, it is possible to attend classes in Hungarian language. For all subjects for which there is a sufficient number of interested students, and if the professors master the Hungarian language, instruction is organised in this language. At the Faculty of Education in Sombor it was possible before, although in the past five years, due to small number of interested students and lack of teaching staff, instruction in Hungarian language has not been delivered.

Hungarian language and literature are studied in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology within the Department of Hungarology, Study programme for Hungarian language and literature, module Hungarian language, literature, culture.

Number of students who study Hungarian language and literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2007/2008	8	41
2008/2009	13	42
2009/2010	9	21
2010/2011	8	29
2011/2012	12	34

Macedonian language and literature are studied in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology at the Department of Serbian Language, Department of Serbian Literature and Department of Russian Language, for one semester. Macedonian language is also studied at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad as optional subject, at the Department of Serbian Language, Department of Serbian Literature and Department of Russian Language and Literature. Students are registering for classes in the fourth year and the course lasts two semesters.

German language and literature are studied in the Republic of Serbia as follows: At the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology within the Department of German Studies, Study programme for German language and literature, module German language, literature, culture; Novi Sad University, Faculty of Philosophy within the Department of German Studies, Study programme for German language and literature; and Kragujevac University, Faculty of Philology and Arts within the Department of German Studies, Study programme for German language and literature.

Number of students who study German language and literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2007/2008	72	384
2008/2009	70	375
2009/2010	71	306
2010/2011	69	409
2011/2012	70	348

Number of students who study German Language and literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	231

2008/2009	254
2009/2010	248
2010/2011	223
2011/2012	234

**Number of students who study German language and literature at the Faculty of
Philology and
Arts in Kragujevac**

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	88
2008/2009	92
2009/2010	78
2010/2011	113
2011/2012	113

The Academy of Professional Career Studies “Dr. Mihajlo Palov“ in Vršac for preschool teacher education has enrolled since school year 2009/2010 students belonging to the Roma national minority, who have acquired education in Serbian and **Romani language**.

Higher education in **Romanian language** in the Republic of Serbia is in general delivered in the territory of AP Vojvodina, at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, Department of Romanian Studies, Study programme for Romanian language and literature, and at two academies in Vršac: Department of Faculty of Teacher Education in Belgrade – Department of Romanian language (as mother tongue) and Academy of Professional Career Studies for preschool teacher education.

**Number of students who study Romanian language and literature in Romanian
language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad**

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	41
2008/2009	33
2009/2010	22
2010/2011	19
2011/2012	19

**Number of students who attend classes in Romanian language at the Academy of
Professional Career Studies for preschool teacher education**

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	42
2008/2009	51
2009/2010	37
2010/2011	45

2011/2012	55
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Romanian language and literature are studied in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology within the Department for Romanian Studies, Study programme for Romanian language and literature, module Romanian language, literature, culture.

Number of students who study Romanian language and literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2007/2008	12	54
2008/2009	11	57
2009/2010	13	49
2010/2011	5	46
2011/2012	12	42

Higher education in **Ruthenian language** in the Republic of Serbia is in general delivered at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, Department for Ruthenian Studies, Study Programme Ruthenian language and literature.

Number of students who study Ruthenian language and literature in Ruthenian language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	19
2008/2009	23
2009/2010	25
2010/2011	25
2011/2012	21

Higher education in **Slovak language** is in general delivered in the territory of AP Vojvodina at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, Department of Slovak Studies, Study programme for Slovak language and literature, at the Faculty of Teacher Education in Sombor and Academy of Professional Career Studies for preschool teachers education in Novi Sad.

Number of students who study Slovak language and literature in Slovak language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	30
2008/2009	29

2009/2010	30
2010/2011	27
2011/2012	26

Number of students who attend classes in Slovak language at the Academy of Professional Career Studies for preschool teacher education

School year	Number of students
2007/2008	5
2008/2009	7
2009/2010	12
2010/2011	6
2011/2012	13

Slovak language and literature are studied in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology within the Department for Slavic Studies, Study programme for Slovak language and literature, module Slovak language, literature, culture.

Number of students who study Slovak language and literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2007/2008	8	41
2008/2009	15	48
2009/2010	10	48
2010/2011	11	48
2011/2012	12	51

Slovenian language is studied in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology within the Department of Serbian Literature with South Slavic Literatures, Study programme for Slovenian language and literature and study programmes for Serbian literature and language and Serbian literature and language with a comparatistic approach as compulsory foreign language (optional) in the first four semesters in the first and second study year. Slovenian language is also studied at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad as optional subject at the Department of Serbian language, Department of Serbian Literature and Department of Russian Language and Literature. Students register for classes of this subject in the fourth year and it lasts two semesters.

Ukrainian language and literature are studied in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology within the Department of Slavic Studies, Study programme for Ukrainian language and literature, module Ukrainian language, literature, culture.

Number of students who study Ukrainian language and literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2007/2008	16	45
2008/2009	17	47
2009/2010	13	35
2010/2011	14	53
2011/2012	12	53

At the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, Study programme for Ruthenian language and literature, since school year 2006/2007 the subject Ukrainian Language has been introduced as compulsory subject in all four years for one semester for all students of study programme of the Ruthenian language and literature.

Croatian literature is studied in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology within the Department of Serbian literature with South Slavic Literatures. Separate preliminary exams in Croatian literature of 19th and 20th century in the context of South Slavic literatures are taken in the seventh semester.

Czech language and literature are studied in the Republic of Serbia at the Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology within the Department of Slavic Studies, Study programme for Czech language and literature, module Czech language, literature, culture.

Number of students who study Czech language and literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students in all four years
2007/2008	24	82
2008/2009	23	82
2009/2010	15	55
2010/2011	13	67
2011/2012	12	64

11.2. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, the Advisory Committee gave three recommendations concerning Article 14 of the Framework Convention. The information on the activities undertaken for their implementation is as follows.

The Serbian authorities should consolidate the legislative framework regarding minority language teaching. This requires the adoption, in close co-operation with representatives of national minorities, of additional regulations and practical measures regarding the various models of minority language teaching. In particular, there is a need to review the optional character of the subject referred to as “mother tongue with elements of the national culture”.

The mentioned legal framework regarding education in minority languages and/or instruction of minority languages enables persons belonging to national minorities to exercise their rights guaranteed by the Constitution and international treaties joined by the Republic of Serbia. The national councils of the national minorities, as holders of rights to self-management also in the field of education, have by law given wide competences in the field of education, which enables them to be holders of initiatives concerning the adoption and implementation of laws and other regulations; participate in the preparation of regulations and propose their amendments; and to propose specific regulations and contemporary measures for full equality between persons belonging to a national minority and persons belonging to the majority of population. Within the adoption of new laws on elementary and secondary education, optional character of the subject Mother tongue with elements of the national culture shall be considered.

The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities made an Analysis of status related to the implementation of education activities concerning Mother tongue with elements of the national culture in the territory of Vojvodina, and held a meeting with the representatives of the national councils of national minorities, where issues and problems, related to carrying out educational activities concerning this optional subject in elementary and secondary education, were considered.

In the meeting, opinions and recommendations of the Institute for Improvement of Education concerning the possible choice of two optional subjects for students belonging to national communities, who attend classes in Serbian language, were fully supported if one of these subjects is Mother tongue with elements of the national culture.

Thus, initiative for the amendments of Rulebook on Curriculum in Elementary Education, and the Rulebook on Curriculum in Secondary Education, was launched for the change of status of the subject Mother tongue with elements of the national culture, on the list of optional subjects (Mother tongue shall be on the list of compulsory optional subjects so that the students can choose two optional subjects if one of them is Mother tongue; grades are awarded for the subject and must be included in general performance in primary school; while in the secondary school Mother tongue shall become an optional subject, financed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, like the other optional subjects).

The Serbian authorities should encourage the local authorities to favour a more flexible approach in adapting the number of pupils required to open a minority language class in order to meet the actual needs expressed by minority communities. This is especially important in North-East Serbia.

In the current education system the local authorities have no competence concerning the number of pupils necessary to form a minority language class. This issue is within the competence of the Ministry of Education and Science and Provincial Secretariat for Education.

As already mentioned, a school may carry out a curriculum in minority language even if there are less than 15 students enrolled in the first grade, which is also implemented. Examples of such practice are mentioned in sections 11.1.2. and 11.1.3. of Chapter B, Part II of this Report.

The education of persons belonging to national minorities in North-East Serbia, primarily persons belonging to Vlach national minority as the largest national minority in this region, is generally delivered in Serbian language. This is not the result of an insufficiently flexible approach in adjusting the number of students necessary to organise educational activities in a minority language, but the result of the fact that there is no standardised Vlach language, i.e. Vlach script, which has prevented introducing of the Vlach language and instruction of Vlach language in the education system of the Republic of Serbia. In the beginning of 2012, the National Council of the Vlach national minority adopted Vlach script of 35 letters, which is a good starting point for the nomenclature and standardisation of Vlach language to work on in the future period. Thus, the National Council of the Vlach national minority should initiate introducing of the Vlach language in the education system even before the standardisation of this language, and determine the manner of implementation of the aforementioned through proposing educational curricula in the Vlach language.

The Republic of Serbia has enabled statutory arrangements that allow education in minority languages, through three models of education in primary and secondary schools: in mother tongue, bilingual and in Serbian language with the possibility of learning mother tongue with elements of the national culture; while national councils have undertaken the responsibility, in accordance with their legal authorisations, to introduce education in minority languages and instruction of minority languages, i.e. the minority languages which currently do not exist in the education system of the Republic of Serbia. The pace of introducing instruction in national minority languages or studying the subject Mother tongue with elements of the national culture will depend on the extent of their involvement.

While supporting the possibility given to national councils of national minorities to participate in the development of minority education, the Advisory Committee considers that it is important that the Serbian authorities take the necessary measures to ensure

that the education provided in minority language classes meets the educational standards applied in other parts of Serbia.

The statutory regulation concerning the education system, as already mentioned, stipulates that the citizens of the Republic of Serbia shall be equal in exercising their right to education and pedagogy, regardless of their gender, race, national, religious and language background or another personal trait. The education and pedagogy shall be delivered while abiding by the general principles of education and pedagogy through achieving education and pedagogy objectives and standards. The Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System stipulates the general principles which the education and pedagogy system must provide to all children, students and adults, *inter alia*, with: equality and accessibility of education and pedagogy without discrimination and segregation based on any grounds; balanced high quality education and pedagogy, adapted to the age of a child, student or adult and to his/her personal educational needs; the so called horizontal and vertical mobility at all levels and types of education, in accordance with their needs and interests, without any obstacles to change, continuation and completion of education and lifelong education. The education and pedagogy objectives can be grouped in the so called cognitive and intellectual objectives, objectives that represent links between education and later activities and value objectives, such as e.g. forming their opinions, views and value systems, in developing personal and national identity, developing the awareness and sense of belonging to the Republic of Serbia, respecting and fostering of the Serbian language and their language, the Serbian tradition and culture, the tradition and culture of national minorities and ethnic communities, other peoples, developing multiculturalism and respecting and preserving national and world heritage; developing and respecting racial, national, cultural, linguistic, religious, gender and age equality, tolerance, and respect for differences. The Law stipulates that general education and pedagogy outcomes shall be the result of the overall education and pedagogy process at all levels of education of children, students and adults, through all forms, types and content of work. Programmes on the basis of which educational activities are carried out are adopted on the basis of adequate standards relating to the following: achievements of students and adults, teachers and preschool teachers, principles, education inspectors and educational advisors; textbooks and teaching tools quality standards and the institution operation quality standards.

The mentioned statutory provisions, which regulate the education system in the Republic of Serbia provide equal standards for the education of all the citizens. The education of persons belonging to national minorities in their mother tongue is part of the unique educational system, and as such must meet the educational standards stipulated by the statutory framework. The national councils of the national minorities, as holders of the right to self-governing in the field of education, within their by law stipulated competences, participate in the decision making process or on issues related to the implementation of standards of education of persons belonging to a national minority

they represent, which at the same time shall not disable the implementation of educational standards.

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs in particular those affecting them.

12.1. Representation in elected bodies

The Second Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention (Sections 15.1 and 15.2) contains data on the Constitutional and statutory solutions that enable representation of national minorities in representative bodies.

In the Republic of Serbia, provisions of the Law on the Election of MPs in the National Assembly, Law on the Local Elections and Provincial Assembly Decision on the Election of MPs in the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, enable provisions of the Constitution on the right of participation of the representatives of national minorities in public affairs and participation in the representative bodies. The election legislation¹⁶ at all levels of power regarding the participation in the distribution of terms of office for the lists of political parties of national minorities in the period after the submission of the Second Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention, has not been amended.

In the text below are data on the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in the convocation of the National Assembly in the period 2008-2012. In the elections carried out on 11 May 2008, persons belonging to national minorities submitted ten electoral lists with candidates for MPs. According to results of elections¹⁷ in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, the following electoral lists of political parties of national minorities in the table below won the following number of seats:

No.	NAME OF THE ELECTORAL LIST	Number of seats for the electoral list	%
6.	HUNGARIAN COALITION – ISTVAN PASZTOR	4	1.60
7.	BOSNIAC LIST FOR THE EUROPEAN SANDŽAK – DR. SULEJMAN UGLJANIN	2	0.80
8.	COALITION OF ALBANIANS OF THE PREŠEVO VALLEY	1	0.40

¹⁶ Relevant provisions of the electoral legislation are included in Section 15.2 of the Second Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention.

¹⁷ Report of the Republic Electoral Commission on the total results for the election of new MPs in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, published in “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, No. 53/08.

On the basis of results of elections in 2008, in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia the following parties of national minorities are independently represented: the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians with 4 MPs, Bosniac Democratic Party of Sandžak with one MP, Social Liberal Party of Sandžak with one MP (consists mostly of persons belonging to Bosniac nationality) and the Party of Democratic Action with one MP (consists mostly of persons belonging to Albanian national minority). On the basis of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly, parties of national minorities established a club of MPs, consisting of seven MPs from the mentioned parties.

Within the electoral lists of the majority coalitions, the following parties of national minorities were represented: Sandžak Democratic Party (mostly consisting of persons belonging to Bosniac nationality) with four MPs in the MP Group “Together for the European Serbia“; Democratic Alliance of Croats in Vojvodina with one MP in the MP Group “Together for the European Serbia“; and Roma Party of the Left with one MP (party created by break-up of one MP from MP Group with the Serbian Radical Party).

According to data of the Administrative Committee of the National Assembly, in convocation of the National Assembly in the period 2008-2012, out of 250 MPs, 31 MPs or 12.4 did not belong to Serbian people. Of this number 7 MPs were elected from electoral lists submitted by electoral coalitions of parties of national minorities, while 24 MPs were from electoral lists which did not belong to parties of national minorities. According to national composition of the National Assembly there were 9 MPs of Hungarian nationality, 7 MPs of Bosniac nationality, and 2 MPs of Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Croat, Montenegrin and the Roma nationality each, and one MP of Albanian, Macedonian and Bulgarian nationality each.

In the convocation of the National Assembly in the period 2008-2012, there was a Committee on Inter-Ethnic Relations, which could, according to Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly, consider draft laws, other regulations and general acts as well as other issues related to exercising ethnic rights and inter-ethnic relations in Serbia. This Committee was according to the number of MPs one of the larger working bodies with 21 MPs, of whom 12 MPs were persons belonging to national minorities. Since the new convocation of the National Assembly 2012, the Committee on Inter-Ethnic Relations has outgrown into the Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality. The Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality considers draft laws and other general acts as well as other issues in the following fields: exercising and protecting human rights and freedoms and rights of children; implementation of confirmed international treaties, which regulate the protection of human rights; exercising rights versus freedom of religion; status of churches and religious communities; exercising rights of national minorities and issues concerning inter-ethnic relations in the Republic of Serbia. The Committee collaborates with national councils of national minorities.

In the convocation of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in the period 2008-2012, out of six MP Groups, MP Group of the Hungarian coalition consisted of persons belonging to Hungarian national minority.

12.2. Participation in public administration and in the judiciary

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia in Article 77, paragraph 2, stipulates that when taking up employment in public authorities, public services, bodies of autonomous province and local self-government units, the ethnic structure of population and appropriate representation of members of national minorities shall be taken into consideration.

The Law on Civil Servants regulates the rights and obligations of civil servants and certain rights and obligations of state employees. In accordance with Article 45, paragraph 1 of the Law, a person who is legally an adult, has the nationality of the Republic of Serbia, has prescribed professional qualifications and fulfils other requirements prescribed by law, other legislation or regulation on internal organisation and job systematisation, may be employed as a civil servant, if his or her employment relationship was not earlier terminated due to grave breach of obligation from the employment relationship and if he or she was not convicted by prison sentence of at least six months. Pursuant to the mentioned provision, persons belonging to national minorities have equal access to job positions in the public authorities of the Republic of Serbia just like persons belonging to majority population. Furthermore, Article 9, paragraph 3 of the Law stipulates that during the employment of civil servants the national composition must reflect to the maximum extent possible the population structure. Central human resource records on civil servants and state employees in state administration authorities and services of the Government, as an IT database, which serves for human resource management and other needs in the field of employment relationship, shall be kept by the Human Resource Management (Article 159 of the Law). The Law in Article 160, paragraph 1, prescribes data on civil servants to be entered in the Central human resource records, which do not include data on national belonging of civil servants. Bearing in mind that there is no legal grounds, data on national belonging of civil servants and state employees are not gathered; thus, it is not possible to give data on the representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the state administration.

For partial overview of the structure of employees by national composition of provincial administrative bodies and local self-government units in the territory of AP Vojvodina, data were gathered by the then existing Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Communities in 2010. The survey included provincial bodies which conduct administrative proceedings and decide in administrative matters, i.e. data which, *inter alia*, relate to the national composition of the employees in 11 Provincial secretariats and Office of the Provincial Ombudsman, with 476 employees.

The following table contains data on the structure of employees by national composition in these provincial bodies.

Nationality	Number of employees in the Provincial administrative bodies	% of employees in the Provincial administrative bodies	% in total population of AP Vojvodina¹⁸
Serbs	322	67.70	65.05
Hungarians	79	16.59	14.28
Croats	11	2.31	2.78
Romanians	11	2.31	1.50
Montenegrins	10	2.10	1.75
Slovaks	8	1.68	2.79
Ruthenians	5	1.05	0.77
Not declared	66	13.86%	

In the same survey the national composition of the employees in the local self-government bodies was examined in 30 of 39 local self-government units, in whose territories languages and script of national minorities are officially used. In the table below are data on national composition of employees in these local self-government units.

Nationality	Number of employees in the local self-government units	% of employees in the Provincial administrative bodies	% in total population of AP Vojvodina¹⁹
Serbs	2,604	72.69	65.05
Hungarians	448	12.50	14.28
Montenegrins	101	2.81	1.75
Slovaks	90	2.51	2.79
Romanians	75	2.09	1.50
Croats	45	1.25	2.78
Ruthenians	31	0.86	0.77
Not declared	188	5.24	

The new Law on Judges adopted in 2008 improves the statutory framework for the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in the judiciary. The Law on

¹⁸ According to Census 2002.

¹⁹ According to Census 2002.

Judges stipulates in Article 46 that discrimination on any grounds is prohibited in the election and nomination for the election of a judge, and that in electing and nominating for the election of a judge, special care shall be devoted to the national composition of the population, adequate representation of the members of national minorities, as well as knowledge in professional legal terminology in national minority languages officially used in courts. The election procedure is completely transferred to the new authority, High Judicial Council, which adopted Rulebook on criteria and standards for the assessment of qualification, competence and moral character of judges.

The High Judicial Council observed during the election of judges to permanent function and proposing candidates to the National Assembly for the election of a three-year term of office, the national composition of population in the jurisdiction of the court, for which the candidates are elected. Since taking office as of 1 January 2010, the number of persons belonging to national minorities as elected judges taking office are as follows: Albanians - 6; Bosniacs - 34; Bulgarians - 8; Bunyevtsi - 5; Vlachs - 3; Gorani - 2; Hungarians - 42; Muslims - 5; Roma - 1; Romanians - 10; Ruthenians - 5; Slovaks - 8; Croats – 6 and Montenegrins - 15.

The High Judicial Council, at proposal of the Minister of Justice, appointed in 2009 also lay judges among persons belonging to national minorities in the regions where national minorities live. For lay judges with five-year term of office the following were appointed: 34 persons of Bosniac national minority; 6 Bulgarians; 2 Bunyevtsi; 5 Vlachs; one Greek; 31 Hungarians; 5 Macedonians; one Muslim; 6 Roma; 4 Romanians; 2 Ruthenians; 9 Slovaks; 23 Croats and 4 of Montenegrin national minority.

For partial overview of the national composition of employees in the judiciary may serve data on the basis of survey conducted by the then existing Provincial Secretariat for Regulations, Administration and National Communities in 2010. The survey included, *inter alia*, national composition of civil servants and state employees, without holders of judicial function in 29 courts out of 32 courts found in the territory of AP Vojvodina, with 1,614 employees. The following table contains data on the composition of employees according to nationality in the courts in the territory of AP Vojvodina.

Nationality	Number of employees in the judiciary	% of employees in the judiciary	% in total population of AP Vojvodina²⁰
Serbs	1,154	71.49	65.05
Hungarians	189	11.71	14.28
Croats	37	2.29	2.78
Slovaks	29	1.79	2.79
Romanians	24	1.48	1.50

²⁰ According to Census 2002.

Montenegriens	19	1.17	1.75
Ruthenians	5	0.30	0.77
Not declared	157	9.77	

12.3. Councils of National Minorities

The Second Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention explains the statutory framework which provides to the persons belonging to national minorities possibility of election of a national council of a national minority (hereinafter referred to as the National Council), as form of cultural autonomy and functional decentralisation introduced in the legal system in 2002. The adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (2006) constitutionalised the right to the election of national councils. The Constitution guarantees to persons belonging to national minorities the collective rights on the basis of which they can elect their national councils in order to exercise the right to self-governance in the field of culture, education, information and official use of their language and script (Article 75 of the Constitution). Further regulation concerning the activity of national councils followed the submission of the Second Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention, by adoption of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, which governs the competences of the national minority councils (hereinafter referred to as the national councils) with regard to culture, education, information, official use of language and script, electoral procedures for the national councils and their funding, as well as other issues concerning the national councils. The competences of national councils in the field of culture, education, information and official use of language and script are regulated within the sections on the implementation of the relevant articles of the Framework Convention (Articles 5, 9, 10 and 12). Under Article 10 of the Law, which regulates general competences of the national council, it is prescribed that national councils independently adopt and amend the statute of the national council; adopt the financial plan, the financial statement and the annual financial statement; manage their property; decide about the name, symbols and seal of the national council; establish proposals of national symbols, emblems and holidays of national minorities; establish institutions, associations, funds and companies in the field of culture, education, information and official use of language and script as well as in other areas of importance for the preservation of a national minority's identity; propose a representative of the national minority at the Council for Inter-Ethnic Relations with the unit of local self-government; determine and award recognitions. It is of special significance that the national council may do as follows: initiate the adoption of and monitor the implementation of law and other regulations in the field of culture, education, information and official use of language and script; participate in the preparation of regulations and submit motions for amendments and supplements to regulations prescribing the national minority rights guaranteed by the Constitution in the field of culture, education, information and official use of language and script; submit motions

for the adoption of special regulations and provisional measures in the domains in which the right to self-governing is accomplished in order to achieve full equality between the members of the national minority and the citizens belonging to the majority population. Beside the mentioned powers, the national council may do as follows: initiate the proceedings before the Constitutional Court, the Protector of Citizens, the Provincial Ombudsman and the local ombudsmen and other competent bodies, if it shall assess that there has been a violation of the rights and freedoms of the members of national minorities guaranteed by the Constitution and law; take positions, make initiatives and undertake measures in respect of all the issues directly related to the status, identity and rights of a national minority.

The Law on National Councils of National Minorities regulates the issue of the election of national councils considered in more detail in the section of the Report on activities and measures of the Republic of Serbia for the implementation of the recommendations in the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers (Chapter A Part 2 of the Report). As already mentioned, the Republic of Serbia has created statutory and practical conditions for the undisturbed work of national councils. Bearing in mind that the national councils have undertaken, in compliance with the Law, new competences in the field of culture, education, information and official use of language and script, in order to acquaint them with the issues, the competent authorities have organised particular training of the members of national councils. Thus, for example, the then existing Ministry of Human and Minority Rights successfully implemented in 2010 and at the beginning of 2011, Project IPA 2007 of the European Commission - *The implementation of priorities in the field of human and minority rights and protection of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia*, which also included part of the project related to support provided to the institutional empowerment of all national councils through development of capacities of full-time staff. In the seminars dedicated to the fulfilment of this objective, the representatives of national councils were acquainted with the skills of strategic planning, human resource management, coordination, connection with relevant institutions and reporting procedures. Particular attention was given to strengthening of organisational, technical and financial capacities of national councils so that they can represent interests of their communities in an improved manner. On the anniversary of the election of national councils, the then existing Directorate of Human and Minority Rights organised a working meeting with the representatives of the constituted national councils of national minorities, where it was pointed out to certain statutory solutions which provoked numerous doubts during their application, and the representatives of national councils presented the activities of national councils in the previous year as well as the problems faced in their work. On this occasion the representatives of national councils were given PCs under the IPA Project 2007.

With the constitution of national councils after the elections in the middle of 2010 and assistance provided for the building of capacities for undertaking by law specified

competences, the national councils began to work. In order to gain an insight into the work of national councils in the period after their constitution, research of the Provincial Ombudsman *Two Years of National Councils*²¹ (2012) could help. For the needs of this research a questionnaire of 68 questions was made and sent to national councils, of which data were submitted by the following national councils: Bulgarian, Bunyevtsi, Greek, Egyptian, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Croat and Czech national minority. On the basis of these data activities of national councils were considered, both concerning general competences as well as in the fields, in which national councils exercise the right to self-governing – culture, education, information and official use of language and script. Bearing in mind that the research included analysis of practices relating to exercising all competences, i.e. authorisations prescribed by law, on the basis of research of practice in the field of general competences of national councils, it is possible to have partial insight into their work. The research showed that national councils of Bulgarian, Bunyevtsi, Macedonian, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Croat national minority used the legal possibility and proposed at the request of local self-government units representatives of the national minority in the Council for Inter-Ethnic Relations in several local self-government units. In the field in which right to self-governing is executed, the national councils have initiated adoption of laws and other regulations as follows: national councils of Macedonian, Hungarian and Slovak national minority in the field of education; National Council of Macedonian national minority in the field of information and official use of language and script, while none of the national councils have initiated the adoption of laws or regulations in the cultural field. Due to assessment that there were violations of right and freedoms of persons belonging to national minorities and/or on behalf of persons belonging to a national minority, with previously obtained written authorisation, before the competent authorities proceedings have been initiated as follows: before the Constitutional Court – National Council of Hungarian national minority; before the Protector of Citizens – national councils of Bulgarian, Bunyevtsi, Greek and Hungarian national minority; before the Provincial Ombudsman – national councils of Ashkali, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Croat and Czech national minority; before the local Protector of Citizens – National Council of Macedonian national minority, and before other competent authorities – national councils of Bunyevtsi, Macedonian and Croat national minority.

The research of Provincial Ombudsman included authorisations of national councils in all fields, in which their competences are determined by law, i.e. over 80 different competences of national councils in the field of culture, education, information and official use of language and script. In final considerations it was concluded that some national councils are not able to implement certain competences for the following reasons: education is not organised in the national minority language; the national

²¹ Results of research of the Provincial Ombudsman are available at: www.ombudsmanapv.org

minority language is not officially used; there are no media in the national minority language. Bearing in mind that some national councils cannot implement certain competences due to objective reasons it is the question whether the concept established by the Law on National Councils can be applied to all national councils which currently exist. On the basis of obtained analysis, the Provincial Ombudsman, *inter alia*, concluded that national councils did not use to the full extent competences/powers prescribed by law, either because they were not sufficiently acquainted with their competences, rights and obligations as well as procedures before competent authorities, whose initiating is a prerequisite for implementing individual competences, or because they did not know the meaning of certain legal concepts, which complicated the implementation of their competences/powers in the full capacity, or because they were too passive and had no initiative, but waited for the initiative of the competent authorities at all levels. Regarding the manner of settling issues that disable the work of national councils in full capacity, the Provincial Ombudsman gave recommendations, which, *inter alia*, related to amendments/supplements in the field of exercising and protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities, primarily of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, as well as harmonisation of laws in the field of culture, education and public information with the Law on National Councils of National Minorities in order to eliminate practical problems.

12.3.1. Financing national councils

Pursuant to Article 114 of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the financial resources for the activities of national councils are provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, the budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the budget of local self-government units, donations and other sources. The amount of funds from the public sources to be allocated for funding the activities of national councils shall be specified for each year according to the Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia, the decision on the budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the local self-government units.

Pursuant to Article 115 of the Law, the funds to be provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia are distributed in the following way: 30% of the funds shall be distributed among all registered national councils in the Republic of Serbia in equal shares and the residual value (70%) shall be distributed proportionally to the number of members of a national minority represented by a national council and according to the total number of institutions of a national minority concerned in the field of culture, education, information and official use of language and script within the scope of activities of such institutions. More detailed regulation of the allocation of funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia for financing work of national councils, entered in the Register of National Councils of National Minorities, is found in the Regulation on the procedure of allocation of funds from the budget of the Republic of Serbia for

financing the work of national councils, adopted by the Government in 2010. The Regulation specifies that beside the equal amount distributed to all national councils, the residual value (70%) shall be distributed proportionally as follows: one half (35% of the total amount) according to number of persons belonging to a certain national minority, represented by the National Council, and the other half of the residual amount (35%) is distributed according to the total number of institutions in the field of culture, education, information and official use of language in the scope of their activities. These funds are distributed in four equal shares for each field - culture, education, information and official use of language - on the basis of the scoring system, as integral part of the Regulation, which defines criteria in the mentioned fields and certain standards for each criterion. The basis for the distribution of funds to each National Council is the percent of participation of institutions of a particular national minority in the total number of institutions of all national minorities, which have elected national councils in the field of culture, education, information and official use of language and script.

Funds for financing activities of national councils are provided every year with the Budget Law. The table below shows an overview of subventions to national councils of national minorities in the period 2008-2011 from the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

National Council	2008	2009	2010	2011
Albanian national minority ²²	-	-	3,151,381.00	16,604,420.00
Ashkali national minority ²³	-	-	1,570,629.00	1,418,064.00
Bosniac national minority	15,060,518.00	14,104,854.00	13,670,718.00	21,015,176.00
Bulgarian national minority	7,620,819.00	7,222,365.00	7,005,533.00	7,610,588.00
Bunjevtsi national minority	7,599,519.00	7,194,042.00	6,983,674.00	5,856,188.00
Vlach national minority	8,478,218.00	8,029,570.00	7,492,237.00	7,482,728.00
Greek national minority	6,422,163.00	6,117,768.00	5,939,133.00	3,615,620.00
Egyptian national minority	6,432,819.00	6,131,930.00	5,779,027.00	3,636,608.00
Association of the Jewish Municipalities ²⁴	6,407,007.00	6,146,091.00	5,952,635.00	3,983,600.00

²² National Council elected in June 2010.

²³ National Council elected in June 2010. Although in the Budget of the Republic of Serbia 2011 funds were provided for the work of the National Council, funds were paid only for the first four months due to the unsolved issue of the Council representation.

Hungarian national minority	21,097,562.00	19,797,776.00	39,172,899.00	58,600,940.00
Macedonian national minority	7,854,963.00	7,434,787.00	7,013,301.00	6,779,120.00
German national minority	6,568,119.00	6,259,383.00	6,053,758.00	3,989,720.00
Roma national minority	12,982,718.00	12,150,567.00	11,772,747.00	16,377,656.00
Romanian national minority	8,238,063.00	7,802,987.00	7,554,865.00	13,394,108.00
Ruthenian national minority	7,094,319.00	6,755,036.00	6,551,901.00	8,740,808.00
Slovak national minority	10,176,668.00	9,559,013.00	9,268,286.00	18,636,080.00
Slovenian national minority ²⁵	-	-	1,989,917.00	4,772,672.00
Ukrainian national minority	6,631,863.00	6,316,029.00	6,114,242.00	4,963,100.00
Croat national minority	11,334,662.00	10,592,802.00	10,250,495.00	13,589,300.00
Czech national minority ²⁶	-	-	1,861,484.00	4,297,376.00
Total funds	150,000,000.00	141,615,000.00	165,148,862.00	225,363,872.00

The funds for financing activities of national councils provided in the budget of Autonomous Province are distributed to national councils with seat in the territory of Autonomous Province. The table below contains paid amounts to national councils, whose seat is in the territory of AP Vojvodina from the Provincial budget in the period 2007-2011.

National Council	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ashkali national minority ²⁷	-	-	-	330,000.00	-
Bunyevtsi national	880,000.00	2,030,000.00	999,000.00	2,090,060.00	1,752,000.00

²⁴ Pursuant to Article 134 of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the Executive Council of the Association of the Jewish Municipalities performs the National Council tasks.

²⁵ National Council elected in June 2010.

²⁶ National Council elected in June 2010.

²⁷ National Council elected in June 2010. Although in the Budget of AP Vojvodina 2011 funds were provided for financing the work of the National Council, funds were not paid due to the unsolved issue of the Council representation.

minority					
Greek national minority	-	-	-	-	400,000.00
Egyptian national minority	-	-	-	330,000.00	400,000.00
Hungarian national minority	5,340,000.00	13,760,000.00	6,867,500.00	11,925,555.00	16,528,000.00
Macedonian national minority	763,000.00	2,240,000.00	959,000.00	1,800,000.00	1,900,000.00
German national minority	-	1,425,000.00	563,500.00	1,487,560.00	1,340,000.00
Romanian national minority	1,612,000.00	4,165,000.00	1,837,500.00	2,478,055.00	4,224,000.00
Ruthenian national minority	860,000.00	2,570,000.00	1,123,000.00	1,941,555.00	2,654,000.00
Slovak national minority	1,440,000.00	3,636,000.00	1,332,500.00	4,132,055.00	5,160,000.00
Ukrainian national minority	1,165,000.00	2,280,000.00	586,500.00	1,541,560.00	1,412,000.00
Croat national minority	1,440,000.00	5,835,000.00	1,331,500.00	3,428,600.00	3,028,000.00
Czech national minority ²⁸	-	-	-	350,000.00	1,502,000.00
Total funds:	13,500,000.00	37,941,000.00	15,600,000.00	31,835,000.00	40,300,000.00

The funds provided in the budgets of local self-government units are distributed to national councils, which represent the national minority that in the population of the local self-government units reaches at least 10% of the total population; or national minority language is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit. For obtaining information on financing of national councils by local self-government units, at

²⁸ National Council elected in 2010.

the beginning of 2012, the then existing Directorate of Human and Minority Rights conducted a survey in 51 local self-government units, which according to legal criteria have the legal responsibility to finance national councils from their own budgets. These are the following local self-government units: Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bela Crkva, Bečej, Boljevac, Bor, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vrbas, Vršac, Dimitrovgrad, Žabalj, Žitište, Žagubica, Town of Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Kučevo, Kula, Majdanpek, Mali Idjoš, Medvedja, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Kneževac, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Petrovac na Mlavi, Plandište, Preševo, Priboj, Prijepolje, Senta, Sečanj, Sjenica, Sombor, Srbobran, Subotica, Temerin, Titel, Tutin, Čoka and Šid.

The survey showed that only 16 local self-government units (Ada, Boljevac, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Dimitrovgrad, Žabalj, Žitište, Žagubica, Kanjiža, Kula, Medvedja, Novi Sad, Petrovac na Mlavi, Senta, Subotica and Čoka) planned in their budget for 2012 funds for financing national councils of national minorities, in the total amount of RSD 9,125,000.00. The following table gives an overview of financing of national councils from the budget of local self-government units in 2012.

National Council of national minority	Local self-government units which allocated funds in their budget 2012
National Council of the Albanian national minority	Bujanovac, Medvedja
National Council of the Bulgarian national minority	Bosilegrad, Dimitrovgrad
National Council of the Bunyevtsi national minority	Subotica
National Council of the Vlach national minority	Boljevac, Žagubica, Petrovac na Mlavi
National Council of the Hungarian national minority	Ada, Kanjiža, Kula, Novi Sad, Senta, Subotica, Čoka
National Council of the Romanian national minority	Žitište
National Council of the Ruthenian national minority	Žabalj, Kula, Novi Sad
National Council of the Slovak national minority	Novi Sad
National Council of the Croat national minority	Subotica

For the improvement of transparency and legality of financial operations of national councils of national minorities in 2011, the then existing Directorate of Human and Minority Rights, as competent authority, paid additional RSD 200,000.00 from the budget of the Republic of Serbia to each national council for the cost of mandatory annual accounting audit. The reports of independent auditors established that financial

operations of national councils in 2011 were in compliance with the Law on National Councils of National Minorities and that the budget funds were spent in accordance with the scope.

With the aim to establish a unified manner of financial reporting of national councils of national minorities on spending funds granted from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, the Directorate developed a form, *Report on subvention income and expenses from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia*, consisting of tables. For the representatives of national councils a workshop was organised on application of this form, on which national councils have been submitting their financial reports since 2012. In accordance with the calendar for submitting financial reports on quarterly basis, national councils must submit to the Office of Human and Minority Rights quarterly reports on prescribed forms, as well as narrative reports on the implemented programme activities. National councils are also obliged to submit to the Serbian Business Registers Agency and the public authority, which finances their work from the Budget, balance sheets for the previous year, and programmes, projects foreseen for the next year and financed from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, to the competent public authority.

12.4. Decentralisation

12.4.1. Provincial level

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia contains effective legal grounds for the process of decentralisation of the country. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted in 2009 Law on Establishing the Competences of AP Vojvodina, partly abolished by the Constitutional Court. The representatives of national minorities in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia participated in the procedure for the adoption of this law. The provisions of this law stipulate, *inter alia*, that AP Vojvodina, through its bodies, shall specifically regulate and ensure the exercise of national minority rights in the territory of AP Vojvodina, pertaining to education in their mother tongue, at all levels of education and in accordance with the law (Article 38); regulate needs and interests of citizens of AP Vojvodina in the field of national minority culture and provide resources for their realisation, and provide resources for work, investment and ongoing maintenance and equipping institutions, which ensure cultural development of members of national minorities, on the basis of a special decision, stipulating standards, criteria and the method of allocation of these resources (Article 41, items 2 and 10); provide a part of funding or other conditions for work of public media in languages of national minorities and ethnic communities, with a view to exercising the right of national minorities and ethnic communities to information in their own language and fostering of their own culture (Article 62, item 3); in accordance with the law governing the official use of language and script, shall perform the inspection (Article 76).

Pursuant to Constitution and Law on Establishing the Competences of AP Vojvodina, Statute of AP Vojvodina was adopted in 2009; representatives of national minorities in the Assembly of AP Vojvodina actively participated in its adoption. The Statute, as the first legal act of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, proclaims multilingualism a universal value of particular interest to the AP of Vojvodina (Article 7, paragraph 1), and stipulates that the duty of all provincial bodies and organisations within the scope of their rights and duties, is to foster and facilitate protection and development of multilingualism and cultural heritage, and to support through special measures and activities mutual respect and familiarisation with different languages, cultures and religions in the AP of Vojvodina (Article 7, paragraph 2). The second part of the Statute of AP Vojvodina is dedicated to exercising human and minority rights. Provisions of Article 20 of the Statute of AP Vojvodina stipulate that in performing tasks falling within the scope of competence of the AP of Vojvodina, all citizens shall have equal rights and duties, irrespective of race, gender, birth place, language, nationality, religion, political or other belief, education, social background, financial standing or any other personal feature; and that any form of discrimination, direct or indirect, shall be forbidden on any mentioned grounds; while measures which the AP of Vojvodina may introduce in the economic, social, cultural and political life, for the purpose of achieving the full equality of communities and groups which are, due to being different, in an unfavourable position when compared to citizens belonging to the majority community, shall not be considered discriminatory. Persons belonging to national communities constituting numerical minority in the total population of the AP of Vojvodina shall enjoy special protection and all rights guaranteed to national minorities and persons belonging to national minorities according to the acts of the Republic of Serbia (Article 22 of the Statute). According to Article 25 of the Statute of AP Vojvodina, through their elected National Councils, persons belonging to national communities constituting numerical minority in the total population of the AP of Vojvodina shall exercise the form of autonomy, establish institutions, independently decide or participate in the decision-making process on issues in the field of education, culture, use of languages and information. Within the scope of its rights and duties, the AP of Vojvodina shall delegate the performance of particular tasks to national councils, involve them in the decision-making process in the mentioned fields, and provide means for performance of these tasks. The Statute of AP Vojvodina specifies in Article 26, paragraph 1, languages and script in the official use in bodies and organisations of the AP of Vojvodina, and introduces a novelty compared to the previous statute, since it introduces Croatian language in the official use. In the official use in bodies and organisations of the AP of Vojvodina, beside Serbian language and Cyrillic script, are also Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian languages and their scripts.

Before the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia the procedure for assessing the constitutionality of this act is underway.

12.4.2. Local level

After the submission of the Second Periodic Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention, a new Law on Local Self-Government was adopted in 2007. This Law, in accordance with the Constitution, expands competences of the local self-government and regulates issues of importance for the participation of national minorities in public affairs. The Law stipulates in Article 98 that in inter-ethnic municipalities of local self-government units, a council for inter-ethnic relations (hereinafter referred to as the Council) shall be formed as independent working body for considering issues related to exercising, protection and improvement of national equality, in accordance with law and statute. The issue concerning council establishment under law was regulated in the same manner as in the previous law on local self-government in 2002. The councils shall be made of representatives of persons belonging to Serbian people and national minorities with more than 1% share in total population of the local self-government unit. Scope of work, composition, election of members and manner of work of the councils are stipulated by decision of the assemblies of the local self-government units. The manner of proposal and election of the members of the councils should ensure proportional representation of the representatives of Serbian people and national minorities, but neither representatives of Serbian people nor representatives of a national minority may not represent majority of the council members. In case of national minorities which have their elected national councils, the representatives of the national minorities in the council are elected at proposal of the National Council. Council decisions are adopted by consensus of the council members. The council shall inform on its positions and proposals the assembly of the local self-government unit, which shall make statements on this issue in the first next session, and at the latest within 30 days. The assembly and the executive bodies of the local self-government units shall previously submit proposal of their decisions relating to national equality to the council for obtaining its opinion. The council has the right to initiate before the Constitutional Court procedure for assessing the constitutionality and legality of the decision or other general act of the assembly of the local self-government unit, if it believes that it directly violates the rights of persons belonging to Serbian people and national minorities represented in the council, and the right to initiate under the same conditions before the Supreme Court of Cassation (originally Supreme Court of Serbia) a procedure for assessing compliance of the decision or other general act of the assembly of the local self-government unit with the Statute.

Bearing in mind the findings of the Advisory Committee presented in the Second Opinion, where it is pointed out to difficulties concerning the establishment and functioning of the councils, thus requiring the competent authorities to consider and further direct activities so that this body could fully contribute to inter-ethnic dialogue at the municipal level: in November 2011 the then existing Directorate of Human and

Minority Rights (as the public authority in charge of monitoring the status of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia) gathered data on the work of councils.

According to Census 2002, in the Republic of Serbia there were 67 local self-government units that fulfilled statutory conditions which classify them as inter-ethnic local self-government units.²⁹ On the basis of obtained information from all inter-ethnic local self-government units, 44 local self-government units established councils as their independent working bodies, consisting of representatives of Serbian people and national minorities³⁰. In 23 inter-ethnic local self-government units councils were not established³¹, of which in 11 local self-government units founding decisions were adopted³², but the councils were not constituted, most frequently due to slowness and lack of initiative in the process of proposing candidates for the council members.

Bearing in mind that the Law on Local Self-Government left to local self-government units to regulate with their decisions the setting up of councils, on the basis of obtained data, it can be established that the composition, election of members and manner of work depends on the specificity of each local self-government unit. All constituted councils (44), were founded pursuant to decisions of municipal, i.e. town assemblies. Decisions on founding councils in certain local self-government units, adopted on the basis of the Law on Local Self-Government from 2002, are still in force, since new members of councils in accordance with these decisions were elected with the expiry of terms of office. Such situation was noted in 11 local self-government units. In 19 local self-government units new decisions on the establishment of councils were adopted, which have been harmonised with the Law on Local Self-Government of 2007, while in 14 local self-government units councils have been established pursuant to Law of 2007. In their decisions on the establishment of councils, majority of local self-government units specified the number of council members belonging to Serbian people

²⁹ These municipalities are: Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Babušnica, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bački Petrovac, Bačka Topola, Bela Palanka, Bela Crkva, Bečej, Beočin, Bojnik, Boljevac, Bor, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vranje, Vrbas, Vršac, Golubac, Dimitrovgrad, Doljevac, Žabalj, Žagubica, Žitište, Žitoradja, Zrenjanin, Irig, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Koceljeva, Kula, Kučevo, Majdanpek, Mali Idjoš, Medvedja, Negotin, Nova Varoš, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Kneževac, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Pančevo, Petrovac na Mlavi, Plandište, Preševo, Priboj, Prijepolje, Senta, Sečanj, Sjenica, Sombor, Srbobran, Sremski Karlovci, Stara Pazova, Subotica, Surdulica, Temerin, Titel, Tutin, Čoka and Šid.

³⁰ Councils were established by the following local self-government units: Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bela Palanka, Bela Crkva, Bečej, Beočin, Bojnik, Bor, Bosilegrad, Vranje, Vrbas, Vršac, Dimitrovgrad, Doljevac, Žabalj, Žagubica, Žitište, Zrenjanin, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Koceljeva, Medvedja, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Pančevo, Petrovac na Mlavi, Plandište, Priboj, Sečanj, Sombor, Srbobran, Subotica, Surdulica, Temerin, Titel, Tutin, Čoka and Šid.

³¹ Local self-government units which did not establish councils are as follows: Babušnica, Bač, Bački Petrovac, Boljevac, Bujanovac, Golubac, Žitoradja, Irig, Kula, Kučevo, Majdanpek, Mali Idjoš, Negotin, Nova Varoš, Novi Kneževac, Novi Pazar, Preševo, Prijepolje, Senta, Sjenica, Sremski Karlovci, Stara Pazova, and Titel.

³² Decisions on the founding of councils were passed by the following local self-government units: Bački Petrovac (2009), Boljevac (2009), Bujanovac (2010), Kula (2011), Kučevo (2009), Majdanpek (2009), Mali Idjoš (2010), Negotin (2010), Sremski Karlovci (2006), Stara Pazova (2009) and Titel (2006).

and number of members separately for each national minority, in accordance with the national composition of the population. Only in 11 local self-government units the total number of council members was specified and who has the right to council members, although the number of members for each national minority has not been specified. The number of council members in the local self-government units is from 4 to 12 members. Proposers of the council members in the local self-government units are different institutions. According to obtained information, representatives of Serbian people are elected in the majority of local self-government units (25), at proposal of working bodies for human resources issues of the municipal assemblies. Proposers of the council members are also aldermen or alderman groups, municipal councils, Serbian Orthodox Church, political parties, local communities, even associations for the preservation of national specificities. For the council members of national minorities in 35 local self-government units proposers were national councils of national minorities. Proposers of council members of national minorities were beside the abovementioned, alderman groups, associations of national minorities or several alternatively determined proposers, such as national councils of national minorities or religious communities or national cultural associations or citizen associations or local communities.

Activities of councils in the local self-government units were considered on the basis of the number of held sessions, topics which were the subject of discussions and number of proposals submitted to the bodies of the assemblies of local self-government units. Gathered data have shown that the council activity, measured by the number of held sessions, varied from only one session to 21 sessions, while in six units of local self-government there were no council sessions, although the council members had been elected. Topics considered by the councils in their sessions also varied and frequently exceeded by the law specified framework – considering issues of exercising, protection and improvement of national equality. Almost two thirds of the councils did not submit initiatives, opinions and proposals to the bodies of local self-government units, which is the main indicator of their effectiveness, and only the councils in 16 local self-government units submitted proposals to the bodies of local self-government units, which were mostly accepted. Not even one council in local self-government units has initiated a procedure for assessing constitutionality and legality of a decision or other general act of assemblies of local self-government units before the Constitutional Court, because of violation of the rights of persons belonging to Serbian people and national minorities represented in the councils. Furthermore, not even one procedure has been initiated before the Supreme Court of Serbia (i.e. after the judiciary reform, before the Supreme Court of Cassation) for assessing compliance of a decision or other general act of assemblies of local self-government units with the Statute.

On the basis of the above mentioned, it could be concluded that the councils in inter-ethnic local self-government units have not yet become bodies which could contribute in full capacity to exercising, protection and improvement of national equality.

Thus, competent authorities should be considerably additionally engaged in the future in order to capacitate the councils to fully contribute to inter-ethnic dialogue at the local level.

12.5. Participation in economic life

12.5.1. Regional development

Beside measures that are created and implemented for the increased economic growth of the country, the authorities are paying attention to the policy oriented toward equal regional development, while the focus of the policy of regional development is on economic development of the areas and all citizens living in the areas, regardless of national belonging of the population.

After the adoption of the Law on Regional Development 2009, at proposal of the then competent Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, the Government adopts since 2010 once a year the following by-law: Regulation on determining a unified list on the region and local self-government units development level. According to this regulation, and in accordance with the methodology for the calculation of the level of development of the regions and local self-government units, local self-government units are classified in the first, second, third, fourth group of development, and devastated regions.

The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Department for Regional Development and Entrepreneurship, has implemented since 2007, through the Fund for the Development of the Republic of Serbia, programmes for encouraging entrepreneurship in underdeveloped and insufficiently developed municipalities. The beneficiaries of these funds could have been legal entities and entrepreneurs, regardless of the fact whether they belong to national minorities or not. Programmes were of a more general character, i.e. they were intended for business entities which operate in underdeveloped and insufficiently developed municipalities.

In 2011, the Programme for encouraging equal regional development through encouraging and development of enterprises and entrepreneurship in underdeveloped municipalities, encouraging development and employment in devastated regions and encouraging investments in intensive branches of processing industry, was implemented. For the implementation of this programme RSD 850 million were provided in the budget of the Republic of Serbia. Furthermore, Development Fund ensured own funds, while part of the funds were provided from annuities of previously approved loans. In 2011 a total number of 128 loans were concluded, and RSD 4.6 billion paid.

Since 2011, the Programme for planning regional development and support to SMEs and entrepreneurship is carried out, and one of the measures relates to co-financing initiatives of local self-government units for the preparation and implementation of projects at local and regional levels. The co-financing percent by the competent ministry

is bigger for local self-government units classified in devastated regions, fourth and third level of development (respectively). However, in the implementation of programmes there were no projects relating directly to the improvement of economic status of national minorities.

On the basis of programmes for planning regional development and support to SMEs and entrepreneurship – Measure of co-financing initiatives of local self-government units for the preparation and implementation of projects at the local and regional level, in 2011 total amount of RSD 18.2 million, was paid.

The Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for Municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja has been investing funds in development projects for all three municipalities, in order to empower their economies. Since the constitution of the Coordination Body in 2000, majority of funds were invested in infrastructure projects. Part of the budget of the Coordination Body was earmarked for projects proposed by the three municipalities. Decision on the amount of funds to be invested in each individual municipality is made by the Presidency of the Coordination Body, composed of presidents of all three municipalities. In 2012, from the budget of the Coordination Body RSD 206,129,667.00 were allocated for infrastructure projects, while in 2011 for infrastructure projects of the three municipalities RSD 257,800,000.00 were allocated. Beside direct investments in Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, over the past 12 years foreign donation funds through the mediation of the Coordination Body were invested.

Since 2012, the Coordination Body has been working on economic projects with the focus on providing financial support to the development of SMEs, entrepreneurs and agricultural cooperatives. For the projects concerning subventions to the economic actors from the three municipalities, the Coordination Body allocated in its budget RSD 60 million for the subvention of SMEs, entrepreneurs and agricultural cooperatives.

12.5.2. Employment

The National Employment Strategy in the period 2011-2020, laws and other regulations in the field of employment adopted in the period after the submission of the Second Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention, are based on principles of equal access, treatment and prohibition of discrimination. To persons seeking employment equal access to employment and employment equity in employment procedure are provided, regardless of race, colour of skin, national belonging, ethnic origin, language, religion, political or other opinion and orientation, property status, age, etc. The principles of the Law on Employment (2009) are found in Article 5 and are as follows: prohibition of discrimination; impartiality in the conduct of employment activities; gender equality; affirmative action directed towards hard-to-employ unemployed persons; freedom of choice of occupation and work; and provision of services to unemployed persons free of charge.

The National Employment Action Plan is the basic instrument for the implementation of the active employment policy in the Republic of Serbia. From 2009 it is made on annual basis and it defines hard-to-employ unemployed persons, as well as measures and activities implemented by the National Employment Service in order to increase employment and decrease unemployment. The National Employment Action Plan takes into consideration measures and activities for the improvement of the status of the Roma planned in the action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Situation of Roma. In this document made at annual basis, Roma are defined as category of hard-to-employ unemployed persons, and as such have priority concerning the inclusion in all programmes and measures of active employment policy; also, special programmes and measures for encouraging employment and improvement of employability, implemented by the National Employment Service, are being planned.

Thanks to the improved database on unemployed persons of the Roma nationality, established in the National Employment Service, and the fact that since 2010 all data on the number of unemployed persons of the Roma nationality, as well as data on persons included in the measures of active employment policy, have been classified by gender, the problem of monitoring the implementation of programmes and measures intended for Roma has been surpassed.

Number of unemployed persons of the Roma nationality, registered in the records of the National Employment Service

Year	2009	2010	2011
Number of unemployed	13,416 persons (6,571 women)	15,867 persons (7,637 women)	19,398 persons (9,180 women)

The number of Roma registered in the unemployment records is changing and varies bearing in mind that the persons are employed or deleted from the records if they are not active job seekers (failing to present himself/herself to the National Employment Service or non-observance of obligation). Data on the increase of the number of Roma registered in the records of the unemployed persons of the National Employment Service points out to positive changes regarding the position of the Roma towards work and employment. It is obvious that the promotion of employment and campaigns for raising awareness on the importance and advantages of employment and work versus receiving social assistance gives positive results. Unfavourable educational structure of Roma population is a great challenge, since over 85% of Roma registered in the records of the National Employment Service have no profession or professional qualifications.

Beside the fact that Roma as a category of hard-to-employ unemployed persons have priority regarding inclusion in all measures of active employment policy, for the increase of their employability and employment, the National Employment Service also announces public invitations for the employment of persons of the Roma nationality (for

granting subventions for self-employment and subventions to employers for new employment), and implements special employment motivation trainings, organises training for active job seeking, self-effectiveness training, job seeking clubs, employment fairs and implements programmes of additional education and training. The text below contains data on the activities undertaken for the increased employability and employment of Roma.

In 2007 - 140 persons belonging to the Roma nationality without completed primary school were included in the programme of functional elementary education of adults, while in 2008 - 101 persons were included in this programme. In public works programmes were included 223 Roma (2007), i.e. 396 Roma (2008).

In 2009, the employability assessment and determining individual employment plans were made for 5,910 Roma. In programmes of additional education and training were included 76 persons of the Roma nationality, of which 26 persons in the trainee programme; the training for active job seeking included 248 persons; self-effectiveness training 49 Roma; while in the employment fairs participated 778 persons; and in the public works programmes 359 persons of the Roma nationality. Within the Project, "Encouraging Entrepreneurship of Young Roma Men and Young Roma Women", in the branch offices of the National Employment Service five seminars for young people were organised, and 134 persons included, while subvention for self-employment from the Republic budget was granted to 14 persons of the Roma nationality.

In 2010, interest of Roma for inclusion in the active employment policy increased primarily thanks to specially created information and motivation trainings, which included 825 persons. The employability assessment and determining of individual employment plans were made for 13,416 persons. The training for active job seeking included 387 persons; training within clubs for job seeking included 42 persons; employment fairs included 934 persons, and additional education and training programmes included 82 persons; while public works programmes included 510 persons of the Roma nationality. Furthermore, through projects 180 persons were additionally included in workplace training and preparing for employment. Providing information and guidance included 740 persons. Subventions for self-employment, thanks to the specially announced public invitations, were given to 103 persons, and subventions through the self-employment subvention projects were granted to 21 more persons.

In 2011, the employability assessment and determining of individual employment plans were made for 14,772 Roma. After 6 months of determining individual employment plans, 180 persons of the Roma nationality were employed, of whom 74 women. In the information and motivation training were included 1,545 persons; in training for active job seeking 319 persons; in job seeking clubs 21 persons; in self-effectiveness training 16 persons; at employment fairs participated 716 persons; trainee programmes and vocational practice programmes included 14 persons; while training programmes for labour market and known employer included 22 persons. Within the

Project “Support to National Efforts for the Promotion of Youth Employment and Management of Migration (YEM)“ 53 persons were included in the programme for preparation for employment and included in various training. In the functional elementary education “The Second Chance“ 441 persons of the Roma nationality without elementary education were included. At the proposal of Roma associations 7 public works were organised, where 46 persons were employed, with the comment that the number of Roma engaged in public works would be even bigger bearing in mind that they had priority in inclusion in other public works as hard-to-employ unemployed persons. Instructive training for entrepreneurship completed 173 Roma. With the help of self-employment subventions, 40 persons of the Roma nationality began a business of their own.

Part of the activities of the National Employment Service in 2010 and 2011 were oriented towards raising awareness and encouraging employers to employ Roma, as well as raising awareness of capacities of local self-governments and local employment councils to create programmes and measures of active employment policy for the Roma population. With the subventions of employers for opening new jobs, from the Republic budget funds in 2009 - 18 persons belonging to the Roma national minority were employed; in 2010, thanks to specially announced public invitations to employers, 67 persons were employed, while with the help of subventions concerning contributions for mandatory social insurance 54 persons of the Roma nationality were employed as well; in 2011, with the help of subventions, granted to employers, 7 Roma were employed.

12.6. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, the Advisory Committee issued 8 recommendations related to Article 15 of the Framework Convention. The following paragraphs contain information on the activities undertaken for the purpose of their implementation.

The Serbian authorities are encouraged to promote effective participation of national minorities, including the numerically smaller ones, in the electoral process. In consultation with representatives of national minorities, they should also undertake periodical reviews of the arrangements in place, in order to ensure that they adequately reflect the needs of persons belonging to national minorities.

The Republic of Serbia has undertaken measures aimed at improving participation of national minorities in the electoral process. Within the legislative sphere the most significant measure is abolition of the election census for the political parties of national minorities in parliamentary elections and in elections for the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in the section related to conducting elections according to the proportional system. Pursuant to the Law on the Election of MPs in the

Assembly and the Resolution of the Provincial Assembly on the Election of MPs in the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, political parties of national minorities and coalitions of parties of national minorities shall participate in the distribution of mandates even if they fail to reach 5% of the total number of votes cast, (which is required for any party to be able to participate in the distribution of mandates) of the total number of voters who voted, i.e. the natural electoral threshold shall be applied in the distribution of mandates.

The political system of the Republic of Serbia also stipulates positive measures in favour of political parties of national minorities, not only in distribution of mandates, but in all issues which are significant for them, such as registration of a political party. Pursuant to the Law on Political Parties (2009) a political party of a national minority may be established by a minimum of 1,000 citizens of legal age and by the citizens having capacities to work, as compared to other political parties that may be established by 10,000 citizens of legal age and by the citizens of the Republic of Serbia having capacities to work.

The Serbian authorities should take measures to collect comprehensive information on the representation of national minorities in public administration at all levels, while fully respecting international standards in the field of personal data protection.

As it has already been stated, public authorities do not keep records about the national composition of the persons employed in public authorities, and the form of the Central Human Resources Register does not contain a field for entering the information about the nationality of employees. Considering the foregoing, and having analysed representation of persons belonging to national minorities in public administration authorities and implementation of measures aimed at stimulating employment of persons belonging to national minorities, the Ombudsman provided a recommendation to the Office for Human Resource Management (which provides forms to public authorities), indicating that there is no explicit legal basis for the introduction of records about national affiliation of employees in public authorities and specific sensitivity of such data regulated by the Law on the Protection of Personal Data. The Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection has, in his opinion, confirmed the position on the necessity of explicit regulatory determination of a legal framework for keeping records about national affiliation of persons employed in public authorities. Consequently, in March 2010, the Ombudsman submitted to the Government, in accordance with his competences, an initiative for amendments and additions to the Law on Public Administration and other laws which would more closely regulate implementation of the right of citizens guaranteed by the Constitution, i.e. obligations of public authorities, public services, provincial and local self government bodies to take into consideration during employment national composition of the citizens and appropriate representation of members of national minorities by legally prescribing the method of keeping records about the nationality of employees and by regulating other

necessary issues. The Government did not inform the Ombudsman on the acceptance of the initiative or about the reasons for its non-acceptance.

The Advisory Committee calls on the Serbian authorities to take vigorous measures to address the under-representation of national minorities in public administration and in the judiciary, in particular for the Albanian and the Bosniac minorities. Specific attention should be paid to ensure an adequate representation of the Bosniacs in the police force in Sandžak.

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia proclaims equality in carrying out operations of public authorities by determining rights of persons belonging to national minorities to participate under the same conditions as other citizens in the management of operations of public authorities and to take up public positions, whereas national composition of the citizens and appropriate representation of persons belonging to national minorities is taken into consideration during employment of persons in public authorities, public services, and provincial and local self-government bodies. This provision of the Constitution provides sufficient guarantees for equal employment of persons belonging to national minorities in public authorities, public services, provincial and local self-government bodies. However, in order to be able to speak at all about the level of their under/representation in public authorities, public services, provincial and local self government bodies, it is necessary to have accurate data on the ethnical composition of employees available, which is not the case at the moment. As it has already been pointed out, the non-existence of a legal basis for the collection of data about the national affiliation of employees in public authorities created a situation in which the data about the national affiliation of employees is not recorded in human resource records at all, and therefore conclusions on under/representation of persons belonging to national minorities in public authorities are based only on estimations. The competent bodies recognised this issue, so the activities related to the amendments to the legislation for the purposes of enabling collection of data about the national affiliation of employees in public authorities, public services, provincial and local self-government bodies, and adequate protection of such data, are expected in the following period. Only after the data about the ethnical composition of employees have been collected will it be possible to define and implement specific measures towards persons belonging to each of the minorities in terms of their participation in operations of public authorities.

Regarding appropriate representation of the Bosniacs in the police force in Sandžak, the Ombudsman has, in the process of collection of data about the national composition of employees in public authorities, concluded that the Ministry of Interior is one out of two public authorities (the other being the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) which keeps records about the national composition of employees. Based on this, the Ombudsman submitted a recommendation to the Ministry of Interior in 2011, for the

purposes of achieving proportional representation of persons belonging to all the national communities in the composition of the Police Directorate in Novi Pazar, stating that the Ministry should devise and take specific measures of an affirmative action in order to ensure proportional representation of persons belonging to the Bosniac and other national minorities in the police force in the territory of Novi Pazar and its surrounding.

The Advisory Committee calls on the authorities to ensure that the forthcoming Law on National Minority Councils provides appropriate guarantees for the councils to take part in decision-making processes in matters affecting them and that they receive adequate support in practice by the respective authorities in order to fulfil their tasks efficiently. The authorities should ensure that the Law does not contain any undue requirement which would affect negatively participation of all the persons belonging to national minorities in these councils. They should also ensure that the principle of free self-identification of persons belonging to national minorities is fully guaranteed when registering persons belonging to national minorities in the special register of voters (see also the comments made under Article 3 above on ethnic data protection).

Provisions of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities ensure participation of national councils in initiation, adoption and monitoring of the implementation of the Law and other regulations in the field of culture, education, information and official use of a language and a script, as well as in the preparation of regulations and proposal of amendments to the regulations governing constitutionally guaranteed rights of national minorities in the stated fields. In practice, national councils are financially supported by competent authorities in order to be able to carry out their tasks effectively. These issues have been more elaborately explained in Sections 12.3 and 12.3.1 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report.

The public authorities also ensured application of the principle of free self-identification of persons belonging to national minorities when registering in the Special Register of Voters, as well as protection of such data. This information is contained in Chapter A of Part II of the Report.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to hold adequate consultation with representatives of national minorities in the context of the on-going discussions of the Statute of Vojvodina. They should also ensure that the future statute clearly defines the respective competences of the central and provincial authorities, including in areas of relevance for national minorities.

Section 12.4.1 of Chapter B of the Report describes the legal framework for determining competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and regulation of other issues relevant for the status of AP Vojvodina which is envisaged by the Law on Establishing Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina from 2009. The

Section also contains provisions of the Statute of AP Vojvodina related to the fields relevant for the status of national minorities.

The Advisory Committee invites the authorities to provide further clarity and guidance regarding the selection process and the modalities relating to the functioning of the councils for inter-ethnic relations at municipal level, so as to ensure that these committees can carry out their tasks effectively.

Legally insufficiently precise determination of proposers of members of the Council for Inter-Ethnic Relations in local self-government units among persons of the Serbian nationality and among persons from the national communities which do not have established national councils of national minorities, have resulted in the phenomena (as presented in Section 12.4.2 of Chapter B of Part II of the Report) that different persons are elected for proposers for whom it cannot always be claimed that they are representatives of their national and ethnic communities. This, however, cannot be qualified as the main issue in the functioning of councils. The problem are, primarily, unclear and inaccurately determined competences of councils prescribed by the applicable law. Such problems require from competent bodies, in addition to the activities resulting in the upgrading of the existing legal solution, also to take measures of providing information and education of members of councils so as to ensure that councils efficiently execute their competences in the field of implementation, protection and promotion of national equality at the local level.

At the end of 2012, preparation of the draft Law on Amendments and Additions to the applicable Law on Local Self-Government was initiated, which, *inter alia*, envisages improvement of the existing legal regulation in terms of establishment and functioning of the Council for Inter-Ethnic Relations in nationally mixed local self-government units.

The Advisory Committee calls on the Serbian authorities to pay increased attention to the situation of persons belonging to national minorities living in economically disadvantaged areas with the adoption of temporary positive measures and ensure that persons belonging to national minorities are adequately involved in both identifying priority projects to be funded and in their implementation.

In accordance with financial possibilities, the Serbian authorities allocate funds for the development of economically undeveloped areas, including three municipalities in the Southern Serbia. As already described in Section 12.5 of the Report, the Coordinating Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia is implementing the projects for the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa, aimed at economic development and strengthening of these three municipalities. In view of economic projects, the Coordinating Body allocated funds from its budget in 2012 for subsidising of small and

medium size enterprises, entrepreneurs and agricultural cooperatives. Subsidies will be granted on the basis of the Coordinating Body programme previously adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The subsidies will amount to 70 and 60 percent, depending on the fact whether small or medium size enterprises compete for the funds. When determining priorities for economic development of the three municipalities, the Coordinating Body worked jointly with representatives of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa municipalities and with the offices for local economic development.

Since 2009, the Coordinating Body has been financing civil society projects (NGOs and media) and providing social assistance in cooperation with representatives of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa municipalities (including representatives of the Albanian community), who also assist in defining priority projects.

In view of involvement of persons belonging to national minorities and detecting priority projects to be financed and implemented in underdeveloped areas, it is important to note that preparation of regional development materials is under way, i.e. preparation of the National Plan for Regional Development and regional development strategies for the region of Southern and Eastern Serbia and the region of Šumadija and Western Serbia. It may be assumed that the persons belonging to national minorities who live in these regions will participate in the preparation of these strategic documents.

The Advisory Committee expects that the future National Strategy on Roma will adequately and effectively address the problems identified regarding the access of persons belonging to the Roma minority to employment. The new Strategy should also be allocated adequate funding for its full and effective implementation.

Comments of the Republic of Serbia on the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia contain the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy, as well as projection of budgetary funds for the implementation of planned measures and activities for the period 2009-2011. The then existing Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, which was also competent for employment, formed a Working Group at the proposal of the Council for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and Implementation of the Decade of Roma, which was competent for the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma in the field of employment. In addition to representatives of relevant ministries and institutions, the Working Group also includes representatives of NGOs. The task of this Group is to analyse results achieved in the field of Roma employment of Roma, to propose priority measures and activities envisaged by the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy, to propose budget for the implementation of proposed measures and to monitor implementation and effects of the measures.

Article 18

1 The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.

2 Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.

13.1. Bilateral Agreements

As stated in Section 18.1 of the Second Report on Implementation of the Framework Convention, the Republic of Serbia is a party to bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities concluded with Hungary, Romania, Macedonia and Croatia, which ensure protection and development of the national, language, cultural and religious identity of national minorities in the signatory countries. Mixed intergovernmental commissions were established for the purposes of monitoring provisions of the agreements.

At the beginning of 2009, following submission of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention, the Government appointed presidents of the Serbian part of delegations in all mixed commissions. The Serbian part of delegations in joint commissions in addition to representatives of public authorities in charge of exercising rights of national minorities in specific fields of social life also include representatives of national minority councils as active members of the delegation.

By appointing new co-presidents, the Joint Serbian-Hungarian Intergovernmental Commission and the Joint Serbian-Croatian Intergovernmental Council continued to hold sessions aimed at analysing current and topical issues related to the Serbian minority in Hungary and Croatia, i.e. the Hungarian and Croatian minority in Serbia, by considering fulfilment of obligations under the mentioned agreements, implementation of the recommendations adopted at previous sessions, and providing new recommendations to the governments of the parties to the agreements on their implementation. The following sessions were held in that period: the 3rd and 4th session of the Joint Serbian-Hungarian Intergovernmental Commission for Minorities (on 21 and 22 May 2009 in Novi Sad, and on 20 June 2011 in Budapest), and the 3rd, 4th and 5th session of the Joint Serbian-Croatian Intergovernmental Council (on 14 and 15 October 2009 in Belgrade and Subotica; on 17 and 18 June 2010 in Zagreb and Vukovar, and on 19 and 20 September 2011 in Belgrade and Šid). Also, the Joint Serbian-Romanian Intergovernmental Commission started to operate and held its 1st session on 23 November 2009 in Bucharest, and the 2nd session was held on 20 May 2011 in Belgrade. The minutes from the 2nd session of the Commission were signed on 1 March 2012, after numerous meetings of members of the two delegations where they analysed, as a part of the process

of harmonisation of the wording of the minutes, level of fulfilment of obligations which the two parties assumed by accessing the international documents on the protection of national minorities; the main issues and problems faced by the members of the two national minorities; and where they adopted a proposal of measures and recommendations for the improvement of the status of persons belonging to the two national minorities. In 2011 was formed the Serbian part of the delegation in the Joint Serbian-Macedonian Intergovernmental Commission. The Serbian part of the delegation in this Commission held a preliminary meeting, however, the Commission has not started to operate yet.

In addition to bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities, the Republic of Serbia concluded bilateral agreements on cultural and educational cooperation with specific countries, which contribute to the improvement of good neighbouring and friendly relations among the countries. The issues of protection of national minorities are covered by the following agreements on the cultural and educational cooperation: the Agreement between the Federal Government of FR Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the cultural and educational cooperation (signed in 2002); the Agreement between the Councils of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro and the Government of the Czech Republic on cooperation in the field of culture, education, science, youth and sport (signed in 2005); the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on cooperation in the field of education, science, culture, youth and sport (signed in 2006). Considering that the agreements on the cultural and educational cooperation concluded with Romania and Bulgaria were signed as early as in 1956 (they did not contain provisions on national minorities), a procedure for the conclusion of new agreements was initiated. A newly proposed document developed with Romania, which is in the phase of diplomatic harmonisation of its wording, also contains provisions for the protection of the cultural and historical heritage of national minorities in the signatory countries. Wording of a new agreement with Bulgaria initiated by the Republic of Serbia in 2003, is also at the stage of harmonisation of its draft version.

13.2. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

In the Second Opinion on Implementation of the Framework Convention in Serbia, the Advisory Committee provided a recommendation related to Article 18 of the Framework Convention. In terms of this recommendation, the following section presents opinions of the Republic of Serbia.

The Advisory Committee encourages the Serbian authorities to step up efforts to conclude bilateral agreements with other neighbouring countries, including Bosnia and

Herzegovina and Montenegro as well as to ensure that the conditions are in place for the effective implementation of existing agreements, including by setting up the necessary bilateral joint commissions.

Comments of the Republic of Serbia on the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia also present opinions about the conclusion of bilateral agreements on the protection of national minorities with the neighbouring countries with which such agreements have not been concluded yet. Once again, the authorities of the Republic of Serbia point out to a well known fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of two entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska, and that the Serbian people is one of the constitutional peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that, consequently, conclusion of a bilateral agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina on the protection of national minorities would not be possible. The authorities of the Republic of Serbia believe that conclusion of an agreement with Montenegro on the protection of national minorities is not possible since the status of persons of the Serbian nationality in Montenegro is not clearly defined nor is it acceptable for the Republic of Serbia that the Serbs in Montenegro have the status of a national minority.

In view of the second part of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, it was pointed out that the Republic of Serbia actively contributes to the provision of conditions for effective implementation of existing agreements on the protection of national minorities by appointing members of joint intergovernmental commissions which monitor implementation of the agreements, by active engagement in the organisation of sessions of the bodies, and with a constructive dialog which should improve the status of national minorities in the countries signatory of bilateral agreements.

PART III

III. Supplements of national councils of national minorities

1. Supplement of the National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority

SECTION I

Article 3

The Bunyevtsi national minority is exercising the right to express their national affiliation and national minority status. The National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority was established in 2003 and re-elected in direct elections according to the Law on National Councils of National Minorities in 2010.

In addition, certain cultural institutions and organisations necessary for the national identity of Bunyevtsi were also established.

As citizens of the Republic of Serbia we are dissatisfied with the method of election of representatives of MPs and councillors in national and provincial self-governments, and we find that we are in an unequal position in terms of the number of persons belonging to the Bunyevtsi national minority and in terms of non-harmonised laws according to the Constitution. For this reason, we cannot a representative at the provincial and national level.

Recommendation:

The National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority is of an opinion that, for the purposes of achieving democracy in the provincial and national parliament, and for the purposes of establishing appropriate representation of national minorities, the Law on Election should be amended in respect of the mentioned parliaments and adjusted to numerically small national minorities.

SECTION II

Article 4

According to the Article of the Framework Convention, the Republic of Serbia is constantly allowing the Croatian minority to violate the Constitution, laws and the right to personal expression of national affiliation, and to unjustly claim the Bunyevtsi national minority to be theirs in terms of nationality, culture, language and script. Authorities of the Republic of Serbia have instruments and possibilities to protect the Bunyevtsi.

A passive attitude of the Republic of Serbia on this issue leads directly to the violation of the Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, while, in reality, there is a state of latent hostility and mutual disrespect of national minorities, such as the relation between the Bunyevtsi and the Croats. Unfortunately, this is not the only example of such an inter-ethnic antagonism in the Republic of Serbia.

Recommendation:

The National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority is of an opinion that the Republic of Serbia has sufficient legal mechanisms to regulate such a violation of human rights.

Article 5

The Bunyevtsi national community is financed from the funds obtained from the Republic of Serbia – the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government, from the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities, and through national, provincial and local competitions.

Two years ago, the Ministry of the Republic of Serbia and the Provincial Secretariat passed the Decree on the Method of Allocation of Funds for the Operation of National Councils of National Minorities. According to the Decree, there is a scoring system in the following fields: education, culture, information and official use of a language. According to the Decree, the National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority is being directly discriminated as the scoring refers exactly to the institutions which Bunyevtsi have not established yet, and which they cannot establish by themselves without support of public authorities.

Thus, the Institute of Culture is scored with 50 points, daily newspapers with 70 points, etc. (Please find enclosed wording of the Decree, “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 95, 17 December 2010).

Using these reduced public subsidies, the National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority pays rent for its business premises and, at the same time, supports nine more of its cultural institutions, which also mainly use rented space. One of them is the Newspaper Publishing Institution “Bunyevtsi Information Centre”, which also pays a high monthly rent. Although, according to the Law on National Minorities Article 115 paragraph 5, the local self-government is obligated to finance the Bunyevtsi national community, this has never been the case.

We would like to point out to the lack of transparency of local competitions in the field of culture and information in terms of the negligence of numerical representation of one national minority in Subotica.

A flagrant example of violation of the rights of Bunyevtsi at the local level in a competition was organisation of the celebration of the harvesting festivity “Dužijanča”. Although public authorities acknowledged this custom as Bunyevtsi national holiday (“Official Gazette” No. 23, 17 March 2006), large funds from the local budget (around RSD 3,000,000.00) for the marking of this festivity were allocated through a competition to the Croatian national community leaving the Bunyevtsi national community fully deprived of these funds. This is only one of many examples of inequality experienced by the Bunyevtsi in the town of Subotica, in Vojvodina, and even in the Republic of Serbia.

Recommendation:

The Bunyevtsi national community in the Republic of Serbia requests application of the principle of positive discrimination.

We would like to point out one more time that Bunyevtsi consider the Republic of Serbia to be their parent country and we do not another country. The Republic of Serbia should always take this in consideration when determining funds for the Bunyevtsi national minority.

The Assembly of AP Vojvodina should, as soon as possible, establish the Institute for Culture Preservation of the Bunyevtsi in Vojvodina in the same manner as this was done for other national minorities, which would ensure prevention of the grabbing of the centuries old Bunyevtsi cultural heritage.

The issues of finding solutions to business premises for the Bunyevtsi national community, financing of the operation of the national council, and allocation of funds obtained through local competitions should in the future be resolved in accordance with the Law on National Minorities.

Article 6

During this school year, the optional subject Bunyevtsi speech with elements of the national culture in primary schools having grades 1-8 was attended by 300 pupils in 13 schools in the municipalities of Subotica and Sombor.

A major financial issue for the National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority is the fact that it solely bears specific costs in the field of education for the lecturers for this optional subject, as it is not included in the funding list of the Ministry of Education.

Children are registered for this optional subject through a survey of pupils and their parents. Even though this is a legal obligation, the survey is not conducted in many schools in Subotica, particularly in the schools whose directors declare themselves as Croats. The National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority addressed the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Secretariat for Education regarding this issue on several occasions.

Education of teachers who teach the optional subject Bunyevtsi speech is carried out regularly, however, it is exclusively funded by the National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority.

Recommendation:

The National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority suggests that the School Administration should implement a more comprehensive review of the survey of pupils concerning optional subjects and their mother tongue.

In order to improve the quality of education and create new staff who will teach the optional subject Bunyevtsi speech, it is necessary to establish an instructorship for the

Bunjevtsi language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, as a part of the Serbian Language Department, or at the Faculty of Pedagogy in Sombor.

Article 7

There is such a great freedom of establishing associations of citizens in the Municipality of Subotica that the Association of Citizens Croatian Culture Centre “Bunjevačko kolo” contains in its Statute fostering of the Bunjevtsi culture even though this is a Croatian institution. At the same time, the state publicly allows assimilation of the Bunjevtsi cultural heritage. This institution were granted with about 1,000 square meters for its cultural work by the Assembly of the municipality of Subotica, however, Bunjevtsi did not benefit anything from this distribution of premises.

Recommendation:

The National Council of the Bunjevtsi National Minority is of an opinion that associations and institutions which bear one national symbol but aim at focusing their work on another nationality, which according to the Laws of the Republic of Serbia is also recognised, cannot be established or re-established. When allocating business premises, a local self-government must show sensitivity towards the number of representation of specific national minorities in its area.

Article 8

The Bunjevtsi national community belongs to the Catholic Church and its members are extremely religious. Nevertheless, the Bunjevtsi face great issues in churches with the language of religious ceremonies (masses, weddings, funerals, baptising, etc.). All of the ceremonies are held in the Croatian language, whereas the intention and spiritual need of the Bunjevtsi is to practice them in their mother tongue. In addition to these, there are many other issues related to the school children attending religious education. In these classes at schools, the children are being told that the Bunjevtsi do not exist, and that there are only the Croats.

Children, as well as their parents, are threatened that those who declare themselves as being the Bunjevtsi will not be entitled to one of religious sacraments, communion, confirmation, or even the funeral. In this way, these people are being intimidated and their human rights are being violated.

Recommendation:

The National Council of the Bunjevtsi National Minority is of the opinion that the Republic of Serbia can and must initiate negotiations between the Bunjevtsi community and the Catholic Church in Serbia. It also has to use its authority to reach an agreement regarding the use of the language, the right to religious ceremonies without intimidation of both children and adults, all in accordance with Article 8 of the Framework Convention.

Article 9

The Bunjevtsi have the following in their mother tongue:

“Bunjevačke novine” – monthly papers; “Tandrčak”, children’s supplement – monthly; radio show “Bunjevačka rič” – one hour a week on PC “Radio Subotica” and Radio Sombor in Sombor; repeated broadcasting of the same show on Radio Topola and Radio Vojvodina, but for half an hour, and the website of the National Council of the Bunjevtsi National Minority updated daily with the news from the community.

All of these media face difficulties in their work due to the frequent changes of office space since they are located in rented costly premises. All of the aforementioned is not adequately proportionate in relation to the right which the Bunjevtsi national community should have according to the number of community members in comparison to other national communities. This is particularly evident in the printed media in the Bunjevtsi language (“Bunjevačke novine” – information and political papers), and particularly in the electronic media. For example, on the PC “Radio Subotica” in Subotica, the Bunjevtsi community has a show in the duration of one hour a week, whereas another community of an equal size has three hours a day and its own editorial board financed from the town budget.

Recommendation:

The National Council of the Bunjevtsi National Minority is of an opinion that material, technical and all other conditions have to be provided for the Bunjevtsi national community in order to ensure full equality in the information area.

Article 10

The fact that the Bunjevtsi language is not linguistically recognised as a language but as a speech is extensively used in practice to maximally reduce the rights of this national minority. Article 12 of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities in the Republic of Serbia early stipulates that languages and speeches of national minorities are equal in terms of significance.

For these reasons, but also based on the wish to raise the Bunjevtsi speech to the level it is scientifically entitled to, three years ago the National Council of the Bunjevtsi National Minority initiated a project of the standardisation of the Bunjevtsi language. Until now, field research of the language was carried out in 2009 and 2011, and then, additions to the Bunjevtsi dictionary made, whereas preparation of the Bunjevtsi grammar is in progress. The Commission of language experts from the Council of Europe was informed in detail about the standardisation process which started in 2009 as part of the, so called, “Small Charter on Languages”. The Commission also monitors the project. All of these projects are financed from the modest budget of the Bunjevtsi National Council. There was also no scientific support from the majority of scientific institutions in the Republic of Serbia. Moreover, the project faced numerous obstacles posed by

them. On the other hand, the Croatian National Council condemned and attacked this project in the media for being a sort of continued assimilation of the Croats by Bunyevtsi.

Recommendation:

The National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority is of an opinion that it is necessary to finish the process of standardisation of the Bunyevtsi language. In this respect we ask for support from the institutions of the Republic of Serbia as well as material support for the language standardisation project.

Article 11

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Article 12

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Article. 13

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Article 14

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Article 15

The number of employed person belonging to the Bunyevtsi national minority according to Article 15 is extremely small, about 1%, particularly in cultural institutions, public companies, and local and provincial administration authorities. This also refers to the provision of scholarships from the budget of municipalities in which there are also no representatives of this national community.

Recommendation:

The National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority requests from the Republic of Serbia and from all other public authorities to adhere to Article 15 of the Framework Convention, in order to stop further negligence of fundamental human rights.

Article 16

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Article 17

The National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority, as well as Bunyevtsi institutions, cooperate with the Bunyevtsi in Hungary. The Bunyevtsi in Hungary are still not recognised as a national minority although they addressed the Hungarian Parliament on several occasions for several years. These attempts to preserve the identity of the Bunyevtsi in Hungary were not supported by the Republic of Serbia, either through bilateral agreements or through scientific and political support. We will remind you of historical circumstances that led to border division of one nation. Namely, in 1918 and with the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, in Hungary remained about 100,000 Bunyevtsi,

the majority of whom assimilated in time. Those who preserved their identity today still try to exercise their human rights to expression of national affiliation and the Bunyevtsi National Council is making every effort to assist them in this attempt.

Recommendation:

The National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority requires from the Republic of Serbia to support work and efforts of the National Council regarding the issue of the Bunyevtsi national community in Hungary, and to resolve this problem, together with Bunyevtsi representatives, through bilateral agreements with Hungary.

Article 18

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Summary

Based on the Framework Convention and Articles 3-18, the National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority points to fundamental and most significant problems of the Bunyevtsi in exercising human rights and in their resolution in the Republic of Serbia:

- **The principle of positive discrimination of the Bunyevtsi national community;**
- **Securing conditions for standardisation of the Bunyevtsi language;**
- **Protection of the cultural heritage by establishing the Institute for Culture Preservation of the Bunyevtsi in Vojvodina;**
- **Providing radio broadcasting editorial offices in Subotica and Sombor;**
- **The right to practice religion in the Bunyevtsi language;**
- **Adequate funding of Bunyevtsi institutions, and, consequently, of the National Council of the Bunyevtsi National Minority.**

2. Supplement of the Association of Jewish Municipalities

It can be stated that there are significant efforts and readiness of the state to undertake an obligation, by adopting legal acts, to guarantee full and actual equality to national minorities in all the segments of everyday life and work. However, we believe that adoption of legal acts in good faith represents a necessary, but insufficient, condition and guarantee for such equality. We believe that the state does not invest sufficient efforts in the application of and respect for adopted regulations by primarily overlooking specific conditions which determine the work and existence of any national minority, circumstances and tensions in the society which make the work more difficult, as well as economic, political and social parameters which are changeable and which, thus, create specific and sometimes even acute problems for national minorities.

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

- Section II Article 4 item 1

"The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited."

The Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination

- Protected rights and persons, Article 3

"Everyone shall have the right to obtain efficient protection from all forms of discrimination by the authorised courts and other public administration authorities."

- Hate speech - Article 11

It is forbidden to express ideas, information and opinions which would encourage discrimination, hatred or violence against persons or groups of persons due to their personal characteristics in the media and other publications, on gatherings and in places accessible to the public, by inscribing and presenting messages or symbols or in any other way.

- Severe forms of discrimination – Article 13

Severe forms of discrimination are the following: discrimination inflicted several times (repeated discrimination) or the one inflicted over a longer period of time (prolonged discrimination) against the same person or a group of persons

- Article 15

Everyone shall have the right to equal access to and equal protection of his/her rights before courts of law and public administration authorities.

The Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, the new Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, and the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities are dealing with the problem of discrimination and legal anti-discrimination measures. Solid legal guarantees are disproportionate to the inadequate reaction of the state, namely, the judiciary in the fight against anti-Semitism. The Jewish community of Serbia has been calling upon for years, addressing relevant ministries, announcing press releases, filing appeals and, yet, court procedures last for years, no court decisions are made, and procedures are suspended. By the Law, the state has, *inter alia*, assumed an obligation to personally monitor, survey, react, initiate court proceedings, and, subsequently, sanction any discrimination, and not to, as it is most frequent the case, start using its mechanisms only upon request of national minorities, and even then to be insufficiently prompt and efficient, and leave an impression of unwillingness, which is in contrast to the clear intention expressed in legal acts.

As an example we herewith provide some of the criminal charges and requests for investigation which have not been acted upon for years now.

1. Case No. K-345/05, before the Higher Court in Belgrade
The criminal charge against: Prof. Živojin Savić – the author of the publication *The Bible – Jewish Mirror*, Dr. Ratibor Đurđević – the author of the preface *The Judeans, Enemies*

of the Human Race in the stated publication, and the editor-in-chief Aleksandar Tasić, Publishing House “Ihtus Hrišćanska knjiga” from Belgrade. (the proceedings were initiated in 1991, a neuropsychiatric expert opinion was never published and Mr. Đurđević continued writing and publishing anti-Semitic texts)

2. Case No. Ki-19/03, the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade
The criminal charge against: Dr. Ratibor Đurđević – the author of the book *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, with superordinate title *Text, Explanations and Interpretations from the Christian and Nationalist Viewpoint*, and Žarko Gavrilović from Belgrade – the author of the preface *Introductory Considerations and Data*. (the proceedings were initiated in 2002. The proceedings was terminated due to pending neuropsychiatric expert opinion.)
3. Crime report Kt-237/05 submitted to the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade
The criminal charge against: Dr. Ratibor Đurđević, the author of the preface *About the Jewish Ritual Killing – Arnold Lis, the Victim of Judeo-Masonry*. (the proceedings were initiated 2005)
4. Crime report Ktp-4165/08, submitted to the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade
The criminal charge against: Dejan Lučić, the author of two printed publications *The Kingdom of Hazards, Book 1 – The Invisible Empire That Rules the World* and *The Kingdom of Hazards, Book 2 – The Conspiracy Theory is Not a Fiction – Its Name is Interest*. (the proceedings were initiated 2008)
5. Crime report Ktp-4462/08, submitted to the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade
The criminal charge against: Aleksandar Palić- the author of the text *When Serbia Frees Itself from the Hazards, It will Flourish*. (the proceedings were initiated 2008)
6. Crime report Ktp-1954/09, submitted to the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade
The criminal charge against: Dragan M. Filipović, the author of the printed publication *The Anatomy of the Globalistic Stench*. (the proceedings were initiated 2009)
The cases in which proceedings were suspended by valid decisions:
 1. Case No. Ki- 727/01, before the Higher Court in Belgrade
Against: Prof. Đorđe Katić, the author of the preface to the book *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, subtitle *The Plan from Hell to Conquer the World Implemented by the Judeo-Masons* and KIZ Centar. (the proceedings were initiated 2001 and suspended in 2003 by the court decision)
 2. Case No. Ki- 783/01, before the Higher Court in Belgrade,
Based on the request for initiation of an investigation procedure against: Milan Arnaut, director of IP Altera and Marinko Arsić Ivkov, employed in IP Altera (the proceedings were initiated 2001 and suspended in 2003 by the court decision)

Article 4 item 2 and Article 5 item 1:

-“The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the

majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities”.

- “The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage”.

We are of an opinion that the government at present does not allocate sufficient funds for financing activities of the Jewish religious community which has a specific and special status among national councils because it belongs to three traditional churches and religious communities in Serbia that are recognised by the state. Funds for national councils are allocated according to the defined coefficient which also takes into account the number of persons belonging to a national minority, and thus the Jewish community in Serbia is put in a somewhat unequal position in this respect, since the scope and range of its activities are by far larger than it could be assumed considering the number of its members.

In order to preserve the religious and national identity, the continuity of Jewish institutions that existed before the Second World War, and that have not ceased to exist after the war but transferred their responsibilities to the UJM of Serbia which has continued to finance and support their work, has to be maintained at any cost. The religious, cultural, educational, memorial, publishing, humanitarian, social activities, and care for the old and the sick, maintenance of sacral buildings and cemeteries, the activity of the Jewish historical museum, as well as many other unavoidable activities related to the ritual aspect, i.e. everyday fulfilment of religious rules, require significant funds and cannot be satisfied by the funds that the Jewish community of Serbia has available. Even more due to the fact that funds have to be allocated for the financing of the work of the Association of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia, as well as for the operation of 9 local Jewish municipalities. We believe that there is also a moral obligation of the state to provide greater support to the community which in the Second World War suffered irreparable losses, from which it has not recovered until the present day, to the community which was at first undeservedly devastated by nazist looting, and, subsequently, by after war confiscation of property, and deprived of all assets that would ensure independence and efficient fostering and development of all mechanisms for the preservation of its religious and national identity. The funds allocated from the state budget for the operation of national councils, in 2010, for the operation of the Jewish community in Serbia amounted to about RSD 6 million at the annual level, and in 2011 they were reduced to about RSD 3,800,000.00.

The Association of Jewish Municipalities impatiently awaits termination of the process of property restitution, the process which would ultimately ensure financial independence of our community, an increase in autonomous means and a possibility of independent financing of numerous projects of crucial importance for the survival of our community. A successful presentation of the work of the Jewish community of Serbia

(which is directly conditioned by its financial independence), and of its involvement in the increase of the quality of the general and multicultural level in our country, is also a presentation of the state of Serbia and its contribution to the quality of life of minority groups. Therefore, UJM of Serbia in the process of property restitution also expects significant support of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.

Article 9 item 4 Access to media

“In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism”.

In terms of the media, our community is adequately covered in the Public Media Service of Serbia (RTS 1 and 2). Features about religious festivities and cultural events of the Jewish community found their places in the news and other information shows on RTS. Religions and cultural life of the Jewish community is no longer an enigma for the wider community. We would particularly like to emphasise the *Agreement on Cooperation Regarding Production and Broadcasting of the Religious Programme* concluded between *RDU Radio Television of Serbia* and the *Religious Programme of Serbia* and signed by our community, SPC, RKC, the Islam community and other religious communities. Since May 2006 daily and weekly features about Jewish tradition and culture have been broadcasted and this contributed to the fact that the wider public in Serbia gained fundamental knowledge about the Jews in Serbia and their contribution to the Serbian cultural heritage. Such cooperation with RTS should be improved by the production and broadcasting of a one-hour dialogue show *Religion in the World – Challenges of the Present*, which was envisaged by *the Agreement*, however, this has not taken place so far. We believe that such a dialogue show broadcasted at adequate time would contribute to better inter-religious and inter-ethnic understanding and elimination of prejudices.

We believe that we are also partially responsible for failing to start an initiative, submit proposals or point to what segments within the obtained right should be improved to enable greater presence of our community in the media. Media interest in our community has increased in the context of specific political events in the country and in the world which need a comment. However, when the community makes an announcement and addresses the media by pointing out to, e.g. anti-Semitic incidents or hate speech directed not only against the Jewish minority but also against some other national minority, which is the problem of the whole society, the media response is far below satisfactory.

Article 12 items 1 and 2

Involvement of relevant public institutions in all the issues related to the development and fostering of the language of our national minority is very modest. Permanent Hebrew language courses organised in local Jewish municipalities, financing of lecturers, procurement of teaching equipment, teacher training, and, finally, translation of books from Hebrew or, e.g. from Judeo-Spanish (the language of Sephardic Jews), are financed from our autonomous funds or through certain project competitions. However, these competitions are quite rare and their outcomes are uncertain. In this respect, it is difficult to plan specific activities and autonomous funds of the Association cannot cover even one part of the list above, so we are often forced to suspend this highly significant educational activity.

3. Supplement of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority

In compliance with Article 15 of the Ratified Convention which stipulates obligations of the parties that "Parties will create conditions necessary for effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public relations, particularly those related to them", we emphasise the following:

- Difficulties in exercising the rights of institutions of particular importance for the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority (general acts have not been harmonised by the institution, i.e. founder),
- Difficulties concerning partial overtaking of founder's rights to educational and cultural institutions (some local municipalities have not adopted appropriate acts on the basis of the initiatives of the national council),
- Difficulties in financing the work of the national council (local municipalities – with certain exceptions – have not envisaged in their budgets funds for financing the work of the national council) based on the provisions of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities.

4. Supplement of the National Council of the Macedonian National Minority

The National Council of the Macedonian National Minority in the Republic of Serbia fully supports proposals and recommendations of the Committee of Ministers about the application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia and is of the opinion that special attention should be paid to the following elements in the preparation of the Third Report:

- Adoption of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities in the Republic of Serbia completed the legal framework for the protection of national minorities. Since this is the first law of such kind, it is necessary to make additions

because practical application of this law has shown a series of inconsistencies and contradictions which have to be corrected as soon as possible. This was noticed, *inter alia*, in elections of national councils, particularly in elector polls.

-In terms of education in minority languages, there is still a difference between, so called, traditional national communities and newly formed national communities. While traditional national communities have entire education in the language of their minority, new national communities, e.g. Macedonian, have difficulties in providing for their members a possibility to learn the Macedonian language. Since 2011 and adoption of syllabi and curricula for the Macedonian language for grades I to IV the of primary schools, with elements of the national culture, the youngest members of the Macedonian community have an opportunity to learn their mother tongue in 2 classes per week during their schooling period. Since the curricula were announced at the end of October, members of the Macedonian community can learn Macedonian for this school year only in the course "Welcome to the Macedonian Language" organised by the National Council since 2008. To maintain better equality of national councils, it would be necessary to turn the primary school facultative subject of the minority language with elements of the national culture into the optional subject, i.e. to be classified in the same group as the subject of civic education and the subject of religious education. Additionally, it is necessary to shorten the procedure of making textbooks and enable use of the textbooks from the country of origin. A particular problem poses recognition of diplomas regardless of whether they are obtained in the Republic of Serbia or in the Republic of Macedonia.

- In terms of the public printed media of the Republic of Serbia, the same problem of traditional and newly formed national minorities occurs. While traditional minorities are well presented, other minorities are underprivileged, particularly if they are, like the Macedonian minority, located throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Although the Agreement on Cooperation Regarding Production and Broadcasting of the Programme Related to the National Minorities Living in Serbia was signed with RTS as early as in 2007, when the Macedonian national minority is concerned, except for occasional features in the TV show "Građanin" (The Citizen) broadcasted on RTS, there have been no other shows in the Macedonian language. Persons belonging to the Macedonian minority consider that it is extremely important to hear the Macedonian language is on RTS programme since the shows broadcasted on RT Vojvodina and TV Pančevo cannot be watched in the whole territory of Serbia due to the weak broadcasting signal.

- Participation of persons belonging to national minorities in a decision making process is still small at all levels of decision making, and particularly when decision making at local levels is concerned. Namely, we believe that representatives of local authorities still do not see national councils as their partners in the processes of making decisions on the issues related to the status of national minorities. Many representatives of local authorities still, even two and a half years after adoption of the Law on National

Councils of National Minorities, do not understand the significance and function of these councils, and, consequently, neither their role in the decision making. Effective employment, at least when persons belonging to the Macedonian national minority are concerned, is still symbolic. Securing places for persons belonging to national minorities in national legislative bodies (the principle of the “safe seat“ in the Assembly), would be a clear indicator of the status and significance of national minorities in the social and political life of the Republic of Serbia.

- We believe that a newly adopted score-based modality of financing the work of national councils has put new national minorities into an unfavourable position. The point is that new national minorities have not been able to establish institutions, whereas institutions bring a significant number of scores. Instead of enabling accelerated development for new minorities, such a financing modality even further widens the gap between the traditional and new minorities.

- Persons belonging to the Macedonian national minority who were born in the Republic of Macedonia have great difficulties in obtaining required personal documents. We believe that competent services of local authorities should provide the most frequently requested documents (birth certificates) using official channels, whose provision is related to the exercising of many individual rights (issuance of personal documents, exercising rights to social care, etc.).

We expect that commencement of work of the Commission for the monitoring of application of the Agreement on the Protection of the Serbian National Minority in the Republic of Macedonia and the Macedonian National Minority in the Republic of Serbia will improve the status of persons belonging to the Macedonian national minority in the Republic of Serbia.

5. Supplement of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority

SECTION I

Article 1

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation.

Article 2

The provisions of this Framework Convention shall be applied in good faith, in a spirit of understanding and tolerance and in conformity with the principles of good neighbourliness, friendly relations and co-operation between States.

Article 3

1 Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.

2 Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present Framework Convention individually as well as in community with others.

SECTION II

Article 4

1 The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.

2 The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.

3 The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.

Article 5

1 The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

2 Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.

Paragraph 1 of Article 5

Normative framework

The Culture Committee of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority found that the Law on National Councils of National Minorities precisely defines authorisations of the Committee in the field of culture.

Application

The Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Romanians was established in March 2008 by the Decision of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina and the National Council of Romanian National Minority. This was a completely new cultural institution dealing, *inter alia*, with

science and research work. Funds for work are provided from the budget of AP Vojvodina.

In the last 5 years we managed to maintain the continuity of all significant cultural events and traditions. We established two cultural events: the Big Folk Art Festival of Vojvodina Romanians and Theatre Days of Vojvodina Romanians as events of provincial significance. They are both financed from the provincial budget.

The condition of cultural buildings is unsatisfactory. In recent years only the House of Culture in the settlement Kuštilj, in the Vršac municipality, was renovated. The House of Culture in Banatsko Novo Selo, in the town of Pančevo, has been renovated for more than three years and works are still in progress. These days commenced works on the adaptation of the House of Culture in Tork, in the municipality of Žitište. There is rarely any technical equipment in the houses of culture and due to uncertain financing modalities, and due to the lack of personnel, village libraries, apart from a few exceptions, have almost entirely stopped working.

The lack of funds and lack of equipment in houses of culture resulted in the situation that the number of theatre stages in recent years dropped to 3-4. Ten years ago about ten theatrical performances took part in the Theatre Days of Vojvodina Romanians. Last year, there were only 3 of them, and this year, in the year of 40th anniversary celebration, 5 theatrical performances took part in the event.

Funding of the work of the Professional Theatre Stage in the Romanian language, which has been operating within the National Theatre “Sterija” from Vršac, also significantly reduced. There is also a need to employ an additional actor who speaks the Romanian language. It is necessary to emphasise the fact that the Stage has been regularly nominated for national competitions in the last few years, and it was awarded at the International Festival in Romania.

Some of the problems in other areas of the cultural and artistic activity of the Romanians are the following:

- The lack of exhibition space for gallery activities;
- The lack of specific musical instruments in village orchestras;
- The lack of staff: professional choreographers, directors;
- System resolution of event co-financing.

The Law on Culture should also be amended, particularly in the segment envisaging the transfer of funds to local self-government units by specifying that the funds are allocated for the needs of national minorities.

It is essential to enable operation of the Budget Fund for national minorities. This year, the Ministry of Culture and Public Information of the Republic of Serbia co-financed the total of four projects with an almost symbolic amount of RSD 250,000.00.

Article 6

1 The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.

2 The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

Paragraph 1 of Article 6

Application

The Romanian media also include features about other national minorities. The weekly papers LIBERTATEA regularly publishes translations of various opinions concerning political, economic, cultural and educational life. Stories about the Serbs from Romania are sometimes also published, as well as translations of literary works of other minorities. The programmes of RTV Vojvodina present activities and events of other national minorities in Vojvodina which primarily concern the most significant cultural and other forms of events of the minorities broadcasting the programme in their language, which is done in the form of news or brief notifications. The local media broadcasting the programme in the Romanian language report about events in the same manner.

The TV show “Zajedno“ (Together), broadcasted on RTV Vojvodina, should be particularly mentioned because every minority editorial board prepares one story for the show in its own language with Serbian subtitle.

Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Article 8

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations.

Application

The Law on Churches and Religious Communities does not classify the Romanian Orthodox Church as a traditional church. This caused issues regarding introduction of religious education in primary schools. To resolve this issue, we referred to the President of the Republic of Serbia, however, the Law was not amended.

In AP Vojvodina, the Romanian Orthodox Church belongs to the rank of traditional churches.

There are also issues regarding the freedom of expression and establishment of religious institutions in Timočka Krajina. The problem needs to be resolved in direct negotiations of two sisterly churches.

Article 9

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.

2 Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.

3 The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.

4 In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.

Paragraph 1 of Article 9

Application

Persons belonging to the Romanian national minority still do not have access to the media in Timočka Krajina.

Paragraph 2 of Article 9

Application

The programme in the Romanian language is broadcasted on the public broadcaster Radio Television of Vojvodina where duration of the programme has increased but without adequate personnel and technical capacity improvement. In the last 20 years, the editorial office of the Romanian television programme employed only one journalist-trainee, while an average age of journalists is over 50. The editorial board of the programme in the Romanian language in Radio Vojvodina employed three young journalists. The coverage of the programme in the Romanian language is extremely low, therefore, almost two thirds of the Romanian population in Southern Banat cannot watch/listen to the programme.

The Radio Television of Vojvodina still does not fully perform the function of a public broadcaster because the signal does not cover the entire territory of the province, and TV shows do not fulfil the required criteria in terms of content (there is insufficient amount of children's, youth, drama and other contents in the Romanian language).

The program in the Romanian language is also broadcasted on TV Pančevo (25 minutes a week with a re-run), on TV Banat (25 minutes a week, with the seat in Vršac), on TV Kovačica (everyday programme in the duration of 25 minutes – news, a 2 hour show on Wednesdays, a two hour show on Saturdays. The shows broadcasted on Wednesdays and Saturdays are repeated on Thursdays and Sundays).

Radio programme in the Romanian language of 30 to 90 minute duration per week are broadcasted by:

- Radio Zrenjanin (90 minutes a week)
- Radio Kovačica (everyday programme in the duration of 60 minutes, and 4 hours on Thursdays)
- Radio Sečanj (60 minutes a week)
- private radio stations (Viktorija from Vršac - 24 hour programme in Romanian), Radio FAR from Alibunar (4 hours a day) and Radio BUS from Kovin (10 minutes a week).

Radio Fedra from Zrenjanin, Radio Kovin, Radio Bela Crkva stopped broadcasting the programme in the Romanian language.

Although the National Council of the Romanian National Minority on several occasions financially and technically supported the journalists employed in the mentioned local editorial offices because they receive symbolic fees, the largest issue is regulation of the public broadcaster since the *Broadcasting Law* “does not recognise“ the institution of the national council. As a consequence, national councils are not “recognised“ in the Statutes of the public broadcasters of Vojvodina and Serbia. The rights of persons belonging to national minorities were not regulated even in subsequent amendments and additions to the *Law*.

The National Council of the Romanian National Minority proposes an addition to the Broadcasting Law which will recognise the institution of the national council, because this is of a crucial interest. At the same time, it is necessary to find systematic solutions for the financing of the local electronic media. The National Council of the Romanian National Minority co-finances projects of the local media within its capacities, however, it is insufficient for ensuring a high-quality programme in terms of contents. Technical equipment is also a great issue.

It is also necessary to prepare future young journalists. In that respect, the Information Board has initiated a project-workshop for over 10 young journalists who will attend lectures of experienced journalists and who will develop cooperation and attend joint practice with associations of journalists from Romania.

Paragraph 3 of Article 9

Normative framework

Application

The papers or various magazines and publications in the Romanian language are published by almost all local self-government units (periodically one or two issues per year, on the occasion of various events or village festivities). Magazines are also issued by other Romanian organisations and institutions, such as: the Romanian Music and Folklore Festival, the Theatre Days of Vojvodina Romanians, the Romanian Language Society, the Ethnography and Folklore Society, the Vicary of the Romanian Orthodox Church, etc.

Over 100 titles were printed in the last 20 years.

Special attention should be paid to the publications of the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Romanians.

Although the founding rights for the Newspaper Publishing Association “Libertatea” were transferred to the National Council of the Romanian National Minority, the Government of AP Vojvodina still co-finances publication of the weekly papers and children’s magazine “Bucuria copiilor”, the youth magazine “Tinerețea” (once a month) and the magazine for literature, art and culture “Lumina”. The issue of publication in the Newspaper Publishing Association “Libertatea” still has not been resolved. It is necessary to find a systematic solution.

The major problem in particular poses the issue of systematic financing of publications of local self-governments units because they receive funds from the National Council of the Romanian National Minority that are within its abilities - which is not enough.

Article 10

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

3 The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself on this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

Paragraph 2 of Article 10

Normative framework

The Committee for the Official Use of the Language and Script of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority stated that the authorisations from the Law on National Councils of National Minorities are very precisely defined as well as provisions of other laws and of Decisions of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina on more detailed regulation of specific issues concerning the official use of language and script of national minorities in AP Vojvodina.

Application

The Romanian language is in official use in 9 municipalities or towns: Bela Crkva, Vršac, Plandište, Sečanj, Alibunar, Kovin, Kovačica, Žitište and Zenjanin, as well as in the settlement of Banatsko Novo Selo in the town of Pančevo.

The National Council of the Romanian Minority states that persons belonging to the Romanian national minority do not use their mother tongue sufficiently in communication with public authorities. This statement refers to the authorities of local self-governments units as well as to the resolution of administrative and court proceedings. Issuance of bilingual documents is also very rare.

The Romanian language is used to a larger extent in communication with the authorities of AP Vojvodina, particularly in communication with the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Minorities.

Article 11

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

2 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.

3 In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.

Paragraph 3 of Article 11

Application

As early as in 2003, the National Council of the Romanian Minority determined traditional names of the settlements inhabited by the Romanian population. This decision was published in the “Official Journal of AP Vojvodina”, No. 12/2003. Traditional names for 38 settlements inhabited by the Romanian population were determined on that occasion.

Out of this number, only 22 names of settlements were inscribed.

Results of the research on the application of the official use of the Romanian language in the settlements inhabited by the Romanian population in Vojvodina show that inscription of traditional names of settlements in the Romanian language is not carried out in the following:

- In the municipality of Vršac, the name of the town Vršac (Vârșeț) is not written in Romanian, and neither is the name of the settlement Vlajkovac (Vlaicovăț);
- In the municipality of Alibunar, the names of the settlements: Nikolinci (Nicolinți) and Vladimirovac (Petrovasâla)³³ are not written in Romanian;
- In the municipality of Kovin, the names of the settlements: Kovin (Covin), Deliblato (Deliblata) and Mramorak (Maramorac) are not written in Romanian;
- In the municipality of Bela Crkva (Biserica Albă), the corresponding name of the town is not written in Romanian;
- In the municipality of Sečanj (Seciani), the name of the town and the name of the only place inhabited by the Romanians - Sutjeska (Sărcia) are not written in Romanian;
- In the municipality of Plandište, the name of the settlement Margita (Mărghita) is not written in Romanian;
- In the municipality of Pančevo (Panciova), the name of the town and the names of the settlements Omoljica (Omolita), Dolovo (Doloave) Jabuka (Iabuca) are not written in Romanian;
- In the municipality of Zrenjanin, the provisions are fully adhered to.

There are problems in the municipality of Pančevo regarding the settlement Banatsko Novo Selo (Satu Nou), because the signpost with the name has been scrawled or broken several times.

In the settlement Torak (Torac), the name of the settlement is written in Romanian only at one entrance to the village.

³³ The name of the town Alibunar is written in the Latin script only (it is equally written in the Romanian language), therefore, the official use of the Romanian language has been applied, however, the official use of the Serbian language has not been applied as the name of the town is not written in the Cyrillic script.

We have addressed all local self-governments units which the above mentioned settlements belong to. We received replies only from the assemblies of the municipalities of Žitište, Kovin and Kovačica. They even stated that we should address the Public Company Srbija putevi, because this is not the responsibility of the assemblies. We addressed the company as well, however, we did not receive any reply from them either. Currently, we are in the process of preparing a letter to inspection authorities of AP Vojvodina and to the Provincial Ombudsman.

The street names are not written in the Romanian language in any of the settlements in the municipalities where the Romanian language is in official use. In some places (Uzdin, Torak) there are still old bilingual signposts from 1980s.

Except on the buildings of municipalities, courts and the police, the names of institutions founded by the municipality are rarely written in the Romanian language. The inscription in Romanian was placed on the building of the Municipal Assembly in Bela Crkva only after a joint visit, together with the Provincial Ombudsman (in April 2010).

Article 12

1 The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.

2 In this context Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teacher of different communities.

3 The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.

Paragraph 1 of Article 12

Normative framework

The Committee for the establishment the National Council of the Romanian Minority stated that the authorisations from the Law on National Councils of National Minorities are very accurate, but that some decisions do not coincide with the decisions from the Law on the Fundamentals of the Educational System.

Application

The Committee for the establishment the National Council of the Romanian Minority proposed to the Provincial Secretariat for Education at the meeting with the presidents of the committees for the establishment of all national councils, to introduce Engineer title to the Rulebook on Professional Qualifications since we do not have teachers of Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. To obtain this title, it would be necessary to pass

professional examinations in Pedagogy and Psychology. The idea was accepted but it has not been implemented. We also discussed about an idea that Mathematics may be taught by computer scientists under the same conditions.

The manner of financing the operation of schools has not been adequately resolved. Funds should be paid directly to schools instead of to local self-government units. This creates inequality between the children from less developed areas or from villages in and the children living in towns or in more developed areas (they have better work conditions, free second set of textbooks, and less expensive residential outdoor school, due to greater support of a local self-government unit.).

The process of validation of universities degrees of the students who graduated in Romania is very long, in some cases it takes over a year, so many students are not able to find employment.

Paragraph 2 of Article 12

Application

The National Council of the Romanian Minority was the first to grant free textbooks to the first grade pupils in primary schools. A year later, our idea was overtaken by the Ministry of Education.

Printing of the textbooks in Romanian is in delay and only textbooks of the Institute for Textbook Printing Belgrade – department in Novi Sad can be used. The reason is small circulation, so other publishing companies do not want to print them. The period between the submission of a manuscript and the end of the process of printing textbooks in Romanian is very long (sometimes even two years!). For that reason, the pupils attending lectures in Romanian study according to reformed, new curricula and syllabi from old textbooks! In addition, the textbooks in Romanian are more expensive than the textbooks in the Serbian language.

In the last 6 months not one textbook in Romanian was printed and the stated reason is the lack of funds.

There is even a greater problem in the secondary school of economics “Dositej Obradović” in Alibunar, where there is almost total absence of the textbooks for vocational subjects translated to the Romanian language.

It is necessary to update the translation of secondary school textbooks in Romanian as soon as possible, as well as of the addition to the National History for primary schools.

Insufficient staff teaching in the Romanian language in Romanian primary and secondary schools and higher education institutions is receiving scholarships from the National Council of the Romanian Minority from its own funds. Although the staff has increased, the problem still exists and there is still an insufficient number of professors teaching vocational subjects. For this reason the completion for granting scholarships to the professors of Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics is permanently open.

Article 13

1 Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognise that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.
2 The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.

Article 14

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.
2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.
3 Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.

Paragraph 2 of Article 14

Application

1. The teaching in the Romanian language in primary and secondary schools in Vojvodina is carried out in:

- Preschool institutions: in 6 municipalities in 15 preschool institutions;
- In primary schools: in 9 municipalities in 13 eight-grade primary schools and in 14 four-year schools;
- In secondary schools: in 2 municipalities in 2 schools.

At the level of higher and university education in:

- The Higher School for the Education of Preschool Teachers in Vršac;
- The Teacher's Teaching Faculty - Belgrade (department in Vršac);
- Two Departments for Romanian Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade and in Novi Sad.

In the school year 2011/2012 somewhat less than 1,000 pupils attending classes in Romanian were enrolled in primary schools, whereas in the school year 2006/2007, 1,476 pupils were enrolled in primary schools where courses are held in Romanian, and 200 pupils in secondary schools. Unfortunately, due to the permanent decrease in the number of persons belonging to the Romanian national minority, there is also a decrease in the number of pupils year after year, which currently represents one of the largest problems of the Romanian community. On the other hand, many parents enroll their children (particularly those from mixed marriages) to the classes taught in the Serbian language, and a large number of families has moved abroad.

The optional subject «mother tongue with elements of the national culture» was introduced for the pupils who declare themselves as the Romanians but attend classes in Serbian. Although all national councils of national minorities requested from the Ministry of Education and Sport of the Republic of Serbia to introduce this subject as mandatory and to as optional, the Ministry has not met their request yet.

We have prepared and proposed the curriculum and syllabus for the subject *Mother tongue with elements of the national culture*, but the textbook has not been published yet.

We proposed to the Ministry of Education to introduce the Mother tongue with elements of the national culture into schools as a mandatory optional subject, however, the status remained the same – it is an optional subject. On the other hand, even in cases when a group for the Mother tongue with elements of the national culture is formed, which is small in terms of the number of pupils, the Ministry of Finance does not provide funds for the financing of the teaching staff, which is very important for the preservation of the national identity of the Romanian community.

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs in particular those affecting them.

Normative Framework

1. The National Council of the Romanian Minority welcomes adoption of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities. The Law in an adequate manner regulates the method of election, authorisation and financing of councils. The National Council also welcomes adoption of the provision on the establishment of the Council of the Republic of Serbia for National Minorities, which represents a completion in legal terms of the cultural autonomy of national minorities.

2. Adoption of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination is a big step forward in the field of security of national minorities. Although it is envisaged by the Law that specific law should regulate the manner of exercising and protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, this has not been carried out yet.

3. Despite the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia from 2006, election laws have not been amended yet, and conditions for efficient and authentic political representation of national minorities have not been created.

4. The conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (May 2006) about the measures for the increased participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public administration authorities remained *nudum ius*, as well as the request of the Minister of Human and Minority Rights (in 2008) that national councils jointly propose one Deputy Minister.

5. The Constitution and the Law on Judges created preconditions for the participation of representatives of national minorities in the judiciary. Application of this law is also inconsistent.

6. Operation of the Committee of Inter-Ethnic Relations is still at the very beginning.

Application

1. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities precisely specifies authorisations, however, they are not consistently implemented in practice. There is a collision between provisions of the Law on National Councils and the Law on the Fundamentals of the Educational System, which were adopted on the same day. Namely, point 2 of Article 12 of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities specifies that the Council shall propose members of the school board in the educational institutions of particular importance for a national minority before the local self-government unit, and paragraph 5 of Article 54 of the Law on the Fundamentals of the Educational System envisages that the Council shall propose at least one member of the school board. For this reason, problems arose in the primary school “Koriolan Doban” in Kuštilj (municipality of Vršac), the primary school “Mihail Sadoveanu” in Grebenac (municipality of Bela Crkva) and the primary school “Bratstvo i jedinstvo” Alibunar (municipality of Alibunar). Only after the intervention of the Provincial Ombudsman, the disputes in primary schools in Kuštilj and Grebenac were resolved, whereas we have not received any feedback to our request from Alibunar.

- In 11 other cases the Law was observed and the Council provided its opinion or proposed candidates.

- A candidate from the National Council of the Romanian Minority was elected a member of the National Education Council at the proposal of all other national councils.
- As for the application of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities at the level of AP Vojvodina, i.e. in the work of provincial bodies – it is fully observed.
- The Decree on Establishing the Republic of Serbia Council of National Minorities was adopted in July 2009, and the constitutional meeting of the Council was held in October 2009. Since then, there were no more meetings, which sends a highly negative message about the relation of public authorities towards national councils.
- The situation with the Provincial Council of National Communities is similar.
- The Budget Fund for national minorities envisaged by the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities (from 2001) and by the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (Article 119) still did not start to function.
- The National Council addressed all local self-government units in which the Romanian language is in official use (9 in total) with a request to secure funds in their budgets for the operation of national councils (Article 114). Only the Assembly of the municipality of Žitište allocated funds in its budget, whereas the municipality of Kovačica replied that they do not have funds, however, they will support our activities within their abilities. The remaining 7 municipalities have not provided any reply whatsoever.

2. We welcome establishment of a new public body dealing with the protection against all forms of discrimination. We expect improvement of the legal regulation in this area as soon as possible, particularly in the field of protection against all forms of nationality-based discrimination. Furthermore, the Ombudsman for the Protection of Equality was addressed by several representatives of the Romanian national minority for nationality-based discrimination. The procedures are still in progress.

3. Articles 100 and 180 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia create a legal basis for the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in legislative bodies at all levels.

It was clearly defined that this refers to the representatives of national minorities and not to the representatives of citizens elected at electoral lists of majority or minority parties. Representation requires a guarantee – ensurance of a certain number of MP's term of office. After adoption of the Constitution in 2006, no amendments were made to the elective laws. The latest amendments were made in 2005, when only the census of 5% for political parties of national minorities and coalitions of political parties of national minorities was recalled. This only ensured the possibility to choose but at the same time to abuses the “prefix national minority“. Participation of the political party of the Vlach national minority “NOPO” at this year's elections is a proof of this. The current elective laws favours more numerous national minorities or those living in the more compact territory: Hungarians, Bosniacs, Albanians, which was confirmed with the elections in January 2007 and 2008. The natural election threshold for less numerous national

minorities remains unachievable. On the other hand, the practice has proven that the representatives of national minorities who were elected on the lists of majority political parties do not stand up for the interests of their national minorities. The best example for textbooks is adoption of amendments to the Law on Pupil's or Student's Standard. Amendments proposed by the parliamentary group of national minorities were not approved by the Government, although they had the support of national councils of national minorities, and an MP belonging to the Romanian national minority as well as a member of the ruling coalition spoke out against them. On the day of voting, when the ruling majority agreed to accept the amendments, the above mentioned MP was either not informed about the agreement reached by the ruling coalition or something else was the matter, but he again spoke out against the amendments and then voted in favour of them a few minutes later!

4. Despite the fact that at the end of 2006 the Government of the Republic of Serbia promised to undertake activities related to the implementation of its Conclusion in coordination with the Human Resource Management Service, no actions have been taken so far. There is no Romanian language speaker currently at the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Government.

-At the end of 2008, the Minister of Human and Minority Rights addressed all national councils to jointly nominate one candidate for his assistant in work with national councils, which the national councils did. The proposal of all the national councils remained on paper only and has never been implemented.

5. After election of judges in several basic and higher courts and the Appellate Court, a member of the Romanian national minority was not re-elected in the territories with official use of the Romanian language. Thus, in the Basic Court in Vršac was not re-elected a member of the Romanian national minority, and in Zrenjanin this was not the case in both the Basic Court and the Higher Court, as well as in the Prosecutor's Office. The situation is similar in the Appellate Court in Novi Sad. Two judges who were not re-elected addressed the National Council of the Romanian National Minority asking for support. At its meeting held in March 2010, the Council stated that constitutional and statutory provisions on adequate representation of members of the Romanian minority (Article 77 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and Article 46 of the Law on Judges), and Recommendations No. 235 and No. 243 of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Serbia - the Second Opinion, adopted on 19 March 2009) were not consistently applied in practice. We sent a letter to the Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council. We only received a response from the Minister for Justice that the case was forwarded to the High Judicial Council. Following this, the Constitutional Court returned one judge to perform his duties.

6. Councils for Inter-Ethnic Relations have not taken root yet. There is no uniform practice in their election, scope of work, etc. Except for the Vršac municipality, where the Romanian language is in official use, and which adopted a decision about a member of the Council for Inter-Ethnic Relations to be a representative of the Romanian national minority without consultations with the National Council of the Romanian National Minority, let alone a proposal, all other municipalities and towns complied with the law.

Further activities should be directed to the following:

- Consistent application of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities
- Implementation of the Regulation on the Republic of Serbia Council for National Minorities
- Improving national electoral legislation and envisaging political representation of small national minorities (similar to Romania or Croatia, or possibility of an affirmative action - double voting rights - one for the majority parties and one of one's own national minority)
- Amendment of the Electoral Law of Vojvodina and creating conditions for political representation of members of national minorities as well as for electoral laws of local government units
- Practical application of all the regulations and conclusions of the Government of the Republic of Serbia
- Improvement of the Law on Local Self-Government and specify the method of election of the Council for Inter-Ethnic Relations, its scope of work and powers.

Article 16

The Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present Framework Convention.

Article 17

1 The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.
2 The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.

Article 18

1 The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.

2 Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.

Paragraph 1 of Article 18

Application

The Inter-State Agreement on the Protection of National Minorities concluded between Serbia and Romania, was signed and ratified in 2003. We welcome the fact that finally, after 6 years, the Joint Commission was established. However, the Chairman of the National Council did not participate at the first meeting. Minutes of the Commission meeting held in May 2011 were not adopted until March 2012. Although the National Council participated in work, there was almost no mention of it in the Minutes. There is a need for much more active involvement of the National Council because the problems of cultural autonomy of the Romanian national minority are not adequately treated.

P.S.

All the presidents of the committees (for education, culture, information and official use of language and script and for local self-government) participated in the preparation of the Report, and the Executive Board of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority gave positive evaluation of the Report.

6. Supplement of the National Council of the Croatian National Minority

SECTION I

Article 1

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation.

Normative framework

Application

Recommendations

Article 2

The provisions of this Framework Convention shall be applied in good faith, in a spirit of understanding and tolerance and in conformity with the principles of good neighbourliness, friendly relations and co-operation between States.

Normative framework

Application

Recommendations

Article 3

1 Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.

2 Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present Framework Convention individually as well as in community with others.

Paragraph 1 of Article 3

Normative framework

Application

Paragraph 2 of Article 3

Normative framework

Application

Recommendations

SECTION II

Article 4

1 The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.

2 The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.

3 The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.

Paragraph 1 of Article 4

Normative framework
Application
Recommendations

Paragraph 2 of Article 4

Normative framework
Application

Culture is one of the basic foundations of every national community. Public institutions of the Republic of Serbia (provincial, republic and local government) do not have the same criteria for the allocation of funds to members of the Croatian national community and members of other minority communities as well as to the majority of the population.

- Apart from requiring an opinion from the Croatian National Council about the allocation of funds in the competitions announced by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry has never adopted such an opinion.
- The local self-government in Subotica asked for our opinion on the allocation of funds to associations, which was never adopted. This brings us to a subordinate position in relation to other national communities.
- The provincial administration respects our opinions.
- Inequality between members of the Croatian national community and other minority communities in the allocation of funds is more than obvious and presented in the table.

Recommendations

Respect for the opinions required from us which we are obliged to provide in accordance with the law.

Paragraph 3 of Article 4

Article 5

1 The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

2 Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.

Paragraph 1 of Article 5

Normative framework

Application

Little progress has been made lately in the improvement of the conditions necessary for the preservation of culture and cultural heritage.

- Restoration of count Josip Jelačić's home has commenced.
- The rectory and a memorial room of Bishop Ivan Antunović were reconstructed.

Significant development was made in the improvement of the conditions necessary for the preservation of the language of the Croatian national minority in Vojvodina, such as:

- Official use of the Croatian language in the following places:
 - Town of Subotica - all places
 - Town of Sombor - Bački Monoštor and Bački Brijeg
 - Municipality of Apatin - Sonta
 - Town of Sremska Mitrovica - Stara Bingula
 - Municipality of Šid - Sot and Batrovci

Recommendations

- It is necessary to complete restoration of count Josip Jelačić's home.
- The Institute for Culture of Vojvodina Croats should be assigned with premises.

As before, the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina should ensure funds for the projects assisting the exercising of the right to the official use of a language, which should ensure printing of materials, names of settlements, institutions, public institutions.

Paragraph 2 of Article 5

Article 6

1 The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.

2 The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

Paragraph 1 of Article 6

Normative framework
Application
Recommendations

Paragraph 2 of Article 6

Normative framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Normative framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 8

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations.

Normative framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 9

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.

2 Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.

3 The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.

4 In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.

Paragraph 1 of Article 9

Normative framework

Application

Freedom of expression

The freedom of thought and expression is in the Republic of Serbia guaranteed by paragraph 1 of Article 46 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, which guarantees the freedom of thought and expression, as well as the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through speech, writing, art or in some other manner. In paragraph 2 of the Article, the Constitution prescribes that the freedom of expression may be restricted by law if necessary to protect rights and reputation of others, to uphold the authority and objectivity of the court and to protect public health, morals of a democratic society and national security of the Republic of Serbia.

Paragraph 2 of Article 1 of the Public Information Law envisages that the right to public information shall entail in particular the freedom of expression of thought, the freedom to gather, investigate, publish and disseminate ideas, information and opinions, the freedom to print and distribute (disseminate) newspapers and other public media, the freedom to produce and broadcast radio and television programmes, the freedom to receive ideas, information and opinions, as well as the freedom to establish legal persons dealing with public information.

Receiving and imparting information and ideas in minority languages, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers

Freedom of the media is guaranteed by Article 50 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia which in paragraph 1 stipulates that everyone shall have the freedom to establish newspapers and other forms of public information without prior permission, and in the manner laid down by law, and in paragraph 2 that television and radio stations shall be established in accordance with the law. Paragraph 3 of the same Article of the Constitution prohibits censorship. Competent court may prevent the dissemination of information and through the means of public information only when it is deemed necessary in a democratic society to prevent calls for violent overthrow of the system established by the Constitution or to prevent violation of territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia, to prevent warmongering or incitement to direct violence, or to prevent advocacy of racial, ethnical or religious hatred enticing discrimination, hostility or violence.

Article 11 of the Public Information Law states that media outlets shall be newspapers, radio programmes, television programmes, news agency services, the Internet and other electronic editions of the above media outlets and other means of

public information that use words, images and sound to publish ideas, information and opinions intended for public dissemination and an unspecified number of users.

Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia envisages that members of national minorities have the right to full, timely and impartial information in their own language, including the right to express, receive, impart and exchange information and ideas.

Article 17 of the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities determines that persons belonging to national minorities shall have the right to full and impartial information in their own language, including the right to express, receive, impart and exchange information and ideas through printed media and other means of public information, and that the state shall in radio and television programmes ensure informative, cultural and educational contents in the language of national minorities, and it can also establish separate radio and television stations broadcasting programmes in the languages of national minorities.

Paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Public Information Law envisages that in order to realise the rights of national minorities and ethnic communities to information in their own languages and to nurture their own culture and identities, the Republic, autonomous province or local government shall secure part of the funds or other conditions for the work of media outlets in the languages of national minorities and ethnic communities.

Recommendations

Paragraph 2 of Article 9

Normative Framework

Application

Recommendations

Paragraph 3 of Article 9

Normative Framework

Application

Creation and Use of the Information Media

Freedom of the media is guaranteed by Article 50 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia. According to this provision, everyone shall have the freedom to establish newspapers and other forms of public information without prior permission and in a manner laid down by the law.

According to Article 14 of the Public Information Law, the founder of a legal person that is the founder of a media outlet may be any domestic or foreign legal or natural person, in keeping with the law, but a founder of a media outlet may not be, either directly or indirectly, the state or a territorial autonomy, or an institution, a company, or other legal entity which is prevalently state-owned or which is fully or predominantly funded from public revenues, unless such a possibility is envisaged by a separate broadcasting law. Such a practice enables creation of the public printed media in minority languages.

The Republic, autonomous province or local government shall ensure portion of funds or other conditions necessary for the work of public media in the languages of national minorities in order to exercise the rights of national minorities to information in their own languages and to maintain their own culture and identity.

Information in the languages of national minorities through printed media, irrespective of their ownership status, is supported by the public authority.

The most important printed media in Croatian is informative and political weekly newspaper “Hrvatska riječ”, which has been published in Subotica since 2003. The weekly newspaper was founded by the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, which in 2004 transferred the founding rights of all minority media, and, therefore, also of “Hrvatska riječ”, to the national councils of national minorities, but is still financed from the provincial budget. “Hrvatska riječ” also contains monthly supplements children’s magazine “Hrcko” and a youth magazine “Kužiš”.

Ten years ago the Croats were recognised as a national minority in the Republic of Serbia, but inequality in the exercising of national rights to information, compared to other, numerically similar national minorities in Vojvodina, is still quite visible.

In terms of an analysis of the level of information in the Croatian language in Serbia, this is supported by the data below.

Since March 2010, RTV 2 of the Radio Television of Vojvodina has been broadcasting a ten-minute news programme in Croatian, at 5.45 p.m., from Monday to Saturday.

In addition, there are two half-hour culture shows scheduled on the same TV channel (“Izravno“ and “Svjetionik”) from 4-5p.m., on Sundays, but due to unresolved personnel and status issues, they have not fully taken root yet.

Since March 2012, Novi Sad Radio 3, broadcasting the programme in minority languages, broadcasts a half-hour weekly show in Croatian at 100 MHz and 101.7 MHz, at 9p.m. every Saturday. It can also be listened to online. There is one employee, and for the sake of comparison, Romanian, Ruthenian and Slovak editorial boards broadcast 5 hours of the regular i.e. daily programme. If the night programme is taken into account, this makes the total of 6.25 hours of the programme. There are approximately 15 employees per editorial board. There are 17 employees in the Romanian editorial board, and 12 employees in the Ruthenian. For comparison purposes only, according to the census 2002, there are 56,637 Slovaks in AP Vojvodina or 2.79% of the provincial population, 56,546 Croats or 2.78% of the provincial population, 30,419 Romanians or 1.50% of the provincial population and 15,626 Ruthenians.

Since the end of 1998, Radio Subotica has the Croatian Editorial Board which daily broadcasts in Croatian. Since 2007, the programme has been broadcasted three hours per day. Until 2008, it was broadcasted on a regional frequency, however, the audibility of Radio Subotica was reduced and assigned with the local frequency. The

programme is broadcasted daily, at 104.4 MHz, from 6-9p.m.. The news is also published on a web portal.

Privatisation of the radio stations established by local self-governments, which is currently suspended, will jeopardise the existence of the Croatian Editorial Board.

Since 2001, RTV and several regional television stations in Vojvodina (Super TV, K23 and Yueco TV in Subotica, Television Spektar in Sombor and Srijemska TV in Šid), broadcast weekly or bi-weekly half-hour shows in the Croatian language (“Prizma”, “TV Divani”, “Kronika”, “TV Hrvatska riječ”), produced by independent associations from Subotica (“Klub 21”, “Z video”, “Cro media”), and recently the Newspaper Publishing Company “Hrvatska riječ”.

Since 2005, Radio Bačka in Bač has been broadcasting at first a one-hour show in Croatian once a week, and since May 2011, a two-hour show “Zvuci bačke ravnice”, prepared by the members of the Croatian Cultural Artistic and Educational Society “Dukat” from Vajska. The programme is broadcasted at 99.1 MHz, from 6-8p.m., on Thursdays.

In 2009, Radio Sombor commenced with the broadcasting of a weekly one-hour show “Glas Hrvata” at 97.5 MHz, from 5-6p.m. every Sunday. The show is currently being broadcasted in the duration of one hour and a half, which is expected to be prolonged to two hours, from 5-7p.m. The show was first produced by the Newspaper Publishing Company “Hrvatska riječ”, but since 2009 it has been produced by the Croatian Cultural Society “Vladimir Nazor” from Stanišić.

In terms of printed media, there is a quarterly newspaper dedicated to culture “Miroљub” issued by the Croatian Cultural Society “Vladimir Nazor” from Sombor since 1998. Also, the Croatian Cultural and Educational Society “Matija Gubec” has been publishing the yearbook “Gupčeva lipa” since 1999. The Association “Pučka Kasina 1878” from Subotica has been publishing its monthly paper “Glasnik Pučke Kasine” since 2003.

In Subotica, the literary magazine “Klasje naših ravni” was at first published by Croatian Matica Subotica since 1995, however, since 2006, it was co-published in cooperation with the Newspaper Publishing Company “Hrvatska riječ”.

The Catholic monthly magazine in Croatian “Zvonik” has also been published since 1994. The newspaper of the Democratic League of Croats in Vojvodina “Glas ravnice” has been published intermittently since 1990, and since 2009, it occasionally has a supplement of DSHV Youth “Hrvatski Majur”.

The Catholic Calendar “Subotička Danica” has been published in Subotica intermittently since 1883 (1883-1914, 1919-1941, 1946-1947, 1971-1972), and since 1984 until present, continually.

In addition, the Radio Television of Serbia (RTS) also broadcasts the serial show “Gradjanin” which is devoted to the life of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia. This show consists of reports made on different location in Serbia inhabited by minorities. RTS news division and bureaus participate in their realisation. The show is in Serbian and in minority languages translated into Serbian. It is broadcasted on RTS 2 on Saturdays, in early afternoon, but not always at the same time.

The Framework Convention, whose Parties undertake to protect the minority ethnic communities in the field of information in the Croatian language, is adhered to only in legal terms, however, the situation in practice is different.

Recommendations

Paragraph 4 of Article 9

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 10

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

3 The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

Paragraph 1 of Article 10

Normative Framework

Application

1. In places where Croatian is in official use, persons belonging to the Croatian national minority may use their language orally.
2. Not all public companies and local self-governments have all forms translated into Croatian.

Recommendations

The Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, or town or municipal budget, should ensure funds for computer-assisted translation software or hire part-time translators to translate forms, documents and statements especially in towns and municipalities where the Croatian language is in official use.

Paragraph 2 of Article 10

Normative Framework

Application

1. The town of Subotica has all forms, questionnaires and statements issued in the Croatian language as well.
2. In respect of educational institutions, all the documents of persons belonging to the Croatian minority who attend classes in their native language are translated into Croatian.

Recommendations

1. Respect the rules regulating official use of the language and support and assist local self-governments in enabling communication in the mother tongue.
2. At least once a year local self-governments should be interviewed about the fulfilment of the conditions that are binding in the process of respecting the decision on the official use of the Croatian language.

Paragraph 3 of Article 10

Normative Framework

Application

1. Litigations and school disciplinary proceedings can be conducted in Croatian at the request of the parties involved.

Recommendations

Continue with the current practice of keeping the involved parties informed about the possibility to conduct litigations and proceedings in Croatian in places where the language is in official use.

Article 11

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

2 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.

3 In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.

Paragraph 1 of Article 11

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Paragraph 2 of Article 11

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Paragraph 3 of Article 11

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 12

1 The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.

2 In this context the Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.

3 The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.

Paragraph 1 of Article 12

Normative Framework

Application

Students of the primary and secondary schools in the territory of the municipality of Subotica have had an opportunity to attend classes in their mother tongue, i.e. Croatian, for a decade now. Classes are held in five primary schools and two secondary schools. In addition to regular classes, students are in a position to choose the optional subject *Croatian language with elements of the national culture* in Sonta, Bački Monoštor, Vajska, Plavno and Sremska Mitrovica.

Recommendations

Paragraph 2 of Article 12

Normative Framework

Application

Although classes in Croatian have been held for a decade already, students still use textbooks imported from the Republic of Croatia. The Croatian National Council attempted to contact the National Education Council on this issue but received no reply to e-mails and phone calls.

In terms of teachers' training, the Croatian National Council initiated opening of the Department for the Croatian Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. A letter was sent to the Minister of Education and Science, who forwarded it to the Faculty, however, no reply has been received from their side.

Recommendations

Paragraph 3 of Article 12

Normative Framework

Application

Recommendations

Article 13

1 Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognise that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.

2 The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.

Paragraph 1 of Article 13

**Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations**

Paragraph 2 of Article 13

**Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations**

Article 14

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.

2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.

3 Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.

Paragraph 1 of Article 14

**Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations**

Paragraph 2 of Article 14

Normative Framework

Application

In the school year 2011-12, classes in the Croatian language were attended by 308 primary school students and 119 secondary school students. In the territory of the whole Vojvodina, 418 primary school students and 25 secondary school students study the optional subject *Croatian language with elements of the national culture*.

Recommendations

Introduce the optional subject *Croatian language with elements of the national culture* in the schools in which the subject is not taught, and after this, introduce all classes in the Croatian language where an opportunity arises.

Paragraph 3 of Article 14

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 16

The Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention.

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 17

1 The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.
2 The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations both at the national and international levels.

Paragraph 1 of Article 17

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Paragraph 2 of Article 17

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 18

1 The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.

2 Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.

Paragraph 1 of Article 18

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Paragraph 2 of Article 18

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

Article 19

The Parties undertake to respect and implement the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention making, where necessary, only those limitations, restrictions or derogations which are provided for in international legal instruments, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in so far as they are relevant to the rights and freedoms flowing from the said principles.

Normative Framework
Application
Recommendations

7. Supplement of the National Council of the Czech National Minority

The Czech national minority in the Republic of Serbia is one of the communities with a smaller number of members (2,211 according to the census 2002). Organised in several associations with the aim to preserve the identity and foster tradition and culture, the Czechs have persevered through a long period of crises and inevitable assimilation as loyal citizens who live in harmony with the majority nation and with other national minorities in its surroundings.

Opinions of the Czech community about the respect for minority rights are expressed in the previous periodic reports, and they were mostly positive. From the beginning of the application of the Framework Convention, significant results have been achieved in the field of protection and improvement of the status of national minorities, and for the Czech minority itself the most important step is adoption of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities. The Law allows the minorities with a smaller number of members to establish their own national councils, and the Czech minority made use of this right and they register in the special register of voters and participate in elections.

The National Council of the Czech National Minority was established on 4 July 2010.

A number of preparatory activities preceded the establishment of the Council in 2009 and 2010, including a campaign for the registration of voters in special registers of voters, creation of a unified electoral list, voters' support to the list, submission and announcement, and finally participation in the elections of national councils.

The list "Česi zajedno" was the only 100% successful list in the elections, since all other councils had two or more lists.

Since its establishment, the National Council of the Czech National Minority has in its work been focused on the work of the committees in the fields of education, culture, information and official use of language and script in which the Council has legal powers, on the adoption of appropriate documents in accordance with the Law on National Councils of National Minorities - rules and regulations of the Council, on the work of the Executive Board and sectoral committees and their work plans.

Certain activities in 2010 were carried out for the purposes of ensuring business premises and its furnishing and equipment. Cooperation with the local self-government, which allocated the premises to the Council, was already established at that time, and the National Council of the Czech National Minority is the only one having the seat in the building of the local self-government. In addition, contributions of municipal administration authorities also cover heating and electricity costs, which makes significant savings in the modest budget of the Council. Since the establishment of the Council until present, cooperation with the local self-government Bela Crkva, where the seat of the Council is located, can be evaluated as very good.

The work of the National Council of the Czech National Minority is a synthesis of work of sectoral committees in the fields of education, culture, information and official use of language and script, in which the Council has legal powers. The work plans of sectoral committees are guidelines according to which each of the committees develops its annual plan with the schedule of activities and financial structure. The schedule of activities of sectoral committees depend on statutory deadlines when applying or addressing the institutions in the sectors they manage.

The process of realisation and operating results achieved in the sectors are part of regular reports submitted to the Council which are used as a basis for the evaluation of the

overall performance of the Council, for providing guidelines for further work, and for adopting appropriate decisions of the Council related to specific committees, their programmes and their financial plan.

The National Council of the Czech National Minority commenced its activities with the implementation of previously adopted work plans of the Council and sectoral committees, as well as of the calendar of events, on the basis of the adopted Strategy for the Work of the Council in the first term in the period 2010-2014. Compared to 2010, when the Council was established, and when necessary documents were adopted and harmonised, the further term of the Council and its bodies was more meaningful in terms of the organisation of work and learning about the ways of operation of national councils, in terms of cooperation with ministries, secretariats and local self-governments, as well as in terms of reporting to competent institutions.

The National Council of the Czech National Minority faced the problem of reduced contributions from the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government, as well as from the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities, which, to a certain degree, changed defined action plans, but they were not abandoned.

Since its establishment, the National Council of Czech National Minorities is of an opinion that that the Council cannot be an end in itself, but that it has to contribute to the improvement of the work of organisations promoting Czech culture and tradition, to increase the quality of existing events and to initiate and support new events which will with its mass attendance, creativity and originality bring the Czech national minority closer to all the citizens of Serbia. At the same time, it should stimulate members of the Czech community to participate in them and to raise awareness about their identity.

Being aware of the importance of its role in preserving the identity of a national minority, the National Council of the Czech National Minority started implementing its work plans, maximally including its members, as well as several associations and individuals. This work resulted exceeded set objectives, establishment of new events, better information, building capacities of Czech associations and re-introduction of education in the Czech language in regular primary school classes, which the Council considers to be its greatest achievement. Since the plan of the Council is to introduce classes in the Czech language to other schools as well, and to enable continuous studies of the Czech language in the following years, the National Council financed development of curricula for all the grades in primary education. In terms of this plan, we had very good cooperation with provincial authorities in charge of education, from our initial steps to the realisation of classes.

Also, owing to the funds available to the Council, it supported studies of the Czech language in higher education institutions, and in 2011, complying with legal procedures in this field, the Council awarded scholarships to two Czech language students through a competition for the purposes of creating trained staff who is expected to use its knowledge and efforts to represent interests of the Czech minority community and to work on community's promotion. In 2012, scholarships were awarded to four music school students.

The work of the Council is marked by the activities envisaged in the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, which relate to the overtaking of the founding rights and to the establishing of institutions. With the approval of the local self-government and

Czech associations, the founding rights were overtaken and significant investments were made in the revitalisation of the Ethnographic Museum in Česko Selo and the Czech Library in Bela Crkva. These capital investments were also funded by the Government of the Czech Republic.

Important dates were also celebrated, according to financial possibilities, and the greatest success in terms of events relevant at the republic level, is participation in the Museum Nights in 2011. In addition to this significant event, the Culture Committee has, as a sectoral committee with the widest range of tasks, accomplished all planned activities and initiated new ones.

Significant progress has been made in the field of providing information to the Czech minority. The Czech minority in the Republic of Serbia obtained its long-awaited printed newsletter called “Beseda Češka”, a bilingual newspaper with good-quality articles about current events related to the Czech minority and operation of the Council. The website of the National Council of the Czech National Minority www.savetceha.rs was set up, where one can find information about the activities of the Council and events important for the Czech minority, important documents as well as links to other content which, thus, became easily accessible. The website represents an important means of information through modern technologies. Radio shows on a local radio are regularly broadcasted, and in December 2011, series of monthly half-hour TV shows started on the regional Television Banat, which is entirely financed with the funds of the National Council. The National Council established very good cooperation with several printed media.

Provision of regular information via electronic media (radio) is not possible, although the Law on National Councils predicts a possibility of establishing one’s own media, because this violates provisions of the Broadcasting Law, however, this problem has been repeatedly emphasised at the meetings of media experts. To be more specific in terms of the Czech national minority, due to a specific concentration in the territory of the municipality of Bela Crkva, the possibility of establishing and managing its own media would have great significance for this national minority.

On several occasions, the National Council was requested to provide an opinion for the funds awarded on competitions and for the names of new streets in Bela Crkva where the Czech language has been in official use by the acquired right, although the number of its members does not exceed the legal threshold.

Representatives of the Council attended a number of work and formal meetings upon invitation of the institutions competent in the field of human and minority rights and of other institutions relevant for the National Council where they made important contacts. Also, representatives of provincial and national authorities as well as of other institutions paid business visits to the premises of the Council on several occasions.

During its first term, the Council has so far succeeded in its intention to present itself to the public as a capable and stable organisation with good human resources and a capacity to achieve objectives set in all the fields of its legal competence, and as such it has been accepted by the Czech minority in the Republic of Serbia.

Based on the Law on National Councils, the National Council of the Czech National Minority declared:

- Institutions of special significance for the Czech national minority,
- Holidays of the Czech national minority in Serbia,

- symbols of the National Council of the Czech National Minority: a flag and a coat of arms.

We believe that a significant progress has been achieved since the previous Report in terms of respect for and promotion of the rights of national minorities, and we place a special emphasis on the increased possibility of learning the mother tongue, and on increased participation in the decision-making process, which was positively highlighted in the conclusions of the Resolution on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 2011.

We also agree with remarks related to the optional status of subjects and to the need to clarify the legal framework for the involvement of national minorities at the municipal level through the Council of Inter-Ethnic Relations.

We believe that the recommendations provided in the Resolution are still valid and we would particularly like to point out the recommendation for the consolidation of the legal framework of minority media with conditions to their establishment and use.

We object to the work of the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Serbia, which has not held a meeting since the beginning of its term, although such requests were submitted by several national councils.

In general, we consider the period between the two Reports to be positive, bearing in mind previous involvement of the Republic of Serbia in the protection of national minorities and generally harsh conditions which the country is in.