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**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**



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**Pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework
Convention for the Protection of National Minorities -
received on 10 July 2019**

CZECH REPUBLIC

**Fifth periodic report on the implementation of the principles laid down in
the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
under Article 25(2) of the Convention**

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List of abbreviations

Committee: Committees for national minorities
 Council Office: Office of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs and the Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities
 CSI: Czech Schools Inspectorate
 FEP PE: Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education
 MLSA: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 MM - Moravian Museum
 NM - National Museum
 SEP: Schools educational programmes
 SM - Silesian Museum
 The Minorities Act: Act No 273/2001, on the Rights of Members of National Minorities and on a change to certain laws, as amended
 The Act on the Region: Act No 129/2000., on the Regions (regional establishment), as amended

The Education Act: Act No 561/2004, on Pre-school, Elementary, Secondary, Higher Vocational and Other Education
 The Municipalities Act: Act No 128/2000, on Municipalities (Municipal Establishment), as amended
 The Churches and Religious Societies Act: The Act No 3/2002, on Freedom of Religion and the Status of Churches and Religious Societies and a change to certain laws
 The Library Act: Act No 257/2001, on libraries and conditions for the operation of public library and information services
 The Print Act: Act No 46/2000, on rights and obligations for the publishing of periodicals
 The Report: Fifth Periodic Report on Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Introduction

The Czech Republic submits the Fifth Periodic Report (the “Report”) on Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (the “Convention”) pursuant to Article 25(2) of this Convention. The report follows the outline approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and covers the period from 2014 to 2018. Part I describes the measures taken to raise awareness of the results of the fourth monitoring cycle and the

Convention. Part II describes the measures taken to address the main recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.¹ Part III sets out further measures taken to improve the implementation of individual articles of the Convention.

¹ Resolution CM/ResCMN(2017)8 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Czech Republic (*Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 29 November 2017 at the 1301st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies*). The report follows the Czech Republic's Commentary on the Fourth Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities regarding the fulfilment of obligations under this Convention. See Government Resolution No. 519 of 8 June 2016 http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnm/aktuality/03_Komentar_ctvrte_stanovisko_ramcovka_vlada_web.pdf

PART I. - Summary of measures to raise awareness of the Convention for 2014-2018

The Fourth Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the Convention was discussed by the Government Council for National Minorities (hereinafter the “Council”) and subsequently by the Government of the Czech Republic at its meeting on 2 April 2014 (Resolution No. 204). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs then presented the Report to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

From 13 to 17 April 2015, the Advisory Committee on the Convention visited the Czech Republic. This included a visit to the South Moravian Region, where a meeting took place with representatives of local and regional government, local staff of the Agency for Social Inclusion, of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, staff of the Ombudsman’s Office and representatives of certain minorities. In Prague, the delegation then met with other representatives of national minorities, members of the Committee for National Minorities of the City of Prague, staff of the state administration at the central level and public media staff, including the Czech Television Council. The Advisory Committee expressed particular appreciation for the support of Czech Television and Czech Radio for its topical programmes on national minorities. The meeting also discussed the list of questions sent by the Advisory Committee immediately prior to the visit. The Advisory Committee considered the inclusion of representatives of the Belarusian and Vietnamese minorities on the Council as the most important success. It also expressed its appreciation for the activities of the Government of the Czech Republic towards the Croatian minority and the Croatian language, especially its financial support for the construction of the Museum of Moravian Croats in Jevišovka.

The Czech Government’s Commentary on the Fourth Opinion of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee on the Convention on the fulfilment of obligations under the Convention was submitted in 2016.²

Summary annual, monitoring and evaluation reports on the situation of national minorities in the Czech Republic have been regularly discussed by the Czech Government since 2001 and published. The Report of the Government, including the adopted resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic, is published in the Bulletin of the Government of the Czech Republic for Regional and Municipal Authorities. In printed form, these Reports are also distributed annually to public authorities, public libraries, non-governmental non-profit organizations, and to those interested in both the professional and lay public.

All documents on the monitoring cycles of the Convention are also published on the website of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.³ The key documents are published in Czech and English. Act No 273/2001, on the Rights of Members of National Minorities and on a change to certain laws, as amended, (the “Minorities Act”), is also published in the languages of all national minorities represented on the Council. To strengthen awareness of national minority policy among the wider public, the Council has also made use since 1998 of its web page on the Office of the Czech Government’s website (www.vlada.cz).⁴

Just as it is for the Convention, a monitoring process to comply with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is also standard. All documents approved by the Czech Government in this matter are discussed in advance by the Council.

² See footnote 1.

³<http://www.vlada.cz/cz/pracovni-a-poradni-organy-vlady/rnm/dokumenty/mezinarodni-dokumenty/ramcova-umluva-o-ochrane-narodnostnich-mensin-6912/>

⁴ <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/pracovni-a-poradni-organy-vlady/rnm/historie-a-soucasnost-rady-15074/>

PART II- Measures taken to meet the main recommendations⁵

II.1. An open and inclusive approach to the personal scope of the Convention and collection of data on members of national minorities

Continue to pursue an open and inclusive approach to the personal scope of the Convention and ensure that there is no arbitrary difference in the use of the rights protected by the Convention; regularly review the impact of the application of the citizenship criterion on access to minority rights in order to ensure that it does not result in the exclusion of people from the scope of this Convention in an unjustified and arbitrary, i.e. discriminatory, manner.

Consider further ways of collecting information on the situation of national minorities outside the census, while fully respecting international standards on personal data protection.

The Czech Republic continually strives for an open and inclusive approach to the personal scope of the Convention. There are 14 national minorities in the Council, specifically, representatives of the Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Rusyn, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese national minorities.

Further, according to the Minorities Act, only a citizen of the Czech Republic who claims allegiance to a national minority is considered to be a member of that national minority. In practice, however, support, particularly for culture and the preservation of the language and traditions of national minorities, is targeted at entire minority communities, i.e. also at members of the national community who are not Czech citizens. Support for media and national minority broadcasting is also provided in the same scope.

In addition to its inclusive approach to the application of the Convention, the Czech Republic also strives for good coexistence with foreigners living in the Czech Republic and their successful integration into Czech society. With this aim in mind, it develops and implements long-term concepts for the integration of foreigners.⁶ Integration measures should also make it easier for foreigners with permanent residence in the Czech Republic to gain access to Czech citizenship and thus to be considered a member of a national minority. The new Act No 186/2013, on Citizenship of the Czech Republic and on a change to certain laws (Act on Citizenship of the Czech Republic), which came into force on 1 January 2014, allows foreigners to acquire Czech citizenship without losing their original citizenship (i.e. permits dual and multiple citizenship).

The Czech Republic also continues to be intensively engaged in the collection of information outside the census on the situation of national minorities. In 2018, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (“MLSA”) commissioned the Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs to elaborate appropriate approaches to collecting ethnically sensitive data in the Czech Republic. The working version of the first output of this activity, i.e. a basic review of the issue and ways it is addressed within selected EU countries, was handed over to the MLSA in December 2018. The material will be finalised during 2019 and its outputs will be followed up with a more extensive analysis carried out in cooperation with the Office of the Czech Government. Part II.3.6. gives a set of data concerning Roma elementary school pupils.

⁵ The recommendations identified by the Committee of Ministers as issues that need to be addressed immediately are highlighted.

⁶ <https://www.mvcr.cz/migrace/clanek/zakladni-dokumenty-k-integracni-politice-ke-stazeni.aspx>

II.2. Promoting tolerance and respect, improving the living conditions of Roma and combating racism, xenophobia and hate speech

Promote tolerance and respectful attitudes within the majority population; develop sustained and effective efforts to prevent, combat and punish inequalities and discrimination against Roma; to improve the living conditions of Roma, in particular by creating conditions that would allow the transfer of 'hostel' residents to adequate social housing.

Strengthen efforts to combat intolerance, racism, xenophobia and hate speech in Czech society and monitor the situation more effectively, investigate and, where necessary, apply appropriate sanctions.

Concentrate all necessary efforts and means to implement the Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion for 2011-2015 and the National Roma Integration Strategy 2014-2020 with the close involvement of Roma representatives in all projects and activities.

This section outlines the key actions related to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers. Information on other measures is contained in Part III, in the commentary on Articles 6 and 15.

II.2.1. Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs

The Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs is an important body for Roma integration, which by its work contributes significantly towards satisfying the above mentioned recommendations. It is a permanent advisory and initiatives body for the Czech Government in the area of Roma integration. It gathers, discusses and submits to the Czech Government information, documents and proposals for the creation and implementation of Czech Government policy concerning Roma. The Council consists equally of members of the Czech Government or their representatives and other public administration representatives and representatives of civil society - Roma.

Professional support to the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs is provided by the Office of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs and the Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities (the "Council Office"), which is part of the Human Rights Section of the Office of the Czech Government. The Council Office is a specialist workplace for questions of Roma integration and for cooperation with representatives of civil society. The Council Office is the author and principal implementer of the Roma Integration Strategy up to 2020. It continuously monitors the implementation of the latter and reports on it to the Czech Government, the European Commission and the general public. For this purpose, it prepares annually a Report on the Status of the Roma Minority, which it submits to the Czech Government.⁷

It also actively engages civil society in the debate on the implementation of the Strategy, and its revision, through its committees, working groups, meetings and workshops.

The Council Office also acts as the National Contact Point for Roma Integration. During the period under review, the Council Office implemented three projects co-financed by the EU budget entitled "Final meeting of the project Activation and Empowerment of Roma actors through the National Roma Platform (I-III)". The main objective of the projects was to systematically involve Roma representatives from the local and regional levels in the integration

⁷ e.g. <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/zalezitosti-romske-komunity/dokumenty/zprava-o-stavu-romske-mensiny-za-rok-2017-168061/>

of Roma in the Czech Republic and in the implementation of the Roma Integration Strategy up to 2020. Within the project, courses were organized for Roma to improve their negotiating and community skills, as well as workshops and meetings in the regions, involving hundreds of Roma who also provided feedback on Roma integration policy. In addition, some of them remained actively involved in other Council Office activities.

The Council Office also administers grant programmes to support Roma integration, specifically the programme entitled Support for Roma Affairs Coordinators, Fieldwork Support, and the Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work Programme.

The primary objective of the grant programme for the Support of Roma Affairs Coordinators is to secure the position of the Roma coordinator, including his/her needs at the regional level, in line with the provisions of Section 67(1)(f) of Act No 129/2000., on the Regions (regional establishment), as amended, (the “Act on the Regions”). The secondary objective is to ensure the stability of the institutional network through which the state communicates and promotes central integration policy at the regional level and which contributes significantly to the coherent and coordinated creation and implementation of Roma integration policies in the Czech Republic. As a rule, regional coordinators organise training sessions and conferences, engage in the creation of strategic documents, participate in platforms and consultations with partners when addressing Roma issues in a region. At the same time, regional coordinators carry out inspections of municipalities with extended powers in connection with the exercise of their delegated powers (in connection with fulfilment of tasks resulting from the provisions of Section 6(8) of the Minorities Act).

The purpose of the Fieldwork Support Programme is to secure the position and activities of the field worker. The focus of field work is working directly with the target group in its natural environment. This way of working makes it possible to contact people who, for various reasons, do not seek institutional assistance or reject it from the outset. Field workers work with a total of around 8,000 people a year. For example in 2018, field workers succeeded in achieving the following results:

- Placing 182 children in nursery schools,
- Placing 50 children in preparatory class,
- Placing 145 children without difficulty in regular elementary schools,
- Providing coaching and preparation for school for 206 children,
- Arranging preparation for entry to secondary school for 71 pupils and for entry to university for 6 people
- Dealing with commercial loans, housing and execution debts for 460 people,
- Finding appropriate housing for 534 people,
- Finding suitable employment for 393 people (including support in finding suitable jobs, writing CVs, accompanying them to the employer, etc.).

In the field of employment, field workers also dealt with about 52 cases of alleged discrimination⁸ in the labour market and 458 cases of alleged discrimination in the housing market, when Roma face insufficient availability of vacant flats, high (refundable) deposits and excessive rents, or the unwillingness of landlords to rent flats to Roma families.

The grant programme entitled Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work is of a preventive nature and is intended for non-governmental non-profit organizations to implement non-investment projects supporting members of the Roma minority and inhabitants of socially excluded localities. The programme focuses on supporting and helping Roma to prevent social exclusion and deal with its consequences. As a rule, projects focus both on the acquisition of specific skills and on one-off events, most often aimed at modification of living space, celebrating

⁸ This is subjectively perceived discrimination, not cases where discrimination is confirmed by an independent body.

holidays, establishing new ties with the surroundings and with the management of the town or municipality, activities leading to awareness of their own culture, improving relations between the majority and the minority communities, improving neighbourhood relations, etc.

II.2.2. Social Inclusion Agency

The integration of residents from socially excluded localities, of which many are Roma, is supported by the Social Inclusion Agency. The Social Inclusion Agency is also part of the Human Rights Section of the Office of the Czech Government. Since 2010, it has been implementing its activities through individual projects funded by ESI Funds.

With its activities, the Social Inclusion Agency supports municipalities in integrating socially excluded persons into society and tries to prevent the emergence of new socially excluded localities. As at 31 December 2018, the Social Inclusion Agency was working at 61 locations, which are represented by approximately 114 municipalities.⁹

The basis of Social Inclusion Agency activities is the interconnection and coordination of local players in order to promote the integration of the inhabitants of socially excluded localities. At the same time, the Social Inclusion Agency provides its partner municipalities with methodological support in developing and implementing local social inclusion strategies and provides them with project advice.

On 17 February 2016 (Resolution No 134), the Government approved its Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion for 2016-2020. The Strategy was followed by an Action Plan approved in November 2016 (Government Resolution No 1067). The Action Plan is divided into eight sections: *security, housing, debt, education, family support, social services and social work, employment and health*. The action plan is fulfilled mainly through the Social Inclusion Agency's own activities.

Since 2014, the Social Inclusion Agency has also been implementing the *Campaign Against Racism and Hate Violence*, which aims at spreading tolerance and combating discrimination, stereotypes and hate speech. The project is thus responding to an increase in negative attitudes towards population groups because of their ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, subculture, disability or other differences. Since 2015, the project has also focused on the European migration crisis. The project brings forward and shares information and, through its communication channels, also provides space for the stories of the victims of hate violence (but also of the perpetrators). The aim of the project is also to refute false information and hate prejudice against various groups of people. On the project website¹⁰ manuals are also available for people who are either victims of hate violence or have become a witness to it. The project has a nationwide impact, also thanks to so-called HateFree Zones. Places marked as HateFree are intended to let their visitors know that there is no need to fear any hate attacks in their environment either from employees or from guests. They declare that everyone is welcome, regardless of ethnic, religious, sexual, subcultural or other social group affiliation. A map of all locations designated HateFree is available on the project website.¹¹

II.2.3. Ministry of the Interior

From the Ministry of the Interior's point of view, the fight against intolerance, racism and xenophobia is an absolute priority. The Ministry of the Interior does not associate this issue only with manifestations of extremism, but it also takes into account in general all manifestations of hate prejudice. The Ministry's strategic documents emphasise the need to protect the potential

⁹ The project has been in implementation since 1 January 2016 with a duration until 30 April 2022. The total project budget is CZK 298 998 000.

¹⁰ <https://www.hatefree.cz/>

¹¹ <https://www.hatefree.cz/hatefree-cesko>

victims of hate speech. The Ministry of the Interior, together with other state authorities and the civilian sector, is involved in new training sessions for police officers, for both uniformed and non-uniformed police (see Article 6). New methodological materials have been prepared. Combating hate content on the Internet has also become a priority. Several people have recently been successfully prosecuted for publishing hate content against minorities in virtual space. Cooperation with commercial entities is also being deepened. Work is under way to improve the monitoring of hate crime. Certain relevant police forms have been updated. In addition, changes are being prepared that will enable the unification of statistics across all law enforcement bodies. A prerequisite is the creation of a new agenda information system through which it will be possible to monitor the course of a case during criminal proceedings, from notification of the accusation to any possible judgement.

II.2.4. Social housing

A bill on social housing and housing allowance, approved by the Czech government in March 2017, was not approved by the Chamber of Deputies. Subsequently, the Ministry for Regional Development drew up a draft Czech government decree, which should enable municipalities to finance the construction, purchase and reconstruction of social housing. Regulation No 112/2019, on the Terms of Use of the State Housing Development Fund for the Acquisition of Social and Accessible Apartments and Social, Mixed and Accessible Houses, came into effect on 30 April 2019. The effectiveness of this measure will therefore be evaluated in a later report.

As part of a system solution to social housing, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is the ministry responsible in respect of social policy, social work (work with people in need, housing loss prevention, etc.), social services (dormitories, shelters, half-way houses, etc.) and social housing benefits (i.e. housing allowance and housing supplement). The role of these social agendas in the social housing system is not merely supportive, it is absolutely crucial to its functioning.

Social work and social services are an essential part of the social housing system, especially for those in need of housing, who are dealing with multiple social and economic problems.

In 2016, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs began to implement the project entitled *Social Housing - methodological and information support in the area of social agendas* (abbreviated as Support for Social Housing), which aims to transfer best practice in the field of social housing from abroad to domestic conditions; to implement the analyses which are essential for introducing a system of social housing and in cooperation with sixteen Czech municipalities to prepare and verify on a pilot basis methodologies for social work with social housing clients, to disseminate information on social housing and related topics, and to provide training for those social workers who will be dealing with social housing. In October 2017, the contact centre for this project was opened, to which municipalities, citizens, the general public and professionals can address their questions on social housing. In November 2018, an international conference on the transfer of best practice in social housing was held, which was attended by experts from the Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, Austria and Scotland, as well as by those from the Czech Republic.

In addition to these activities, a round table was held in September 2018 to address socially excluded localities, housing and inclusion issues. At this round table, 15 suggestions to address the issue were presented. Currently, intensive discussions are under way with other ministries and partners on which suggestions are justified and could be elaborated into legislation.

II.3. Reform of the educational system in respect of Roma children

Ensure rapid and full implementation of the 2015-2016 reform of the education system to ensure the systematic introduction of Roma pupils into "mainstream" education and prevent inappropriate placement of children in "practical schools"; intensify efforts to address the shortcomings faced by Roma children in education, including the free provision of individual support measures for pupils with special needs; to ensure that fully informed consent is obtained as a condition for placement in "special education".

Ensure access to pre-school facilities for all Roma children and guarantee that the curricula of these schools match the different needs and multi-lingual composition of the groups concerned.

In this area, the Czech Republic has undertaken a number of key measures in the period, which are described in detail below.

II.3.1. Pre-school education and preparatory classes

Amendment to the Education Act No 178/2016, amending Act No 561/2004, on Pre-school, Elementary, Secondary, Higher Vocational and Other Education (the Education Act), as amended, and Act No 200/1990, on Offences, as amended, introduced compulsory pre-school education for children who reach the age of five before the start of the school year until the start of compulsory schooling at elementary school, with effect from the school year 2017/2018. At the same time, it set an obligation for nursery schools to preferentially accept children who have reached at least the age of four before the start of the school year, provided they have their place of residence in the relevant school district (i.e. for catchment area nursery schools).¹² Registrations for pre-school education were made according to these rules from May 2017. Under this obligation the rule of the final year of nursery school being free was retained. The aim of the amendment to the Education Act is to ensure that all children resident in the Czech Republic make a successful start to their elementary education. At the same time, this amendment is related to other sub-measures, such as increasing total capacity for pre-school education, monitoring and intervention for children who are not in nursery schools, improving cooperation with parents, enforcing parental responsibilities and improving financial support for schools and children's needs. Moreover, when preparing the amendment to the Education Act, the Ministry of Education cooperated closely with non-profit organisations that support families of children of national minorities and provided information on the start of compulsory pre-school education.

The Ministry of Education is currently monitoring the fulfilment of this obligation and is conducting an analysis of the newly introduced system of pre-school education. For the time being, only the Czech Schools Inspectorate ("CSI") has carried out a study of the impact of compulsory pre-school education on the organisational and personnel provision and educational activities of nursery schools for the first half of the 2017/2018 school year, with the following finding: *"it has not been possible to involve in pre-school education all those children for whom it was mandatory during the last school year (about 3% of children in the population). Often, these are precisely the children who would benefit most from pre-school education because they come from a socially and economically disadvantaged environment that fails to respond adequately to their educational needs."*¹³

¹² In the case of foreigners their residential address, or children who are placed in a children's home within this district.

¹³ Source: <https://www.csicr.cz/getattachment/494adcd7-2e4b-40a7-b564-383d964ce14d/TZ-Dopady-povinneho-predskolniho-vzdelavani.pdf>

From 1 September 2015, the amendment to the Education Act also introduced the possibility of education in preparatory classes. Elementary school preparatory classes are set up for children in the last year before starting compulsory schooling, for which there is an assumption that inclusion in the preparatory class will even up their development. At the same time, since the 2017/2018 school year permission to defer compulsory school attendance is a condition for inclusion in the preparatory class. The education of children in preparatory classes has therefore in practice ceased to be an alternative to pre-school education for five-year-olds.

II.3.2. Inclusive education

With effect from 1 September 2016, the amendment to the Education Act also introduces a new concept of support for children, pupils and students with special educational needs. The aim of assessing a pupil in a school counselling facility is thus to establish special educational needs and to set up support measures to support the pupil's education and its integration into the mainstream class. Thus, as pupils with special educational needs are considered those who - in order to fulfil their educational opportunities or to exercise or use their rights on an equal basis with others - need support measures to be provided, by which is meant necessary adjustments in education and school services corresponding to the health, cultural environment or other living conditions of the pupil. Pupils with special educational needs have the right to receive free support measures from a school and from school facilities.

Support in the form of support measures are intended for those pupils who fail in school because of their inadequate skills, have minor and temporary educational difficulties, gifted pupils and disabled pupils. There are also rules for supporting pupils from different cultural backgrounds and living conditions (foreigners, minorities, socially disadvantaged pupils). A school helps pupils either by setting up and implementing a teaching support plan (1st level of support measures) or, where there is a concurrence of other needs of pupils, a wider range of support measures (2nd to 5th level of support measures) that will be provided on the basis of a recommendation by the school counselling facility.

Support measures are adjustments in the pupil's education in:

- methods and forms of teaching, pupil assessment, organisation of teaching,
- teaching content, for example by including the teaching of Czech as a foreign language,
- personal support of the teacher when teaching pupils needing support measures, both by a teacher's assistant and by another teacher or specialist teacher
- support for a school with more pupils needing support measures with a school psychologist or an educational special teacher,
- methodological support for school counselling facilities,
- education of hearing-impaired pupils with the possibility of using Czech sign language interpreters or transcribers,
- use of special textbooks, aids, compensatory aids, including the inclusion of new technologies to work with pupils with special educational needs.

Support measures also relate to the conditions for admission to secondary schools and higher vocational schools and adjustments to the conditions for completing studies, in all forms of study, where an adjustment to conditions (usually an extension to the time for sitting an examination) can also apply to school-leaving and final examinations. The system of joint education thus supports all pupils who have so far been educated in mainstream schools without any support or exclusively in "special" schools, thus evening out the educational conditions for all groups of pupils.

Projects ensuring support for inclusive education

The Ministry of Education, in its support of inclusive education, is implementing 3 individual system projects, which are:

- Support for high-quality counselling services in schools and school counselling facilities focused on support for inclusion (Quality - Inclusion - Counselling - Development)

The project is being implemented by the National Institute for Education. The project budget is about CZK 150 million, (more than EUR 5.8 million) with an implementation period from May 2016 to January 2020.

- Joint learning and schools support step-by-step

The aim of the project is to support the introduction and implementation of joint education and to ensure the effective implementation of the defined tasks of the Action Plan for Inclusive Education at the system level in the area of continuous monitoring of the impacts of changes to the Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education ("FEP PE") on schools educational programmes ("SEP") and school education after the inclusion of pupils with supportive measures and also in the area of strengthening the professional teaching competences needed to implement joint education in all areas of their teaching activities.

The project is being implemented by the National Institute for Education. The project budget is about CZK 157 million, (more than EUR 6.1 million) with an implementation period from May 2017 to April 2022.

- Promoting common learning in teaching practice

The aim of the project is principally to educate school management, to deepen and increase the professional competencies of other teaching staff, not only in the area of joint education, but also in the subject, didactic, general pedagogical, diagnostic and other fields. The project makes available to schools a comprehensive range of training, guidance and counselling services, of mentoring and coaching, and the exchange of experience through internships.

The project is being implemented by the National Institute for Further Education. The project budget is about CZK 184 million, with an implementation period from April 2017 to March 2022.

The Operational Program Research, Development and Education financed from EU funds also supports the implementation of the *Inclusive and Quality Education in the Territories with Socially Excluded Localities* project, which is creating a system to support the full integration of the theme of inclusive and quality education into activities and interventions being implemented by the Social Inclusion Agency in socially excluded localities.

The project is being implemented by the Social Inclusion Agency. The project budget is about CZK 228 million, with an implementation period from July 2016 to April 2022.

II.3.3. Amending the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education

The amendments to the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education as of 1 September 2017 relate to the concept of education and a care system for pupils with acknowledged support measures. The change has modified the setting of expected outputs at the minimum recommended level.

The education of pupils with acknowledged support measures is preferentially carried out in the mainstream, i.e. in “normal schools/classes”. Schools which were earlier referred to as elementary practical schools and whose SEPs were based on the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education governing education of pupils with mild mental disabilities, were able to continue their school activities in the following modes:

- the relevant legal entity performs the activities of an elementary school, which will be a normal elementary school, i.e. not one established under Section 16(9) of the Education Act,
- transfer to a normal elementary school regime with the establishment of a class/classes intended for pupils referred to in Section 16(6) of the Education Act,
- transfer to a school regime established under Section 16(9) of the Education Act.

By decision of the Minister of Education on 1 March 2016, the annex to the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education was abolished for the education of pupils with mild mental disabilities, thus unifying the educational framework for all children educated in elementary schools, while maintaining the variability of possible output levels according to each individual pupil’s needs. As of 1 March 2016, the revised Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education entered into force, so that one FEP with a common framework curriculum is now defined for all pupils, and thus has a comparable hourly allocation of education disciplines and their composition. Based on the options and assumptions for a specific pupil with mild mental disabilities, any changes in educational content (based on the advice of the school counselling facility) are implemented under supportive measures in his/her own individual teaching plan in order to achieve a pupil's personal maximum.

As of 1 September 2016, the education of pupils with mild mental disabilities in the first stage of elementary school (Grades 1 to 5) takes place according to the modified Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education with an individual teaching plan. Pupils being educated according to the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education Annex for mild mental disability at the second stage of elementary school (Grades 6 to 9) will complete their education at the second level, provided that if their legal representative does not agree, it will be necessary to choose an individual teaching plan for such a pupil based on the modified Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education. An application and the written consent of the legal guardian and a recommendation from the school counselling facility are required for the use of an individual teaching plan.

In general it can be said that under the changes associated with joint learning an increasing number of pupils with mild mental disabilities are gradually being assigned to mainstream schools, where these pupils are integrated using supportive measures, or classes are developed in mainstream schools for pupils with different types of disadvantage, including those with mild mental disabilities. The Education Act seeks to satisfy the pupil's interests and his/her right to education. Therefore, any decision on the assignment of a pupil is always made in cooperation with the family, the school and the school counselling facility. The aim is to propose, whenever it is in accordance with the pupil's interests, his/her assignment to the educational mainstream using supportive measures.

II.3.4. Training of teaching staff

The reform of the Education Act is accompanied by intensive teacher education in this area. Since November 2015 the Ministry of Education has held several information and training seminars aimed at ensuring the practical implementation of the amendment to the Education Act. Furthermore, from April to June 2016, in co-operation with the National Institute for Further Education and the National Institute for Education, the Ministry of Education organised information seminars focused on inclusive education in all regional capitals of the Czech

Republic. Almost 3,000 head teachers of nursery and elementary schools and school counselling staff were trained.

Educational programmes on joint learning are implemented by the National Institute for Further Education. In the 2016/2017 school year, the National Institute for Further Education implemented 534 training programmes with 10,000 graduates from elementary and nursery school teachers and school managers and school counselling facilities as part of continuing in-service training for teaching staff. The provision of training programmes is being progressively innovated and expanded in line with the needs generated by future practice, and it is expected that it will place higher demands on systematic work with the classroom climate and the school climate in connection with increasing class heterogeneity and the variety of its educational needs. In 2018, 200 training activities (training courses, round tables, information seminars, etc.) were implemented by the National Institute for Further Education in the area of inclusive education. During the same period, a total of 74 courses for teaching staff and 55 information seminars for professionals and the general public with the theme of joint training were implemented as part of the project.

As part of the implementation of the *Support for Joint Education in Teaching Practice* individual system project, the National Institute for Further Education focuses on increasing support for joint education among the professional, teaching and lay public and on strengthening the professional skills of teaching staff needed to implement joint education. Since 2017, 355 collaborating schools have been involved in direct work, for which over 350 training programmes have been implemented for teachers and school managers. In parallel, individual mentoring and coaching support for teaching staff in participating schools was also implemented. Information seminars on joint education were held for the broader parental and teaching public. Last but not least, support centres on joint education continuously provide counselling and consultancy services to those interested in the issue of joint education at each National Institute for Further Education regional office.

The National Institute for Further Education operates a network of 13 regional support centres with regional co-ordinators for foreigner pupils/children and with external specialists. These regional support centres provide advice, consultancy and methodological support, help to establish cooperation between schools and school facilities with experts and partners from public administration and the non-profit sector, conducting discussion meetings and workshops and, last but not least, providing a comprehensive range of methodological materials and training programmes for teaching staff. Training programmes are aimed at expanding professional skills and knowledge for educating foreigner children/pupils/students, increasing the competence of teaching staff and applying an individualised approach, promoting the creation and adaptation of teaching materials, enhancing school and class climate skills and developing differentiated approaches in working with pupils with foreigner pupils with a requirement for support measures.

The National Institute for Further Education manages a website dealing with the issue of the education of foreigners' children - see cizinci.nidv.cz. The website includes an e-counselling service, a range of training programmes and an e-learning programme called Czech as a Second Language in Czech Education. On the website you may find information about valid legislation related to the issue of admission, inclusion and education of foreigner children and available on-line methodologies and methodological materials, worksheets and methodological instructions for teaching Czech as a foreign language, which the National Institute for Further Education has prepared for publication during its work on the issue of foreigner children/pupils.

Since 2018, two new activities have been implemented: the Adaptation Coordinators for Schools service - support for a child/pupil to adapt to the new cultural environment, to different living conditions and with inclusion in the class collective: and the Interpreting and Translation Services for Schools service that facilitates schools' understanding with a foreigner child/pupil,

transfer of the necessary information about a school, about the process of admission, integration and education of a foreigner child/pupil and about the Czech education system.

II.3.5. Activities of school counselling facilities

Since 2013, the Ministry of Education has supported the introduction of new diagnostic tools through the *Equipping School Counselling Facilities with Diagnostic Tools* development programme. The programme allows school counselling facilities to expand their diagnostic base. The purchase of diagnostic tools provides the opportunity to combine different diagnostic approaches to specify a pupil's learning needs, to provide the necessary support measures, and also to extend the skills of counsellors in order to improve the quality of school counselling services. In connection with this project, the Ministry of Education is implementing activities aimed at introducing new standardised diagnostic tools in practice, training consultants in work with diagnostic tools, providing methodological guidance for consultants, training seminars for consultants, increasing capacity in school counselling facilities and support for quality counselling services in schools and school counselling facilities.

Following the amendment to the Education Act, a review body was also established for diagnostics. A pupil or his/her legal representative (or the Czech Schools Inspectorate) or a children's social and legal protection authority) now has the opportunity to turn to the National Institute for Education for a review of the report and recommendations for the education of pupils with special educational needs. In this way, a new control element is introduced into the school counselling system, which complements the right of the recipient of services to have reservations about the conclusions of an investigation and thus contributes to improving the quality of school counselling services.

II.3.6. Monitoring, record-keeping and statistics for Roma pupil education

In 2013, Decree No 364/2005, on documentation of schools and school facilities was amended, introducing the obligation to report the number of pupils educated according to the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education for mild mental disabilities. Another amendment to this Decree in 2016 introduced the obligation to record and monitor the number of pupils receiving support measures.

Since 2013, the Czech Schools Inspectorate has carried out an annual survey to monitor long-term trends in the education of pupils educated under the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education for mild mental disabilities, with particular reference to Roma pupils. In October 2015, the CSI conducted an investigation in which all elementary schools enrolled in the schools register were included in the sample for the first time. The findings showed that approximately 84.8% of Roma pupils were educated according to the unmodified Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education under the Annex covering mild mental disabilities and 13.3% to the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education for mild mental disabilities. The balance up to 100% was made up of Roma pupils educated under the Framework Programme of special elementary schools. The entire report from this investigation is publicly available on the Czech Schools Inspectorate website.

The amendment to the Education Act also introduced the possibility for the Ministry of Education to request additional information from legal entities performing schools activities and school facilities for data beyond the scope of their records which are necessary for determining qualified estimates of education and training system indicators. Qualified estimates of the number of Roma pupils may also be considered to be such data. Thus, the Ministry of Education included requests for these data from the 2016/2017 school year in the data collections it carried out (the data continue to be in the form of qualified estimates prepared by school head teachers and are therefore neither statistics nor part of statistical reporting). During the 2017/2018 school year, the Ministry of Education conducted an investigation that had already been carried out over the

previous two years at elementary schools, and was again implemented at all nursery schools, secondary schools, conservatories and higher vocational schools.

For regular consultations with stakeholders, the Ministry of Education has also set up consultative bodies consisting of representatives from other ministries, the professional public and representatives of the non-profit sector.

II.3.7. Ministry of Education and Ombudsman's Office cooperation

The Ministry of Education advises and discusses legislative changes with the Ombudsman's Office on an ongoing basis. The Czech Schools Inspectorate also cooperates with the Ombudsman's Office, on the basis of the *Memorandum of Cooperation* as concluded, and in many respects beyond its remit. In addition to co-operating with the Ombudsman's office in its oversight of the activities of public institutions, when the Czech Schools Inspectorate responds to the Ombudsman's calls relating to resolved cases and provides its opinion on the progress of specific inspection activities, etc., co-operation is mainly accomplished through joint meetings on various issues, the exchange of experience and through discussions between Czech Schools Inspectorate experts and representatives of the Ombudsman. At least once a year, a joint meeting takes place between the Ombudsman and the Central Schools Inspector.

II.4. National Minorities Committees

To review, in cooperation with representatives of national minorities, legislation and administrative policies and procedures governing the establishment, appointment and functioning of national minority committees; to review the procedures for appointing members of national minority committees to ensure greater involvement of national minority organisations in the process, and to ensure that appointed representatives enjoy the trust and support of the national minority they represent.

On the basis of the amendment to Act No 128/2000, on Municipalities (Municipal Establishment), as amended (the "Municipalities Act"), a change took place from 1 July 2016 to the rules for the establishment of committees for national minorities (the "Committee") and for the marking of streets and other public spaces and buildings in the language of a national minority. The condition was introduced of a min. 10% share of citizens of the municipality claiming allegiance to a non-Czech nationality in two consecutive municipality censuses and the Committee is established if requested by an association that has been active in the municipality for at least 5 years.¹⁴

As a new condition, the compulsory establishment of a Committee is conditional not only on the fact that more than 10% of the citizens of the municipality have declared allegiance to a non-Czech nationality during the last two consecutive censuses (there is no need for a nationality of more than 10% to exist, it is sufficient that all the non-Czech nationalities in the municipality make up at least 10% of the citizens of the municipality), but also that is requested in writing by an association representing the interests of a national minority. For regions and the capital city of Prague, the limit is 5% of the region's citizens or of the city of Prague. The change thus responds to practical needs, since the census usually takes place at ten-year intervals and the presence of national minorities in a municipality may change without the municipality's obligation to set up a Committee terminating.

However, there were also situations where, following the most recent census, the national minority in a municipality has completely "disappeared", but the municipality still had to set up a

¹⁴ Section 117(3) of the municipal regulation: "A municipality in whose territorial district at least 10% of the citizens of the municipality claim allegiance to a non-Czech nationality, establishes a Committee for National Minorities if requested in writing by an association representing the interests of that national minority ⁴⁸⁾. At least half of the members of the Committee shall be members of national minorities, unless this condition cannot be met due to a lack of national minority candidates."

Committee. Such a situation should be avoided by having interest for compulsory establishment of a Committee coming from the national minorities themselves. The amendment retains the condition that members of the Committee are members of national minorities, but removes the requirement that they be candidates delegated by a union established under a special law. At the same time, the text of the amendment to the Act explicitly supplements the solution to the situation where the conditions for the establishment of the Committee (the existence of national minorities and the written request of an organisation) are met, but there is no interest in membership of the Committee. In such a case, the obligation to set up the Committee does not cease to exist, but it is not necessary to have at least half of it occupied by members of national minorities.

In connection with the above, it is also important to draw attention to the Judgement of the Supreme Administrative Court on the interpretation of the issue of national minorities Ref. No 7 As 420/2017-36 of 13 February 2018, in which the Court concluded, inter alia, that " *Neither the Act on the Regions nor the Act on the Rights of Members of National Minorities, however, enshrines the right of any association, that is to say, of an association representing the interests of a national minority, to request that a member of this association or another specific person designated by the association be a member of the National Minority Committee. Therefore, it can be stated that the legal order Czech Republic does not know such a public subjective law*".

II.4.1. National minority authorities in Czech municipalities

In the period under review, a Committee was set up in about 50 municipalities, with 10 of them outside the scope of the law. At the same time, a commission for national minorities was set up (also beyond the requirements of the law) in some 5 municipalities.

In 30 municipalities where a Committee should have been set up under the law, none was established. The main reason for the non-establishment of a Committee is a lack of interest or the lack of an association of members of minorities or movement of the population at the time of the census, motivated by short-term job opportunities (usually foreigners).

II.4.2. National minority authorities in Czech cities

Table 1 shows that in Czech cities, only one Committee was established on the basis of the statutory requirement (in Karviná), other national minority municipal bodies (committees, councils, commissions, community planning working groups, advisors) were set up on the basis of free city decisions. Only 5 cities had no national minority body established.

Table 1 National minority bodies in Czech cities

City	Name of authority/No of members	Set up under the Act
Brno	National Minorities Committee (7)	NO
České Budějovice	Roma counsellor	
Děčín	--	NO
Frýdek-Místek	Adviser for National Minorities, <i>People in an Adverse Social Situation</i> Working Group	NO
Havířov	<i>Citizens in Transitional Crisis and Ethnic Minorities</i> working group	NO
Hradec Králové	Commission for the Family and Social Prevention (11)	NO
Chomutov	National Minorities Committee (13)	NO
Jablonec nad Nisou	social worker for national minorities and foreigners	
Jihlava	--	NO
Karlovy Vary	--	NO
Karviná	National Minorities Committee (7)	YES

Kladno		
Liberec	Council for Foreigners, National Minorities and Other Ethnic Minorities (10)	NO
Mladá Boleslav	Commission for the Integration of Ethnic and National Minorities (15)	NO
Most		NO
Olomouc	advisor for national minorities, <i>Ethnic Minorities</i> working group	NO
Opava	Roma minority field worker	
Ostrava	Social inclusion coordinator	
Pardubice	<i>Foreigners, National Minorities and Ethnic Minorities</i> community planning group (9)	NO
Plzeň	Commission for the Integration of Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners (13), Roma coordinator	NO
Prostějov	working group for national minorities and foreigners (14)	NO
Přerov	Persons threatened with social exclusion and Ethnic minorities - working group	NO
Teplice	--	NO
Ústí nad Labem	Integration coordinator	
Zlín	--	NO

II.4.3. National minority authorities in the Czech regions

Table 2 shows the situation in the regions, where national minority bodies and positions established for communication between national minorities and public administration are listed. The establishment of the position of the Regional Coordinator for Roma Affairs is based on the Act on the Regions (see II.2.1 of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs), so this position is permanently established (often combined with another function). Of the total of 5 established Committees, 4 are established under the law, 1 is established on the basis of a decision by the region in question. Furthermore, committees and working groups were set up.

Table 2 National minority bodies in the Czech regions

Region	Name of authority/No of members	Set up under the Act
South Bohemia	Roma Affairs and National Minorities Coordinator	
	National Minorities Committee (13)	YES
South Moravia	National Minorities Officer	
	Roma Affairs and National Minorities Coordinator	
Karlovy Vary	National Minorities Committee (15)	YES
	Roma Affairs and National Minorities Coordinator	
Hradec Králové	Human Rights Commission (5)	NO
	Roma Affairs and Other Minorities Coordinator	
Liberec	Commission of the Liberec Region Council for National Minorities and Social Inclusion (14)	NO
	Coordinator for National Minorities and Foreigners Affairs	
Moravian Silesia	National Minorities Committee (15)	YES
	Roma Affairs and National Minorities Coordinator	
Olomouc	Working group for Ethnic minorities and foreigners	NO
	Roma Affairs and National Minorities Coordinator	
Pardubice	Commission for the Integration of the Roma Community and Other Ethnic Groups (13)	NO
	Roma Affairs and National Minorities Coordinator	
Plzeň	Commission for Social Affairs and National Minorities (14)	NO
	Roma Affairs and National Minorities Coordinator	
City of Prague	National Minorities Committee (19)	YES
	National Minorities specialist	
	Advisory group for Roma Minority Affairs	NO

	Roma Affairs Coordinator	
Central Bohemia	Roma Affairs and National Minorities Coordinator	
Ústí nad Labem	National Minorities Committee (15)	NO
	Roma Affairs Coordinator	
Vysočina	A working group of providers of services for national and ethnic minorities, homeless people and victims of crime	NO
	Roma Affairs and National Minorities Coordinator	
Zlín	Roma Counsellor Coordinator	

II.4.4. Further information on the functioning of Committees and the work of municipalities in respect of national minorities

Under the relevant provisions of the Acts on territorial self-governing units, the Department of Public Administration, Supervision and Control of the Ministry of the Interior supervises the issuance and content of generally binding decrees of territorial self-governing units and resolutions, decisions and other measures of their bodies (in their separate competence). Thus, the Ministry of the Interior assesses generally binding decrees or other legal acts of a municipality in terms of interference with the rights of members of national minorities, or more exactly of possible restrictions on the access of representatives of national minorities to the municipal Committees.

For its requirements the Ministry of the Interior also occasionally monitors the situation at municipal and regional level, e.g. in terms of setting the amount of contribution to delegated powers, fulfilling tasks under the Minorities Act, statistical surveys on the number of municipalities or regions establishing Committees, etc.

In connection with delivery by public decree, Act No 500/2004, the Code of Administrative Procedure, stipulates in Section 25(4) the obligation of an administrative body also to publish any public decree in the language of the relevant national minority, if the matter concerns the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and if a Committee or other body for national minority affairs has been set up in an administrative district of the administrative authority. Furthermore, the provision in Section 164 regulates the obligation of an administrative authority to pay the costs of translation of a public contract relating to a national minorities matter and drawn up in the language of members of that national minority if such a translation is required by the administrative authority.

II.5. Ombudsman

Continue to support and cooperate with the Ombudsman so that he may fulfil his role effectively, in particular as regards the enforcement of the Ombudsman's recommendations; to consider extending the Ombudsman's powers, in particular as regards the possibility of conducting his own investigations and initiating legal proceedings.

The independent institution for the protection and promotion of human rights is the Ombudsman, whose main task is to ensure the exercise of state administration in accordance with the law and the principles of good administration. His powers and powers are regulated by a special Act on the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is elected for 6 years by the Chamber of Deputies, to which he is responsible and to who he submits a regular annual report on his activities. He performs his function independently and impartially and has his own budget and a separate office for the exercise of his remit. The Ombudsman's budget exceeds CZK 187 million and employs a total of 157 persons, including 121 experts. The Ombudsman regularly reports on his activities to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, to which he also submits recommendations for legislative changes.

Although the Ombudsman cannot directly interfere with the activities of administrative bodies or cancel or change their decisions, it may however conduct independent investigations and may, in his conclusions, make recommendations for correcting errors and deficiencies and request their implementation. The authorities are obliged to cooperate with the Ombudsman and to inform him of their remedial measures. Otherwise, the Ombudsman informs the superior authorities, the government or the public through press releases and the publication of its recommendations. It also deals with the supervision of places where persons are deprived of their liberty under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Furthermore, the Ombudsman fulfils the role of the anti-discrimination authority and monitors the expulsion of foreigners from the viewpoint of the protection of their rights.

A number of institutions active in national minority affairs cooperate closely with the Ombudsman, e.g. a representative of the Ombudsman is a member of the Council and the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs. During the period under review, the Ombudsman also became a monitoring body for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a body protecting the rights of EU citizens. However, his jurisdiction to initiate legal proceedings has not been extended and continues to be primarily concerned with administrative actions in the public interest.

II.6. Former concentration camp at Lety u Písku

Relocate, in line with the set goal of the Roma Integration Strategy, the pig farm from the former concentration camp at Lety.

During the first half of 2017, negotiations took place at government level with the owners of the pig farm situated at Lety u Písku, where the former so-called Gypsy Camp existed (1942–1943) during the Protectorate. This negotiation led to the purchase of the pig farm by the state and the creation of conditions for the dignified remembrance of the victims of the Roma Holocaust in this place.

Pig farming was established on the site under the previous regime, evidently in 1972. Even during the construction of the complex, it must have been evident where it was being built, as the historical ground plan of the former camp was clear at the time, according to today's archaeological explorations. In 1998, the case of a pig farm in a place of remembrance first became known to the media. Interest in the place grew in proportion to the increasing pressure of Roma and non-Roma activists (thanks are due to Čeněk Růžička, member of the Council of the Roma Holocaust Compensation Committee, a member of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs, for his long-term resistance to the pig farm, for which he was awarded the Artis Bohemiae Amicist prize by the Minister of Culture on 29 September 2017, and received the Alice Garrigue Masaryk Human Rights Prize from US Ambassador Stephen King).

On 21 August 2017, the Czech Government adopted Resolution No 609 (amended, or more exactly refined, as Resolution No. 776 on 23 October 2017) “on approval for the plan to acquire the large-scale pig farm in the immediate vicinity of the site of remembrance at Lety u Písku in the public interest of the state, including approval of the price and follow-up steps to dispose of the property”. On 23 November 2017, a purchase contract for the purchase of the pig farm was signed between the director of the Museum of Roma Culture (the organisation is authorized by the state to manage this newly acquired state property) and the vice-chairman of the board of directors of AGPI, a.s. The Minister of Culture Daniel Herman also countersigned the purchase contract.

Originally, the Lety u Písku Cultural Monument (i.e. the standing Place of Remembrance on the site of the burial ground) was administered by the Lidice Memorial. By signing a transfer agreement, on 18 December 2017, the Place of Remembrance at Lety u Písku was transferred

under the Museum of Roma Culture's management (both institutions were set up by the Ministry of Culture, so there was no problem with the transfer of administration).

The Museum of Roma Culture has already held several public meetings on the future of the site and intends to organise an architectural competition. Preparatory work on the demolition of the building and the sale of unnecessary buildings and equipment has begun at the pig farm. The site and its surroundings have been cleared of overgrown trees, the area of the original camp has been cleaned and prepared for upcoming archaeological research, and individual buildings of the pig farm were documented and measured. Since November 2018, work has been under way on tenders for demolition, archaeological research and the architectural competition.

II.7. Television and radio broadcasting

To continue, in cooperation with representatives of national minorities, to support radio and television programmes for or about national minorities (and in the languages of national minorities); to reconsider the criteria used to pay grants in order to meet the requirements of the digital age.

Section 17 of Act No 231/2001, on the Operation of Television and Radio Broadcasting, stipulates that, when granting broadcasting licences, an applicant's contribution to ensuring the development of the culture of national, ethnic and other minorities in the Czech Republic is evaluated, inter alia. Furthermore, it is stipulated by this Act that a broadcaster is obliged not to include programmes in its schedules that can reinforce stereotypical prejudices regarding ethnic, religious or racial minorities. In addition, they must ensure that broadcast programmes do not incite hatred on the grounds of gender, race, colour, language, belief or religious, political or other opinion, national or social origin, affiliation to a national or ethnic minority, property, gender or other status. The operator must also not include in its broadcasting commercial messages containing discrimination on grounds of gender, race, colour, language, belief or religious, political or other opinion, national or social origin, affiliation to a national or ethnic minority, property, gender, disability, age and sexual orientation or other status. Supervision of these duties is exercised by the Broadcasting Council, which imposes sanctions for non-compliance with the stipulated obligations.

Act No 132/2010, on Audiovisual Media Services, lays down the basic obligations for the provision of audiovisual media services. Under this law, providers of such services are obligated to ensure that audiovisual media services do not incite hatred, inter alia, through belonging to a national or ethnic minority, and do not discriminate in commercial messages because of gender, race, colour, language, faith and religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, membership of a national minority or ethnic group, property, gender, disability, age and sexual orientation or other status.

Specific obligations are set out for public service broadcasters, Czech Television pursuant to Act No 483/1991, on Czech Television, and for Czech Radio pursuant to Act No 484/1991, on Czech Radio. Not only must these public institutions not violate the above mentioned general provisions, they are obligated to create and disseminate programmes and provide a balanced range of programmes for all groups of people having regard to their freedom of religion and belief, culture, ethnic and national origin, national identity, social origin, age or gender so that this programming and programmes reflect a diversity of opinions, artistic, religious, political and philosophical directions, with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding and tolerance and promoting the coherence of a pluralistic society. Public broadcasting operators are also obligated to develop the identity of the Czech population, including members of national and ethnic minorities.

Czech Television

In 2017, Czech Television began broadcasting a programme for national minorities and about them called *Sousedé (Neighbours)*. Its production is under the auspices of the Ostrava Centre for Dramaturgy, specifically the team of authors of the *Babylon* cycle in the dramaturgy of Marta Růžičková, a member of the Working Group for National Minorities Broadcasting. The monthly programme aims to provide viewers with an up-to-date insight into the lives of minorities in our country in such a way as to enhance general awareness of other nationalities living in our society. The cycle is to map out the intertwining and mutual influence of cultural and life habits, their preservation by minority members, as well as possible changes in the Czech environment, addressing general aspects of social inclusion, and the long-term and day-to-day problems of cohabitation. Its motto, which gave rise to his name, is to peep behind one's neighbours' windows.¹⁵

Czech Radio

Table 3 Czech Radio programs relating to national minorities

Slovak	
STRETNUTIE	news-journalistic-cultural-social magazine
Broadcasting frequency:	2 / week MO and WED, 15 minutes in all regions; 1 / week SUN; 55 minutes on the national Radiožurnál programme
Polish	
KWADRANS	news-journalistic-cultural-social magazine in Polish
Broadcasting frequency:	5 / week 25 minutes MO to FRI on the Ostrava regional loop
German	
SOUSEDÉ	journalistic-cultural social magazine in German
Broadcasting frequency:	1 / week, FRI 15 minutes in all regions
Romani	
O ROMA VAKEREN	journalistic-cultural-social magazine for Roma, broadcast partly in Romani, otherwise in Czech
Broadcasting frequency:	2 / week TU and THURS, 15 minutes in all regions; 1 / week, SAT 55 minutes on the national Radiožurnál programme

For other minorities, Czech Radio also broadcasts a new news-journalistic-cultural-social magazine *Mezi námi (Between Us)*, always on Saturday from 15:10 to 15:30 at the Czech Radio Plus station.¹⁶ 110 programmes broadcast, total of 157 inputs. The most frequent of the 450 entries were contributions from the Russian, Vietnamese and Ukrainian minorities, the most frequent topics being information on music, the minority itself and its traditions, and on current political issues and history.

PART III. - FURTHER MEASURES ADOPTED TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Article 3

The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms declares respect for everyone's right to freely choose whether or not to be considered a member of a national minority. According to Article 3(2) of the Charter, "Everybody has the right freely to choose his nationality. It is prohibited to influence this choice in any way, just as is any form of pressure aimed at suppressing a person's national identity. Under Art. 24 of the Charter "Membership in a national or ethnic minority may not be to anyone's detriment." Members of minorities may exercise their rights under the Convention, either individually or jointly with other members of a minority.

¹⁵ <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/11690334848-sousedede/>

¹⁶ http://www.rozhlas.cz/plus/porady/_porad/101655

At the same time, the rights of persons belonging to national minorities are also regulated in the Minorities Act and are also respected by other legislative and non-legislative documents of the Czech Republic.

Article 4

Act No 549/1991, on court fees, was amended with effect from 30 September 2017. Specifically, the amendment to the Act reduced the court fee for a petition to initiate legal proceedings in respect of protection against discrimination to a fixed amount of CZK 1,000. The court fee, together with the other costs of the proceedings (apart from its own representation), may have discouraged the bringing of an action, with discrimination being also often a significant intrusion into human dignity, similar to injury or death of a loved one, which are exempt from the court fee. Therefore, under this the court fees for all anti-discrimination actions were reduced to CZK 1,000¹⁷

Act No 251/2016, on Certain Offences, regulates two specific cases of an offence against civic coexistence, namely limiting or preventing a member of a national minority from exercising the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, or causing other harm to a person because of his or her belonging to a national minority. A fine of up to CZK 20,000 may be imposed for these offences when committed by a natural person, a natural person-entrepreneur or a legal entity, and up to CZK 30,000 in case of a repeat offence after the original ruling on an offence becomes final. The final ruling on this offence is entered in the offences register maintained by the Criminal Register. This amendment was introduced by the Minorities Act. Previously, until 30 June 2017, it was contained in Act No 200/1990, on Offences.

Reinforcing measures in insurance were also adopted during the period under review. Specifically, the provision in Section 2769 (concerning insurance) of Act No 89/2012, the Civil Code, as amended: "*§ 2769 Equal treatment If an insurer determines the amount of premium or the calculation of insurance indemnity taking into consideration nationality, racial or ethnic origin, or any other consideration contrary to the principle of equal treatment under another statute, the increase in the premium or a decrease in the insurance indemnity on the basis of these considerations is disregarded. This also applies where the amount of premiums is determined or insurance indemnity calculated taking pregnancy or maternity into consideration.*"

In relation to Article 4, one may also mention non-legislative measures concerning the possibility of regular monitoring of actions in discrimination cases, i.e. not just anti-discrimination actions, but also other disputes arising from discrimination in employment relationships. These data are available free of charge on the Ministry of Justice website. This is the Summary of final decisions of courts in civil matters by type of dispute, statistical sheet of the S-SL-C report.¹⁸

In practice, the Probation and Mediation Service (PMS) also strives for a non-discriminatory approach.

In dealing with criminal cases during pre-trial proceedings and in arranging alternative sanctions, the PMS works with offenders and victims of crime without regard to their race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, or religion. Within the framework of an equal approach to national minorities, the PMS provides interpreting services when dealing with offenders and victims of crime who do not speak Czech.

In its work the PMS uses foreign language materials (leaflets and forms) that have been translated into several languages. In addition, the PMS uses a network of social, medical and

¹⁷ The original wording of the Act stipulated that the court fee in the case of anti-discrimination actions was a minimum of CZK 2,000, and 1% of the amount demanded when claiming compensation for non-material damage above CZK 200,000.

¹⁸ <http://cslav.justice.cz/InfoData/prehledy-statistickyh-listu.html>

other professional services, which target different target groups. One of the services that PMS has been using successfully for some time is the Roma Mentoring service, which is provided by RUBIKON Centrum, z.s. The service is intended for adult and adolescent clients of the PMS who feel that they are part of the Roma minority, have come into conflict with the law, or who have received an alternative punishment or criminal measures. The purpose of the service is - through a trained layman, a representative of the Roma community - to motivate PMS clients to successfully complete their alternative punishment, something which is often prevented by low legal awareness, distrust of majority society and its institutions or insufficient motivation to change an insufficiently forward-looking way of life. Involving a mentor can make a significant contribution to eliminating these negative factors, by explaining to clients the obligations arising from the alternative punishment imposed and motivating and supporting them to complete it. The Roma mentor can then help probation workers to function within the Roma community, in its value system and relationships. He/she thus becomes a mediator between the client and the employee responsible for the execution of the alternative punishment. The *Roma Mentoring* project is co-financed from EU funds. *Roma Mentoring* was implemented in 17 court districts in 2018: Beroun, Kolín, Kladno, Nymburk, Český Krumlov, Jindřichův Hradec, Ústí nad Orlicí, Pardubice, Most, Chomutov, Děčín, Rumburk, Louny, Liberec, Sokolov, Jablonec nad Nisou and for the first time in Brno. 15 new mentors were trained this year and around 50 Roma mentors are currently involved in the project.

Article 5

The preservation and development of the culture and identity of national minorities, including language, traditions and the protection of cultural heritage, is promoted, inter alia, through grant programmes.

The task of implementing grant programmes every year to support the cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic and the integration of members of the Roma minority is based on the *State Cultural Policy of the Czech Republic 2009–2014* and the *State Cultural Policy for 2015-2020 (with an outlook to 2025)*, the lead agency for which is the Ministry of Culture. The programme to support the cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic may receive projects focussed on artistic, cultural and educational activities, on the study and analysis of national culture and folk traditions, on multi-ethnic events (aimed, inter alia, at combating negative manifestations of extremism, racial and national intolerance and xenophobia), on editorial activities (non-periodical publications) and on documenting national culture.

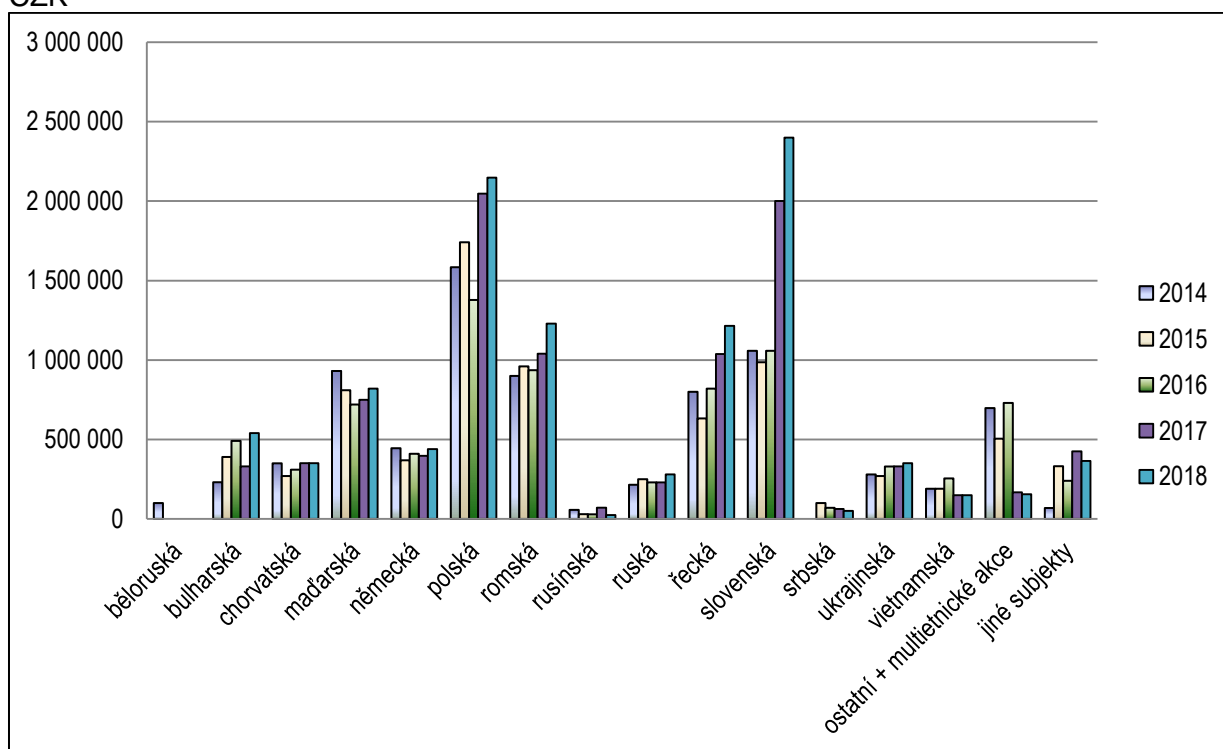
Table 4 Summary of the amount of financial resources provided by individual national minorities in 2014-2018 to support cultural activities of members of national minorities

National minority	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Belarusian ¹⁹	CZK 100,000				
Bulgarian	CZK 231,000	CZK 390,000	CZK 491,000	CZK 330,000	CZK 540,000
Croatian	CZK 350,000	CZK 270,000	CZK 310,000	CZK 350,000	CZK 350,000
Hungarian	CZK 931,000	CZK 810,000	CZK 790,000	CZK 750,000	CZK 820,000
German	CZK 445,000	CZK 369,055	CZK 409,509	CZK 398,000	CZK 440,000
Polish	CZK 1,584 000	CZK 1,741 000	CZK 1,878 000	CZK 2,046,835	CZK 2,148,000
Roma	CZK 900,000	CZK 960,000	CZK 1,179 000	CZK 1,040,000	CZK 1,230,000
Rusyn	CZK 57,054	CZK 30,000	CZK 27,377	CZK 70,721	CZK 25,000
Russian	CZK 215,000	CZK 250,000	CZK 230,000	CZK 230,000	CZK 280,000
Greek	CZK 800,000	CZK 632,563	CZK 1,120,000	CZK 1,038 732	CZK 1,215,000
Slovak	CZK 1,058 000	CZK 896,000	CZK 1,258 000	CZK 2,000,000	CZK 2,400,000
Serbian		CZK 100,000	CZK 70,000	CZK 62,000	CZK 50,000
Ukrainian	CZK 280,000	CZK 270,000	CZK 330,000	CZK 330,000	CZK 350,000

¹⁹ The Belarusian minority has not submitted any project since 2015.

Vietnamese	CZK 190,000	CZK 190,000	CZK 355,000	CZK 150,000	CZK 150,000
Other associations and multi-ethnic events	CZK 697,637	CZK 505,000	CZK 728,000	CZK 168,127	CZK 155,000
Other subjects (not associations)	CZK 68,868	CZK 131,780	CZK 240,000	CZK 424,613	CZK 365,000
Total	CZK 7,907 559	CZK 7,545,398	CZK 9,415,886	CZK 9,389 028	CZK 10,518,000

Chart 1 Funds for support of cultural activities of members of national minorities (2014-2018), in CZK



Projects supported under the grant programme to support the integration of members of the Roma minority may be focussed on artistic, cultural and educational activities, on expert studies expanding knowledge and supporting research on Roma culture, traditions and history, editorial activities (non-periodical publications), on cultural events leading to combating negative manifestations of extremism, racial and national intolerance and xenophobia.

Table 5 Funds to support the integration of members of the Roma minority within the Ministry of Culture (in CZK)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Grant value	1,499,993	1,515,693	2,000,000	1,662,400	2,054,900

The Ministry of Culture is also responsible for other grant programmes that provide support to entities from national minorities. The following tables show the specific recipients of the grants, including the name of their projects and the value of the grant provided.

Table 6 Projects in the Support for Non-Professional Art Activities programme

Year	Beneficiary	Project	Grant (CZK)
2014	Česká asociace rusistů, z.s. (Czech Association of Russian Specialists), Prague	ARS POETICA Festival	30,000

2015	Česká asociace rusistů, z.s. (Czech Association of Russian Specialists), Prague	ARS POETICA- Pushkin Memorial 49th year	20,000
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Table 7 Projects in the Support of Regional Cultural Traditions programme

Year	Beneficiary	Project	Grant (CZK)
2014	Česká asociace rusistů, z.s. (Czech Association of Russian Specialists), Prague	Čeští hudebníci v Rusku – jubilea významných osobností (Czech musicians in Russia Anniversary of Major Personalities) – 250, 150 and 100 years	70,000
2017	Slovensko-český klub, z. s., Praha (The Slovak-Czech Club, Prague)	Josef Kainar 100	50,000
		Miroslav Horníček 100	45,000
	CS Institute, Prague	Jubilee Reflections of Statehood: Minifestival of Slovak Theatre and Culture in Prague	50,000
	Slovensko-český klub, z. s., Praha (The Slovak-Czech Club, Prague)	The Slovak House in Prague commemorates Czech-Slovak anniversaries	80,000
2018	Česká asociace rusistů, z.s. (Czech Association of Russian Specialists), Prague	Michal Romberg - 100th anniversary of the birth of the artist and teacher	70,000
	ČeskoSlovenská scéna, z. s., Prague	A CZECHO-SLOVAK EVENING IN PRAGUE on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Czecho-Slovakia	100,000
	Slovensko-český klub, z. s., Praha (The Slovak-Czech Club, Prague)	Week of Czech-Slovak Mutuality on the occasion of one hundred years of the creation of a joint state	150,000

From 2014 to 2018, the Ministry of Culture (under Government Regulation No 288/2002, laying down rules for the provision of subsidies to support libraries, as amended, the *Concept for Library Development in the Czech Republic for 2011-2015* and the *Concept for Library Development in The Czech Republic for the period 2017-2020*) announced a grant procedure entitled 21st Century Library, intended for libraries registered under Act No 257/2001, on libraries and conditions for the operation of public library and information services (the Library Act). One of its themes is support for work with national minorities and the integration of foreigners. Grants are provided for the purchase of literature in national minority languages and for organising familiarisation events with other cultures.

Table 8 Summary of the number of grants provided to library operators 2014–2018

Year	Total No. of grant beneficiaries	Total Grant Value - CZK
2014	6	81,000
2015	7	58,000
2016	8	140,000
2017	6	83,000
2018	6	134,000

For each year of the period under review, the Department of Churches of the Ministry of Culture has also announced a competition to support significant cultural activities by churches and religious societies and a competition to support the development of religious and religious-cultural activities of societies (until 2015 civic associations). These competitions support awareness-raising activities and interest in the religious area, as defined by the activities of registered churches and religious societies. The Department of Churches did not provide any grants intended primarily to support the activities of national minorities in the 2014-2018 period. However, support for certain religious-cultural events may have indirectly supported these groups and their activities.

Article 6

Support for tolerance and dialogue between cultures is ensured primarily by multicultural education, education towards respect for human rights and education against extremism, racism and intolerance, which is an integral part of the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education and the Framework Educational Programme for Secondary Education and as such is implemented in individual schools educational programmes under the curriculum reform.

In the *History* curriculum, the emphasis is on the history of modern times, especially on the 20th century, within which is included fascism, Nazism, the Second World War, Nazi racial and other persecution, the resistance against Nazism, the Holocaust and the Roma genocide. The curriculum on democratic citizenship contains the following headings: *political radicalism and extremism, the contemporary Czech extremist scene and its symbolism, youth and extremism*.

There are also links to comprehensive information on the Roma and Jewish holocausts in the Package of Educational and Organisational Information for Nursery Schools, Elementary Schools, Secondary Schools, Conservatories, Higher Vocational Schools, Elementary Arts Schools, Language Schools offering the State Language Examination and School Facilities; this can also be obtained at the *How to teach about the Holocaust* professional seminars or as part of the *Neighbours Who Disappeared* documentary project for pupils.

Teaching must also emphasise the topic of Czech-German relations, including objective information on the expulsion of Sudeten Germans, and teach pupils to learn about the culture, language and everyday life of other nationalities and ethnicities living in the Czech Republic. Pupils should be informed about current extremist youth groups (anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, neo-Nazism, right-wing and left-wing extremism). At the same time, however, it should be pointed out that in the environment of schools and school facilities, it is not possible to carry out education on multicultural education and human rights, non-violence and tolerance simply by emphasising foreign elements with an emphasis on otherness, since simply emphasising diversity can be counter-productive.

An important information, methodological and communication resource in the field of multicultural education is the methodological portal www.rvp.cz. Its activities are provided by the National Institute for Education. The Ministry of Education has its representative in the European Commission working group on those leaving school early - the *Thematic Working Group on Early School Leaving*. The work of the Working Group on Early School Leaving is also focused on national minorities, where there is a higher proportion of early school leavers.

The National Institute for Further Education also provides training programmes for teaching staff. Emphasis is placed on the offer for nursery school teachers, when children from national minorities or the children of foreigners enter the Czech school system for the first time.²⁰

Support for tolerance and dialogue through libraries

In the *Concept for Library Development in the Czech Republic for 2011-2015*, the issue of minorities was reflected in the *Equal Access to Services* section in Sub-objective 13: *To improve the accessibility of libraries and their services, to enforce the criterion of accessibility of library services as a criterion for the evaluation of service quality*. Another goal, inter alia, was *to expand library services for disabled citizens and national minorities, the unemployed and other disadvantaged social groups, as well as for citizens of municipalities where there is no library*. The section of services for people with special needs is also preparing methodologies for other areas (foreigners and national minorities, people with mental disorders). There were also two conferences on this subject.

²⁰ <https://www.nidv.cz/vzdelavaci-programy>, <http://cizinci.nidv.cz/>

Later, the *Concept for Library Development in the Czech Republic for 2017-2020* was implemented in 2017-2018. In it, the national minorities issue is reflected in Priority 2 "Libraries as Open Educational, Cultural, Community and Creative Centres", in Measure 2.5 *Expand the range of library and information services for different target groups and their needs (members of minorities, different age groups, different socio-cultural backgrounds or persons with disabilities, persons at risk of social exclusion).*

Support for tolerance and dialogue through museums

Museum institutions also make a significant contribution to education on tolerance and the fight against intolerance. Equal access to knowledge and the use of mobile cultural assets in the area of museums and galleries in the Czech Republic is ensured primarily by Act No 122/2000, on the Protection of Museum Collections and a change to certain laws. For some museum organisations, the question of national minorities is one of their core activities, as is the case for the Terezín Memorial. At the same time, the Ministry of Culture, through support for museum institutions, also ensures compliance with the Government Resolution of 28 July 1999 (Resolution No 797), which requires the Minister of Culture to support study and educational activities on the Holocaust. In all materials, studies and other activities related to this issue, the Roma Holocaust is mentioned alongside the Jewish Holocaust. However, other museum institutions are also involved in this issue. The tables below show the resources provided to museum institutions also carrying out activities to support members of national minorities. The specific activities of museum institutions related to Article 6 of the Convention constitute Annex 1 to the Report.

Table 9 Funds provided to support major cultural activities of museum institutions carrying out activities for members of national minorities

2014		
Institution	Project	Grant (CZK)
Museum of Roma Culture	Roma celebrate the Museums Festival	20,000
	Roma and sport	100,000
National Museum	Azerbaijan Exhibition Magic Land of Fire	230,000
Terezín Memorial	Remembrance ceremony at Terezín 2014	300,000
2015		
Institution	Project	Grant (CZK)
Museum of Roma Culture	Roma Museum Night	50,000
	Romarising V4 Exhibition	100,000
	Exhibition: Roma jewellery: tradition and the present day	162,881
National Museum	A Window on the World - Mes Ajnak: Buddhist treasures from the National Museum of Afghanistan	100,000
Terezín Memorial	Remembrance ceremony at Terezín 2015	300,000
Památník Šoa Praha o.p.s. (<i>Shoah Memorial Prague</i>)	Drumming for Bubny	250,000
2016		
Institution	Project	Grant (CZK)
Terezín Memorial	Remembrance ceremony at Terezín 2016	400,000

Table 10 Funds provided to support educational activities in museums

2015		
Institution	Project	Grant (CZK)
Museum of Roma Culture	Tell, paint, play... the story of the Roma	50,000

Jewish Museum in Prague	Educational activity in the Maisel Synagogue exhibition	40,000
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Table 11 Funds provided to support exhibition and display projects

2016		
Institution	Project	Grant (CZK)
Památník Šoa Praha o.p.s. (<i>Shoah Memorial Prague</i>)	The stigmatised places of Europe	250,000

Table 12 Funds provided to support the provision of standardised public services to museums and galleries

2016		
Institution	Project	Grant (CZK)
Hlučín Museum	Who are the people of Hlučín	330,000

Table 13 Funds provided to support the protection of cultural property

Project	Grant beneficiary	Grant (CZK)	Year
International Conference to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Dr Simon Adler Museum on the Phenomenon of rural Jewish communities	Society of Friends of the Dr Simon Adler Museum	500,000	2017
The Croats, southern Moravia and us	Association of citizens of Croatian nationality in the Czech Republic	48,000	2017
140th anniversary of the Nordböhmischer Excursions-Club	Natural History Association of Česká Lípa	150,000	2018

Table 14 Funds provided to support an integrated system for the protection of mobile cultural assets (protection against adverse environmental influences)

Items supported	Grant beneficiary	Grant (CZK)	Year
Equipment for depository and permanent expositions: shelving rack	Museum of Roma Culture	7,000	2014
Depository equipment and permanent exhibitions: Set of A0 drawers/ 5 drawers for B5 depository	Museum of Roma Culture	110,000	2017

In connection with Article 6(2) of the Convention, it is important to mention the work of the Czech Police in relation to minorities and the training provided by the Ministry of the Interior.

Field work by the Czech Police

The Czech Police play a very important role in securing internal security. An important document of the Czech Police in relation to minorities is the Strategy for the Work of the Czech Police regarding Minorities for 2018-2020, which builds on previous strategies. The aim of the Strategy is to further develop the possibilities of adapting the Czech Police to the conditions of increasing social diversity and to expand the knowledge and skills of police officers in various social environments so that they are able to work effectively and systematically in relation to minorities.

In 2013, the Police Praesidium of the Czech Republic introduced a liaison officer for minorities. A liaison officer is a specialist in the field of police work with minorities. He/she acts as a mediator between the police and minority communities, offering members of minorities assistance in resolving specific issues falling within the legal competence of the Czech Police. At the same time, he/she works as a consultant in dealing with all police matters relating to minorities. The liaison officer also monitors the structures of minorities in the area on an ongoing basis and

participates in the prevention and combating of crime. Liaison officers and members of working groups are constantly trained on specialisation courses on minority issues cooperate with non-profit organisations, with state administration and local government authorities and participate in getting closer to minorities in their localities.

In 2017, the Directorate of the Riot Police Service of the Police Praesidium of the Czech Republic, as lead agency for the minorities issue carried out a mapping of socially excluded localities within individual Regional Directorates of the Czech Police. In terms of methodology, this activity was carried out by the minorities liaison officer. The aim was a realistic mapping of socially excluded localities, evaluating them in respect of potential security threats and risks. Further, in 2018, in cooperation with other partners, the Directorate of the Riot Police Service implemented a security measure in socially excluded localities of the Ústí Region. The security measure was implemented on the basis of the deteriorating security situation in the socially excluded localities of the Ústí nad Labem Region, of which the leadership of the Police Praesidium of the Czech Republic was notified by an open letter to the police president initiated by the mayor of Varnsdorf. Other municipalities, such as Rybníště, Jiříkov, Lipová, Dolní Podluží, Klášterec nad Ohří, Obrnice, Kadaň, Litvínov, supported the open letter and the Council of the Ústí Region also supported the letter. The security measure was implemented in May, June, July and August 2018. It involved 14 minorities liaison officers from all 14 Regional headquarters and 40 Roma police specialists from the Moravian-Silesian Region, the Ústí Region, the Olomouc Region and the Karlovy Vary Region.

In line with the Czech Republic's Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020, the Ministry of the Interior also continued to support preventive activities under the local crime prevention programme for 2018. The main aim of the programme was to strengthen citizens' sense of security, to eliminate high-risk criminal phenomena and to protect local communities from crime. Only a region, municipality and now a voluntary association of municipalities could be a grant beneficiary. The most important and most successful project in this area is the *Crime Prevention Assistant* project. A Crime Prevention Assistant is a local authority employee assigned to the municipal police in accordance with Act No 553/1991, on the Municipal Police, as amended (not a police officer or a candidate officer). He/she contributes to crime prevention in a municipality, contributes to the protection and safety of people and property, prevents possible unlawful conduct by his/her presence and, in particular, communication skills, acts as a mediator in possible neighbourhood disputes, monitors the cleanliness of public spaces, and helps other citizens in socially excluded localities. In his/her activities, a Crime Prevention Assistant is managed by a particular policeman in the role of mentor with whom he/she works closely. There are at an estimate 600 Crime Prevention Assistants working across the whole of the Czech Republic.

Another project that seeks to respond to the specific needs of municipalities with the aim of positively influencing the situation especially in socially excluded localities and is closely related to the Crime Prevention Assistant project is the preventive Caretaker - preventive operator project, which was piloted in 2013 in 5 municipalities of the Czech Republic: Rotava, Obrnice, Orlová, Frýdek-Místek and Břeclav. Since 1 July 2013, a total of 50 Caretakers - preventive operators have been employed with the help of a Ministry of the Interior grant under the crime prevention programme. Creating a new Caretaker - preventive operator position helps to solve the current bleak situation in the area of municipality housing management, especially in socially excluded localities, and at the same time significantly helps to increase security and public order in a given locality, through so-called building self-management. At the same time, the project helps to address at least in part employment for the long-term unemployed. Since 1 January 2018, an additional 30 Caretakers - preventive operators are employed in 10 municipalities, using EU funds.

Czech Police training in relation to national minorities

The issue of national minorities is part of the teaching of basic vocational training courses for police officers, which until 2015 was implemented in police schools. Since January 2016, this teaching has taken place in Czech Police training facilities. The challenge is to equip people with the appropriate skills to help them understand the differences in cultural values and behaviour patterns, to make their access to minorities more effective and to help the police as a whole to adapt to performing in a context of increasing social diversification. The expected outcome of police training in this area is awareness on the part of the police officer of the specifics of minorities, the skills to work professionally based on the mutual trust of a police officer and a member of a minority and the successful import of law and justice into these communities.

Since 2011, two training courses have been registered for the systemic education of minority specialists in active service: *Course for Liaison Officers for Minorities and Members of Workgroups I and II*.

A *Methodology for Assistants Working with Police and Other Authorities* has also been created and published. The methodology is available in electronic form on the Ministry of the Interior website. The material focuses mainly on crime prevention and assistance to victims and witnesses of illegal behaviour in socially excluded localities.

In 2011-2018, the Higher Police School and the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Holešov, in cooperation with the Military Police Professional School in Vyškov, implemented specialised training: *Police officer in a multicultural environment*. The training took place over a total of 24 lessons and is intended for police officers assigned to working groups for work with national minorities. Some 116 police officers were trained.

Furthermore, in 2014 - 2018, the Higher Police School and the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Holešov continued with the implementation of two projects: *Preparation and Selection of Pupils from National Minorities for Education in the Higher Police School and the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Holešov* and *Education of National Minority Pupils in the Higher Police School and the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Holešov*. Project implementation was completed in June 2018.

In September 2018 a new *Integration of Foreigners in Secondary Vocational Education in the field of Security and Legal Activities* project was launched at the Higher Police School and the Secondary Police School of the Ministry of the Interior in Holešov. Project implementation is due for completion in August 2022. The target group is foreigners and members of national minorities - pupils of the 8th and 9th grades of elementary schools and their parents, as well as pupils already admitted to education in a four-year training programme in the field of Security and Legal Activities. The project is based on the Strategy for the Work of the Czech Police regarding National and Ethnic Minorities where one of the priorities is the admission of members of national minorities to security forces, especially the Czech Police. In the period under review (2014-2018), a total of 73 pupils were being educated in the Higher Police School and the Secondary Police School in Holešov, representing 9 national minorities.

During 2016, in co-operation with the Directorate of the Riot Police Service, the Ministry of the Interior organised two nationwide working meetings for liaison officers for minorities and members of their working groups. In total, more than 180 police officers attended both meetings. The aim of these meetings was to deepen knowledge and awareness of minority integration issues, to take into account current trends for the work of the police with minorities, work with various forms of prejudice and the transfer of best practice. The Ministry of the Interior also initiated an annual working meeting of Liaison Officers for Minorities and Regional Roma Affairs Coordinators. The two-day working meeting was attended by representatives of the Office of the

Council, the Social Inclusion Agency, representatives of cities and regions and representatives of the Czech Police. The aim was to deepen existing cooperation, exchange best practice and current information from the regions.

In 2017, the implementation took place of a training project: *Development of intercultural competences in the form of experiential education*. Another measure implemented by the Directorate of the Riot Police Service in respect of minorities in 2017-2018 was a project that also dealt with victims of domestic violence in the context of socially excluded localities and the issue of national minorities. Within this project, information brochures for persons vulnerable to domestic violence were printed in Czech, English, Russian, Ukrainian, Roma, Vietnamese and Arabic.

New multimedia methodological materials for the needs of the Czech Police in the area of intercultural and social competences have also been prepared in accordance with the objectives and tasks imposed in the Strategy. The methodological materials contain 6 filmed stress situations (videospots) and a methodical teaching manual for using the videospots, which includes both information for the lecturers themselves as well as references to related literature and socio-cultural aspects related to the individual stress situations. In the area of the communications strategy of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police within the framework of the adopted *Concept for Combating Extremism*, one of the main measures is correct information from the viewpoint of ethnicity. At the same time, the Czech Police is developing activities to build trust between the police and national minorities, striving to improve communication in solving problems within the legal competence of the Czech Police, to create effective cooperation between the Czech Police and local authorities and to eliminate crime, including usury in socially excluded localities.

Research and Education (as part of Ministry of the Interior projects)

In the course of 2017, an extensive research survey was carried out in selected socially excluded localities within the framework of the research entitled *Security risks in socially excluded localities: Creating the knowledge and tools for the management and prevention of crime*, supported by the Czech Republic's Security Research Programme 2015-2020, administered by the Ministry of the Interior. The research is carried out by the University of West Bohemia in Plzeň and the main output will be a methodology for the preparation of safety and prevention measures in municipalities.

Concerning training in public administration, the topics of an anti-discrimination approach to citizens, the implementation of principles of good administration in practice and multicultural education are emphasised in all courses of the *Institute for Public Administration Prague*, which continuously integrates them into selected training programmes for local authority civil servants. The topic of the implementation of the principles of good governance in practice is an integral part of the series of ongoing courses and advanced training for *Administrative management in practice*.

Article 7

Current practice and the legal regulation of the rights of members of national minorities in the exercise of their rights of association is in accordance with the constitution, corresponds to the international obligations of the Czech Republic arising from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 27), the Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Art. 14) and in particular the Convention.

The legal regulation of the right of association, contained in Act No 89/2012, the Civil Code, as amended, guarantees everyone, in accordance with the relevant international conventions and constitutional arrangements, the right to associate with others. Members of national minorities may therefore establish associations without any restriction. The right of members of national

minorities to associate in national associations as well as in political parties and in political movements is also explicitly mentioned in Section 5 of the Minorities Act.

The association agenda²¹, secured by the Ministry of the Interior until 31 December 2013, was then transferred to the Registry Courts, which also maintain the Registry of Associations, pursuant to Act No 304/2013, on Public Registers of Legal and Natural Persons.

Political Parties and Movements

In the case of political parties and political movements, no new entity associating members of national minorities was established in 2014–2018. In 2017, the Equal Opportunities Party was dissolved by voluntary dissolution.

At the municipal level, the *Coexistentia – Coexistence* political movement has long been active in the Frýdek-Místek and Karviná districts. In the municipal elections in October 2014, the movement obtained 30 mandates in 13 Moravian-Silesian municipalities and at the same time has its representatives on municipal councils (in 11 cases in coalition with the Independents). Also, Roma received a total of 5 seats in local elections within the local elections (3 of them within the election movement Together for Trmice (Independent Choice) in Ústí nad Labem-Trmice, one in Ralsko for the SNK European Democrats party and one in Lom u Most for the North Bohemian Most movement).

In the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in October 2017, no national minority party or political movement stood. However, four representatives of the above, who claim Polish nationality, appeared on the KDU-CSL electoral list, and two more on the ODA and Pirates list. Furthermore, a total of eight Roma were candidates for these elections, four on electoral lists for the Green Party, one for the Czech Social Democrats (ČSSD), one on the list of the Order of the Nation, one for the SPR - RSC of Miroslav Sládek, and one on the list of the Pirate party. Two members of the Vietnamese minority stood in Prague, one for ODA and one for the Pirates. However, none of the above candidates was elected.

Article 8

The conditions necessary for members of national minorities to be able to preserve their religion, the right to profess their religion or faith and establish religious institutions, organisations and associations are, aside from the Czech Constitution and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, also enshrined in Act No 3/2002, on Freedom of Religion and the Status of Churches and Religious Societies and a change to certain laws (the Churches and Religious Societies Act).

Within each registration administrative procedure, the Ministry of Culture ascertains and controls information under this Act on any possible signs of intolerance or suppression of the right to practice a religion or faith by the petitioners. However, the Ministry of Culture is not authorised by law to monitor the activities of unregistered churches and religious groups. However, it is obliged to respond to inputs which document any dangerous and unlawful activities of registered churches and religious societies (i.e. including any denial or restriction of the right of minorities to profess a religion or faith, or any restriction of the right to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations of minorities), first by a challenge to remove these. However, if a church or religious society continues to act in such a manner, the Ministry of Culture will initiate proceedings to cancel its registration. However, the Ministry of Culture has not taken any such steps in recent years, as it is not aware of any such circumstances.

²¹ For association in political parties, the Ministry of the Interior continues to exercise powers under Act No 424/1991, on Association in Political Parties and in Political Movements, as amended.”

The Ministry of Culture has financially supported and still supports various projects which, while not exclusively aimed at supporting national minorities, may nevertheless indirectly support activities, support for which the Czech Republic has committed itself to on signing the Convention. For 2014 – 2018, these were the following projects:

Table 15 Funding for projects related to the Jewish community

2014		
Beneficiary	Project	Grant (CZK)
Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic	The Holocaust Remembrance Day Concert in the Senate, a reminder of a significant day	50,000
Jewish Community in Prague	Cycle of organ concerts in the Jeruzalémská Synagogue - Year 2	36,000
	"David Aschkenas: Photographs" Photography exhibition in the Jeruzalémská synagogue	24,000
Jewish Community Teplice	600 years of the Jews in Teplice	100,000
Jewish Community Liberec	Concert for the European Day of Jewish Culture	16,000
Sion - A New Generation	Days for Israel	10,000
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem	Vrba-Wetzler Memorial	130,000
The Society of Christians and Jews	Music festival "A Quiet Voice for the Holy Land"; The "Tent of Peace – Sukat Shalom" Festival Revue of the Society of Christians and Jews	47,000
2015		
Beneficiary	Project	Grant (CZK)
Jewish Community in Prague	Cycle of organ concerts in the Jeruzalémská Synagogue - Year 3	30,000
	Permanent exhibition in the Jeruzalémská Synagogue "Revitalization of Jewish Monuments in the Czech Republic"	100,000
o.s. RESPECT and TOLERANCE	Fanny Neuda "Hours of Piety"	65,161
Edith Stein Foundation in the Czech Republic	Publication of two volumes from the collected works of Edith Stein	100,000
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem	Against antisemitism through culture	40,000
2016		
Beneficiary	Project	Grant (CZK)
Jewish Community in Prague	Cycle of organ concerts in the Jeruzalémská Synagogue - Year 4	20,000
	"A pearl arising from the clearance - The Jeruzalémská Synagogue". Exhibition at the Jeruzalémská Synagogue for its 110th anniversary	70,000
Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic	Gala Meeting on Holocaust Remembrance Day in the Senate 2016 - Concert and Exhibition	40,000
For the Nová Cerekev Synagogue	Cultural events in the Nová Cerekev Synagogue	10,000
The Society of Christians and Jews	Inter-religion Festival Tent of Peace	20,000
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem	Against antisemitism through culture	40,000
2017		

Beneficiary	Project	Grant (CZK)
Jewish Community in Prague	Cycle of organ concerts in the Jeruzalémská Synagogue - Year 5	30,000
	Jewish Memorials Day 2017.	20,000
	Photography exhibition in the Jeruzalémská synagogue In 2017	20,000
Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Czech Republic	Gala concert and exhibition on the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust.	40,000
The Society of Christians and Jews	Inter-religion Festival Tent of Peace	10,000
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem	Against antisemitism through culture	20,000
2018		
Beneficiary	Project	Grant (CZK)
Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Czech Republic	Concert and meeting on the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust.	65,000
Jewish Community in Prague	Cycle of organ concerts in the Jeruzalémská Synagogue - Year 6	50,000
	Photography exhibition in the Jeruzalémská synagogue In 2018	50,000
Council of Jewish Women of the Czech Republic	The return of liturgical music to synagogues: the voices of the chazan tradition	30,000
The Society of Christians and Jews	Inter-religion Festival Tent of Peace	20,000
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem	Against antisemitism through culture	30,000

Article 9

The right to distribute and receive information in one's mother tongue is exercised without restriction by members of national minorities under Act No 46/2000, on rights and obligations for the publishing of periodicals (the Print Act), as amended. National minority organisations publish a number of periodicals and non-periodic publications in their minority languages. In particular, having a periodical is one of the priorities in the activities of national minorities. In addition to publishing printed materials, newspapers and magazines, radio and television output is also supported. This activity is supported by the state through a separate grant support programme for the dissemination and receipt of information in the languages of national minorities administered by the Ministry of Culture. In 2014, two new national minorities, the Belarusian and Vietnamese, joined the grant programme.

Table 16 Funds provided to support the dissemination and reception of information in the languages of national minorities

Projects	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bulgarian	1,142,000	1,149,000	1,100,000	1,095,000	1,110,000
Croatian	0	0	0	0	0
Hungarian	1,034,000	1,200,000	1,040,000	1,115,000	1,125,000
German	1,626,000	1,625,000	1,520,250	1,621,000	1,507,000
Polish	6,702,700	6,200,000	5,910,000	6,142,000	6,000,000
Roma	2,706,000	2,768,000	3,203,000	3,221,000	3,219,000
Rusyn	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000

Russian	1,970,000	1,850,000	1,590,000	1,701,500	1,750,000
Greek	257,000	264,500	250,000	261,000	269,000
Slovak	2,942,300	2,870,000	2,770,000	2,770,000	2,705,000
Serbian	640,000	640,000	540,000	540,000	550,000
Ukrainian	2,146,000	2,086,000	1,976,000	1,853,500	1,915,000
Belarusian	34,000	0	0	0	0
Vietnamese	490,000	500,000	250,750	180,000	350,000
Jewish communities	220,000	240,000	240,000	260,000	260,000
Multi-cultural projects	0	517,500	370,000	0	0

Belarusian and Vietnamese minority projects began to be supported during the period under review. Some projects have changed format:

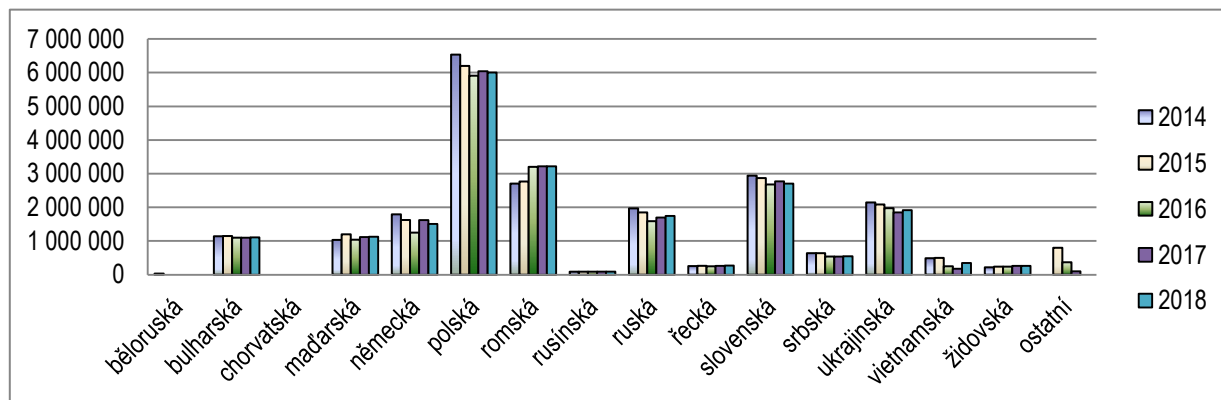
- Polish national minority: daily press (3 days a week) *Głos Ludu*, since 2018 the name of the newspaper has changed to *Głos* as well the range (2 days a week, the same number of pages as in previous years). Magazine, monthly, *Zwrot*.
- Roma national minority: *Romano hangos* publication in newspaper format; number of issues varies between 15 and 17. The monthly *Romano Vod'i*, re-supported since 2016, another monthly youth magazine, *Kereka*, number of issues has changed over the years, ranging from 7 to 9 issues. *Romano džaniben* almanac, published twice a year.
- German minority: the *Landeszeitung* newspaper converted into the *LandesEcho* monthly. The monthly *Eghalând Bladl*, published between 2014 and 2015, was replaced in 2016 by the *HeimatRuf* project, which also comes out in the Egerland dialect. Bimonthly *Troppaure Nachrichten*, a project that has been newly supported since 2016.
- Slovak minority: the magazines *Slovenské dotyky* and *Listy Slovákov a Čechov*, published 7 and 10 times a year. The *Slovak Mosaic* radio programme and the *Džavotanie* project are broadcast on Radio ZET, formerly Studio Z of BBC Radio.
- Bulgarian projects: magazines, published 5 - 6 times a year, *Roden glas* and *Balgari*.
- Russian minority: magazine, published 10 times a year, *Russkoe slovo*, has a supplement *Slovo molodym*, the *Artěk* magazine was only supported in 2014.
- Greek minority: magazine, bimonthly, *Kalimera*.
- Serbian minority: magazine, bimonthly, *Srpska reč.*
- Hungarian minority: magazine, bimonthly, *Prágai Tükör*.
- Ukrainian minority: magazines, monthly, *Porohy* and the magazine *Ukrajinskij žurnal* is published 8 - 9 times a year.
- Rusyn minority: quarterly *Sub-Carpathian Ruthenia*.
- Jewish community: monthly *Maskil*.
- Vietnamese minority: the *Huong Sen* publication has been supported since 2014, originally a supplement in other Vietnamese periodicals, now comes out as a full magazine, but with no fixed frequency.
- Belarusian minority: quarterly *Kryvija*, the magazine was supported only in 2014.
- Multicultural projects: in 2015 and 2016, the production of television portraits of personalities from national minorities was supported, *They live among us*. The *Kamarádi* magazine is routinely supported by the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Czech Government.

Table 17 Funds provided to support the dissemination and reception of information in the languages of national minorities 2014 -2018

Year	Total Grant Value (CZK)
2014	22,000,000

2015	22,000,000
2016	20,850,000
2017	20,850,000
2018	20,850,000

Chart 2 Summary of funds provided to support the dissemination and reception of information in the languages of national minorities



See also Chapter II.7. Television and radio broadcasting.

Article 10

The Czech Republic fully respects the right of every member of a national minority to freely use his or her minority language both in private and in public, orally and in writing. It also supports these rights with the measures set out in the information on Articles 5 and 9, as well as in the information on Articles 10, 12 – 14.

The Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages grant programme also contributes to preserving the use of a minority language. The Czech Republic ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages on 15 November 2006; it came into force for the Czech Republic on 1 March 2007. The following minority languages were put under the Charter's protection in the Czech Republic's ratification declaration:

- Polish (in Frýdek-Místek and Karviná districts, in the Moravian Silesia region),
- German,
- Romani,
- Slovak (throughout the Czech Republic, where appropriate in relation to the number of speakers).

In December 2013, the Council approved the inclusion of Croatian among the languages supported by specific grants from the Office of the Czech Government.

Grant applicants have the opportunity to submit their projects within the following thematic areas:

- A. Educational activities at all levels of education beyond standard teaching, focussing on or taking place in a minority language.
- B. Quantitative and qualitative analyses focusing on research on the use of minority languages, indication of support areas and proposals for forms of support.
- C. Promoting the use of traditional and correct forms of local names in minority languages.

Table 18 Funds dispersed in the Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages programme in 2014-2018

Year	Amount drawn	No of projects supported
2018	CZK 2,551,445	14
2017	CZK 2,399,998	18
2016	CZK 1,849,645	12
2015	CZK 2,010,000	12
2014	CZK 1,690,000	12

Most projects are traditionally applied in the thematic heading A. Projects are most often aimed at schoolchildren and young people, at publishing non-periodical publications, electronic media with spoken word recordings, radio broadcasting, lecture activities for senior citizens, literary competitions, the creation of teaching aids for teachers, language courses and various media activities on the Internet. This is the thematic area with the highest number of grant applications submitted each year.

On compliance with Article 10(2) of the Convention, it might also be mentioned that on 14 October 2015 the Council discussed a draft amendment to Decree No 173/1995, the Rail Traffic Rules, at the instigation of representatives of the Polish minority. The Council recommended that announcements be made in the language of the national minority at stations in municipalities where the national minority in question has a greater than 10% representation. In 2016, the Council Secretariat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, then prepared a draft amendment to this Decree. On 3 March 2019 Decree No 78/2017 was issued, amending Decree No 173/1995, issuing the Rail Traffic Rules, as amended. The change concerned information on the type of train, platform, direction of travel and time of departure, any delays and foreseeable changes in passenger transport, which are now also given in the language of the national minority. These changes relate exclusively to the Polish minority.

Article 11

On 1 January 2014, Act No 312/2013, amending Act No 301/2000, on Registries, Name and Surname and a change to certain laws, as amended, and other related laws, came into effect. Pursuant to Section 26(3) of this Act, at the request of a citizen of the Czech Republic who is a member of a national minority whose name or names, and surname are registered in a registry book in Czech or in another than the Czech language, their name or names, and surname shall be given in the registry document in the language of the national minority, the characters transcribed into the form in which they appear in the public administration information systems. If doubts arise about the correct spelling of the name or surname, the citizen must submit a document issued by an expert. If spouses have a joint surname, the surname in the language of the national minority shall be given only with the consent of the other spouse or their minor child over 15 years of age. The registry book shall indicate that a registry document was issued with the name or names, and surname in the language of the national minority. Other registry documents are issued with the name, or names, and surname in this form. Thus, with effect from 1 January 2014, a citizen who is a member of a national minority whose name or names, and surname are registered in the Czech or a language other than Czech in the registry book is allowed to give not only his/her name or names, but also surname in a registry document in the language of the national minority.

The use of bilingual signs and names of municipalities was regulated by the Act on Municipalities effective as at 1 July 2016. This amendment for the first time amended the giving of the name of the municipality, streets and other public spaces and buildings of state authorities and bodies of local authority units in the language of the national minority (Section 29 of the Act on

Municipalities).²² According to the previous legislation, the municipality was obliged to carry out such a designation if, according to the latest census, at least 10% of the citizens of the municipality declared their allegiance to the nationality in question, if the representatives of the national minority requested it through the Committee and if the latter recommended it by resolution to the local council. In practice, this allowed the Committee to reject such a request without further discussion, thereby preventing the signing from being made (or leaving any multilingual designation to a voluntary decision by the municipal authorities).

For the first time designation in the language of the national minority is obligatory even when that designation is requested by an association, which, according to its Articles of Association, has represented the interests of the relevant national minority, and which has been active for at least 5 years in the municipality on the date of the application. This should be a guarantee of the association's relationship to the municipality and avoid the deliberate formation of associations for this purpose. At the same time, the obligation of multilingual signage is limited to cases where at least 10% of the citizens of a given national minority live in the municipality according to the last two censuses (this emphasises the aspect of "permanent settlement" of the national minority in the municipality).

Financial support for the use of bilingual signs and public space names in municipalities can also be obtained under the thematic heading C of the Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages grant programme mentioned in Article 10.

Article 12

The Czech Republic is taking a number of measures to promote education and research in support of knowledge of the culture, history and language of national minorities. In connection with compliance with Articles 12 to 14 of the Convention, certain entities may also apply for support under the thematic areas A and B of the Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages grant programme mentioned in Article 10.

Support for research to promote knowledge of national minorities takes place at a number of specialised universities and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Since 2007, a team from the Law Faculty of Charles University has been intensively engaged in the general, legal and historical issues of the status of minorities, cooperating closely with the Council. In recent years, projects have been under way particularly under the *Czech Ministry of Culture National and Cultural Identity* programme. A number of scientific publications have arisen, such as the special issues devoted to minorities of *Acta Universitatis Carolinae (AUC) Iuridica* 1/2013, 4/2015, 1/2016 and 2/2018, which are both in print and freely available on the Internet.²³ At the same time, foreign readers are informed about the complex issues of the development and present of the legal status of minorities in the Czech Republic.²⁴ Many of the publications respond to urgent topics, such as the problems of restitution of Jewish property and compensation for Holocaust victims.²⁵ In addition to scientific publications, the team also created

²²Section 29(2) of the municipal regulation: "In a municipality inhabited by members of national minorities, the name of the municipality, its districts, streets and other public spaces and the designation of state authority buildings and local authority buildings is also given in the language of the national minority if at least 10% of the citizens of the municipality have declared for this nationality in the last two censuses, if requested by the representatives of the relevant national minority through the Committee for National Minorities ([Section 117\(3\)](#)) and if the latter by resolution recommends the proposal, or if requested in writing by an association representing the interests of the relevant national minority⁴⁸) and which has been active in the municipality for at least 5 years on the date of the application."

²³ <https://www.prf.cuni.cz/dcz/dokumenty/aucci/1404046928/>

²⁴ For example, Kuklík, Jan, Petráš, René. *Minorities and Law in Czechoslovakia 1918-1992*, Carolinum Press, 2017.

²⁵ KUKLÍK, Jan et al *Jak odškodnit holokaust?: problematika vyvlastnění židovského majetku, jeho restituace a odškodnění. (How to compensate for the Holocaust?: the issue of expropriation of Jewish property, its restitution and compensation.)* Praha: Univerzita Karlova v Praze, nakladatelství Karolinum, 2015.

a number of practical guides (methodologies) on the legal status, as well as, for example, education of minorities.

Other academic institutions also devote significant attention to the research of national minorities in the Czech Republic. These are mainly multi-year research projects carried out, for example, within the programmes of the *Grant Agency of the Czech Republic*, but also smaller studies focusing on ethnological, sociological and demographic aspects of the life of minorities in the Czech Republic. As a rule, the projects concern both research on traditional minorities in the Czech Republic (e.g. an analysis of contemporary Roma migration from the Czech and Slovak Republics to the UK and Canada)²⁶, as well as on minorities that have recently been included among the national minorities of the Czech Republic (e.g. the issue of the causal link between different types of intergroup contact, acculturation strategies and support for minority rights among members of the Czech majority and the Vietnamese minority living in the Czech Republic²⁷). A number of other projects have dealt with issues such as the displacement of Germans from the Czech borderlands²⁸. Summary proceedings have also been published which comment on social aspects of the life of national minorities as such.

Articles 13 and 14.

The Czech Republic recognizes the right of national minorities to establish and manage their own private educational institutions and the right to learn a minority language.

Education in national minority languages

- Polish minority and education

Polish national minority education includes both nursery schools with Polish as the language of instruction and elementary schools with Polish as the language of instruction. At present, there are 33 nursery schools with Polish as the language of instruction (835 children). There are 1,947 pupils in 131 classes in 25 elementary schools with Polish as the language of instruction.

All school facilities with Polish as the language of instruction are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region in the Frýdek - Místek and Karviná districts, where the population of those of Polish nationality is the largest. The task of these schools is to educate Czech citizens of Polish nationality in accordance with the Framework Educational Programme for Elementary Education, but in their mother tongue.

In 2018, 312 pupils in 12 classes were enrolled at the Gymnasium with Polish as the language of instruction in Český Těšín (this 12 students fewer than in 2016). In 2018, a total of 41 pupils studied at the Secondary Vocational School, the Commercial Academy in Český Těšín with the Polish as the language of instruction (the number of pupils increased by 4 compared to 2016).

Table 19 Nursery schools with Polish as the language of instruction - school year 2017/2018 ²⁹

Address (Frýdek-Místek District)			No of children
739 91	Bocanovice 19	Bocanovice nursery school	4
739 84	Bukovec 74	SP Bukovec	23

²⁶ GA15-02702S - Roma migration from the Czech and Slovak Republics to Great Britain and Canada (2015-2019, GA0/GA). WWW.RVVI.CZ/CEP?S=JEDNODUCHE-VYHLEDAVANI&SS=DETAIL&N=0&H=GA15-02702S

²⁷ GA17-14387S - Influence of intergroup contact on acculturation strategies and support for minority rights: a longitudinal study of the social majority and minority (2017-2019, GA0/GA). www.rvvi.cz/cep?s=jednoduche-vyhledavani&ss=detail&n=0&h=GA17-14387S

²⁸ GAP410/12/2390 - The myths and "reality" of Central European metropolises in forming national and transnational identities. The examples of Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw, Krakow and Vienna (2012-2016, GA0/GA). www.rvvi.cz/cep?s=jednoduche-vyhledavani&ss=detail&n=0&h=GAP410%2F12%2F2390

²⁹ Source: *Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Education Český Těšín, 2017.*

739 95	Bystřice n/Ol	SP Bystřice n/Ol.	64
739 82	Dolní Lomná 70	Private nursery school Jablunkov	13
739 53	Hnojník 402	SP Hnojník	43
739 81	Košariska 70	Košariska elementary school	9
739 97	Hrádek 170	SP Hrádek	26
739 91	Jablunkov, Školní 800	Private nursery school	61
739 81	Milíkov	SP Milíkov	20
739 98	Mosty u Jablunkova, Střed 788	SP Mosty	12
739 92	Návší, Pod výtopnou 190	SP Návší	27
739 57	Nebory	SP Třinec I	11
739 61	Oldřichovice 210	SP Třinec I	19
739 84	Písek 60	Písek nursery school	6
739 56	Ropice 311	Ropice elementary school	24
739 61	Třinec, Dolní Lištná 172	SP Třinec I	24
739 61	Třinec, Kinská 418	Třinec I Masaryk Anniversary elementary school	11
739 61	Třinec, SNP 477	SP Třinec I	45
739 61	Třinec, Štefánikova 772	SP Třinec I	25
739 94	Vendryně Zaošší 615	Private nursery school	9
739 94	Vendryně No 1	Private nursery school	26

Address (Karviná district)			No of children
735 43	Albrechtice, Školní 11	SP Albrechtice	21
737 01	Český Těšín Svibice, Polní	SP Český Těšín	25
737 01	Český Těšín, Akátová 17	SP Český Těšín	25
737 01	Český Těšín, Hrabinská 51	SP Český Těšín	25
737 01	Český Těšín, Moskevská 1	SP Český Těšín	55
733 01	Karviná Fryštát, Dr. Olszaka 155	SP Karviná Fryštát, Dr. Olszaka 156	69
735 35	Horní Suchá, Těrlická 407	SP Horní Suchá	20
739 53	Dolní Lutyně, Kopernikova 652	SP Dolní Lutyně	21
735 14	Orlova Lutyně, Lutyňská 400	SP Orlova Lutyně	15
735 34	Stonava, Holkovice 326	Stonava elementary school	16
735 42	Těrlicko, 243	SP Těrlicko	16
736 01	Havířov Bludovice	SP Bludovice	25

Table 20 elementary and secondary schools with Polish as the language of instruction - school year³⁰

Address (Karviná district) - elementary school	No of children
Albrechtice / Olbrachcice	16
Český Těšín – Svibice / Czeski Cieszyn-Sibica	45
Orlová Lutyně / Orłowa - Lutynia	14
Stonava Holkovice / Stonawa Holkowice	12
Těrlicko / Cierlicko	25
Český Těšín / Czeski Cieszyn	394
Dolní Lutyně / Lutynia Dolna	45
Havířov – Bludovice / Hawierzów-Blędowice	58
Horní Suchá / Sucha Górna	96
Karviná Fryštát / Karwina Frysztat	152

³⁰ Source: Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Education Český Těšín, 2017.

Address (Frýdek-Místek) - elementary school	No of children
Bukovec / Bukowiec	42
Dolní Lomná / Lomná Dolna	14
Hrádek / Gródek	29
Košañiska /Koszarzyska	20
Návší / Nawsie	29
Oldřichovice / Oldrzychowice	21
Ropice / Ropica	28
Třinec VI / Trzyniec VI	35
Mosty u Jablunkova / Mosty koło Jabłonkowa	15
Milíkov / Milików	20
Třinec I / Trzyniec I	165
Bystřice / Bystrzyca	172
Hnojník / Gnojnik	131
Jablunkov / Jabłonków	256
Vendryně / Wędrynia	113

Address (Karviná district) - secondary school	No of children
Český Těšín / Czeski Cieszyn Grammar School	312
Český Těšín Commercial Academy/ Akademia Handlowa Cz. Cieszyn	41

The Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Education Český Těšín is a directly established organisation financed by the Ministry of Education. The main activity of the Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre is based on the Centre's Foundation Deed. Its activities are conducted in accordance with its statutes and in accordance with its approved major task plan. It works closely with the founding organisation on all matters relating to the education of members of the Polish national minority. A current topic is the preparation for changes in regional education funding, with an emphasis on maintaining the network of Polish minority schools.

Additional support for Polish education

All schools and school facilities with Polish as the language of instruction have long been involved in the issue of using and supporting their mother tongue. This is principally a question of meeting the needs of schools and educational institutions with the Polish as the language of instruction, including support for pupils with special educational needs, the preparation of methodological materials for schools with Polish as the language of instruction, the issue and distribution of the following methodological aids:

- a) *Jutrzenka*: a methodological tool and magazine, is designed for work with pupils in the 1st level of Polish schools in native language lessons, mathematics and the educational topic Man and his World. It also motivates independent reading - promoting logical thinking, creativity, developing financial literacy, and broadening pupils' general knowledge.
- b) *Ogniwo*: serves as a methodological aid for teaching pupils of the 2nd level of elementary schools. It contains regular columns that can be used in Polish and English language lessons, civic education, informatics, geography, biology and geography. In the Okładka Ognia section, pupils from Polish schools who have achieved significant success in the exact, artistic or sporting disciplines appear regularly.

These methodological aids are published regularly once a month throughout the school year, i.e. 10 issues with a print-run of 1,000 (*Jutrzenka*) and 700 (*Ogniwo*).

In 2017, Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre worked on the preparation of a Polish language version of the workbooks for *Mathematics for the 5th year of Elementary Schools*, published by Prodos. The mathematical terminology in the textbook is bilingual, which makes it easier for pupils to start at the second level of Polish elementary schools, where bilingual terminology is used more intensively.

Competitions

The Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre annually organises competitions in several subject areas. Traditionally the most numerous have been the mathematics competitions *Klokan*, *Pikommat*, *the Mathematics Olympiad* and the *Pythagoriad*. The Polish language competition *Spelling Master* - for pupils of the 4th - 9th grades of Polish elementary schools is very popular. For a number of years now the Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre has been a co-organiser of a prestigious public speaking competition organised in Poland. In 2017, pupils from schools with Polish as the language of instruction again reached the nationwide finals in Katowice, Poland. In 2017 the competition theme was : *Lux ex Roma (Światło z Rzymu). Chrzest Polski 966 -2016 on the occasion of the adoption of Christianity in Poland.*

Another competition is *FOX*, an international competition in English under the auspices of Jagiellonian University in Krakow, music competitions and shows. Every year more than 1,500 pupils take part.

Cross-border Czech-Polish cooperation in education

The Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre is active in the field of cross-border Czech-Polish cooperation, especially in the field of joint education. In 2017, it participated in 2 cross-border projects.

- a) As part of the INTERREG VA Czech Republic-Poland programme, the Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre is a partner of the *Improving the Language Competences of Future Participants in the Cross-border Labour Market* project. For future school leavers from the Czech Republic and Poland, workshops are prepared to develop their communication skills, to promote the learning of neighbouring languages and familiarisation with the other culture.
- b) The *Těšín GO Project* (INTERREG VA Czech Republic-Poland programme, Microproject Fund) focuses on joint regional education of Czech and Polish pupils and their teachers in the *Těšín Silesia-Śląsk Cieszyński (Těšín Silesia)* Euroregion. The Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre, together with its Polish partner the *Dom Narodowy Cultural Centre*, is preparing a play area in the form of a map of the region, and for pupils a bilingual portfolio on the diversity of Těšín Silesia.

Other activities

The Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre continues to coordinate the activities of the Czech-Polish textbook working group. For example, in 2017, preparations were made for important events connected with the 100th anniversary of the two states. The basis of the work of the Czech-Polish textbook working group is an effort to pay attention to the issue of mutual Czech-Polish stereotypes and the options for overcoming them, especially in the teaching of the social sciences, history and literature. Representatives of Ostrava University, Charles University and the Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre are the members of the working group on the Czech side. From the Polish side, these are representatives of universities in Poznań, Wrocław, Krakow and Szczecin. There is also active cooperation with teaching theorists at Comenius University in Bratislava.

The Český Těšín Pedagogical Centre cooperates closely with Polish organisations in the region. The closest partner organisation is the *Society of Polish Teachers in the Czech Republic* and the *Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic*.

Table 21 Study fields at universities focused on Polish studies

Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	Polish literature
	Polish language and literature
	Teaching of Polish language and literature for secondary schools
	Polish with a focus on corporate practice, services and tourism
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Polish language
	Polish language and literature
	Polish language and literature (double subject)
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Teaching of Polish language and literature for secondary schools
	Polish for translation purposes
	Polish for business
	Central European historical studies with a focus on Czech, Polish and Slovak history
Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc	Polish philology
	Polish philology (double subject)
	Polish for translators
	Ukrainian focussing on economic, legal and tourist aspects
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Slavonic philology: Polish studies
	Slavonic literature: Polish studies

- German minority and education

The Ministry of Education supports the teaching of the German language in the majority population and points out its significance in social and professional life.

Since September 2013, compulsory teaching of a second foreign language has been in place in primary schools, no later than from the 8th grade. In 2017, a total of 331,224 pupils were taught German as a second language at elementary and secondary schools.

Under Decree No. 9/2013, which regulates the procedure for permitting the teaching of certain subjects in a foreign language, the Ministry of Education maintains a record of schools where certain subjects are taught in German on the basis of a licence. These are the schools concerned:

Na Pražačce Grammar School, Nad Ohradou 23, Prague 3,
Grammar School, U Libeňského zámku 1, Prague 8,
Marjánka elementary school, Bělohorská 52, Prague 6
Elementary school and nursery school Děčín VI, Školní 1544/5,
Elementary School Zlín, Kvítková 4338,
Střížkovská 27/32, 180 00 Prague 8
Elementary school and nursery school, Školní 1544/5, 405 02 Děčín
Elementary school K Milíčovu 674, 149 00 Praha 4
Elementary school Chrjukinova 1801/12, 700 30 Ostrava-Zábřeh
General Zdeněk Škarvada Elementary School, Porubská 831, 708 00 Ostrava - Poruba
Elementary school for German-Czech Understanding and Gymnázium Thomas Mann, o.p.s.

The Elementary School for German-Czech Understanding and the Gymnázium Thomas Mann is a school founded in 1991 by the German minority in the Czech Republic. It offers education for Czech and German children in the 1st to 5th years with German either as a foreign language

or as mother tongue. It prepares students for their studies at the Gymnázium Thomas Mann, which is an eight-year grammar school. The Ministry of Education cooperates with the management of this school, which guarantees high-quality German language teaching.

The Ministry of Education also cooperates with the *Goethe Institute*, supporting its work to develop multilingualism not only in our schools but also in society as a whole.

Czech-German activities are also extensive in extracurricular youth activities. For example, the activities of the *TANDEM Coordination Centre for Czech-German Youth Exchanges in Plzeň*, supported, inter alia, by the Ministry of Education. Coordination centres provide advisory services and support state and non-governmental institutions and organisations in both countries in the implementation and strengthening of Czech-German youth exchanges and international youth cooperation. Important tasks of the organisation include, among other things, mediating contacts between Czech and German organisations and promoting partnership between them.³¹

Table 22 Study fields at universities focused on German studies

Faculty of Arts, South Bohemian University	Czech-German area studies
	Czech-German area studies (double subject)
	German language and literature (double subject)
Faculty of Arts, J.E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem.	Intercultural German Studies
	German philology in a Czech-German intercultural context
	German philology in a Czech-German intercultural education context
	German literature
	German language and literature (double subject)
	Teaching of German language and literature for secondary schools (single subject)
	Teaching of German language and literature for secondary schools (double subject)
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	German language
	German literature
	German language and literature
	German language translation studies
	Teaching of German language and literature for secondary schools
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	German language
	German language and literature
	German language and literature (double subject)
	German for business
	German for translation purposes
	Teaching of German language and literature for secondary schools
Faculty of Philosophy and Science, Silesian University in Opava	Teaching of German language for secondary schools (double subject)
	German and Italian
	German (single subject)
	German (double subject)
	German for teaching purposes
	English and German
Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc	History and German
	Germanic Medieval Studies (double subject)
	German, with a focus on translation and interpreting (single subject)

³¹ Information about Tandem is available at www.tandem.adam.cz.

	German, with a focus on translation and interpreting (double subject)
	German literature
	German language
	German philology (double subject)
	German philology
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Germanic languages
	Germanic literatures
	German language and literature
	German language and literature (double subject)
	German for intercultural communication (double subject)
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Translation studies: Czech - German (double subject)
Faculty of Arts, Pardubice University	Interpreting: Czech - German (double subject)
Faculty of Arts, West Bohemian University in Plzeň	German language for specialist uses
Teaching Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové	Foreign languages for business use - English - German
	Foreign Languages for Tourism - German (double subject)
Teaching Faculty, South Bohemian University	Teaching for 2nd level of elementary schools German Language and Literature (double subject)
	German language focussing on the area of education (double subject)
Teaching Faculty, J.E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem.	Teaching of German language and literature for 2nd level of elementary schools (double subject)
	German language and literature (double subject)
Teaching Faculty, Masaryk University in Brno	Teaching of German language and literature for secondary schools (double subject)
	Foreign Language Teaching - German Language (single subject)
	Teaching of German language for elementary schools and secondary schools (single subject)
	German language focussing on the area of education
	Teaching assistant of German language and literature for elementary schools
	Special Education (in German)
	Special Education for Teachers (in German) (single subject)
Art Education (in German)	
Teaching Faculty, Palacký University, Olomouc	German with a focus on applied economics
	German language focussing on the area of education (double subject)
Teaching Faculty, Charles University	German language focussing on education
	Philosophy (in German)
	Teaching general subjects for elementary schools and secondary schools English - German
Teaching Faculty, West Bohemian University in Plzeň	German language focussing on education
	Teaching of German language for elementary schools
	Teaching of German language for secondary schools
Faculty of Humanities, Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín	German language for managerial use
Humanities Faculty of Charles University	German and French Philosophy (in German)
	German and French Philosophy in Europe (in German)
	German and French Philosophy in Europe (Europhilosophy)
Hussite Theological Faculty, Charles University	Hussite Theology (in German)
	Hussite Theology - German language focussing on the area of education
	Hussite Theology - Teaching general education subjects for elementary schools and secondary schools - in German
	Czech - German Studies/Deutsch-Tschechische Studien

Social Sciences Faculty of Charles University	German and Central European Studies
Faculty of Science, Humanities and Education, Technical University of Liberec	German language focussing on the area of education (double subject)

- Roma minority and education

The Ministry of Education co-operates with coordinators for Roma affairs at round tables, workshops, meetings and themed conferences. It provides consultations relating to grant programmes. Representatives of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs are invited to expert working groups and are members of grant committees.

Table 23 Study fields at universities focused on Roma studies

Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Central European Studies: Roma Studies
Teaching Faculty, Masaryk University	Romani as an optional subject open to students of any field
Teaching Faculty, Charles University	Integration of Roma in Special Education
Faculty of Arts, Pardubice University	Roma studies and Romani at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Fundamentals of Romological Studies (Lifelong Learning)

- Slovak minority and education

Table 24 Study fields at universities focused on Slovak studies

Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	Slovak language and literature
	Theory and History of Slavonic Literatures
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Central European historical studies with a focus on Czech, Polish and Slovak history
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Central European Studies: Slovak Studies

- Other national minorities and education

Bulgarian	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	Bulgarian language and literature
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	South-East European Studies - Bulgarian Studies (single subject)
Croatian	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	Balkan Studies
	Croatian language and literature
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	South-East European Studies - Croatian Studies (single subject)
	South-East European Studies - Croatian Studies (double subject)
Hungarian	
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Central European Studies: Hungarian
	Central European Studies: Hungarian Studies
Russian	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	Russian language translation studies
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	Russian Literature
	Russian language and literature
	Teaching of Russian language and literature for secondary schools
	Russian Language
	Russian with a focus on corporate practice, services and tourism

Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Russian language and literature (double subject)
	Russian for business
	Teaching of Russian language and literature for secondary schools
Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc	Russian focussing on economic, legal and tourist aspects
	Russian for translators
	Russian Philology in the context of European Culture and Literature
	Russian Literature
	Russian philology (double subject)
	Russian Language
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Intercultural communications: Czech as a foreign language - Russian
	Translation studies: Czech - Russian (double subject)
	Interpreting: Czech - Russian (double subject)
	Russian language and literature
	Russian for intercultural communication (double subject)
Faculty of Arts, West Bohemian University	Foreign languages for business use - English - Russian
	International Relations - Russian Studies
Teaching Faculty, South Bohemian University	Foreign languages for European and International Business - Russian Language
Teaching Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové	Foreign Languages for Tourism - Russian (double subject)
	Teaching for secondary schools - Russian language and literature (double subject)
	Teacher for 2nd level elementary schools - Russian Language and Literature (double subject)
	Russian language focussing on education (double subject)
Teaching Faculty, Charles University	Russian language focussing on the area of education
Teaching Faculty, Masaryk University in Brno	Foreign Language Teaching - Russian Language (single subject)
	Teaching of Russian language for elementary schools and language schools (single subject)
	Teaching assistant of Russian language and literature for primary school
	Russian language focussing on the area of education
Teaching Faculty, West Bohemian University	Russian language focussing on the area of education
	Teaching of Russian language for elementary schools
	Teaching of Russian language for secondary schools
Greek	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	Modern Greek language and literature
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Modern Greek philology (double subject)
	Greek ancient philology (double subject)
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	History of antique civilisation (double subject)
	Ancient Greek (double subject)
Serbian	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	Serbian language and literature
	Balkan Studies
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	South-East European Studies (single subject)
	South-East European Studies (double subject)
Ukrainian	

Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc	Ukrainian focussing on economic, legal and tourist areas
	Ukrainian philology (double subject)
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno	Ukrainian language and literature
	Ukrainian Studies
Vietnamese	
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Ethnology with Vietnamese Studies specialisation
	Asian and African Languages
	Theory and History of Asian and African Literatures

Ministry of Education grant programme to support education in the languages of national minorities and multicultural education

The grant programme is usually divided into two modules:

- Thematic grouping A - support for education in national minority languages (development of the mother tongue of national minorities (educational activities, courses, publications, projects), educational activities for members of national minorities - children, pupils and young people, including the publishing of publications, educational texts for children and young people in minority languages, as part of a wider education-focussed project, etc.)
- Thematic grouping B - Support for activities of national minorities - creation and implementation of educational programs and teaching materials for children, pupils, young people and teachers, aimed at the development of humanism and combating xenophobia, racial ethnic and religious intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism, as well as projects focused on the theme of the Holocaust, cultural habits and historical barriers, working with stories of children and families from other countries and cultures, mutual knowledge and understanding - what we have in common and what makes us different - project teaching, etc.

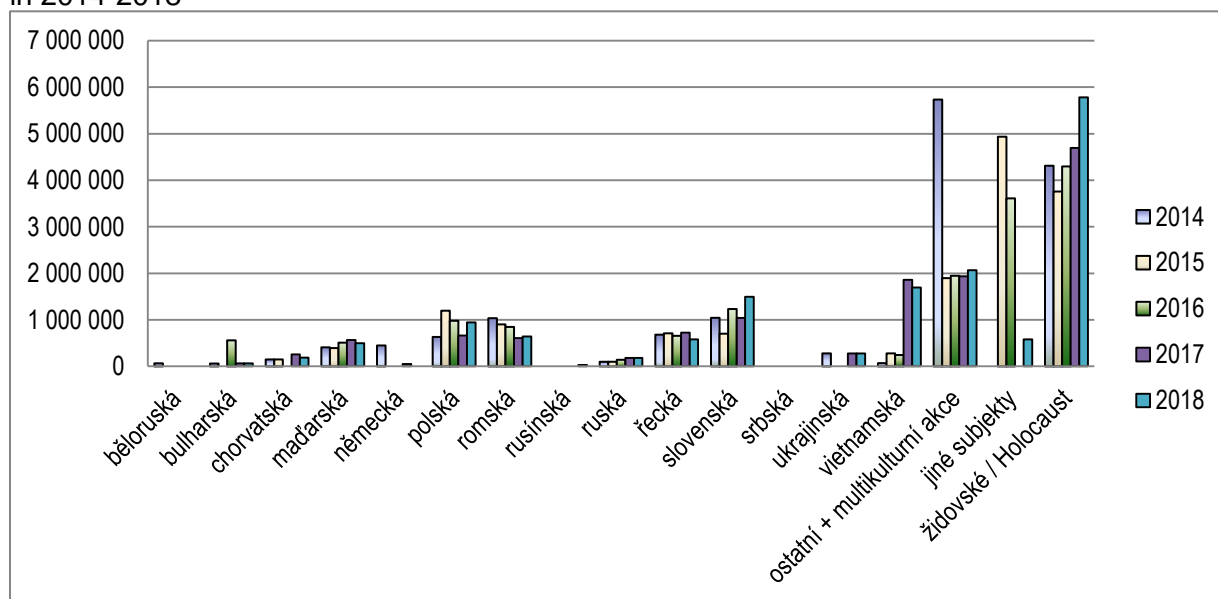
The issue of the Holocaust is treated separate because it is an area subject to monitoring.

The most frequent outputs of the projects were methodological and professional materials, seminars and other educational events for pupils and teachers, visits to cultural events in the language of the national minority, language courses for children (e.g. the Association of Greek Communities, Spolek Iglice, the Lauder kindergarten, the elementary school and grammar school of the Jewish Community in Prague), dance groups with learning about regional traditions in the country of origin (e.g. Greek Lyceum in the Czech Republic, LIMBORA, PIRIN), publishing books and books for children in the language of a national minority (e.g. Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak Minority in the Czech Republic, Association of Friends of the Polish Book, BONA FIDE). In order to support Slovak language teaching, materials (in the form of narrated fairy tales) were created on CDs for the youngest children in nursery schools. A large Czech-Vietnamese dictionary is being created within the framework of the support provided. Literary competitions for pupils are also important, such as the Ján Kollár Competition, where language and linguistic communication in Slovak are developed, the Lidice for the 21st century competition, in which pupils from Slovakia, Lithuania, Russia and Romania are also involved. The purpose of this competition is to deepen knowledge of the history of the 20th century, especially the period of the Second World War, associated with the extermination of Lidice and Ležáky. An annual amount of approximately CZK 15 million is available.

Table 25 Funds in the programme to support education in the languages of national minorities in 2014-2018

Year	Total Grant Value - CZK
2014	15,029,000
2015	15,029,000
2016	15,032,000
2017	12,933,573
2018	15,039,000

Chart 3 Funds in the programme to support education in the languages of national minorities in 2014-2018



Article 15

The participation in public affairs of those belonging to national minorities, and especially in those concerning them, is ensured at the central government level primarily by the activities of two Government advisory bodies, the Government Council for National Minorities and the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs, whose activities have already been described in Part II. At regional and local level, participation is mainly ensured by the activities of the National Minority Committees, as described above in Part II.4. National Minorities Committees.

Government Council for National Minorities

The existence of this government advisory body has been enshrined in the Minorities Act since 2001. The Council acts as a permanent government advisory and initiative body on issues related to national minorities and their members and to the protection of minority languages. The Council includes representatives of 14 minorities, as mentioned earlier.

In the period under review the Council was chaired from February 2014 to December 2017 by the Minister for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation, from December 2017 to June 2018 by the Minister of Justice, and from June 2018 onwards by the Prime Minister. A representative of a national minority is always one of the vice-chairmen of the Council. During this period, Martin Dzingel, a representative of the German minority was Council vice-chairman.

Every year, the Council submits to the Government a Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic, which includes, in addition to information on minorities, reflections by members of minorities themselves.³²

Main Council outputs in 2014-2018

- Amendment to the Laws on Territorial Self-Governing Bodies regulating provisions concerning committees for national minorities and bilingual names.

³² The reports are available on the website of the Government Council for National Minorities. Viz. <http://www.vlada.cz/scripts/detail.php?pgid=125>.

- transfer of funds to support the reconstruction of the Museum of Moravian Croats in Jevišovka, from the budget chapter General Treasury Administration to the budget chapter of the Ministry of Culture (grant programme *Support for the Development and Restoration of the Material and Technical Base of Regional Cultural Facilities*). This was the sum of CZK 8,351,710. The subject of this financial support is the building of a museum and centre for the Croatian minority. This will, inter alia, document the history of the Croatian minority in the Czech Republic and provide those interested with the necessary background. Due to the demands of implementation, this action is divided into two separate stages; with the total costs being approximately CZK 24,986,233, which is allocated in the budget of Chapter 334 - Ministry of Culture for the implementation of the above-mentioned action in the sub-programme entitled: broadcasting of public service media for and about national minorities.
- The Working Group for National Minority Broadcasting established by the Council had a significant impact on successful negotiations with statutory representatives of Czech Radio and Czech Television. These are the *Between Us* and the *Neighbours* programmes mentioned earlier.
- the aforementioned amendment to Decree No 173/1995, the Rail Traffic Rules, as amended by Decree No 78/2017 of 3 March 2017. issuing the Rail Traffic Rules, as amended.
- resolving the dismal state of German graves in cemeteries in the Czech Republic, referring to the compliance with the 1992 Czech-German Good Neighbourhood Treaty. So far, the Office of the Czech Government, in cooperation with the Ministry for Regional Development, issued a handbook for municipalities in June 2018 *On the care of abandoned German and other graves in cemeteries in the Czech Republic*, including a German version, and is currently negotiating a financial contribution from the state budget for municipalities for this purpose.
- Within the Office of the Government Information Centre, a series of lectures on human rights was launched for elementary and secondary school pupils in autumn 2009. Here, staff of the Council secretariat were given the opportunity to present the topic of national minorities. At the same time, a *Guide to the Rights of Members of National Minorities in the Czech Republic II* was issued by the secretariat.
- The organisation of a seminar on *Minorities in Europe - a Europe of Minorities* in 2014, prepared by the Office of the Government in cooperation with the Law Faculty of Charles University. The seminar continued the longer cooperation between the two institutions in national minority issues, which has helped to cultivate debates on topical issues such as access for new minorities.
- The Council also discusses all documents intended for the Council of Europe concerning the Convention and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and which it subsequently submitted to the Czech Government.

In September 2017, the Council secretariat held a two-day meeting of Council members with the Council of National Minorities of Bosnia & Herzegovina of the Chamber of Deputies of Bosnia & Herzegovina. The purpose of the event was to exchange experience in the national minority agenda of both institutions and the position in general of national minorities in countries with differing development in their recent past.

In November 2017, the Council, through its Chairman, filed an initiative with Prague City Hall to connect the name of Vasyl Makuch with the name of a street, square or park in Prague, with regard to the upcoming 50th anniversary of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops and the related deeds of Vasyl Makuch. Prague City Hall did so and on 5 November 2018 a commemorative act took place on the Vasyl Makuch footbridge on the occasion of its renaming.

Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs

The Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs is described above in section II.2.1. Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs.

Articles 16 to 18

The Czech Republic has not taken any measures in contravention of Articles 16 and 17 of the Convention.

Within the Czech Republic, members of national minorities and their organisations can freely develop foreign contacts and cross-border cultural cooperation. The Slovak and Polish minorities are very active in this respect.

On the basis of bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries, ministry representatives meet regularly and evaluate cooperation to date, including cross-border cooperation, and plan joint projects for the upcoming period. One example are the Czech-Bavarian and Czech-Saxon Joint Commissions. There are also regular meetings between ministry representatives and local government bodies within the Czech-Polish Joint Commission for Cross-Border Cooperation, as well as meetings of the programme councils of the Czech-Polish Forum, whose task is to further develop and deepen Czech-Polish relations. Within the framework of the Month of Czech and Slovak Cultural Reciprocity held annually, cultural productions frequently visited by members of the Slovak minority in the Czech Republic are held throughout the country.