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



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HUNGARY'S
FIFTH REPORT

on the execution

of the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe
for the Protection of National Minorities

Budapest, January 2019

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INTRODUCTION

Hungary was one of the first countries to sign the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter: Framework Convention). Its instrument of ratification was deposited on 25 September 1995.

The Framework Convention was ratified by the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary (hereinafter: National Assembly) in Resolution 81/1995 (6 July), and promulgated in Act XXXIV of 1999.

Hungary's country reports on the legislative practices aimed at the implementation of the principles defined in the Framework Convention as well as on the measures taken in the interest of the country's national and ethnic minorities have been presented to the Council of Europe (hereinafter: CoE) on four occasions, in 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2015.

The Advisory Committee to the CoE on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter: Advisory Committee) reviewed the implementation of the Framework Convention between 7 and 11 December 2015 in Hungary. In document ACFC/OP/IV(2016)003 accepted in 2016, the Advisory Committee summarised its expert opinion about Hungary's minority policy based on the fourth country report and the on-site monitoring (hereinafter: the Advisory Committee's opinion).

Having reviewed the Advisory Committee's opinion and the additional remarks made by the Government of Hungary, the CoE's Committee of Ministers (hereinafter: Committee of Ministers) formulated its position on the implementation of the Framework Convention in Hungary in resolution no. CM/ResCMN(2017)5 (hereinafter: resolution of the Committee of Ministers) dated 5 July 2017, and made its recommendations concerning the issues covered.

This fifth country report on the status of the implementation in Hungary of the obligations defined in the Framework Convention (hereinafter: country report) covers the events related to Hungary's nationality policy between 1 February 2014 and 1 February 2018 (hereinafter: reporting period). The country report has been compiled based on the Advisory Committee's guideline provided in the letter DGAD/ML/mes, dated 5 July 2018 (hereinafter: Advisory Committee's guideline). It describes the work performed during the reporting period by the ministries involved in the realisation of the Government's nationality policy for the implementation of the Framework Convention.

In compliance with the Advisory Committee's guideline, the views of the following stakeholders were sought during the compilation of the country report: domestic self-governments of the national and ethnic minorities subject to Act CLXXIX of 2011 on the rights of nationalities (hereinafter: Nationalities Act; these minorities hereinafter, pursuant to the terminology used in Hungary: nationalities); and, as a new legal institution introduced in the reporting period, minority advocates. For the most comprehensive documentation of the country report, further non-governmental and civil organisations were contacted as well. Data concerning the obligations assumed in the Framework Convention was requested and received from the following parties:

- the Government's ministries and state secretariats, and the competent specialised entities;
- the media authority;

- the minority advocates;
- the self-governments of nationalities in Hungary;
- nationalities' and related civil organisations and institutions;
- the Equal Treatment Authority;
- the Institute for Minority Studies of the Centre for Social Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; and
- the Central Statistical Office.

As an important source, we have also utilised those bi-annual reports on the situation of nationalities living in Hungary which are relevant to the reporting period; reports by the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and his deputies for the years 2015–2017; and the seventh periodic country report on the performance of the obligations defined in the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages.

This country report provides a detailed description of the changes and measures related to the implementation of the Framework Convention in Hungary in the reporting period.

* * *

Legal background

The principles of Hungary's nationality policy as well as the underlying legal framework and the changes therein have been described in detail in the previous country reports. As explained in the last report, Hungary's National Assembly passed a new *Fundamental Law* in 2011, in line with Hungary's public law traditions and European norms. This heralded a process of renewing the system of laws defining social and public life. The Fundamental Law protects and supports nationalities living in the territory of Hungary (Article XXIX):

“(1) Nationalities living in Hungary shall be constituent parts of the State. Every Hungarian citizen belonging to a nationality shall have the right to freely express and preserve his or her identity. Nationalities living in Hungary shall have the right to use their native language, to use names in their own languages individually and collectively, to nurture their own cultures, and to receive education in their native languages.

(2) Nationalities living in Hungary shall have the right to establish their self-government at both local and national level.

(3) The detailed rules relating to the rights of nationalities living in Hungary, the nationalities, the requirements for recognition as a nationality, and the rules for the election of the self-governments of nationalities at local and national level shall be laid down in a cardinal Act. A cardinal act may provide that recognition as a nationality shall be subject to a certain length of time of presence and to the initiative of a certain number of persons declaring to be members of the nationality concerned.

In line with the above, the Avowal in the Fundamental Law declares that “... *the nationalities living with us form part of the Hungarian political community and are constituent parts of the State.*”

Instead of the quantitative approach indicated by the term “*national and ethnic minorities*”, the Fundamental Law re-introduced, in agreement with stakeholders, the notion of “*nationality*”, returning to centuries of Hungarian traditions. Consequently, the same term is used in this report as well.

As it is also known, the National Assembly passed an act on nationalities as part of the renewal of Hungary's public law system. Maintaining and improving on the previous results, the act expands and specifies the individual and collective rights of the persons belonging to the 13 communities residing in Hungary (the Bulgarians, Roma, Greek, Croatians, Poles, Germans, Armenians, Romanians, Rusyns, Serbs, Slovaks, Slovenians, and Ukrainians). The law clearly stipulates that a person and community belonging to a nationality has the relevant rights and obligations if they declare their identity in the manner defined in the act or in its implementing laws. Two new notions are introduced in the act: a nationality's cultural autonomy, and nationality organisations (in the context of general elections in a nationality). These notions were missing from the previous regulations. According to the new definition, a nationality organisation (in the context of general elections in a nationality) is an association for public benefit the statutes of which defines the representation of that specific nationality as an objective.

Census data

A comprehensive, general census was last carried out in Hungary in 2011. Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses and Section 6 (1) c) of Act XLVI of 1993 on statistics, based on Act CXXXIX of 2009 on the census in 2011, the census was conducted between 1 and 31 October 2011. The scope of the census included Hungarian citizens living in the territory of Hungary or living temporarily abroad but having a registered permanent or temporary residence in Hungary, citizens of EEA countries living in Hungary for more than three months, citizens of third countries, and displaced persons. The preparations for the census involved several rounds of negotiations with the country-level self-governments of Hungary's nationalities.

The detailed data and results of the 2011 census were described in the previous (fourth) periodic country report. As to the overall census data on nationalities, ***the number of people declaring their national identity increased***, along with their ratio within the total population. The number of people declaring their nationality was about 50% higher than 10 years earlier, thanks to the legal framework created by the right-wing government, practical solutions, a financial support system promoting autonomy in education and culture, as well as a mostly accommodating general atmosphere created by the majority of the country's population. According to the results of the 2011 census, almost 6.48% of the country's population (644,524 people) belonged to nationalities.

The Central Statistical Office (hereinafter: CSO) implemented significant developments in the reporting period in order to obtain reliable statistical data on nationalities between censuses, which are carried out once in 10 years. The program of a so-called micro-census in 2016 included questions on nationalities, and a question on nationality was also added to the largest questionnaire regularly sent to the country's residents, titled *Labour Survey*, in 2013. And one year later, the same question was added to the *Survey on Household Budget and Living Conditions*.

The CSO conducted a ***micro-census*** between October and November 2016 based on a 10% sample (440,000 households). Data on nationality was collected as well. For comparability, the information was collected according to the methodology of the 2011 census. Similarly to the previous census, the following four questions on the three factors related to nationality

(declared nationality, native language, and the language used in family and with friends) were included in the 2016 micro-census. It was not obligatory to answer them.

- What nationality do you feel you belong to?
- Do you belong to any other nationality besides the one indicated above?
- What is your native language?
- Which language do you usually speak with family members and friends?

As seen above, there were two questions on nationality, and multiple responses could be given to the questions on language. This promoted the declaration of multiple identities. Based on the review of the answers to all four nationality-related questions, a person was deemed to belong to a nationality if he/she specified that nationality in response to at least one of the four questions.

In the 2016 micro-census, 624,000 people claimed to belong to a nationality in Hungary. The Roma remained the largest nationality in the country with 310,000 members, followed by Germans (179,000). There were 20–40 thousand Romanians, Slovaks and Croatians each, and about 10 thousand Serbs, Ukrainians and Poles each. Finally, 2–4 thousand people declared to be of Greek, Bulgarian, Slovenian, Rusyn or Armenian nationality in 2016. The number of people belonging to a nationality went up by some 40% between 2001 and 2016. Most of the increase occurred between 2001 and 2011, when 10 of the 13 nationalities in Hungary expanded, as opposed to four increasingly populous nationalities between 2011 and 2016. The headcount of smaller nationalities fluctuated: the number of Armenians, Bulgarians and Rusyns rose the fastest between 2001 and 2011, yet it was the same three nationalities that decreased in number the most in 2011–2016 (according to the CSO 2016 micro-census). The number of Romanians also rose significantly, by almost 150%, in 2001–2011, while the growth slowed down in the following five years. The Polish and Serb nationalities also grew steadily in 2001–2016. In contrast, three groups (the Slovenians, Slovaks, and Greek) have been decreasing continuously since 2001. As to the two most populous nationalities (the Roma and Germans), the direction and magnitude of change more or less equalled: a 50% increase between 2001 and 2011, followed by slight contraction in the subsequent five years.

Table 1:
Population by nationality, native language, language used in family and with friends, and declared nationality

Nationality, language	2011				2016			
	Nationality	Native language	Language used in family and with friends	Declared nationality	Nationality	Native language	Language used in family and with friends	Declared nationality
Hungarian	8,314,029	8,409,049	8,409,011	8,504,492	9,445,436	9,554,169	9,594,314	9,632,744
Nationalities in Hungary								
Bulgarian	3,556	28,99	2,756	6,272	2,917	2,047	1,968	4,022
Gypsy (Roma)	308,957	54,339	61,143	315,583	299,342	39,875	50,940	309,632
Greek	3,916	1,872	2,346	4,642	3,325	2304	2,769	4,454
Croatian	23,561	13,716	16,053	26,774	18,483	12,383	13,956	22,995
Polish	5,730	3,049	3,815	7,001	6,302	4654	4,987	8,245
German	131,951	38,248	95,661	185,696	101,662	55,418	111,779	178,837
Armenian	3,293	444	496	3,571	1,954	451	525	2,324

Romanian	26,345	13,886	17,983	35,641	24,178	18,477	19,425	36,506
Rusyn	3,323	999	1,131	3,882	1,993	510	692	2,342
Serbian	7,210	3,708	5,713	10,038	8,239	5,010	6,111	11,127
Slovak	29,647	9,888	16,266	35,208	22,510	12,284	16,560	29,794
Slovenian	2,385	1,723	1,745	2,820	2,311	1,652	1,761	2,700
Ukrainian	5,633	3,384	3,245	7,396	7,954	5,616	5,625	10,996
Total	555,507	148,155	228,353	644,524	501,170	160,681	237,098	623,974
Total population	9,937,628	9,937,628	9,937,628	9,937,628	9,803,837	9,803,837	9,803,837	9,803,837

Sources: CSO 2016 micro-census; data on nationalities

The **Roma population** – four fifths of whom have completed no more than primary education, as opposed to one fifth of non-Roma people – are underrepresented and in the **labour market** with lower-profile jobs. Besides the low qualifications, the geographical distribution of the Roma population and a low employment level among Roma women are further factors that contribute to the overall low employment ratio. Many Roma people live in areas of the country characterised by a disadvantageous labour market, and/or in villages with poor transportation connections where local jobs are scarce and there is little work opportunity within commuting distance. And the employment of women is hampered by traditions as well as the fact that Roma families tend to have more children than the rest of the population. However, the disadvantage suffered by the Roma in the labour market decreased somewhat in the reporting period. The employment rate of Roma people aged 15–64 had been 29.4 percentage points lower than in the rest of the population in 2014, but the difference declined to 23.9 by 2017.

The difference between the employment rates of men and women is much bigger among those who claimed to be Roma in the labour survey than in the majority of society; no improvement is seen in this regard. In 2017, 54.6% of Roma men aged 15–64 were employed, whereas the same ratio was only 35.9% among Roma women. Nevertheless, this latter ratio is about 10 percentage points higher than in 2014. The unemployment ratio among Roma, while still considerably higher than in the non-Roma population, decreased from 30.1% in 2014 to 18.5% in 2017. Thanks to the role of the government's public employment scheme in Roma employment, the ratio of Roma people in long-term unemployment was already lower than among non-Roma in 2017. As a result of improving employment and decreasing unemployment, the ratio of Roma people aged 18–59 who lived in a household without an employed person declined to around 20% between 2014 and 2017.

The living standards of the Roma population reflected the improving overall tendency in Hungary in 2016. The ratio of Roma people living in poverty or social exclusion was 75.6%, 7.2 percentage points lower than in 2015. Despite the decrease, a Roma's at-risk-of-poverty rate remained three times higher than the national average (25.6%). But all three dimensions of poverty improved concerning the Roma population. The largest decrease was registered in the ratio of people living in very low labour-intensity households, thanks to the continued extension of the public employment scheme. The relative income poverty ratio declined by 6.3 percentage points by 2016 compared to the previous year (from 54.7% to 48.4%) among the Roma population. The share of Roma people living in grave material deprivation went down by 8.4 percentage points, from 63.9% to 55.5%, in one year. The citizens who declared to be Roma were worse off in this regard, too, than the non-Roma population where the ratio of people living in grave material deprivation was 13.8% in 2016.

I. STEPS RELATED TO THE VISIBILITY OF THE RESULTS OF THE FOURTH-CYCLE MONITORING ASSESSMENT, AND PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

Hungary has taken several steps in order to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention, as described below.

Representation of nationalities

Hungary's political system in general, including the state and the government, employs all its means (finances, infrastructure, and moral support) to promote the preservation of the identities of nationalities living in the country, the fulfilment and development of their cultural autonomy, as well as the preservation and succession of nationalities' languages and traditions. Cooperation is in the interest of all stakeholders, including the mother countries of nationalities.

(1) Besides the general public administration system, it's the *nationality self-governments* operating at all three levels (local, regional – i.e. county and Budapest – and country-level) that advocate the special community interests of national minorities. Nationality self-governments – in addition to municipal and county self-governments – are authorised to express their opinions and provide their consent in important issues of their communities, i.e. education, culture, and language usage. Since 1994, nationality self-governments have acted as unique partners in Hungary's minority policy in all communities (and also in all counties since 2006) where a relevantly populous national minority lived. The Nationalities Act aimed to ensure that a nationality's self-government is only set up in a settlement or region if the underlying community actually exists, as proven by census data, while the country-level representation of the nationality should also be ensured if it has no self-government at any other level. In accordance with the Fundamental Law, nationality self-governmental elections are held once in five years, on the day when local municipality representatives and mayors are elected. Those citizens may participate in a nationality's elections who are registered in that nationality's registry of voters at the place of their residence. Country-level self-governments constitute the top level of the self-government system of nationalities; they operate as partners of Hungary's central public administration entities and the Government in resolving nationality policy issues.

(2) The reporting period brought significant progress in the *direct representation of nationalities in the National Assembly*. The Fundamental Law guarantees that Hungary's ethnic minorities that are constituent parts of the state may participate in the work of the National Assembly. It was during the reporting period, after the parliamentary elections in 2014, that nationalities first obtained the intrinsic right to be involved in the work of the National Assembly through their *13 advocates*.

Persons belonging to nationalities had previously been present in the National Assembly on behalf of political parties, but such MPs primarily represented their own party, i.e. they were not accountable to the community of their origin. Upon the formation of the first National Assembly after Hungary's transition from a Socialist state, the country-level self-governments of nationalities had participated in the National Assembly's nationality committee meetings with consultation rights. Later, in 2009, the Forum of National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary was established upon an initiative by the Speaker of the National Assembly, with wide-ranging consultation rights. The Forum provided an opportunity to reconcile

nationalities' interests with parliamentary parties and committees, as well as professional organisations. Furthermore, the Forum could make proposals and recommendations, and also issue position statements and declarations in matters related to national self-identity. Its members could be invited to meetings of other parliamentary committees.

Act CCIII of 2011 on the election of Members of Parliament acknowledged that the nationalities living in Hungary were constituents of the state, entitled by the Fundamental Law to participate in the work of the National Assembly. The act also grants the option of a preferential mandate to nationalities' representatives, establishing a so-called *preferential quota* based on which nationalities' representatives can become Members of Parliament with 25% of the number of votes that are normally required for parliamentary membership. The position of *nationality advocates* has been introduced so that those nationalities who get no preferential quota can also participate in the work of the National Assembly. The nationality advocate can be a person who is first on the list of candidates of a nationality's country-level self-government. Pursuant to Act XXXVI of 2012 on the National Assembly, an MP gaining a mandate from a nationality's list and a nationality's advocate are on the standing parliamentary committee that represents nationalities. This committee is the National Assembly's body that makes initiatives and proposals, issues opinions, and is involved in monitoring the government's work concerning nationalities.

Since the *parliamentary elections in 2014*, all nationalities have been officially present in the National Assembly as stipulated in law. In the reporting period, they were represented by their advocates. Thus the advocates play an important role in the legislation process via the parliamentary *Committee of Nationalities in Hungary*. The committee individually proposed to the National Assembly that the Acts the committee wished to comment on should be added to the agenda of nationalities. Of the seven bills tabled in 2014, three were initiated by the committee. In 2015, these figures were 10 out of 20. The National Assembly discussed agenda items related to nationalities on 14 occasions in 2016, and on 11 occasions in 2017. The committee discussed the bills in detail, and proposed amendments to almost half of them. The draft laws discussed were related to minority education and culture, as well as issues concerning the usage of nationalities' languages; for example, the committee contributed to amendments to Acts on civil registration procedures, public administration procedures and the related legal proceedings, and even criminal proceedings.

The committee has established three supporting subcommittees with five member each. These are the following: the subcommittee monitoring the implementation as well as the social and economic impact of the Acts to be addressed by the Committee of Nationalities of Hungary, and deregulation processes (Monitoring Subcommittee); the Subcommittee for Public Education and Culture; and the Subcommittee for Municipal, Foreign and Budgetary Issues. The Committee of Nationalities in Hungary closely cooperates with the Hungarian Association of Nationality Self-Governments; the nationality advocates liaise with the chairpersons of the country-level self-governments, who are standing invitees (with consultation rights) to the committee's meetings. The committee considered the following bodies as its key partners: the State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations within the Ministry of Human Capacities; and the deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights responsible for the protection of nationalities' rights, who regularly reported to parliamentary advocates on the completed audits related to nationalities. The committee is obliged by law to hear, once a year, the minister responsible for issues related to nationalities. The subcommittees also hold regular hearings, so the minorities' advocates can receive first-hand information from politicians and officers working in the areas of public

education, culture, public service media, the central budget, public administration, and other fields.

(3) Support by politicians, the National Assembly and the Government is primarily expressed in the transformation of the legal environment in favour of nationalities, and in the provision of financing opportunities. During the large-scale social transformation of recent years, the **Government** has been striving to prevent the deterioration of the rights and opportunities of vulnerable small national minorities. This intention is also indicated by the fact that the total financial support for nationalities' purposes more than doubled by the end of the reporting period (from HUF 4,682.4 million in 2014 to HUF 10,377.7 million in 2018).

The Government's activities concerning nationalities remained focused in the **Ministry of Human Capacities** in the reporting period. Liaisons with nationalities as well as support policy and cultural and international matters were responsibilities of the *State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations*. In the same period, the *State Secretariat for Social Affairs and Inclusion*, another entity within the Ministry of Human Capacities, was responsible for coordinating the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups of society, and specifically the Roma. In addition, nationality policy issues naturally affected other areas of the Ministry of Human Capacities, such as education or culture, and also the activities of other ministries. These issues are detailed below, in other chapters.

As indicated before, the State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations has been set up to aggregate those elements of social policy that have been characterised by frequent overlaps from several perspectives. Concerning nationalities, one such overlap involves the (primarily Orthodox) churches of certain nationalities, and civil organisations with special (nominating) rights in nationality elections, which are also very active in the area of nationalities. The State Secretariat organises meetings with representatives of nationality self-governments several times a year, while the Department for Nationalities liaises with the leaders of country-level nationality self-governments and with members of the National Assembly's Committee of Nationalities of Hungary on a daily basis.

Within the State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations, the *Department for Nationalities* remained involved with issues related to nationalities, including especially nationality rights, in the reporting period. This department has a *Nationality Relations Unit* which formulates concepts related to drafting and amending laws on nationalities' rights and regulations for public law institutions, and participates in writing government proposals and draft laws. Also, the unit monitors the enforcement of the rights of nationalities in Hungary, and liaises with their self-governments as well as with advocacy, cultural and other organisations / representatives. It is involved in the coordination of the strategic aspects of the government's policy for nationalities and the nation as a whole, and keeps in touch with the diplomatic representatives of the nationalities' mother countries and with international organisations. Furthermore, the unit prepares background materials for negotiations between government officials of Hungary and the mother countries of nationalities, and answers questions about nationality policies asked by European and global international organisations.

The *Unit for the Management of Financial Support to Nationalities* operates the decision-making system related to the financial support of the education and training of nationalities. It prepares for decisions on support to be paid from central funds earmarked for nationalities, coordinates the operation of the system of government support provided to nationalities in

Hungary, monitors the utilisation of such funds, and liaises with nationality self-governments as well as advocacy, cultural and other organisations / representatives.

(4) In view of the specific problems of the Roma nationality, and due to the special importance of this issue, a State Secretariat for Social Affairs and Inclusion has been set up as a government entity dedicated to this matter. In the reporting period, it was responsible for coordinating the integration of disadvantaged groups of society, and primarily the Roma.

Further, the State Secretariat for Public Education of the Ministry of Human Capacities coordinates the government's activities related to minority education. For the realisation of the cultural autonomy of nationalities, public education is a crucial activity of this government entity. The State Secretariat for Culture, another entity within the Ministry of Human Capacities, is also involved in public education for nationalities, particularly in the areas of public (museum) collections and theatres. Central financial support for nationalities was administered by the Human Capacities Grant Management Office in the reporting period. Heavily relying on the Department of Nationalities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is also involved in monitoring international developments concerning nationality policies, as well as in the international presentation of Hungary's achievements in that regard.

(5) Besides the competent government entities, the **Commissioner for Fundamental Rights** (hereinafter: ombudsman) also reviews matters and regulations related to nationalities. According to Article 30 (3) of the Fundamental Law: *“The Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and his or her deputies shall be elected for six years with the votes of two-thirds of the Members of the National Assembly. The deputies shall protect the interests of future generations and the rights of nationalities living in Hungary.”* Section 8 of the Nationalities Act stipulates that the Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights responsible for the protection of the rights of nationalities living in Hungary shall monitor the enforcement of those rights, and shall take any action as required by the applicable laws. In the reporting period, the **Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights responsible for the protection of the rights of nationalities living in Hungary** was Dr. Erzsébet Szalayné Sándor.

The Commissioner annually reports to the National Assembly on the issues within its competence (including nationality matters). These reports are related to the topics of the Framework Convention. (The annual reports are available on the Commissioner's web site: www.ajbh.hu). In Hungary's system of ombudsmen, which had been in place for 20 years in 2015, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights “assigns special attention, primarily via *ex officio* procedures, to the protection of the rights of nationalities living in Hungary (among other topics)” (Commissioner's report, 2015). According to the 2015 report, the institution of the Deputy Commissioner for nationalities' rights had gained importance since its establishment on 1 January 2012. In the reporting period, “the Deputy Commissioner gained additional opportunities to participate in audits by the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights in addition to her responsibility to launch information and awareness campaigns, and initiate *ex officio* procedures. Those audits by the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights that were related to nationalities' rights were carried out in cooperation with the Deputy Commissioner for nationalities, and they signed the resulting reports together. This exemplary cooperation promoted the thorough and professional investigation of complaints related to nationalities' rights” (Commissioner's report, 2014).

According to the ombudsman's assessment (report for 2017), awareness of the Deputy Commissioner for nationalities improved in the reporting period, along with public trust in her

institution. She received a significantly higher number of complaints and questions, and the composition of the topics changed, with more and more issues related to “classic” nationalities’ rights. The Deputy Commissioner’s activity in recent years highlights differences between the problems of national communities. The number of cases related to individuals’ and communities’ rights went up, and specifically the number of issues regarding rights connected to training, education, culture and self-government. Among Roma citizens, there were still many complaints about the lack of equal treatment, social and community status, as well as living conditions.

Consequently, the overall assessment of the Nationalities Act and the regulation of the responsibilities and authorisations of the Deputy Commissioner for nationalities is positive: the resulting protection of nationalities’ rights makes an increasing contribution to the enforcement of the rights of national communities in Hungary.

The Deputy Commissioner is primarily responsible for investigating complaints, as well as “obtaining and processing information; these activities serve as the basis of all other steps and are indispensable to professional work. Consequently, the Deputy Commissioner strove to be present in the everyday lives of nationalities’ communities, monitoring, collecting and organising information about the enforcement of their rights, and also on their current position and public life” (Commissioner’s report, 2016). The number of programs is growing almost continuously since the establishment of the Deputy Commissioner’s position; this is confirmed by the fact that, both in 2016 and 2017, the Deputy Commissioner and her staff met with community members 30% more frequently than in the previous year (Commissioner’s report, 2017).

The Deputy Commissioner for Nationalities is also actively involved in forming social attitudes, and in sensitising. In the reporting period, she regularly gave presentations and provided human rights training using non-formal methods. These events were focused on the dissemination of knowledge as well as interactivity, audience involvement, active usage of the knowledge gained, and encouraging the trainees to share the knowledge.

Furthermore, the area of nationalities’ rights offers several opportunities in international relations. In fact, these connection points are more complex than in many other fields of fundamental rights. Continuous communication with the governmental and social entities of nationalities’ mother countries is important and necessary in order to improve the positions of communities in Hungary; and even the organisations that monitor the international legal standards concerning minorities often request specific technical information from the Deputy Commissioner. These relations offer mutual benefits because legal protection in Hungary often goes hand in hand with international legal development efforts: other countries’ or entities’ results can often be directly utilised in the Deputy Commissioner’s work. Consequently, ongoing communication with international organisations, professional entities, experts and representative bodies is of primary importance in the Deputy Commissioner’s work, as indicated by the fact that 36% of her programs in 2017 had international aspects.

Measures for awareness of the Framework Convention’s documents

Below we provide information on the results related to the wide-ranging awareness of the Framework Convention’s documents, the implementation of the Framework Convention in Hungary, and the promotion of monitoring.

(1) The previous report and the results described in it are naturally available for review online. But due to the appearance of nationality advocates, the matter of nationalities was once again in the focus of attention (similarly to the previous reporting period). Every year, the Committee of Nationalities in Hungary hears the minister and state secretary responsible for nationality policy to discuss *Hungary's international obligations* such as the Framework Convention. Issues related to the Framework Convention are also discussed at international meetings such as regular negotiations with ministers, ambassadors and other representatives of the mother countries of nationalities.

(2) In addition to the above, several conferences have been held in recent years where nationality policies were discussed in order to provide information to stakeholders and share the results achieved. One of the main events in the reporting period in this regard was an international *scientific conference* organised by the State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations, an entity within the Ministry of Human Capacities, held on 20–22 February 2015 in Szeged and Hódmezővásárhely. The conference was titled *Genocide in 20th century Europe, and places of current Christian-Jewish coexistence*. The event aimed to identify and analyse the instances of genocide that affected several European nations in the 20th century, as well as the causes that had led to them. The speakers included nationality and Hungarian experts, along with scholars and ecclesiastical persons from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia, Germany and Poland. The conference was concluded with a closing declaration.

In addition, Budapest and county government offices (hereinafter: government offices) as well as nationality self-governments and civil organisations convene for so-called *professional days* where guest speakers from the State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations regularly talk about Hungary's international obligations. Such presentations, given several times a year, also contribute to the awareness of the documents of the Framework Convention.

(3) Information was provided about the Framework Convention, the related country report, and the monitoring process at the meeting of the *Human Rights Work Group's thematic subgroup for nationality issues* on 25 October 2016. (See more about the work group and its activities below.) The subgroup convened twice a year in the reporting period, and most of the topics concerning nationality policy were related to the Framework Convention.

(4) According to Section 150 of the Nationalities Act, the Government reviews the situation of nationalities living in Hungary twice a year, and reports to the National Assembly on it. Two such reports were presented to the National Assembly during the reporting period, describing events between February 2013–2015 and February 2015–2017, respectively. The Framework Convention is discussed in both reports in detail. The reports are sent to stakeholders and are usually available to the public online or in a printed form.

(5) In addition to the above, an *Award for Nationalities* is handed out once a year. In 1995, the National Assembly declared 18 December, the date when the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities was signed, the Day of Minorities (since 2012: Day of Nationalities). On and around that day, events, exhibitions and cultural shows are held across Hungary's regions, counties and local settlements, and awards are handed out. One of these is the *Award for Nationalities*, a recognition that goes to persons and organisations boasting outstanding achievements for nationalities' communities in public life, education, culture, religious life, sciences, mass media, or voluntary economic organisations. The award is handed over by the Prime Minister

based on a proposal to the Committee of Nationalities by the minister responsible for nationality policy.

The *Pro Cultura Minoritatum Hungariae* awards, represented by a medal and a certificate, are handed out in recognition of cultural and public educational activities. They go to persons and organisations belonging to nationalities in Hungary (Bulgarian, Greek, Croatian, Polish, German, Armenian, Roma, Romanian, Rusyn, Serb, Slovak, Slovenian, and Ukrainian), who have performed outstanding work for the preservation or development of the language and culture of a nationality living in Hungary, thus contributing to the coexistence of the peoples of the Carpathian basin. The awards are handed over once a year. In the first half of the reporting period, they were presented by the National Institute for Culture. Due to uncertainties concerning the new operator of that institute, the Pro Cultural Minoritatum Hungariae awards have been handed out by the Ministry of Human Capacities since 2017. The procedure and the required funding are defined in the Minister's Decree 26/2016 (8 September) on the awards to be handed out by the Minister of Human Capacities, amended by the Minister's Decree 3/2017 (7 March). In May 2017, the award ceremony was organised by the State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations, the entity within the Ministry of Human Capacities.

The *Pro Ethnographia Minoritatum* award is a prestigious recognition by the Hungarian Ethnographic Society. It is received by two scholars every year for their achievements in researching the traditions of nationalities (including both intellectual aspects and physical objects).

(6) The enforcement of the principle of equal treatment is monitored and assisted by the Equal Treatment Authority (hereinafter: ETA) as the competent country-level public administration entity. Information concerning ETA's activities in connection with the implementation of the Framework Convention is available on the web site www.egyenlobanasmod.hu. The site provides important information on the authority's procedures in nationalities' languages, as well as English-level descriptions and summaries of important cases.

(Detailed information on ETA's activities is provided in Chapter III, in connection with Article 4 of the Framework Convention.)

(7) The State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations is represented on the Government's website (www.kormany.hu) in order to widely disseminate information on the life of nationalities and the Government's related work. News items and documents related to the Framework Convention as well as the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages are available on the government's website. In addition, the nationalities living in Hungary are also represented on the government's sub-site dedicated to human rights (<http://emberijogok.kormany.hu>).

Involvement of nationalities in the formulation of the government's policies

(1) According to the Nationalities Act, a nationality may establish self-government institutions or take over existing cultural and education institutions operated by other entities. Funds are provided from the central budget for the practical realisation of the cultural autonomy of nationalities' communities. (Detailed information about this topic is provided in Chapter III of the country report, in the description of the measures related to Article 15 of the Framework Convention.)

Non-governmental organisations, institutions and other stakeholders are also involved in the work of various committees and thematic work groups. These entities are summarised and introduced below.

(2) A ***Human Rights Work Group*** was established in Government Decision 1039/2012 (22 February) in order to monitor the enforcement of human rights in Hungary, consult civil organisations, advocacy and professional organisations and constitutional entities, and foster professional discourse on the enforcement of human rights in Hungary. For that purpose, the work group operates a Human Rights Roundtable for consultations with civil organisations that monitor human rights in Hungary, as well as with advocacy and professional organisations. The Roundtable fosters communication on the enforcement of human rights in Hungary, and makes recommendations on the activities and tasks of the work group. The members of the Human Rights Roundtable participate in 11 thematic work groups to discuss current human rights issues, and formulate proposals to decision-makers. One of these is the ***Thematic Work Group for Nationality Issues***, established on 14 February 2013. Its goal is to promote and monitor the enforcement of nationalities' rights in Hungary, and, if necessary, propose modifications to the Government in view of the experiences. The Work Group's members are representatives of the largest and best-organised NGOs and professional organisations of nationalities. The Work Group convenes regularly, twice a year.

(3) The ***Roma Coordination Council*** (hereinafter: Council) serves as a discussion and cooperation forum for the inclusion of the Roma population. In 2017, the Council was restructured and the partnership with it was extended. Its membership rose to 29, and thematic groups were established within it, resulting in a multi-level setup. The Council's members come from Roma NGOs, churches, self-governments' associations, country-level and regional Roma self-governments, the Roma nationality's advocate, representatives of the National Economic and Social Council, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, an expert appointed by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the chairman of the Christian Roma College Network. The following officials are always invited to the Council's meetings: the chairpersons of the parliamentary committees for culture and welfare; the Equal Treatment Authority; and the Central Statistical Office.

The Council also points out problems that hamper measures aimed at Roma inclusion; provides its opinion on proposed measures as well as domestic and international reports and notices; makes proposals; and contributes to the creation and development of professional networks that support inclusion. Furthermore, the Council is involved in evaluating the effects of the work aimed at improving the social position and integration of Roma people, for example by following up the realisation of the *National Social Inclusion Strategy of Hungary* (hereinafter: Inclusion Strategy), annually evaluating the action plan resulting from the Inclusion Strategy, and regularly revising the Strategy. The following thematic policy groups have been set up to expand the scope of proposals made by the Roma Coordination Council: employment, education and child welfare, housing, Roma culture, regional development, and pastoral care. The six policy groups have 60 experts with practical experience, most of whom are representatives of civil organisations.

(4) An ***Inter-ministerial Committee for Social Integration and Gypsy Matters*** was established by Government Decision 1199/2010 (29 September) for the coordination of the Government's efforts at improving the living and social conditions of persons in long-term deprivation, and promoting their integration into society.

All stakeholders have been involved in the compilation of this country report, i.e. we have contacted the country-level self-governments that represent the nationalities living in Hungary, and have consulted one (usually the largest) civil organisation of each nationality. Not all contacted organisations replied, but those who did provided the following observations or best practices regarding the reporting period.

(5) In the **German** community, the *Council of German Song, Music and Dance Groups in Hungary* (hereinafter: Landesrat) operates as a country-wide, independent public-benefit organisation with legal personality, own statutes, organisational structure, representatives, and financial management. The Landesrat, a cooperating partner of the Self-Government of Germans in Hungary, is a country-wide umbrella organisation with 232 registered member associations (adult, youth and children's cultural groups) that coordinates and promotes the development of about 6,000 cooperating activists. The public-benefit organisation operates in the area of singing, dance, as well as popular and ecclesiastical music in all age groups. The Landesrat is responsible for preserving the identity and language as well as the musical and cultural traditions of the German nationality living in Hungary.

The Landesrat organises a country-wide festival in a three-year rotation system for adults' and children's groups. The groups that receive a gold rating may participate in the festival gala, a country-wide event where outstanding singers, musicians and dancers of the German community in Hungary receive awards (*Stefan-Kerner-Preis*, *Josef-Gungl-Preis*, and *Volkstanzkultur*, respectively). The Landesrat's programs aimed at preserving the German community's traditions are carried out in towns and cities inhabited by the nationality. A German-language periodical titled *LandesratForum* is published monthly to disseminate information on the organisation's activities. Annual programs in the reporting period for the preservation of cultural heritage:

- *Harmonikawoche*: a one-week nation-wide program for the preservation of German language, traditions, religion and identity, based on traditional German music played on harmonica and by ensembles. The event is also aimed at socialising and the training of young musicians of the next generation.
- *Singwoche*: a one-week event for the preservation of German singing traditions and national identity. The exercises include choir singing, the compilation of a concert repertoire, conducting, song collection, etc.). The programs include the regular training of cultural group leaders (conductors, musical self-education from basic to professional level).
- *Volkstanzwoche*: a meeting of German folk dancers in Hungary. Objectives: identity-building, preservation of traditions.
- *Schwabenjugendtreffen*: a cultural identity-building meeting of Swabian youth living in Hungary. Aiming to activate young people and provide a forum for community life, the program allows the participants to get to know each other and develop community cooperation.
- *National meeting of players of old musical instruments*: an event for players of traditional musical instruments of the German community in Hungary, i.e. accordion, harmonica, cymbal and zither. The program is opened or concluded by a mass in German language.
- *Familienmusik*: an increasingly popular meeting of family bands aimed at preserving the old Swabian tradition of music made by family members, an activity that strengthens cohesion.

- *Festival of German ecclesiastical music in Hungary*: this annual event is held in a church of a German-inhabited town or city. The participants are choirs and ensembles.
- *Country-wide festivals*: the Landesrat organises annual festivals for various youth and adult choirs as well as music and dance groups in a rotation system (German children's folk dance competition qualifiers, national festival of German ensembles of wind instruments in Hungary).

(6) The *Cultural Association of Armenians from Transylvania* is an organisation of a 350-year-old community of Armenians from Transylvania whose native language is Hungarian. The association, established in 1997, has been very active in the preservation of the culture and traditions of Armenians living in Hungary, and in building up the local community. As always during its 20-year history, the association's initiatives during the reporting period included the issuance of several books and other publications and research materials, as well as the organisation of domestic and international conferences and other events. The association aims to save, research and preserve Armenian minority culture (including literature, history, art and objects) and Catholic religion, and renovates built heritage, i.e. churches, graveyards, memorials in Transylvania and south of Hungary's borders. The association connects Armenian communities in Hungary and Transylvania; its periodical titled "*Roots of Armenians from Transylvania*" is printed in 1,150 copies every month. The *Armenian Club of Budapest* organised monthly cultural programs, showed movies, and introduced celebrities, artists and athletes of Armenian origin during the reporting period. As in previous years, the association organised at least one major exhibition each year about a specific area of Armenian culture, and held annual community-building programs titled *Wanderings in Transylvania, the land of our ancestors*. Also, the *Szongott Kristóf Award* was handed out to those who had made an outstanding contribution to the Armenian communities in and beyond Hungary, and to the preservation of their culture. The association organises regular summer excursions to visit and keep in touch with Armenian communities living beyond Hungary's borders (in Transylvania). It also hosted the *Weeks of Armenian Culture*, as well as meetings, conferences, presentations and memorial events. Below we describe some of the numerous and varied events and projects.

For the first time in 2015, at the centennial anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the association organised a competition for students of secular and church-run secondary schools from across Hungary. Titled *Cultures living with us: Armenians*, the competition featured 21 participating schools. Its main patron was Cardinal and Primate Dr. Péter Erdő and Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Zsolt Semjén. The finals were held on 19 March 2016 in Budapest. The event was a great success; a documentary film and short portrait film were shot. On 16 November 2016, a photo exhibition was opened in Budapest, titled „*Cultures living with us: Armenians – story of a study competition in pictures*”.

In 2015, the association contributed to an exhibition titled „*The tragedy of Armenian people in World War I*”, organised by the National Széchényi Library and the National Library of Armenia, by providing some of the exhibited objects, and performing protocol work. The association's chairperson gave several presentations on the genocide. Armenian Catholic Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX celebrated a mass on 23 May 2015 to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide; the association organised the participation of several thousand people. A thematic special issue of the journal titled *Napút* was printed on the occasion of the 100-year anniversary, sponsored by the Association. In autumn 2015, the Association staged an exhibition titled *Hungarian Armenians' memories in books* in Budapest, as well as Armenian cultural programs and a reception.

In 2016, the association organised a family gathering titled *Day of colours* in order to promote Armenian Catholic religious life. The event was to become a tradition alongside Armenian-language masses. It was held at the time of the festivities on the day of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Redeemer of Prisoners, with programs for children, youth and adults. Furthermore, the association's chairman gave a presentation at a meeting of Hungarian Armenians, Szekler and Csángó people living in the Carpathian Basin. The event was held in Ghimeş-Făget, Romania between 11 and 14 August 2016.

In 2017, too, the association staged an exhibition to commemorate the Armenian Genocide, and held the second *Day of Colours*, which turned out to be very successful. As in previous years, the annual event titled *Wanderings in Transylvania, the land of our ancestors* took place in July, for the twenty-first time; the route led through Maramureş, Bukovina, the Rodna Mountains, the Harghita-Ciceului Mountains, Cristuru Secuiesc, and Vârşag. The association also made one-day excursions, following the traces of Armenians in Hungary (Feldebrő, Tarnaszentmária, etc.), gave books on Armenian culture to county libraries, and supported the operation of the Artashat Armenian Theatre, including the staging of a new performance.

(7) Established in 1991, the *Association of the Romanian Nationality in Battonya* had 54 members in the reporting period. It aims to strengthen the national identity and community of the Romanian minority, fostering the usage of the Romanian language, preserving customs and traditions, and handing these over to the next generation. Finally, the association intends to promote Romanian minority education and religious life. One important objective is to maintain close ties with Romanian and other civil organisations and institutions operating in the town of Battonya and elsewhere, with whom the association organises joint events, and they participate in each other's programs. In the reporting period, the association provided ongoing administrative help to Romanian families wishing to settle in Battonya, and supported their integration into the local Romanian community by forging local ties and finding the right kindergarten and school care for their children.

In order to support religious life and education for members of the Romanian community, the association had established the Lucian Magdu Foundation in 1992. In the reporting period, this entity continued to support and organise various events for children in the Romanian kindergarten and school in Battonya. These included a project day to preserve Easter traditions (for both kindergarten and school children), the Christmas singing competition *Vocea Crăciunului* (Voice of Christmas) for primary school students, traditional house visits while chanting Christmas songs, a poem recital competition for Romanian schools in Hungary in the memory of the poet Magdu Lucian (born in Battonya), and a reading camp in Gyula, the centre of Hungary's Romanian community. As to its future plans, the foundation intends to support religious education for children, and religious life in general.

Fulfilling an old dream, the association bought a building in 2018 to open a regional museum of the Romanian minority in 2018. With a collection of traditional items on display, the museum helps visitors get acquainted with the nationality's past, and pass the traditions on to the next generations. In addition to weekly Romanian culture classes, primary school students can now gain practical, first-hand knowledge about their ancestors' lives. In recent years, the association organised several-day excursions to Romania in order to develop communities and strengthen the national identity of their members.

(8) The **Serb** community in Hungary and several of its institutions have received significant support in recent years. The activities of the *Cultural and Documentation Centre of Serbs in Hungary* have been expanded considerably: its cultural programs are no longer limited to the *Month of Serb Culture* but cover the entire year. The events take place in the Centre of Serb Culture and at several locations outside Budapest. The cooperating partners include, besides the Serb community in Hungary and its organisations (local self-governments, Serbian schools, the Serb Orthodox Diocese of Buda), several Serb and Hungarian partners, such as Sedmica (Frankfurt), Prosvjeta (Vienna), or Forum Publishing (Novi Sad). The centre has signed a cooperation agreement with the Hungarian National Council of Vojvodina and its institutions. Every year, the centre participates in more than 80 programs and projects in Hungary and abroad as an organiser, co-organiser or partner. Further, the centre invites annual support applications for cultural initiatives of local Serb minority organisations; the decisions are made by the Cultural Committee of the Serb Self-government of Hungary. Thus the institution channels financial support provided by the country-level self-government, and uses much of its budget to support key programs locally, helping Serb communities across Hungary, no matter how remote they are. The centre has received accolades primarily in Serbia and Germany as an institution promoting cultural and intercultural cooperation, serving as a bridge between Hungary and Serbia.

The Cultural and Documentation Centre of Serbs in Hungary also operates a *Public Library* and the *Venclovic Workshop*. This latter aspires to be a contemporary, innovative but also traditional publishing house for the Serb community in Hungary. Several works prove that these seemingly contradicting approaches are not mutually exclusive but rather strengthen each other: Baština (Legacy), Staze (Roads), translations by the Venclovic Workshop into Hungarian, and sound recordings. The workshop, edited by Peter Milosevits, a popular contemporary writer, has published, both in Serbian and Hungarian, the works of several Serb authors living in Hungary, such as Stepanović Predrag, Peter Milosevits, and Dujmov Dragomir. This project will continue in the future. Since 2003, the centre has been managing the library founded by the Serb Self-government of Hungary. The library monitors and tries to obtain publications by Serbs living in the country. It is the most popular collection in the Serb community for research and thesis-writing. It keeps copies of the periodicals titled Serb Calendar and Serb Weekly, as well as all new publications connected to the life of the Serb community in Hungary.

(9) Established in 1990, the *Association of Slovenians in Hungary* has been striving to preserve the language, culture and identity of **Slovenian** people living in the country. According to the association, the law provides more opportunities than they, as a small community, can utilise. Nevertheless, the organisation boasts several recent achievements in all areas of its activity. The reporting period saw preparations for a comprehensive economic development program for the area at the river Raba, which the Slovenian community expects to improve their situation.

(10) The cultural life of Hungary's **Slovak** community features, among others, a bi-annual *Meeting of Church Choirs*, a qualifying event by the Cultural Institute of Slovaks in Hungary titled *Dance Gig*, as well as a national conference of traditional-house managers. In the reporting period, the Vertigo Slovak Theatre organised a child theatre show titled *Children for Children*, a showing of Slovakian films, and an international theatre meet-up titled *Together on the Stage (too)*. The Association of Slovaks in Hungary stages a poem recital and folk song competition every year, as well as a country-wide qualifying competition for choirs and folklore groups titled *Slovakian Carol*.

Seventh periodic report and results of the Language Charter

Similarly to the country's accession to the Framework Convention, Hungary was among the first countries to join the CoE's *European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages* (hereinafter: Language Charter) in 1992. Our country initially assumed commitments for six nationalities' languages (German, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian, Slovenian and Serbian), to which the Gypsy languages (Romani and Boyash) were added in 2008. Hungary is meeting the obligations undertaken upon accession to the Language Charter, and reports, once in three years, on compliance with the convention that took effect in 1999. As to the CoE's minority protection documents, we wish to note again that Hungary's internal laws grant wider-ranging rights to nationalities in numerous areas than the Framework Convention or the Language Charter itself.

At the beginning of the reporting period, between 13 and 15 October 2015, a delegation of the Language Charter's Expert Committee visited Hungary for an on-site review of the previous (sixth) periodic country report. The experts evaluated the practical realisation of nationalities' language usage rights via on-site interviews, and they also met with representatives of Hungarian authorities, country-level self-governments of nationalities, NGOs, as well as nationality advocates (a committee of nationalities in Hungary). Having negotiated with entities related to the usage of nationality languages, the delegation expressed their appreciation of the sixth periodic country report. The experts noted the progress made by Hungary, specifically (among others) the satisfactory operation of the system of nationality self-governments, as well as improvements in nationality education and media.

In the period covered by this country report, Hungary reported to the CoE on the implementation of the Language Charter once: the seventh periodic report describes the situation, tasks and measures between January 2014 and January 2017. The report details the realisation of nationalities' language usage rights especially in the areas of public administration, justice, education and training, culture, telecommunications, economic and social life, and cross-border relations. The language-related rights listed in the Language Charter must be granted automatically, without any targeted initiative, in historical settlements of nationalities, as well as at the seats of their transformed self-governments.

II. MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS RELATED TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Information is provided in this Chapter II about priority issues, the measures and guidelines for the execution of the recommendations made to date, as well as about the current situation of the nationalities living in Hungary, concerning each subject.

General responses to the recommendations

(1) As indicated in previous remarks, the Government of Hungary is doing its utmost to strengthen tolerance by and the respectful attitude of the majority towards minorities. The nationalities indigenous to Hungary feel well in the country; the legislative direction, the practices based on the country's nationality policy, and the overall atmosphere of society are positive. This is evidenced by the fact that the number and share of people who declare to belong to a nationality started to increase in recent years.

Hungary's nationality policy is focused on the protection of the 13 indigenous nationalities, in full compliance with the Framework Convention. The 100-year condition prescribed by the Nationalities Act had already been stipulated in the previous Act LXXVII of 1993 on the rights of national and ethnic minorities; the new Nationalities Act updated Hungary's nationality policy based on the 1993 Act. The above-mentioned provision was added due to historical traditions: those minorities are deemed autochthonous that have been living in the area of the former Kingdom of Hungary for at least 100 years. Hungary is open and receptive to those who arrive in the country legally, in compliance with the relevant European laws.

Self-governments and elected representatives in the National Assembly constitute the main pillars of democracy in Hungary. As also indicated previously, the relationship between these two pillars is up to the nationalities, but the Government provides all support to their cooperation. A nationality in Hungary may form a local self-government if at least 25 persons living in a settlement declared to belong to the same nationality in the last (2011) census. All conditions and support are available for effective and wide-ranging cooperation between the municipal self-government and the local nationality's self-government; it is the local stakeholders who have an interest in defining their actual cooperation.

The Government's responsibility for nationality policy cannot extend beyond the individual nationalities' self-images and plans for their future. Nationalities' communities are also responsible for shaping their own visions of the future. Hungary's nationality policy cannot be realised without the daily activity of nationalities' communities and the persons belonging to them. The assimilation of national minorities can only be slowed down via cooperation. The right to express an opinion, agree, and decide together is exercised at the local, regional and country levels in the system of nationality self-governments.

Changes in the legal regulations applicable to nationalities

(1) The legal framework defining nationalities' rights is now solid; its fine-tuning is an ongoing process. A cardinal act derived from the Fundamental Law summarises and extends the scope of nationalities' rights. The provisions affecting nationalities have been built into legal regulations governing other areas. The implementation rules for cardinal acts and other technical laws have also been drafted in view of nationalities' rights. The main acts passed in

the renewed system of public law were detailed in the last country report, and several new and positive consequences of the Nationalities Act were summarised. Consequently, this country report is limited to the main legal changes in the reporting period.

In 2011, Hungary's Fundamental Law declared the basic rights and obligations affecting nationalities and requiring constitutional regulation. Their enforcement is ensured by the Nationalities Act, a cardinal act. Since its promulgation, the Nationalities Act has provided a wide-ranging definition of the rights of individuals and communities belonging to nationalities; the rules are compliant with the EU's and international expectations. Thus the Nationalities Act was not modified considerably in the reporting period.

Act V of 2013 on the Civil Code (hereinafter: new Civil Code) entered into force on 15 March 2014. According to Section 2:54 (5), any member of a community (the Hungarian nation or a national, ethnic, racial or religious community) may seek court action within thirty days in case of gravely offensive or malicious statement made in public for being part of a community, which is recognised as an essential part of his personality, manifested in a conduct constituting a serious violation in an attempt to damage that community's reputation. The claimant may invoke all sanctions for a violation of personality rights, with the exception of laying claim to any financial advantage achieved.

In case a community is offended, the prosecutor may, within the general limitation period, launch proceedings without the injured party's consent. The regulation of hate speech is based on the theory, manifested in the previous practice of the Supreme Court, that any violation of the rights of a special group affects the group's members as well, so they may be entitled to enforce a claim.

Until December 2016, the detailed rules of budgetary support to nationality self-governments defined in the Nationalities Act had been stipulated in Government Decree 428/2012 (29 December) on the conditions of support from appropriations for nationalities and on the related accounting procedures. On 1 January 2017, the rules were elevated to the level of an act, indicating the importance of supporting nationalities from the central budget. Thus, from 2017, the conditions of operative support and funding for specific tasks, and the relevant accounting procedures, are defined in a dedicated annex to the current act on the annual budget. (For 2017, this is Annex 9 to Act CX of 2016 on Hungary's central budget for 2017.) Decree 308/2016 (16 December) of the Minister of Human Capacities on the detailed rules of drawing down, utilising and booking support for nationalities also entered into force in 2017. In this decree, the Human Capacities Grant Management Office was designated as the organisation to manage the central budgetary support earmarked for the minister responsible for nationality policy. (The financial support for nationalities is described in detail in Section 15 of Chapter III.)

Since September 2016, *Pro Cultura Minoritatum Hungariae* awards are handed out in acknowledgement of outstanding professional work in the areas supervised or supported by the Minister of Human Capacities, pursuant to the Minister's Decree 26/2016 (8 September).

In view of Government Decree 8/2017 (23 January) on financial support for the payment of cultural bonuses to public sector employees of municipal and nationality self-governments in 2017, and in view of Government Decision 1020/2017 (23 January) on the budgetary funding of bonuses payable to public sector employees working in the cultural sector, such bonuses are also payable to the employees of cultural institutions operated by country-level and local

self-governments of nationalities. Since 2017, additional funds have been available from the central budget for bonus payments to employees holding the culture-related jobs stipulated in Government Decree 150/1992 (20 November) on the implementation of Act XXXIII of 1992 on the legal status of public sector employees for the resolution of certain issues related to the legal status of public sector employees working in the areas of community culture and museums. Monthly support is provided from the central budget to the operators of institutions of nationality self-governments for cultural bonuses paid to employees between January and November 2017, as well as for the social contributions paid on such bonuses.

Fight against racism, hate crimes and hate speech

(1) The Government's position is that everybody is entitled to protection, regardless of their wealth, ethnicity, ideology or political views. As this is deemed to be a basic human right, the Government has taken several measures to sanction hate speech and *hate crimes*. According to the Ministry of Justice, non-violent incitement motivated by racism, anti-Semitism or other negative discrimination primarily includes, from the perspective of criminal law, the following: usage of totalitarian symbols (Section 335), incitement against a community (Section 332), and public denial of the crimes of National Socialist and Communist regimes (Section 333). As to violent crimes, violence against a community's member (Section 216) should be noted. The regulations concerning the above crimes are stipulated in Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code (hereinafter: Criminal Code).

In connection with the crime of incitement against a community, the European Commission contacted the Government of Hungary through the EU's Pilot program on 23 December 2015 about the transposition by Hungary of Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. As a result of negotiations with the European Commission, the provisions of the Criminal Code in question have been amended. Consequently, Section 332 of the Criminal Code now expressly refers not only to hatred but also to incitement to "violence". Accordingly, incitement to hatred does not automatically mean a direct threat of violence or a realistic possibility of a specific injury resulting from violence; this latter case is covered by the term "incitement to violence". Furthermore, the case referred to by the Criminal Code now expressly refers not only to the example of a "group" but also to "a member of a group", in full compliance with the relevant provision of the Framework Decision. The modified Section 332 of the Criminal Code took effect on the eighth day following the promulgation of the amending act (Act CIII of 2016), i.e. on 28 October 2016.

Since the effective date of the new Criminal Code and the fourth amendment to the Fundamental Law, the attitude of authorities towards hate crimes has been improving continuously. More investigations were launched in the reporting period, with the prosecutor's office and courts found finding a growing number of perpetrators guilty. Special behavioural rules (measures) were prescribed in the sentences, such as visiting a holocaust site or reading relevant books.

According to Act XC of 2017 on criminal proceedings, which took effect on 1 July 2018, *online hate crimes* may result in the coercive measure of ordering to make the electronic data temporarily inaccessible. (Sections 335–336, and 338). The previous legal regulations remained in force apart from minor amendments aimed at eliminating administrative barriers to the application of a coercive measure, and at simplifying the procedure. The new law specifies the group of service providers obliged to comply with such an order (i.e. providers

of hosting services as defined in the act on certain aspects of electronic commerce and information society services). Electronic data may also be made temporarily inaccessible if it is impossible or disproportionately difficult to identify the entity obliged to remove the data, if requesting a foreign authority to temporarily remove the electronic data as a legal remedy is not expected to succeed, or if making that request was disproportionately difficult.

We note that the new law intends to allow the removal of the offensive data (without a coercive measure by an authority) in order to increase the flexibility of the actions to be taken by authorities: before taking a coercive measure, the proceeding authority is authorised to demand voluntary data removal. It is important to note that compliance with this demand is not compulsory. If the data is processed by a service provider operating abroad, a remedy according to international criminal law must be used to initiate the removal of the offensive content. If that fails, the court orders to block the content, so that the online content is not available to users in Hungary. Nevertheless, blockage does not offer perfect protection because it can be technically circumvented, so international cooperation is definitely preferable for more successful action.

It is also indispensable for effective action against online hate speech and crime that social media companies (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) should do their best to prevent the posting of illegal content on their platforms. On the one hand, this requires effective and consistently enforced self-regulation on their part; and secondly, it's advisable to clarify those companies' legal liability for their services as intermediaries.

(2) In order to take effective action against hate crime, the *Hungarian Police Headquarters* set up a specialised operative line in January 2012. After nationwide consultations, officers have been assigned at county (and Budapest) police headquarters to act as regional coordinators. Each administrative unit records criminal statistics (crimes and punishable actions, perpetrators and victims) in a unified system of criminal statistical records. As the motivations for the actions are not recorded, it is not possible to identify actions motivated by prejudice, which do not constitute a separate legal category. The hate crime line of the Hungarian Police Headquarters has, in cooperation with the Work Group Against Hate, worked out and approved a document titled "Prejudice indicators" (hereinafter: indicator list) which helps identify crime motivations arising from prejudices.

The indicator list is based on international examples. It specifies objective facts and circumstances indicating that a crime was motivated, entirely or in part, by prejudice. While the indicators themselves do not prove motivation by prejudice, the presence of a single indicator requires the extension of the investigation to a possible motivation by prejudice. And the lack of an indicator does not mean that a motivation by prejudice can be ruled out. The indicators are useful tools in the planning of investigative actions as well. All indicators must be examined and documented if a motivation by prejudice is suspected, and the indicators must be included in the investigator's proposal for an indictment, and in the indictment itself. This helps the prosecution office and the court prove the motivation. The indicators may be used as indirect evidence later; the comprehensive collection of evidence is a legal obligation. The compilation of a unified investigative protocol started in 2018 in order to make investigations more professional, effective and efficient.

Measures aimed at equal treatment and equal opportunities

(1) Act CXXV on equal treatment and the promotion of equal opportunities (hereinafter: Equal Treatment Act) remained the general anti-discrimination law in the reporting period which aggregated the existing regulations in Hungary's law in a coherent system, and added several new elements in line with the relevant EU directives. The Equal Treatment Act refers to the legal institution of local equal opportunity programs. Such a program is approved by the local municipal self-government; it involves the analysis of the situation of local disadvantaged groups and the definition of targets for their equal opportunities, especially in the areas of housing, education, health care, employment, and social circumstances. A local equal opportunity program also specifies the funding required for the achievement of the goals, as well as the scheduling of implementation.

(2) The Hungarian Police reports several good practices in the reporting period. The police headquarters of counties (and Budapest) report a clear improvement in the relationship between the police and Roma communities, as well as in communication and mutually accurate reporting. The Hungarian Police Headquarters and the National Roma Self-Government concluded a cooperation agreement on 16 September 1999 for a relationship without conflicts and prejudices, and in order to improve dialogue between the parties. Main topics covered by the agreement: crime prevention; avoidance of becoming a victim, perpetrator or addict; dissemination of knowledge; and cooperation between the parties' representatives.

Pursuant to Police Directive 22/2011 (21 October) on cooperation and liaisons between the general police organisation and Roma nationality self-governments (hereinafter: Police Directive), the Hungarian Police Headquarters assesses the performance of police tasks annually. In line with the police organisation structure, the measures stipulated in the Police Directive are performed by the central and regional work groups for liaisons with minorities. At the county level, it's the head of the regional unit who is responsible for liaising with Roma nationality self-governments; at the local level, the direct relations are the responsibility of nationality contact persons appointed as coordinators by the head of the police headquarters, and of district police officers.

The flow of information is mutual: in case of street violence (family rows, breaches of peace, public nuisance, bodily harm), the competent police authorities have directly requested assistance from nationality leaders, who appeared on the scene to help resolve the conflicts. The leaders of regional work groups liaising with nationalities monitor complaints and reports by the Roma population or human rights organisations about any discriminative police action and procedure specifically attributable to Roma origin. Such cases are immediately reported to the leader of the central work group for liaisons with nationalities. The total number of complaints by Hungary's Roma population and human rights organisations was six in 2014, four in 2015, one in 2016, and one in 2017 (although this latter complaint proved unfounded).

In order to strengthen the supply of new police officers, all local municipalities have been informed of a recruitment drive aimed at orienting Roma youth towards a career in police. Every years since the Police Directive entered into force, municipality chairpersons are requested to conduct a survey among Roma youth who are sufficiently qualified or about to start a career, in order to promote the police as an employer and provide information about and assistance in the hiring procedure.

In addition, several conferences, programs and projects were carried out in the subject matter in the reporting period:

- All police headquarters of counties (and Budapest) have identified the education institutions that run programs aimed at the *integration of students with multiple disadvantages*, as well as those schools that had significant numbers of underprivileged students. General crime prevention work is performed in several of these institutions in various programs (School Policeman, DADA, ELLEN-SZER, OVI-ZSARU). The objectives are the following: establishing a relationship free of conflicts and prejudices; avoidance of becoming a victim, perpetrator or addict; and dissemination of knowledge. The regional work groups liaising with minorities receive most of the funds and technology for these programs from the HUF 1 million budget stipulated in Section 36 of the Police Directive, and from funding schemes operated by the National Crime Prevention Council.
- Pursuant to Directive 27/2011 (30 December) of the Hungarian Police Headquarters on police measures in multicultural environments, police commanders regularly notify their field officers of practices aimed at *managing conflicts* with members of minority groups of society. According to reports received from police headquarters of counties (and Budapest), the following topics are regularly covered in the instructions provided to field officers: the expected behaviour; the importance of objectivity; the protocol to be followed; the prohibition of discrimination; and the significance of unbiased police action.
- An *international conference* titled “*Equal opportunities in law enforcement*” was held in the Auditorium of the Police and Administration Centre on 15 May 2014. Organised by the Hungarian Police Headquarters and the *European Association of Roma Police Comrades*, the conference attracted speakers from Hungary, Norway and Great Britain, as well as contributors from the United States via videoconferencing. The opening of the event was attended by Tove Skarstein, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, as well as representatives of the *Implementation Foundation* and the *Work Group against Hate Crimes*. The conference was aimed at showcasing the multi-faceted nature of police work, and allowed the participants to study several European countries’ and international organisations’ experiences and best practices, so that these can be built into the efforts of the Hungarian Police for the integration of nationalities.
- A *professional project* titled *Initiative for the prevention and better handling by law enforcement agencies of hate-induced incidents* was opened on 19 November 2014. It was supported by the Hungarian Police Headquarters and the European Association of Roma Police Comrades. The launch event was attended by Tove Skarstein, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, as well as representatives of the *Implementation Foundation* and the *Work Group against Hate Crimes*. The program involved the establishment of three regions within Hungary in 2015, and the appointment of three police commanders in each county for the training of policemen in the theoretical and practical aspects of the complex, professional management of hate crimes. The three regions were set up so that the officers could disseminate the experiences of successfully managed hate crimes with the staff of police headquarters in other countries (or Budapest).

The project was successful in training field commanders and giving them useful knowledge for the proper management of hate-induced incidents, and projecting a positive image of the social activities of Roma people and the work of Roma policemen. The compilation of training topics, the collection of domestic and international experiences, the involvement of human rights organisations, and regional meetings resulted in consciously designed, gradual positive changes. These changes spurred professional development among policemen, and also marked a systemic change of attitudes. Thanks to the project, both the police and Roma communities can take more effective action against hate incidents, and Roma representatives become more cooperative with authorities. Furthermore, the project involved a recruitment campaign targeted at Roma youth, with special events, a dedicated web site, and advertisements. The website www.sokszinurendvedelem.hu provides all the information necessary for Roma youth to join the police, i.e. legal conditions, useful documents for admission, and scholarships available to Roma youth.

- On 1 April 2016, the head of the Law and Order Protection Unit of the Hungarian Police Headquarters issued a **guide** to police measures related to incidents motivated by hate and prejudice. The guide was intended for local cooperating partners so that they can effectively manage potential or actual hate incidents. The publication offers significant help by identifying the correct procedure in such cases.
- A **recruitment campaign** titled “Roma women in police”, organised by the Hungarian Police Headquarters and the European Association of Roma Police Comrades, started in Budapest on 30 September 2016, and continued in Komárom-Esztergom, Nógrád, Tolna and Veszprém counties.
- Under a cooperation agreement between the Hungarian Police Headquarters and the National Roma Self-Government, the police headquarters of some counties and Budapest announced a **talent competition** for Roma and/or disadvantaged youth in order to approximate different cultures and for the acceptance of multiculturalism. The competition initiated by the Hungarian Police Headquarters attracted numerous participants. After the county-level qualifiers, country-level events were held in 2016 and 2017. All participants receive a memorial certificate, a rucksack, a ball, and an mp3 player. Also, the *National Association of Citizen Guards* handed out a special prize. The event and the valuable prizes demonstrated to young people that hard work and the time spent with preparations pay off, and the participants may get further opportunities to utilise the talent they showed in the competition. Also, they could meet famous artists in the jury who can serve as role models.
- A **Roma festival** titled *Vi amen athe sam... (We are here, too...)* was held on 6 June 2017 as part of the 22nd Danube International Cultural Festival. The organisers selected 13 children from seven counties who had entered the nation-wide Roma talent competition in 2016.
- Upon the initiative of the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, 20 policemen participated in **sensitising training** on 10 and 11 October 2017. These patrolmen work with Roma persons in their daily work. In view of the success of the training, it will be repeated in Q2 2018, this time for higher-ranking officers.

(3) A report by the *Independent Police Complaints Board* (hereinafter: Board) notes that neither the Board itself nor the police collect data on the nationality of persons filing complaints or subjected to police measures. So the Board only examines this aspect if the complainant himself claims that he had suffered disadvantage during a police procedure due to his nationality, or that he had received no proper legal protection from racist violations. High latency is characteristic in these legal violations, which is further exacerbated by the fact that the Board can only act upon complaints (but may not launch *ex officio* procedures). Also, the Board's evidencing options are rather limited as few police actions are fully recorded on video.

Complainants claimed almost 150 times in the reporting period that police action against them had been influenced by their belonging to a nationality. Unbiased police action is required by Section 13 (2) of Act XXXIV of 1994 on the police: "a policeman must act in compliance with law, without bias." In the standard practice of the Board, this means that a policeman's action against a person must not be disadvantageous (or advantageous) just because the policeman dislikes (or likes) that person due to his/her personal circumstances or belonging to a group of society. This requirement can be violated not only via discrimination in the narrow sense of the word (i.e. by disadvantageous due to the person's belonging to a group); causing disadvantage arising from personal dislike by the policeman also constitutes bias, which is prohibited by law and examined by the Board in such cases. In the reporting period, the Board did not examine any complaint about purportedly inadequate protection from legal violations motivated by hatred due to nationality.

Measures for the social inclusion of Roma people

In the Government's program, the problems of Roma people are deemed as an issue of the entire nation instead of just a question of poverty policy. As presented in a previous report, a dedicated state secretariat was established in 2010 to elevate in the government hierarchy and increase the priority of the integration of people in deep poverty (including the Roma) via special economic and social development programs. Improving the living conditions of the Roma and reducing the number of people living in poverty are issues not only in Hungary but also across Europe. Hungary's Government has played a major part in addressing this matter in Europe.

(1) Thanks to the Inclusion Strategy, the strategic, coordination, partnership and institutional framework as well as program structure of Hungary's inclusion policy was formulated in the past seven years. The various government-funded integration programs are executed by NGOs and church organisations, non-profit entities, municipalities, nationality self-governments and social associations. We consider cooperation and negotiations with civil organisations important; partnership forums operated by the government serve this purpose.

As mentioned above, an *Inter-ministerial Committee for Social Integration and Gypsy Matters* was set up in 2010 as a forum aiming to build the Inclusion Strategy into specific policies. It serves the government-level coordination of efforts at improving the living conditions of people living in deep poverty, and at their social inclusion.

The *Roma Coordination Council*, also referred to in Chapter I, has been operating since 2011 as a forum for dialogue and cooperation for effective measures aimed at the integration of Roma people. The 29 members of the Council include representatives of seven country-level NGOs, five county-level self-governments of Roma people, and five churches. The chairpersons of the Equal Treatment Authority, the Central Statistical Office and the

parliamentary committees for culture and public welfare are always invited. The Roma Coordination Council is responsible for pointing out the issues that impede the implementation of measures for Roma integration; formulating its opinion on proposed measures as well as domestic and international reports; making proposals; and contributing to the establishment and development of professional networks aimed at integration. Also, the Council participates in the assessment of the impacts of work aimed at improving the social position of the Roma and integrating them into society, including the follow-up of the execution of the Inclusion Strategy, the annual review of action plans, and the regular review of the strategy itself. The first meeting of the Roma Coordination Council to which county-level Roma leaders were invited took place at the beginning of 2017.

As one of the first steps towards laying the legal and policy foundations of a new alliance with Roma people in 2017, the organisational structure of the Roma Coordination Council was changed. The new structure was set up before the compilation of this country report. Thematic policy groups were established within the Council, resulting in a multi-level setup. These policy groups are responsible for formulating policy proposals to the Roma Coordination Council based on the intervention pillars of the Inclusion Strategy, and indirectly participating in the implementation of the strategy. The nine policy groups include 60 experts delegated by NGOs. The Minister of Human Capacities signed a declaration of cooperation in 2017 with the leaders of the following associations: *Khetanipe Association for Roma Collaboration*; *Czinka Panna Roma Cultural Association*; the *Sun Wheel Association*; and the *Lungo-Drom National Gypsy Advocacy and Civic Association*. The *Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta* is the government's key partner.

The "*Better Fate for Children*" *Committee for the Assessment of National Strategies* monitors the efforts against child poverty under the Inclusion Strategy. Of the 26 committee members, 13 are delegated by the government, and 13 by NGOs and religious organisations. In addition, standing invitees have consultation rights. The assessment committee convenes four times a year to discuss current issues as well as annual topics. Experts of the issues discussed are invited to give presentations.

The *Human Rights Work Group* referred to in Chapter I has set up a *Human Rights Roundtable* that has 11 thematic work groups. The administrative work concerning these work groups is performed by the *Secretariat of the Human Rights Work Group* within the Ministry of Justice. The secretariat is led by a parliamentary state secretary. The *Thematic Work Group for Roma Matters* is chaired by the deputy state secretary for social inclusion. The work group has 20 members delegated by NGOs, some of which focus on Roma matters, while others have different activities. The Thematic Work Group approaches the question of the situation of Roma from the perspective of social inclusion. The Thematic Work Group is convened at least three times a year; two of these meetings are held outside Budapest. In addition, extraordinary meetings are hosted by NGOs outside Budapest. Such off-site meetings allow for learning about best practices, identifying local problems, and discussing how those problems could be resolved.

The *Anti-Segregation Roundtable* has been established by the government for effective practical measures aimed at the elimination of illegal segregation in education, which prevents the integration of disadvantaged children. The roundtable has been operating since 2013; its members are practical experts of the integrated education of disadvantaged children, as well as leaders of and public officials in the administration of education. The roundtable is a

consultative body aimed at combating segregation in education; a forum where reputed civil organisations and the government make joint proposals to policy-makers.

The *Roma Platform* initiative serves the extension of the inclusion policy to regional (county) levels. Since 2015, the platform has been supported by subsidy schemes for member states' Roma Contact Centres. Its meetings are attended by local decision-makers, officials of central and regional public administration bodies, representatives of Roma self-governments and organisations, civil and church organisations, experts of the situation of Roma people, as well as delegates of businesses and public service institutions.

(The details of the Inclusion Strategy are presented in Chapter III of the country report, as part of the information about Article 4 of the Framework Convention.)

(2) In the area of *health care*, four medical service centres (in Berettyóújfalu, Jászapáti, Borsodnádásd and Heves) with 24 doctors providing general medical services have been set up in the North Plains and North Hungary regions in the project no. SH/8/1 (*“Basic medical service organisation model program focused on public health, funded from the health care budget and supported by a Virtual Medical Provisions Centre”*) in the reporting period, partly funded from the Swiss Contribution. The program aims to work out and test a socially oriented basic health care provisions model with the involvement of local communities and especially the Roma population, in close cooperation with local and nationality self-governments as well as local health care and social services and doctors, focusing on prevention and the treatment of chronic diseases. Recommendations to national health policy-makers will be worked out based on the experiences.

In the EU programming period 2007–2013, 61 Health Improvement Offices were set up in Hungary (in 20 most disadvantaged and 18 disadvantaged districts). The network of offices plays an active and integrated role in the local community by offering health improvement services to individuals and communities free of charge, close to the local residents, with a wide range of partners. The main goals are to prevent cardiovascular diseases, cancer and early and preventable death, promote a healthy lifestyle, and improve the habits and attitudes influencing health. As an overall long-term objective, a Health Improvement Office should operate in all districts of Hungary, which will promote the public health objectives of the health care strategy “Healthy Hungary 2014–2020”, especially in the areas of preventing chronic non-infectious diseases, and mental health.

The project no. HU12-0001-PP1-2016 for *Improving the work conditions of district nurses working in Roma communities*, funded from the Norwegian Fund and executed between 1 May 2016 and 30 April 2017, aims to contribute to the special preventive and health education work of district nurses especially among disadvantaged families and Roma communities, focusing on challenges and the utilisation of novel medical practices and initiatives. The project is carried out in three counties: Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Heves. Almost 1,000 district nurses have been involved in the pilot and the implementation of the program.

(3) In line with the Inclusion Strategy, Hungary's government is committed to supporting Roma culture. The social inclusion of Roma people, the preservation and development of their culture and progressive traditions, as well as researching and awareness of their history is deemed one of the Government's main objectives. Below we present good practices to that end.

The establishment of a ***Budapest Centre for Roma Training and Culture*** is one initiative for attitude-forming and culture preservation. The Centre had been planned for long; its construction started at the time of the compilation of this report. The centre will collect and display the cultural treasures of the Roma nationality in Hungary, providing an opportunity to artists to display their works, and showing the values of Roma culture to wide strata of society. Further, the centre can serve as a high-quality forum for Roma and non-Roma people to exchange experiences and get to know each other. With the preparations completed just after the reporting period, the founding stone of the Cziffra Centre was laid by Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog and piano artist (and the centre's future art director) János Balázs on 1 March 2018.

The centre is named after György Cziffra, a famous Roma piano player from Hungary who was held in high regard by both Roma and non-Roma people. The centre will project a credible image of Roma culture, values and heritage to the rest of society, and will also serve as a forum for Roma citizens to get to know their cultural heritage and pass it on to new generations, to support talent, and strengthen their identity. As a crucial goal, the facility should be a lively community hub, a place where the Roma people living in Budapest feel at home, a centre that they like. By creating values, the facility may become a functional home of Roma culture, contributing to the abolishment of stereotypes. Finally, supporting the formulation and strengthening of a modern Roma identity based on common values and cooperation is another prime objective.

Established by the Gandhi Foundation in 1994, the ***Gandhi Secondary School, Dormitory and Basic Art School*** is the first institution in Hungary and also Europe that offers complete secondary school education to Roma people. It is also exceptional because it teaches both languages spoken by the Roma (Boyash and Lovari). Most of the students are socially disadvantaged. The schools was established so that the Roma values acquired (language, culture, traditions, knowledge of the nationality, etc.) should become an integral part of the students' identity, and so that the students can advocate the interests of the Roma and strengthen their role in society. As the institution is dedicated to the Roma nationality, significant emphasis is placed on teaching Gypsy / Roma languages and culture. The studies of Roma people are focused on traditions, culture, history and language, as well as folk art and poetry. The institution strives to offer modern education equipment, and employs alternative education methods.

The "***Cigánykerék***" ***Festival of Roma Values*** aims to bring the various nationalities together through cultural understanding, offering an opportunity to experience the varied nature and values of Roma culture in Hungary. The festival is organised on April 8 every year since 2013, concurrently with the *International Roma Day*. The programs allow an insight into the everyday life of Roma people, and promote cultural understanding to bring nationalities closer to each other. The unique and multi-faceted nature of Roma culture was on display at festivals in the reporting period, too.

Hungary considers it important to remind people of the tragic persecution of Roma nationals before and during World War II, as well as of the shameful, inhuman acts perpetrated during the rule of Nazis, so that such events can never re-occur. No-one can deny the ***Roma Holocaust*** now; it is deemed as a crime against the entire humanity. On 15 April 2015, the European Parliament adopted a resolution in which member states were requested to increase their efforts at combating hate crimes and bias against Roma people. The European

Parliament also proposed that 2 August should be declared the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, in remembrance of the Roma people killed in World War II. A memorial program (*371 Stars – the Day of Pride and Roma Youth*) is held every year from 2015.

The media internship program “*Join the Broadcast*” for disadvantaged youth and especially for Roma children was launched in 2016 by the Media Service Support and Asset Management Fund and the National Cultural Fund, upon an initiative by the Minister of Human Capacities. As a result of the program, two talented youngsters went on to work at the Media Service Support and Asset Management Fund. In 2017, eight creators were supported by the program. The scholarship is intended to help the beneficiaries gain practical experience in the world of media as well as an insight into television, and allow them to actively participate in the work. The scholarship of HUF 200,000 per person per month is available to disadvantaged youth of secondary education, aged 18–30.

(4) As to **employment**, a *social farming program* is available to support the livelihood of disadvantaged families living in agricultural areas, many of whom are Roma. This means small gardens and small-scale animal husbandry that help make a family self-sufficient and promote the acceptance of Roma families in the community. In 2017, 152 organisations won support in the social farming program, and the number of disadvantaged families reached was close to 8,000.

Between 2010 and 2014, two programs (*Actively for Work, Actively for Knowledge*) reached almost 34,000 people to support the development of their personal competences and the development of basic skills (writing and reading). Their total budget was HUF 11 billion. About 47% of the participants claimed to be Roma. The program continues in the 2014–2020 funding period, based on the previous experiences. The goal is to improve the employment situation of persons disadvantaged in the labour market, and specifically persons of little or no education, so that they can finish primary school and improve their basic skills and competences. The programs are also aimed at giving the participants work experience and a vocation to learn, and at decreasing illiteracy. At least 25,000 people will be involved in the program at a cost of HUF 6.3 billion. At least 12,000 persons will be trained and will also receive financial support during the training, and at least 500 people will take part in apprenticeship where their skills can be tested. The program places special emphasis on the organisation and provision of services that help the trainees remain in training and work.

According to intervention area 7.4.1 (*Entry into the labour market by disadvantaged people*), the Inclusion Strategy defines the following goals: “In order to help the inclusion of Roma people, who are especially disadvantaged in terms of employment, it is necessary to prepare these persons to take understaffed public service jobs through subsidised training, tailor-suited help, mentorship, and subsidised employment. Roma women need targeted and complex programs because their employment level is extremely low, and their employment opportunities are limited by specific factors even among other disadvantaged groups.” In line with the Strategy, the basic objective of the “*Chance for Women*” programs is to increase the employment and social acceptance of unemployed Roma people (and especially Roma women) by giving them more jobs in public services. Through the employment of persons who identify themselves as Roma, the initiative contributes to better and more targeted public services, and also promotes the emergence of more cooperative public service institutions.

The program involves concurrent employment and training until a vocation is formally obtained. Work starts already at the start of the program, so the participants can integrate in

the employment institution at an early phase, and can get to know the colleagues and environment of their full-time work after completing the training. The program is implemented via two projects: a primary project and an application scheme. About 1,100 Roma women are expected to be trained and employed; 24-month subsidised employment will be followed by compulsory continued employment for 12 months. The budget of the program is HUF 8.62 billion + 1.85 billion.

(5) Concerning *housing*, the country's segregation map and database have been compiled based on data from the 2011 census. The goal is to improve the situation of (mostly Roma) families living in segregated areas. The database identifies 1,384 segregated, primarily Roma neighbourhoods or embedded disadvantaged communities in 709 villages, towns and cities. *Complex slum programs* aim to improve access to employment, education, health care, social services, and housing. A two-phase approach is used, where the first step involves human development ("do it with them, not for them") so that the community of a slum develops the ability to take personal and collective responsibility and live independently. In the second phase, the houses and their environment are renovated with the involvement of the community, with the constant presence of social workers (settlement-type social work). Between 2012 and 2015/2016, the program was implemented in 66 segregated areas of 55 settlements (using EU funds of HUF 8.04 billion). Housing development was performed in eight settlements, 112 homes were renovated or rebuilt, and some 500 members of 132 families experienced improved housing conditions. In the 2014–2020 EU programming period, the following three programs are expected to reach over 30,000 persons through approximately 320 calls for proposals with a HUF 106.76 billion budget: the Human Resources Development Operative Program (hereinafter: HRDO), the Regional and Settlement Development Operative Program (hereinafter: RSDOP), and the Competitive Central Hungary Operative Program (hereinafter: CCHOP).

Roma integration programs in education; special schools

(1) *Free school choice* is one of the core principles of Hungary's education system. However, the law requires the definition of primary school districts in order to avoid the segregation of schoolchildren based on their origin or social status. For that reason, the social and economic status of the local families must be taken into consideration when drawing the boundaries of primary school districts.¹

(2) Regarding the *socially disadvantaged or multiple disadvantaged position* of Roma people, it is important to emphasise that the problems affecting many Roma students (poverty or deep poverty) do not result from their nationality (ethnicity) but rather from their social and medical situation. Thus the Government's actions and interventions are based on indicators derived from a low social and economic status, taking into consideration the results of impact studies. Nationality (ethnicity) constitutes "special (personal) data" in Hungary, which may only be processed with certain legally defined conditions. Public education statistics do not contain data specifically about Roma students, so we have no official information about the number of Roma children in Hungary, how many of them complete primary school or go on

¹ Decree 20/2012 (31 August) of the Minister of Human Capacities, article 24 (2): if several schools, institutions or education facilities operate in a settlement or district, then the ratio of disadvantaged students in each school district **may not be more than 15 percentage points higher** than the share of disadvantaged primary school students in the entire settlement or district.

to secondary school or university. So the application of the definitions² in the Child Protection Act (disadvantaged, multiply disadvantaged) in the public education system for the purposes of the various interventions is based on a student's socio-cultural position.

(3) As one of the *legal measures* against segregation in education, the National Assembly of Hungary amended the Equal Treatment Act and Act CXC of 2011 on national public education (hereinafter: Public Education Act) on 13 June 2017. (The amendments entered into force on 1 July 2017.) The main goal of the amendments to the two laws was to address the European Commission's concerns about schools of nationalities and churches by fortifying the guarantees against illegal segregation. Furthermore, additional requirements were stipulated for Roma students for the equal quality of nationality education. According to the amendment, legally compliant education must simultaneously meet all requirements concerning religious belief and nationality education, i.e. the participation of students is on a religious and nationality basis, as chosen freely and without influence. Thus the amendment was intended to strengthen the guarantees against the illegal segregation of disadvantaged (including Roma) children. The amendment repealed a so-called "authorising provision" [Public Education Act, Section 94 (4) z)], which had allowed for further relaxing the exemption defined in Section 28 (2) of the Equal Treatment Act: "the Government is authorised to issue a decree defining the specific conditions of organising education in a religiously committed school or a nationality's school for the realisation of the conditions defined in Section 28 (2) of the Equal Treatment Act, especially concerning the prohibition of illegal segregation".

For the equal quality of nationality education for Roma students, requirements were added to Decree 17/2013 (1 March) of the Minister of Human Capacities on the issuance of guidelines for nationality kindergarten and school education. The amendment ensures that parents can choose a nationality institution voluntarily, based on comprehensive and influence-free information. Thus the realisation of the conditions required for the parent's responsible decision was strengthened, and the amendment contributes to a conscious choice of identity as the basis for requesting the organisation of a nationality's education, and for the participation therein. As another important feature of the amendment, it allows parents to withdraw their declarations during an academic year. The amendment entered into force on 4 October 2017.

As a change in the delineation of schools' service areas during the reporting period that took effect on 1 January 2017, consent by school district centres and nationality self-governments to the definition of the service areas must be obtained.

Government Decree 134/2016 (10 June) on the Klebelsberg Centre was also amended; an option was added for the creation of *anti-segregation work groups*. The amendment entered into force on 1 October 2017.

The priority project *supporting institutions threatened by student attrition* is one of the *education measures* aimed at inclusive education and the prevention of segregation. The program supports students threatened by attrition; it also provides complex and differentiated development for public education institutions affected by segregation as part of a pilot

² The following factors shall be taken into consideration when determining a child's disadvantaged or multiply disadvantaged status: 1. the family's per capita average monthly income; 2. the parent's education and employment level, and living environment. A child is deemed multiply disadvantaged who is raised in a family where the parents earn low income or are unemployed, and have not completed eight years of primary education. (Source: Act XXXI of 1997 on the protection of children and on guardianship administration.)

program for a pedagogical framework to support the prevention of attrition in schools. The framework can be adapted and continued after the end of the four-year program. The Education Office concluded an agreement with the institutions involved (300 primary and secondary schools, and 150 kindergartens) and their operators. The operators of the schools and kindergartens received de-segregation models, guides and methodological help so that they could maintain the results achieved.

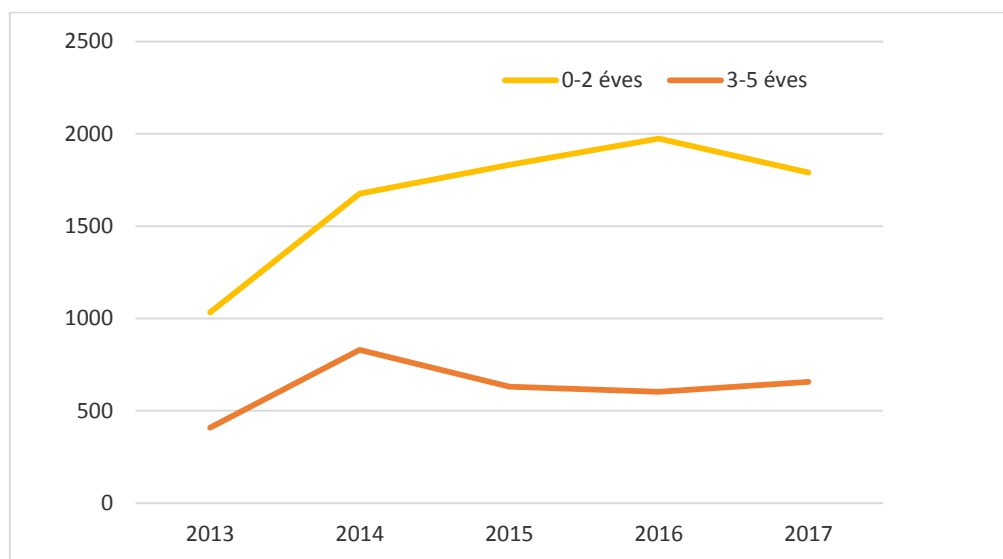
An action plan created by education and inclusion authorities together, titled *Road Map*, describes the interventions for the success of disadvantaged students (including Roma children), as well as the measures for de-segregation in education. The measures can be organised into four large groups: the legal / strategic environment; content and methodology development; the training and distribution of teachers; and the institutional system and social dialogue.

(4) Concerning the measures against *the segregation of Roma students in education* as well as for a fair school system and equal education opportunities, it should be noted that the key to long-term integration is inclusion as early as possible, not only by schools but also with the involvement of parents, motivating the child's family as well. A complex approach is needed, as well as long-term support from birth until a vocational exam. It is also necessary to prepare the experts involved (teachers and social workers), and set up a systemic framework. These steps are detailed below.

Below 3 years of age:

So-called "*Safe Beginning*" *Children's Houses* have been operating across Hungary since 2009, using EU funds. They offer provisions to socio-culturally disadvantaged children younger than five years of age (and their families) who receive no institutional care. The provisions contribute to the successful start of children's school studies. A parent is always together with his/her child in the Children's House, so that the parent can learn what he/she has to do for the child's sound development, and gets help in improving his/her competences for an independent life. A Children's House creates an optimal environment for the development of children's motor skills, speech and mental capacities. And during the sessions with his/her child, a parent can also acquire the knowledge needed for developing a child's healthy personality. The service has been receiving support from the central budget since 2012, and it has been added to the child protection system stipulated in Act XXXI of 1997 on child protection and guardianship procedures. The following chart shows the number of children regularly educated in the Children's Houses in the recent period (when these facilities were already involved in the child protection system).

Figure 1:
Number of children regularly using the services of the “Safe Beginning” Children’s Houses, 2013–2017



Source: CSO, data collection no. 1775 OSAP on the operation of basic child welfare provisions

In 2017, 112 Children’s Houses with 236 professionals served 2,221 families with regular care. About 80% of the 2,446 children who received provisions were younger than 2 years of age. Meals were provided to 97% of the beneficiaries. One in four persons took advantage of bathrooms for personal hygiene in the Houses, and almost as many washed their clothes there. Some 80% of the Houses are located in the Plains and North Hungary, the regions with the highest number and ratio of disadvantaged or multiply disadvantaged children. This form of institutional provisions will gain importance concerning children below the recently introduced compulsory kindergarten age of three years, as it’s only the smallest children and their families who will use the services of the Houses. The network of “Safe Beginning” Children’s Houses is being expanded using EU funds, with about 80 new facilities opened in 2018.

In addition, an *early childhood program for children up to seven years old* (TÁMOP-6.1.4) serves as a “screening program” based on the milestones of basic health care provisions, with evaluation together with the parents. The goal is to define a child’s development level and make recommendations as to the next steps. The next *program for the inter-disciplinary development of early childhood intervention* (HRDO-1.9.5-CCHOP-16) is aimed at identifying the next specific actions. The *various forms of day-care for small children*, such as nurseries and other provisions, provide for physical needs (meals, a healthy environment) and development (e.g. social integration) for the youngest disadvantaged children, for example via integrated early development in nurseries. In all three fields, the initiatives serve to assist Roma families and develop their children, thus promoting their subsequent integration into schools, and thus society.

From 3 years of age:

On 1 September 2015, compulsory kindergarten attendance was introduced for three-year-old children. The capacity of kindergartens was increased by almost 5,500 in the past few years.

Kindergarten care, including meals, is free of charge. A program *supporting public education measures for social inclusion and integration* is aimed at increasing the public education system's role of creating opportunities for and promoting the inclusion of disadvantaged children. Kindergarten development programs and the training of kindergarten teachers increase the chances of disadvantaged children to catch up. The program supports access by disadvantaged children to high-quality education, as well as the dissemination and fine-tuning of model programs supporting their development. Furthermore, the program involves professional and process-related advice, which is conducive to its efficient and effective implementation; and it also stimulates the emergence and strengthening of a child-centred and family-oriented approach towards families and institutions caring for small children.

From 10 years of age:

A program that is unique in Europe, titled *Bari Shej* (“*Big Girl*”), is aimed at preventing ***Roma girls from dropping out of school early***. The goal is to improve the situation of Roma girls aged 10–18 who attend primary or secondary school. The low education level of Roma women is a major reason for their social disadvantages. The program is aimed at maximising the number of Roma girls who continue their studies beyond the eight-year primary school, strengthening their motivations to learn, and encouraging their families to support those plans. (The families of the participating girls are also intended to be actively involved in the program.) The applicant organisations (churches and NGOs) involved at least 1,780 disadvantaged girls in the program starting from the academic year 2017/2018.

From 12 years of age:

The *For the Journey Scholarship Program* supports participants from the seventh grade of primary school until graduation from secondary school, providing personal mentoring and grant to disadvantaged (and specifically Roma) children. Almost 13,000 students participate in the program every academic year on average, and at least 50% of the grantees are Roma. The components are the following: *Road to Secondary School*, *Road towards the School-leaving Exam*, and *Road Towards a Profession*. The grant is HUF 5–15,000 depending on the student's grades. Entry into the program is subject to social position (need), but the grant is performance-based, i.e. dependent on the student's grades at the end of the previous academic year.

Study circles have been operating in Hungary for 20 years as grassroots initiatives. They are primarily funded by the EU. As entities outside the public education system, they have succeeded to attract disadvantaged students and their families (including Roma people). A study circle is an innovative initiative for children and youth on the periphery of society who are less successful in the public education system. A study circle's activities are based on local characteristics, voluntary participation, and individual needs. The complex services, rendered in view of personality development as a whole, would hardly be available to the target group elsewhere. The 288 study circles in Hungary are run by NGOs and church organisations; they have decreased the disadvantages of over 8,500 students.

From 18 years of age:

The *Road towards a Degree Scholarship Program* supports 800–900 Roma students in higher education each year. It involves grant and cost reimbursement. The grantees study in almost all fields, from science, technology, medicine and health to sports.

The Government's Partnership Agreement is aimed at excellence in higher education, including more successful disadvantaged Roma youth and disabled persons in public and tertiary education, as well as in formal and informal studies. In addition, study partnerships are to be developed, opportunities are to be created, and talent is to be managed across the education system. These goals are intended to be achieved via cooperation between the accredited higher education institutions operating a *Roma Specialised College* as listed in Annex 1 to Act CCIV of 2011 on higher education (hereinafter: Higher Education Act), and the dormitories running or constituting a specialised college as defined in Section 54 of the Higher Education Act.

According to Article 7.3.3 of the Inclusion Strategy on *promoting the entry of disadvantaged Roma youth into secondary and higher education and preventing their attrition*: "Utmost efforts are needed to help disadvantaged youth, including Roma people, enter secondary and higher education. The share of these students in general secondary and higher education as well as marketable vocational training must be increased to promote their economic integration. After primary school and vocational training, as many students as possible should enter secondary education that provides a general school-leaving certificate. For the transition from primary to secondary school, it is important to ensure that Roma students with strong grades should target institutions that correspond to their abilities."

In line with the above objectives, the application scheme *supporting Roma colleges (HRDO-3.4.1)* serves the creation and continued development of complex services for disadvantaged or multiply disadvantaged Roma students admitted to higher education institutions, thus contributing to the successful completion of their studies, lower attrition, and increasing their activity in the community and society. The budget for the scheme is HUF 1.45 billion. At the time of the compilation of this report, the Government supported 11 specialised colleges in Budapest and other university cities; the total number of (disadvantaged, Roma) participants is 325. The fields of study includes humanities, medicine, technology, economy, and arts.

(5) Concerning the efforts at preventing that *Roma children are declared handicapped without a valid reason* and sent to „special schools”, we note that the structure and activities of pedagogical services have been completely overhauled in recent years, together with the relevant legal regulations. One reason for the changes was a ruling passed by the European Human Rights Court on 29 January 2013 in the case of Horváth and Kiss. Before the new regulations, these activities were performed by several types of institution operators, the institutional structure was not unified, and there were huge differences between counties in terms of the quantity and quality of the provisions.

As required by law, a *specialised pedagogical service institution* was set up in every county for unified management and procedures for all of the specialised service units in that county, apart from a few exceptions. The law also defines the minimum number of experts in each county and for each specific task, which meant that the headcount was increased. This was another step forward compared to the previous practice. An *expert committee* is one of the entities of specialised pedagogical services; in the new setup, the committee may only declare a child slightly mentally handicapped if this is justified by the child's family doctor in writing, or by the monitoring of the child's development. An equal opportunities expert assigned by the specialised pedagogical service must also be present when a committee examines a child with multiple disadvantages, unless the parent expressly waives that expert's attendance in writing. The equal opportunities expert may express his/her opinion on the work and findings

of the expert committee, and may propose to the parent to initiate a review. In addition, the equal opportunities expert must initiate a procedure by public administration authorities if the expert committee's procedures violate the examination protocol. The expert committee must review its opinion in an *ex officio* procedure regularly, as frequently as specified in the relevant legal regulations.

The priority project TÁMOP-3.4.2.B, supported by the European Union, served the development of the transforming structure and activities of specialised services. The project's work included the development of the *Integrated Follow-up System* introduced in November 2014. The system is aimed at monitoring the lives of the children and students served by specialised service units, unified record-keeping of the provisions, and unified documenting of the progress of the beneficiary children. The Integrated Follow-up System shows what provisions a child received, when, where and from whom, and the findings of the experts are also recorded. All specialised services are obliged to use the system, which can handle data on the child's nationality as well.

In addition, *obligatory early screening* has been introduced. The screening of kindergarten children used to be obligatory at the age of five only; since 1 September 2017, children are screened at the age of three and five. The objective is to diagnose speech and language impediments as soon as possible, so that the development of the affected children can start early (which may prevent many subsequent problems in school). Furthermore, the methods of testing for special education needs have been upgraded significantly, so that children in SNE have access to high-quality, inclusive education without being declared handicapped without a valid reason. Thanks to the past few years' developments, the following modern intelligence tests, which all comply with the relevant standards, are in use at the time of the compilation of this report: WISC, WAIS, WPPSI-IV, UNIT.

As a result of the above-mentioned measures by the Government, the ratio of children declared slightly mentally handicapped decreased steadily, from 2.1% of all children in the 2003/2004 academic year to 1.4% in 2017/2018.

(Further information on measures for equal opportunities and inclusive education is provided in Chapter III of the country report, in the remarks to article 12.)

III. DETAILED PRESENTATION OF THE MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

The following part provides further information on each article of the Framework Convention, and describes the government measures taken in the reporting period to promote their implementation in Hungary, as well as NGO assessments pertaining to the topics concerned.

Article 1

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation.

(1) Hungary conducts nationality-related international activities in several forums. Hungarian nationality policy is determined basically by the relations mentioned in the Nationalities Act: the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, work performed under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Copenhagen Document, the United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the European Union. The fundamental institutions of bilateral cooperation affecting the relations of the nationalities living in Hungary with their mother countries are the joint committees on minorities operated mainly with the neighbouring countries. In addition to cooperating and communicating with the mother countries of the nationalities living in Hungary, the Department of Nationalities (in the Ministry of Human Capacities) responsible for nationality affairs in Hungary also cooperated in the reporting period with the institutions and functions of the EU, the Council of Europe, the UN and the OSCE dealing with minority affairs, nationalities, Roma affairs, language rights, human rights and anti-racism.

Article 2

The provisions of this Framework Convention shall be applied in good faith, in a spirit of understanding and tolerance and in conformity with the principles of good neighbourliness, friendly relations and co-operation between States.

(1) In its relations with the mother countries of the nationalities, Hungary has strived to broaden cooperation also in the interest of the nationalities concerned. The majority of nationality communities in Hungary and/or their organisations maintain close relationships with the mother country as well as its government institutions and non-governmental organisations, as indicated by joint events and cooperation with the cultural institutions and embassies concerned.

(2) Whether contacted directly or via tenders, the State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations of the Ministry of Human Capacities supported both direct contact between national communities living in Hungary and their respective mother countries, and the relevant requests of the nationalities. Typical supported initiatives in the reporting period included organising various (youth or child) summer camps, providing further training for teachers in the mother country or the language nation, scientific agreements, exchanges, etc.

(3) Bilateral joint committees on minorities (hereinafter: JCMs) have been operating for twenty years between Hungary and the governments of the mother countries of some of the

nationalities living in the territory of Hungary. These bodies – the members of which include the representatives of the nationalities concerned, from both sides – regularly review all issues that are important to these communities, and adopt proposals for their respective governments. Complying with the proposals drawn up by the joint committees on minorities is an important task of nationality policy, national policy and diplomacy, that may be of strategic importance for Hungary's relationship with these mother countries and for the ethnic Hungarian community there. In the case of nationalities without JCMs, although cooperation with the relevant mother countries is narrower, it can be regarded as regular. By now, the majority of the mother countries of nationalities had become Member States of the European Union, so cooperation with them is diverse and fairly good

Examples of nationality community/mother country cooperation are presented under Article 17 of this Chapter. For more detail on the work of JCMs, see Article 18.

Article 3

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

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

(1) Hungarian nationality policy sets out goals in the interest of the preservation, growth and development of the nationalities living in Hungary because, as mentioned in the Fundamental Law, the nationalities living with us form part of the Hungarian political community and are constituent parts of the State. For this reason, the rise and social and political development of Hungary may only be realised with the involvement of the nationalities, their communities and representations.

The Nationalities Act proclaims that every citizen forming part of one nationality or another has the right to freely declare and preserve their identity. No one may be obliged to make a declaration on the issue of affiliation with a nationality; however, an act or its implementing law may tie the exercise of certain nationality rights to the individual's declaration.

Furthermore, the Nationalities Act also states *inter alia* that individual freedom can only be achieved in cooperation with others. Nationalities form a constituent part of the Hungarian political community, and their specific individual and collective rights are fundamental freedoms. The Nationalities Act contains detailed provisions on individual nationality rights (Chapter III) and also on collective nationality rights (Chapter IV).

(2) As for expanding the scope of the 13 recognised nationalities, pursuant to Section 148 of the Nationalities Act, if a nationality other than the 13 nationalities acknowledged by the Act as ethnic groups native to Hungary wishes to verify that they meet the relevant conditions, minimum 1,000 voters forming part of that nationality may initiate that the nationality be declared an ethnic group native to Hungary. The procedure shall be governed by the provisions applicable to national referendum initiatives. In the course of its procedure, the National Election Committee shall seek the position of the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on compliance with the statutory conditions. No repeated application may be submitted within one year of the date of rejection by the National Assembly.

Article 4

- 1. The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.**
- 2. The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.**
- 3. The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.**

(1) The Fundamental Law of Hungary declares that everyone shall be equal before the law. Every human being shall have legal capacity. It guarantees fundamental rights to everyone without discrimination (in particular without discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, disability, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status) and it promotes, by means of separate measures, equality of opportunity and social inclusion. Details have been given in respect of all legal and institutional changes affecting the prohibition of discrimination, governmental measures for the purpose of combating discrimination and intolerance, and issues relating to equal treatment in Chapter II of the Country Report, where the measures taken in relation to the recommendations included in the Advisory Committee's opinion in connection with this Article were described. We would like to add the following pieces of information.

(2) *ETA* is an anti-discrimination body established on 01 February 2005. It may initiate an examination upon request based on Section 8 (e) (national or ethnic origin) and (f) (mother tongue) of the Equal Treatment Act, or *ex officio* in the cases listed under Section 4(a)–(d) of the same Act, to establish whether the requirement of equal treatment has been complied with by those obliged to do so, and passes a decision based on the examination or applies the sanctions listed under Section 17/A(a)–(e) of the Equal Treatment Act against the offender. In addition to the above, it may, *inter alia*, initiate proceedings to protect the rights of persons and groups whose rights had been infringed by exercising its *actio popularis* right, and it provides continuous information and assistance to stakeholders for addressing equal treatment infringements. *ETA* is based in the capital, but its administrators hold trials, as a general rule, at the local government competent over the residence of the complainant.

In the reporting period, no investigations were initiated before the authority, no substantive decision was made and no application objecting to discrimination was received in regard to the use of a nationality language. A total of 80 substantive decisions were passed with reference to Section 8(e) (national or ethnic origin) of the Equal Treatment Act, where the complainants argued that they suffered discrimination in relation to their Roma origin. Of the 80 cases of violations of law, the authority established equal treatment infringement in 20 cases and approved the settlement of the parties in 14 cases. In the reporting period, *ETA* rejected the applications of Roma complainants in 46 cases. The parties they complained against were mostly employers, public employers, private and public service providers, healthcare providers or education institutions. Of the applications, 95% was submitted to *ETA* by individual complainants, the rest was initiated by *actio popularis* or *ex officio*. In the established violations of law, the types of discrimination involved were harassment and direct or indirect discrimination, and the main fields of discrimination were employment, service

provision, social security and health care. Below you will find the details of the outcomes of official investigations in the reporting period:

- 2014: 4 violations, 2 decisions on approval of settlement, 17 rejections;
- 2015: 4 violations, 5 decisions on approval of settlement, 2 rejections;
- 2016: 5 violations, 4 decisions on approval of settlement, 17 rejections;
- 2017: 6 violations, 1 decision on approval of settlement, 13 rejections;
- 2018 (until 31 January): 1 violation, 2 decisions on approval of settlement, no rejection. There were cases where ETA established violation in part of the case (harassment), but no violation concerning the facts of indirect discrimination, or established the facts of harassment and indirect and direct discrimination all at once.

National/ethnic origin was indicated as the cause of complaints addressed to ETA typically by people declaring themselves to be of Roma origin; the ratio of applications submitted by other nationalities living in Hungary was infinitesimal (0.2%). Applicants generally indicated violation of the requirement of equal treatment in the fields of employment and access to goods and services. In the latter field, administrative procedures were requested on the ground of refusal of entry to entertainment venues or inadequate quality of service. In that of housing, the subject of the applications was access to municipal rented dwellings and eviction from the same, whereas in education it was typically harassment by teachers/peer students or inadequate implementation of developments specified by expert opinions. In the field of social security, those addressing ETA typically objected to the quality of health service and the attitude of staff there.

(3) The report of the *criminal enforcement organisation* emphasises that they do not – and shall not – keep records by nationality, origin, disability, religious or political beliefs. Compliance with the provisions of the Fundamental Law is guaranteed by the system of requirements ensuring the prevention of discriminative action and imposing commensurate sanctions on perpetrators. Unlawful staff action during confinement may raise the suspicion of official or even military offence, depending on the circumstances. In the first case, criminal proceedings are initiated against the offender, but persons doing professional service may be subject also to disciplinary action in addition to criminal proceedings. Given the severity of the criminal and disciplinary threat, and the serious sanctions imposed on such conduct, the relevant rules basically prevent the occurrence of crimes resulting from discrimination. If criminal proceedings brought against the action complained result in conviction, that may be a sentence, supplementary penalty or measure imposed according to the Criminal Code, in the jurisdiction of the court. If disciplinary proceedings brought against a member of the professional staff establish disciplinary liability, disciplinary punishment shall be adjusted to the gravity of the act committed. According to the court case law of the reporting period, detainees could contact the court directly on the ground of violation of their personality rights (e.g. discrimination) or to have grievance fee established in the same context.

Where no criminal suspicion arises, pursuant to Act CCXL of 2013 on the Execution of Punishments, Criminal Measures, Certain Coercive Measures and Confinement for Administrative Offences, detainees may address a written request to the member of the law enforcement organisation who is competent to proceed in matters related to his/her detainment. He/she may request a personal hearing from the commander or organisational unit head of the correctional facility, or address the first directly, in writing. The detainee may appeal against the decision or measure or its omission to the commander of the prison where the decision was taken or the measure/omission took place, and submit a request for review or

bring the case to court in cases defined under the law. The detainee may also lodge a complaint to the prosecution providing legal supervision of law enforcement, speak with its representative without surveillance and, furthermore, make a request to the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, or address Hungarian and international organisations for the protection of human rights. The latter found in every case that complaints of this type were managed lawfully.

It is worth noting that, as of 01 January 2018, the correctional system provides halfway house services under the HRDOP's Priority Project 1.3.3-16., *Reintegration of detainees*, primarily to promote the integration of detainees of Roma origin, at three places: in Baranya County, Bács-Kiskun County and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. Under the project, the halfway houses provide complex service focusing on personality development, something that the detainees, who are less successful in the public education system and forced to the periphery of society, could not access otherwise due to their special situation. The institution gives the detainees education tasks and reintegration service, taking into account that a significant part of this target group had not completed primary school, that is, had had no success in the public education system. Correctional facilities provide an opportunity for learning but, obviously, socialisation, career-building, culture mediation, community development, leisure organisation and social support activities should be given similar emphasis, due to the already peripheral social position of the detainees. Typically, it is not their being sent to a correctional institution that breaks their life career: by the time they get there, minors have a socio-cultural backlog that can only be remedied by special services. As they are undereducated, supporting their studies after release is equally important. They can join study circles later on, but their motivation for learning must be built up during their time in the halfway house, and clients need to be socialised to request assistance. The aim is to maintain a service system that is similar to the one accessible after release, to be able to continue with development started at the institution.

During staff training, correctional facilities give special emphasis to safeguarding the rights of detainees and to adhering to the procedures, irrespective of who the detainee is. It is crucial to select staff with adequate competencies and to have a sound recruitment system and a complex system of education and training relying on it. Implementing the principles of equal rights and opportunities is stressed already in the recruitment phase, and the corresponding attitude is part also of the basic training syllabus following hiring, together with respect for fundamental freedoms and the various international documents and declarations.

In the *Reintegration skills* module, the cornerstone of the curriculum is the principle of non-discrimination. The *Service skills module* pays special attention to the absolute protection of human dignity and the prohibition of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. In the context of *Psychology of service behaviour*, psychologists active in the Education, Further Training and Rehabilitation Centre of the Criminal Enforcement Organisation address this issue in the form of training courses to students, covering also the topic of prejudiced attitudes. *Security skills* describes in detail the framework regulations and rules excluding any violation of human rights. The prohibition of discrimination is covered also under *Professional ethics* where special emphasis is given to the requirement that staff members refrain from applying any discrimination during the execution of their work and prevent by all available means that other persons use the instrument of discrimination. Human and minority rights, restriction of human rights, citizens' rights, status rights of Hungarian citizens, status rights of Hungarian citizens as EU citizens, protection of minorities and minority rights, guarantee of human and minority rights are taught in the module *Basic public administration*.

Executing the measures and tasks presented above guarantee that the personnel of the law enforcement organisation fulfil their duties lawfully, by implementing the principle of equal treatment. Irrespective of nationality, detainees are provided education, vocational training, employment and several skills and competencies development programs for the sake of effective social reintegration. Note that the priority treatment of participation in employment and offering such opportunity to stakeholders is based on detainee status, and not the origin or background of the person concerned.

(4) Poverty data of the Roma as compared to those of the total population have shown significant improvement since 2013. The analyses suggest a trend reversal: the proportion of those exposed to *poverty* and the risk of social exclusion has been declining steadily, and almost one million people managed to break out of poverty since 2012. The number of people exposed to the risk of poverty or social exclusion has also fallen substantially, dropping from 31.8 percent in 2014 to 25.6 percent in 2017; consequently, in 2017, a total of 2,465,000 were affected by at least one dimension of poverty, accounting for an improvement by 76,000 relative to 2016. The number of people living in extreme poverty shrunk by 386,000 from close to 500,000 in 2012, to 114,000 in 2016, and that of people vulnerable in several dimensions also declined continuously in the past years. The number of people concerned by two poverty dimensions fell by 27.1% (174,000 persons) from 2015 to 2016, and that of persons concerned by all three poverty dimensions by 38.4%, corresponding to 71,000 persons. The national ratio of persons subject to severe material deprivation, 14.5% in 2017, was the lowest in the past three years in both the Roma and the non-Roma population. The ratio of persons living in households with very low work intensity fell from 11.3% to 6.5% compared to the 2009 value. The relative income poverty index has also decreased. This change in ratios is quite substantial in the Roma population, corresponding to 6.3% improvement from 2016 to 2017.

The data confirm that Hungary is approximating the poverty reduction targets of the EU2020 strategy at appropriate pace, and it is likely to be one of the few Member States that can fulfil their relevant commitments. One achievement worth mentioning is the substantial improvement of the rate of the most vulnerable social group, that of children and young people (younger than 17) exposed to the risk of poverty or social exclusion (2013: 43.9%; 2017: 31.6%). The former perceived higher poverty risk of households with children has diminished.

The overwhelming majority of the education indicators of the whole population, however, indicate deterioration or stagnation, especially in the Roma population: The ratio of Roma people aged 15–24 participating in secondary education dropped to 24.2% in 2017. (2014: 37.2%; 2015: 29.4%; 2016: 28.4%), and that of early school leavers rose to 65.3% among the Roma (2014: 57%; 2015: 59.9%; 2016: 61.8%). Considering the total population, the employment rate of those aged 15–64 definitely improved since 2010, from 54.9% measured in 2010 to 68.2% in 2017. In the Roma population, the employment rate was 45% in 2017.

(5) The *Inclusion Strategy* summarised in Chapter II, but let us add the following here. The Government adopted the National Social Inclusion Strategy determining inclusion policy until 2020 and its first three-year government action plan by Government Decision 1430/2011 (13 December) on the National Social Inclusion Strategy (NSIS) and the Implementation of the NSIS Resolution in 2012–2014. The review and updating of the Social Inclusion Strategy took place in connection with preparations for drawing up the second action plan in the

reporting period, during 2014. The outcome was the 2nd Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy, a framework strategy adopted by Government Decree 1603/2014 (4 November) on the Approval of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy II, the Lifelong Learning Policy Framework Strategy, the Public Education Development Strategy, as well as the Midterm Strategy against Early School Leaving. The Government accepted the second Action Plan by Government Decision 1672/2015 (22 September). The action plans of the Strategy, covering a substantial segment of the activities of the State Secretariat for Social Affairs and Social Inclusion of the Ministry of Human Capacities and every human services sector, pays special attention to social developments of relevance for social inclusion, and to the monitoring and evaluation of the interventions and programs concerned.

To monitor the social effects, an *indicator system* matching the target system of the document was drawn up (in cooperation with TÁRKI Social Research Institute and later on with CSO). The indicators are macro indices suitable for monitoring social change according to the subject matters of the Strategy. Given the target system of the Inclusion Strategy, this indicator set is compatible with the system of targets and indicators of the Hungarian EU2020 National Reform Program. In the second third of the decade, in accordance with the tasks specified in the Action Plan of the Inclusion Strategy, CSO included a question on Roma identity in all of its large-scale household data surveys (EU-SILC, Labour Survey). Consequently, the basic social policy indicators originating from these surveys are available also in Roma/non-Roma breakdown. Further consultations and data updating resulted in an updated version of the indicator system in 2017.

In addition to, and in close connection with, the monitoring of social impacts, it is crucial to monitor also the specific programs and measures under the Action Plan: the *program monitoring system* of the strategy and its administrative system were deployed during the first Action Plan period. A Monitoring Workgroup was set up within the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Gypsy Affairs, and a system for periodic inter-ministerial reporting was drawn up. Annual reports to the Government on the execution of the strategy are available at romagov.kormany.hu. The Inclusion Strategy constitutes the basis of the opportunity-creating interventions co-financed by the EU and scheduled for 2014–2020.

(6) The *Framework Agreement* concluded between the Government and the National Roma Self-Government on 20 May 2011 regarding the tasks under Government Decision 1136/2011 (2 May) on Certain Short-Term Measures to Promote the Social Integration and Efficient Inclusion of the Roma specified the targets of their co-decision system and the main measures to achieve the common goals that were implemented by 31 December 2015, on the basis of the Action Plan adopted by Government Decision 1338/2011 (14 October). The government prepared annual implementation reports, the last one being a summary report issued in 2016 on measures taken in the last period, from 2011 to 2015. The Framework Agreement was meant to ensure the involvement of the Roma community in the relevant preparation, decision-making, execution and control phases. The experience was that cooperation between the institutions controlling the programs and measures, and the involvement of those concerned need to be strengthened further. This was the reason why programs such as the *Roma Platform*, assisted by EU funds, were launched in 2015–2016.

The main goal of the Framework Agreement was to enable the National Roma Self-Government as national agency of Roma interest representation to ensure the participation of an adequate proportion of Roma people in the inclusion programs. In practice, the National Roma Self-Government took part also in the execution of the programs and the achievement

of the targets, including decision-making, legislation and program implementation (e.g. Even the Odds (Nó az esély), plots-of-land programs, cultural subsidies, scholarship programs, Integration Pedagogical System). Subject to the conflict-of-interest regulations, the National Roma Self-Government could delegate a representative to the decision preparation workgroups of EU and domestic tenders. Their delegates participated in 8 monitoring committees, 3 sub-committees and in the preparation of 29 tenders.

Inclusion programs “demanded” the assistance of *mentors* in all policy fields, including study scholarships and employment/training promotion programs. It was essential to have the highest possible proportion of persons of Roma origin among the mentors. Personal assistance by the mentors was of outstanding importance for helping Roma participants into the program, keeping them stably there and letting them complete it. The priority project *Development of the inclusion mentoring network*, launched under HRDOP in 2017, was part of the efforts to reach a higher proportion of underprivileged, primarily Roma, people by the programs serving the objectives of the Social Inclusion Strategy. Special emphasis was given to monitoring, follow-up (Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Inclusion and Roma Affairs, Roma Coordination Council, “Let it be better for the children” Evaluation Committee, Roma Affairs Coordination Committee).

Article 5

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

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

(1) The Fundamental Law of Hungary states that national minorities living in Hungary shall have the right to use their mother tongue, to use names in their own languages individually and collectively, to nurture their own cultures, and to receive education in their mother tongues. The Nationalities Act declares that Hungary respects and honours the country’s various religious traditions, the freedom and culture of other peoples, ensures the fostering of their culture and promotes the attainment of their cultural autonomy. It stresses that cultural diversity and the diversity of languages are not a source of division but of enrichment; the cultural values created by nationalities form an integral part of Hungary’s cultural heritage cultural diversity.

The culture of the nationalities living in Hungary is part of the culture of the mother country (language nation) through its traditions, roots, contemporary daily contacts, past and present factors affecting also its contemporary development and language. At the same time, nationality cultures are substantially influenced by the development of life in Hungary and of the Hungarian majority culture, and their assets enrich the totality of Hungarian culture. This dual relationship of nationality culture has the potential to promote dialogue and cooperation between national cultures.

(2) To provide professional assistance to the Hungarian institutions of *public culture*, until 31 December 2016, the Ministry of Human Capacities (EMMI) operated a central budget agency

with national jurisdiction, the *Hungarian Institute for Culture*, having the core function of conducting development, innovation and service activities to let Hungarian general and community culture play an effective social role. The mission of the Institute was to support inter-institutional cooperation, reduce disparities and promote the growth and development of Hungarian society. From 01 January 2017 on, the public services provided by the Hungarian Institute for Culture defined under Sections 84(2) and 87 of the Act CXL of 1997 on Museum Institutions, Public Library Services and General Culture (hereinafter: Act on Culture) have been fulfilled – in compliance with Section 87/A of the Act on Culture – by NMI Cultural Institute Non-profit Ltd. wholly owned by Lakitelek-based Adult Education Foundation.

The nationality self-governments maintain also public education venues and institutions at national level, and they have nationality responsibilities in the public education institutions maintained by the settlement municipalities. Nationality programs and communities are hosted by local public education institutions, community venues, public collection institutions (traditional houses of specific regions, museums, libraries, sometimes theatres).

(3) Within the category of *public collections, libraries*, closely linked to the use of the mother tongue, are the entities that are most important and have the greatest impact from the nationality point of view. The Basic Principles of the Act on Culture state that all persons shall have the right to become familiar with goods of cultural heritage and learn of their significance in history, in the formation of national identity and the identity of national and ethnic minorities, and be informed about the protection of such goods by way of the activities of museum institutions, the services of libraries, education, public culture, the dissemination of knowledge and the press and mass media. Public libraries fulfil their tasks also for the nationalities: in order to promote the exercise of rights enjoyed by everyone in the field of library services, public libraries according to Section 54(1)(a) of the Act on Culture shall be used by all and, according to its Point (e), their basic services provided on site shall be free of charge. Pursuant to Section 41 (1)–(2) of the Nationalities Act, library service in the mother tongues of nationalities is coordinated by the *National Library of Foreign Literature*, and the relevant services are provided by the National Library of Foreign Literature itself, by the county libraries and by Budapest Ervin Szabó Library through the public library system.

Collecting traditional objects of the Hungarian nationalities is done by the Museum of Ethnography, the Hungarian Open-air Museum of Ethnography, several Church collections and county-level urban *museums* and museum institutions maintained by settlements. The regional units of Szentendre Open-air Museum of Ethnography include German, Croat, Slovak, Roma, Rusyn and Greek buildings, objects and documents, and nationality-specific folklore programs are organised several times a year. The collections of other open-air village museums cover also the material heritage of further nationalities. Rich collections of sacred objects of nationality relevance are possessed by Miskolc-based Hungarian Orthodox Church Museum, the Serbian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Art Collection in Szentendre and the Greek Orthodox Ecclesiastical Art Collection in Kecskemét.

Pursuant to the Act on Culture, *nationality base institutions* are museum institutions having the core tasks, *inter alia*, of performing nationality responsibilities, or having collections including min. 25% of cultural assets of the nationality language or related to the nationality. During their licensing procedure, the Minister for Culture may, upon request, declare a museum institution a nationality base institution. The public education programs and permanent exhibitions of museums with nationality base institution title put nationality culture in the limelight. The series of museum institutions with nationality base institution title was

extended by one in 2016 when, in addition to Szentgotthárd-based Pável Ágoston Museum of Local History, the Slovenian Ethnic Collection, the German Nationality Exhibition in Tata, Kanizsai Dorottya Museum in Mohács, and Türr István Museum in Baja, Heimatmuseum Nimmesch – German Nationality Folk House, Himesháza, was declared the fifth nationality base institution.

In Hungary, museum collections and exhibition places of public interest – that is, *traditional houses of the region*, local history, ecclesiastical and institutional history collections, memorial houses, etc. – are important building blocks of local/regional cultural life, representing the cohesive power of folk/community culture and attachment to local community life. The number of Hungarian traditional houses is significant also in European comparison. They are operated in most cases by municipalities, less often an NGO or a private person. More than half of these houses dedicated to the culture of a nationality are institutions coordinated by Heimatmuseum, Budaörs, and 25% are institutions safeguarding and presenting Slovak material. Of course, we know also of traditional houses of Croats (Lakócsa and Kópháza), Romanians (Kétegyház), Serbs, Slovenes (Kühár Memorial House), the Roma (Hodász Roma Folk House) and exhibition places of the smaller minorities – Poles, Russyns, Ukrainians, Armenians). They are mostly maintained by the local municipality or the local nationality self-government. Their professional interest representation organisation is the Association of Hungarian Traditional Houses. The state provides aid for their development through tenders.

As for support to the field of public collections, museums fulfilling nationality responsibilities – if they are maintained/supported by the local municipality – may apply for funding in the *Ágoston Kubinyi Program* for the professional development of museums. Where fulfilment of nationality responsibilities is concerned, the opinion of the local or, in its absence, the regional or country-level nationality self-government is required for application.

(4) Each nationality has by now set up its theatre or drama group. They regularly perform before a national audience speaking the language concerned the audience of the mother country. In the years of the reporting period, dedicated funds were available from the central budget to support the continuous work of the nationality theatres and official theatre groups. The funding options available to *nationality theatres* – within the entire performing arts sector – are regulated under Act XCIX of 2008 on the Support and Special Employment Rules of Performing Arts Organisations. Under the Act, unclassified theatre and dance performing and arts organisations are not eligible for aid by application. Eligible applicants are thus performing arts organisations within the official register kept by the National Cultural Fund's Performing Arts Office. Given their special position, Hungarian nationality theatres act as an independent group for the purpose of tender-based aid schemes to performing arts organisations, to prevent their competition with other applicants, and to be evaluated in addition to their professional performance also according to their social role. The following nationality theatres were active and received aid in the reporting period:

- Cinka Panna Gypsy Theatre Foundation
- Karaván Arts Foundation (Roma theatre activity)
- Hókirálynő Association (Roma theatre activity)
- Pécs Croat Theatre
- “Serb Theatre in Hungary” Nonprofit Ltd.
- Vertigo Slovak Theatre (Vertigo Theatre of the National Slovak Self-government until 2015)
- Cervinus Teatrum Arts Service Non-profit Ltd.

- German Theatre in Hungary – Deutsche Bühne Ungarn

Table 2:
Aid to nationality theatres in the reporting period

Year	Number of applicants	Tender budget
2014	10	HUF 101 mn
2015	8	HUF 88.8 mn
2016	8	HUF 88.8 mn
2017	8	HUF 90 mn

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

In addition to cultural policy, nationality theatres have been supported since 2016 also by the nationality policy field: they were granted HUF 100 million individual subsidy in both 2016 and 2017. Moreover, during the reporting period, the National Self-government of Germans in Hungary as maintainer received HUF 200 million state aid to renovate the German Theatre in Hungary – Deutsche Bühne. The opening ceremony was held on 28 September 2016.

(5) Nationality functions are partly present also at the State Secretariat for Culture of the Ministry of Human Capacities, especially in the fields of public collections and theatres. The cultural policy field provided information on the following, nationality-related, projects and schemes in the reporting period. Developments targeting the nationalities are supported under Point b) of *HRDOP-Measure 1.3: Strengthening social coexistence*, adopted in 2014.

The call for tender for *HRDOP Measure 1.12.1: Strengthening thematic cooperation in the field of youth affairs, health care, community development and social inclusion with neighbouring countries of the Carpathian Basin* was announced on 16 June 2017, with the following cultural activities being eligible for support:

Activity group 2: Strengthening community development and social responsibility:

- demonstrating demographic trends through cross-border research and surveys,
- collecting and sharing community-based employment promoting best practices,
- community development events based on traditions (conferences, workshops) and sharing of experience/best practices.

Activity group 4: Activity group associated with the partial objectives of expanding cultural relations primarily with the involvement of civil society, promoting the growth of professional knowledge, strengthening local cultural identity:

- cross-border professional experience exchange (conferences, workshops), knowledge transfer, sharing of good practices between cultural and general education professionals,
- support for cross-border cultural events, programs, network cooperation, implementation of cultural exchange programs particularly in the following thematic fields:
 - folk-story-telling competitions, festivals;
 - organisation, support, thematic specification of folk arts festivals;
 - meeting of dance house musicians, dance house festival, folk dance festival, folk dance for children, Folk Musicians' Meeting;
 - traditionalist meetings, festivals for the youth;

- organisation of events, musical festivals for young people;
 - traditionalist, community development events for young people;
 - heritage protection actions, travelling school like camp, with arts history, fine arts, audio-visual instruments, literary network initiatives;
 - civics, community development camps concurrent with participation at drama, musical, literary, fine arts, etc. events
- knowledge expansion in the fields of folk tales, folk music, folk dance for professionals and laymen active in the field of arts,
 - conferences, professional meetings, workshops on the topic of potentials for using folk traditions today,
 - activities to promote memorial houses of famous poets, writers, preserve museum assets activities.

The Hungarian Heritage House won HUF 660 million to realise the above activities, and concluded a consortium agreement to execute the relevant projects with the National Institute for Community Culture (NMI) Education Institute Non-profit Ltd and the Association of Folk Arts Societies.

The tenders within the policy jurisdiction of the cultural sector, *TSDOP-5.3.1 Strengthening local identity and cohesion* for urban settlements (budget: HUF 11,862,000,000), and *TSDOP-6.9.2 Strengthening local identity and cohesion* for cities with county rights (budget: HUF 6,697,000,000) announced on 22 March 2017 aim at strengthening identity at settlement and regional level. Activities eligible for aid include, on the one hand, the historical exploration of community activities in the settlement/settlement part concerned by the project and making them available to the population with the contribution of institutions of public education, museums and libraries and of other institutions/organisations concerned by the goals of the project in the first place. On the other hand, implementing community action, activities, events, programs, developments based on the relevant action plan, designed to energise and sustain community cooperation by the population of the settlement/settlement part or region with the contribution of institutions and nationality communal scenes of public education, museums, libraries and other institutions/organisations concerned by the goals of the project. By the end of the reporting period, a total of 175 and 23 applications were received in answer to TSDOP-5.3.1 and TSDOP-6.9.2, respectively.

The call *TSDOP-7.1.1-16 Infrastructure development of cultural and community venues and local community organisation linked to the urban local development strategy* announced on 09 May 2016 relates to TSDOP Priority 7 for the comprehensive objective of implementing integrated and program-based development pilots at city level in order to enhance the participation and awareness of local communities, renew local societies and develop local and community-based economy. The means for achieving that, related to TSDOP Priority 7, is the renewal of the cultural and community life of cities, the drawing up and dissemination of community-based economic development methodologies along integrated local community development strategies drawn up with the contribution of the local population, civil organisations, enterprises and local governments, through the cooperation/initiative of municipalities, to promote community development and awareness of local identity, primarily with cultural and community content, to support the development of the local community. The budget of the scheme was HUF 45,644,000,000; the number of winners in the reporting period was 99.

(6) Based on the proposal of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee of the Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO, *log-driving by Slovenians in the Raba area* was entered

in the National ICH List during the reporting period, in 2015. The title was awarded at Gödöllő Royal Palace to the submitter of the proposal, the National Slovenian Self-government.

It was also in the reporting period, in 2017, that the National Polish Self-government celebrated the 300th anniversary of Derenk – the former and only Hungarian village with Polish majority – (i.e. its translocation by Polish serfs, gorals, from the region of the High Tatras). In 2018, *Ruins of Derenk, a Polish village* was added to the county depository as recognised asset/heritage of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County.

Article 6

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

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

(1) The Hungarian state recognises the right of the nationalities to express their opinion freely in their mother tongue and ensures the access of the nationality communities to the mass media. The central budget provides financial resources also for the publication of newspapers in the native languages of the nationalities. Channel MR4 assists nationalities in Hungary to nurture their native tongue, culture and identity, to preserve their nationality cohesion and at the same time tackle the issues of attachment to the majority nation and integration in everyday life in a diversified way. It opens the way to the interest representation organisations, arts and cultural associations, religious and other communities of the nationalities contributing to their self-preservation in an informal organisation. Their Hungarian-language programs address also the representatives of the majority nation, introducing them to the lives of the nationalities and also providing a forum for dialogue, not only between the majority nation and specific nationalities, but also between the nationalities themselves. The essence of the nationality concept of the public media is exactly to terminate, leave behind the representation of the nationalities as inclusions, ethnographic curios, isolated phenomena. In the reporting period, the nationality programs were perfectly integrated in the totality of TV programs as an integral part, and they were present on several channels and platforms. Information concerning the nationalities appeared – depending on the topic at hand – in the entire public media feed. It has become inconceivable to do thematic days without giving ground to the nationality points of view. (The situation of the nationality media is presented in detail under Article 9 below.)

(2) From 2015 on, a total of almost 700 Ukrainian children and accompanying adults have camped near Lake Velence in ten rounds in June to August every year, under the coordination of the State Secretariat for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations. The table below provides a summary of aid granted for this purpose in 2015–2017:

Table 3:
Ukrainian children's camps at Lake Velence

Year	Aid granted for Ukrainian camps at Lake Velence, total (HUF)
2015	41,000,000
2016	46,330,000*
2017	45,000,000
Total	132,330,000

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities (at the time of compiling the report: Prime Minister's Office)

*Note: These aid covered three Ukrainian camps at Lake Velence, of which HUF 40 million for the summer camp was charged to the budget of "Borderless" (Határtalanul!) call (instead of a nationality appropriation)

Furthermore, in December 2015 and 2016, another group of children was received in cooperation with the National Ukrainian Self-government, to visit the capital and the Parliament building (HUF 2.33 million per occasion). In the three years indicated in the table above, aid was provided for the camping of Ukrainian and Transcarpathian Hungarian children whose father had been/was fighting in Eastern Ukraine. The aim was to let Ukrainians feel the support of the Hungarian people and to help children who had suffered losses and pain due to the war work through those. Diverse programs and events contributed to achieving that.

Article 7

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

(1) *Rusyns* in Hungary welcomed that Pope Francis founded in Hungary the Metropolia of Hajdúdorog in the reporting period, instituting it on 19 March 2015 by the bull *In hac suprema*. With effect from the same date, the Holy Father raised the Apostolic Exarchate of Miskolc to the rank of eparchy, and founded the Eparchy of Nyíregyháza on a territory cut off from the See of Hajdúdorog. The Archeparchy of Hajdúdorog (Latin: *Archidioecesis Haidudoroghensis*) together with the Eparchy of Miskolc and that of Nyíregyháza constitute the Greek Catholic Church sui juris of Hungary (short form: Greek Catholic Metropolia).

(2) The *Bulgarian* community celebrated the centenary of the foundation of the Association of Ethnic Bulgarians in Hungary in 2014. The series of jubilee events started with the celebration on 03 March 2014, attended by János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary and Margarita Popova, Vice President of the Bulgarian Republic as main patrons. The Bulgarian Gardener Memorial and Bulgarian Drinking Fountain, inaugurated also as part of the celebration, symbolise the unity of ethnic Bulgarians in Hungary. The Bulgarian Gallery, located at 44 Bajza utca, hosting the permanent exhibition of Bulgarian artists active in Hungary was also opened in the framework of the jubilee events. Participants of the centenary events included high-ranking Bulgarian and Hungarian politicians and representatives of Bulgarian communities from across the borders.

The Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Hungary also celebrated its centenary during the reporting period, in 2016. The jubilee celebration was held on 10–11 May 2016 and it was attended by his Holiness Patriarch Neofit of Bulgaria, His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony of Central and Western Europe and other high-ranking ecclesiastics from Bulgaria and from the Bulgarian Orthodox Diocese of Central and Western Europe. During his visit, the Metropolitan celebrated vespers and saint liturgy in the St Cyril and St Metodi Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Budapest.

(3) Armenians were the first to adopt Christianity as state religion in 301; Transylvanian Armenians, looking back on hundreds of years, have followed the Armenian Catholic rites since 1691 (around 95% of Hungarian Armenians are Armenian or Roman Catholics). Transylvanian Armenians who fled to Hungary in large numbers after Trianon and World War II established the Armenian Catholic Church, with Budapest Armenian Catholic Church, museum, library and archives acting as its seat in the reporting period. During the reporting period, Armenian Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX Tarmouni (Beirut) visited the Armenian Catholic parish in 2015, on the centenary of the Armenian genocide, then celebrated a mass in the Basilica in memory of the victims. The Armenian Catholic Church was visited in the reporting period by a growing number of eastern Armenians, especially when native Armenian foreign priests gave mass.

Article 8

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

(1) The Government helps the nationalities preserve and develop their own culture also in the ecclesiastical field, and counts on the assistance of the Churches in fulfilling these responsibilities. Churches and religious life in the native language play a significant role in preserving the identity of the nationalities living in Hungary. Ethnic Croats, Poles and Slovenes living in Hungary are Roman Catholics. A significant part of Germans and Slovaks are also Roman Catholics, others are Lutherans. The decisive majority of the Roma are Roman Catholics, a minor part is Greek Catholic. Bulgarians, Greeks and Serbs are of orthodox religion, and a substantial part of ethnic Romanians in Hungary are also attached to the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The historical Churches in Hungary give special emphasis to providing ethnic pastoral care, and those with the highest headcounts provide also native-language services, according to the needs of the faithful. Thus, for instance, the Hungarian Catholic Church provides pastoral care also in German, Slovakian, Croatian, Polish and Slovenian; the Metropolitan Church sui juris in Hungary (Greek Catholic Metropolia) in Rusyn, Ukrainian and Romanian, the Lutheran Church in Hungary in German and Slovakian. Considering the Catholics, active contacts exist between Croats in Burgenland and in Hungary, reinforced by the fact that the Bishop of Burgenland is a local Croat person. Ethnic Croats from Hungary regularly go on pilgrimage to Mariazell, and Croat priests come from Austria to celebrate mass in Croatian in Hungary. There is also a religious community following the Armenian rite in Hungary. The orthodox Churches of the nationalities– Serbian, Bulgarian, from Constantinople – of course use their native tongue in both liturgy and administration.

The Catholic Church has several institutions providing tuition also in the languages of the ethnic nationalities (e.g. German – Baja, Budaörs, Budapest-Óbuda, Érd, Esztergom, Mohács,

Mór, Szekszárd; Slovak – Dabas-Sári, Kétsoprony; Roma – Alsószentmárton, Rakacaszend,, etc.). The Lutheran Church operates a German-language public education institution in Soltvadkert and ecclesiastical education institutions teaching Slovakian in Békéscsaba and Tótkomlós. Sopron-based Dániel Berzsenyi Lutheran High-school provides secondary-level education in German for that ethnic minority, and the Vitéz János Catholic Faculty of Teacher Training in Esztergom trains German and Slovakian nationality teachers and Apor Vilmos Catholic Teacher Training Faculty German nationality teachers. The teacher training faculty of the last institution offers also Gypsy--Roma special nationality programs. The Roman Catholic Faculties in Esztergom and Vác offer also Romani Studies training and the Faculty of Arts of Pázmány Péter Roman Catholic University conducts training in Slavonic studies.

The members of every ethnic denomination have access to Church services also in their native language in the Armed Forces and in law enforcement institutions, since the operation of field ministers and prison ministers and the possibility of pastoral care in prisons are provided for under the law.

(2) Religious communities in Hungary play a major part in reaching out for and promoting the integration and inclusion of the Roma through *Gypsy pastoral care* and Roma missions. Gypsy pastoral care by the historical Churches is quite intensive in terms of both service to the Roma and further training for priests and pastors (e.g. Protestant, Catholic, Greek Catholic training). One of the main purposes of these training programs is to let pastors active/interested in Gypsy mission join a contact network that can provide them help and support later on, during their service to the Roma. The Government looks with appreciation and respect on the work/service of religious communities – historical Churches, religious organisations – to promote Roma inclusion, to improve their social judgement and quality of life. It acknowledges work to that effect by the Churches by providing them considerable financial support.

Sója Miklós Social House, built as the joint investment of the municipality and the Greek Catholic Parish of Kisvárda, was delivered in November 2016. The House plays a key role in the life of the Roma community, in disseminating social inclusion and establishing the conditions of integration. They organise cultural and liturgical programs for the Roma population, offer education and training for children (study circle, family daytime care, community house), social services and leisure/community programs and camps. In October 2015, a European Roma pilgrimage was made to the Vatican, where pilgrims could meet the Holy Father. Religious orders (both female and male) also do outstanding work to improve the quality of life of the Roma population, especially through taking care of kids and educating them.

Within the Hungarian Catholic Church, *Blessed Ceferino Institue* is operated to train pastors and their colleagues participating in Roma pastoral care, to coordinate and assist their work. Pursuant to the decision of the Hungarian Catholic Episcopal Conference, a burial ritual book was published in Lovari language, to give the clergy an opportunity to perform certain parts of the ritual in the language of the mourning community. The same is promoted by the religious textbook *The Holy God has descended to us (Leszállt közénk a Szent Isten)* including certain prayers also in Lovari language. Moreover, years earlier, the Gypsy (Lovari) translation of the Bible, the first ever globally, was also published.

In Autumn 2011, the Christian Roma *Vocational Student Hostel and Specialised College Network* was launched with 4 hostels; this institution type exists in Hungary only. Their aim

is to help experience Hungarian–Roma dual identity, promote the studies, education and personality development of the students and consolidate a Roma intelligentsia committed to community responsibility, representing the Christian ethos. In the reporting period, there were 7 Church-maintained student-hostel-cum-college institutions in Hungary: Jesuit Roma Hostel and College (Budapest), Christian Roma Hostel and College, Szeged, Greek Catholic Gypsy Hostel and College, Miskolc, Wáli István Protestant Gypsy Hostel and College, Debrecen, Lutheran Roma Hostel and College, Nyíregyháza, St Nikolas Grek Catholic Roma Hostel and College, opened in Summer 2015 in Debrecen, and Protestant Roma Hostel and College opened in Autumn 2016 in Budapest. The Government granted EU funds of HUF 1.5 billion to support the Roma student hostel and college institutions.

The *Roma Methodology and Research Centre* of the Hungarian Gypsy Mission of the Hungarian Pentecostal Church conducts research and surveys and professional dialogues to promote the social acceptance of the Roma population and alleviate tensions. The volume *Impact of Gypsy missions in Hungary* published in April 2015 presents the results of research among the Roma with scientific thoroughness. The *Gypsy Mission's Methodological Booklets* is a periodic publication of Gypsy Mission leaders of the reformed Churches (Protestant, Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal), through which the Gypsy Missions of the Churches want to take a collective stand in society for the acceptance of the Roma.

(3) The historical Churches maintain also *public education institutions* where the language of tuition and education is the language of a nationality. In addition to wage subsidy, the institutions concerned receive also operation aid (this applies also to the Hungarian Exarchate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople). Of the ethnic orthodox Churches, the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of Buda maintains three *social institutions*, and the Hungarian Exarchate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople also conducts social activities. The central budget supports also the operation of Church public collections, including aid to the Serbian orthodox collection in Szentendre and the Roman orthodox ecclesiastical collection in Gyula.

(4) The state supports the religious life activities of the Churches in several ways.

- Citizens may dispose of 1% of their personal income tax, nationalities included, and they may offer it to their own Churches.
- The Churches concerned could resign their claims for part of their nationalised property based on an agreement with the state, in return for annuity. Of the Churches belonging to national minorities, the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of Buda is receiving significant annuity. The amount of the annuity is annually updated by the State, and it amounted to HUF 104.86 million in 2015, HUF 106.465 million in 2016 and HUF 102.306 million in 2017.
- The State provides also financial support to religious education. Instead of the subject of ethics, the historical Churches may provide religious and moral education integrated in the syllabus in institutions of public education, financed fully by the State. The State may also provide budgetary support for optional religious education by religious communities. In the period under study, three nationality orthodox Churches – the Serbian, the Romanian and that of Constantinople (Greek) – requested and were granted aid for optional religious education (totalling around HUF 5 million at annual level).
- The State supplements the income of pastors providing service at small settlements based on an agreement with the Churches. Such agreements applicable to nationality churches

exist with the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of Buda (2015: HUF 1.552 million; 2016: HUF 2.08 million, 2017: HUF 2.802 million aid), the Hungarian Roman Orthodox Church (2015: HUF 2.173 M; 2016: HUF 2.912 M; 2017: HUF 3.923 M aid) and the Hungarian Exarchate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (2015: HUF 415,000; 2016: HUF 555,000; 2017: 748,000). This applies also to priests/ministers of the larger Churches – e.g. Catholic, Lutheran and Baptist – providing service in the countryside in the native languages of nationalities. Note that the Greek Catholic Metropolia received HUF 10 M aid in 2016 and in 2017 to provide ministerial services to Ukrainian and HUF 5 M to Rusyn Greek Catholics in Hungary, in their native language.

The appropriations for “ecclesiastical built heritage and other investments” and “programs and investments for ecclesial communities” available, of course, also for the nationality Churches, are basically meant to promote religious life activities.

Article 9

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.**
- 2. Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.**
- 3. The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.**
- 4. In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.**

(1) Under Section 99 of Act CLXXXV of 2010 on Media Services and Mass Communication (hereinafter: Media Act), all nationalities recognised in Hungary are entitled to nourish and preserve their culture and mother tongue, and to be regularly informed in their mother tongue by way of separate programs aired through the public media. This responsibility shall be fulfilled by the public media service provider via national or, having regard to the geographic location of the nationality, via local media services by airing programs satisfying the needs of the nationality in question, or via audiovisual media services using subtitles or broadcasting in multiple languages, if required.

Media Service Support and Asset Management Fund (hereinafter: MTVA) is an asset and fund manager responsible *inter alia* for supporting the public media services, the community media services, and for producing and supporting the public service programs. In the reporting period, the MTVA unit supplying initiatives, general coordination and content supervision for the contents of the nationality programs ordered by the public service media provider was the Main Editorial Office for Nationality, Diaspora and Priority Projects. The Main Editorial Offices for National and Diaspora Programs and for Culture, respectively, of Duna Media Services Ltd. actively contribute to the rich array of programs representing

multiple values produced by MTVA's editorial offices by its proposals linked to secular and religious holydays and special thematic days, in addition to providing professional supervision for completed programs. Through the TV and radio programs/channels and their activity concerning the ethnic nationalities in Hungary, MTVA and Duna Media Services Ltd. take an active part in presenting the life, culture and traditions of the nationalities living and officially registered in Hungary: a total of 14 TV and 19 radio programs are being made in the professional workshops of MTVA. Visual content concerning the nationalities and ethnic communities abroad is traceable on the Duna and Duna World TV channels, audio content on Radio Kossuth and the Nationality Radio (MR4).

(2) The Nationality Radio is a unique venture globally: there is no other radio broadcasting exclusively local nationality content round the clock, operating from public funds and covering the entire territory of the country. Nationality radio programs broadcast by Hungarian radio have a uniform structure; they are aired 24 hours a day, in identical length and at the same time on Nationality Radio. All 13 nationality radio programs (Romanian, Slovak, German, Serbian, Croatian, Slovenian, Rusyn, Polish, Greek, Bulgarian, Armenian, Ukrainian) address their audiences in their respective native tongues, and the choice of topics and the editing principles comply with the public service directives. The programs explicitly aim at strengthening nationality cooperation and nationality identity, self-awareness and culture and autonomy. That is the reason why the multifaceted presentation of topics such as the functioning mechanism of nationality self-governments, nurturing nationality culture, traditions, folk art, singing and music, and of religious life and monuments are given special emphasis.

Furthermore, Dankó Radio broadcasts nationality-related content in several, mainly folk music, time slots. For example, the programs *Dance House and Peoples' Songs* within the folk music lexicon *Did you know?*, daily from 20.00 to 21.00, and in *Folk music from the Carpathian Basin, As I came (Jöttömbe-jártomba)* and *Natural Gold (Sárarany)* on weekends include musical outlooks linked to nationality culture. The small nationalities, i.e. Slovenian, Rusyn, Bulgarian, Greek, Ukrainian, Polish and Armenian, are also represented in the programs of Nationality Radio.

(3) The nationality magazine programs of Duna TV and Duna World provide information on the everyday life and holidays of the 13 nationalities, and a diversified presentation of their traditions, historical and cultural specifics, topical news and events. Three thematic magazines – *Roma Magazine, P'amende, Wheel of Life (Életkerék)* – treat the variegated, centuries-long and diverse traditions, complex social situation of the biggest nationality living in Hungary, from several aspects. *In one homeland – about nationalities, in Hungarian* is a nicely compiled nationality magazine program, providing a balanced, proportionate representation of topics showing the life, culture, linguistic, folk, and gastro-cultural traditions of the nationalities living in Hungary, and the measures of the Hungarian government to support their life. Furthermore, M1 TV channel also ensures the marked presence these nationalities in its news feed and magazine programs; the launch of this channel added another forum for communicating topics of relevance for the nationalities, and thus expanded their presentation to the majority population.

In the framework of nationality magazine programs, small film extracts, shorts of various lengths are often made to present a certain person, cultural phenomenon, historical event in diverse genres, from portrait through report to educational film and documentary. These are sometimes extracts of 4-6 minutes, in other cases full-length 24 or 50 minute shots (so-called

portrait/documentary films), made in Hungary and sometimes abroad, then screened as part of the magazine shows. Since they are presented as parts of TV programs, instead of being named, classified and archived as independent films, apart from a few exceptional screening opportunities (e.g. Film Festival of Lakitelek), they are exclusively broadcast through the public media channels.

(4) The topics and content of these programs keep expanding. Note that it has become a tradition in the public media to give nationality program producers and the nationality aspects of topics a priority role during the so-called thematic days and in news feeds. Thus, for instance,

- *It's good to be good (Jónak lenni jó)* – Advent charity program where the nationality communities and their members are also present as donors,
- Our *German thematic day (Német tematikus napunk)* gave ample ground for discussing the presence of ethnic Germans in Hungary, their culture and active role in majority society,
- the *St Michael's Day thematic program flow (Szent Mihály napi tematikus műsorfolym)*, where it is inconceivable to present rural Hungary without the nationalities, or
- on the *Day of remembrance for the victims of communism (Kommunizmus áldozatainak emléknepja)*, with nationality-specific topics being aired through much more channels and in more genres than usual in connection with the exchange of the Slovak and Hungarian populations or the expulsion of Germans,
- the same was typical for the *Gulag memorial year (Gulág Emlékév)*,
- the program structure of *Week of marriage (Házasság hete)*, an annual program, gives a special place to presenting mixed marriages/unions between nationalities, and the relevant special traditions of the nationalities, and
- last but not least, the unique initiative of the Hungarian public media, *Day of nationality cultures (Nemzetiségi Kultúrák Napja)* provides a special opportunity also regionally to present nationality existence on every channel of the public media. This large-scale event dedicated to this topic means an all-day-long continuous program with studio discussions and film extracts, and live reports from various settlements of the country.

The self-produced shows and films that had been broadcast can be publicly viewed and retrieved for 60 calendar days on the MTVA website at <http://mediaklikk.hu>. After that, they are available in the National Audiovisual Archives database at <http://nava.hu>. The Archives digitally store, process and make available online the programs made by the Hungarian public media channels and the commercial TV channels with the widest coverage in Hungary as specified by the relevant legislation. It is almost unique in Europe that its collections can be viewed freely for the purpose of research and education at almost 1700 designated venues (library, educational, archives, record-keeping, museum institutions and private persons certifying teacher/researcher status may have access authorisations as registered users). For a list of the radio and TV programs of the public media, see Annex 1.

(5) Pursuant to Section 137(1) of the Media Act, MTVA supports the production of public service programs in the framework of the Hungarian Media Patronage Program instituted by the Media Council of the National Media and Info-communications Authority as decision-maker. The Patronage applies a tendering system in 11 categories from educational films through documentaries to TV films and animation, open for all Hungarian workshops, TV and

movie producer companies proposing ideas representing also the nationality topic. Funded and completed films are mostly shown via the public media channels.

Article 10

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.**
- 2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.**
- 3. The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.**

(1) Chapter II of the Country Report states that, alongside with ratifying the Framework Convention, Hungary was among the first to sign the Charter for Languages. We have also mentioned that, complying with the obligations under the Charter for Languages, Hungary submitted the seventh interim country report on its commitments under the Charter for Languages to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in the years of the herein audited reporting period. The Report gives a detailed account of the nationalities-related language policy of the Government and of enforcing the rights of the nationalities in Hungary to use their language rights. It provides information about the fulfilment of Hungarian commitments defined in Articles 10, 11, 12 and 14 of the Framework Convention relating to the rights of the nationalities to use their language.

(2) Pursuant to Section 5 (2) of the Nationalities Act, the use of the mother tongue of nationalities in civil and criminal proceedings as well as in public administration proceedings is ensured by the relevant procedural laws. Regarding the reporting period, use of the mother tongue in public administration proceedings is guaranteed by the following procedural laws: Act CXL of 2004 on the General Rules of Administrative Proceedings and Services (hereinafter: Public Administration Proceedings Act), with its Section 9 (3) stating that Persons acting on behalf of nationality organisations and the natural persons falling within the scope of the Nationalities Act may use the language of their respective nationality in proceedings with the administrative authorities. Any decision adopted in the Hungarian language in connection with an application submitted in the language of a nationality shall be translated into the language of the application at the client's request.

The Public Administration Proceedings Act ceased to have effect on 01 January 2018, but the new procedural code replacing it, Act CL of 2016 on General Public Administration Procedures, was published already in 2016, and its Section 20 (3) provides for the use of the respective languages of the nationalities in the same way. That is to say that, in administrative proceedings, the rules of the Public Administration Proceedings Act do not limit the right of using the language of one's nationality, nor make it conditional on any circumstances. That is, members of nationalities may use their respective nationality languages irrespective of their

place of residence, the numerical ratio of the nationality concerned, and the actual procedural stage before any authority, anywhere in the country.

According to the government offices, languages of nationalities were used in a total of 56 administrative proceedings nationally in 2014–2016 and in January 2017. German was used in 32 cases, Romanian in 9, Serbian in 8, Romani (Lovari) in 4, Slovakian in 3 administrative proceedings. The typical reason for the small rate of the use of nationality languages is that the majority of nationality language users know also Hungarian and use that to proceed in administrative cases.

Article 11

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

2. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.

3. In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.

The first three country reports supplied detailed information on the rights of persons belonging to a nationality to register their surnames under the rules of their native language, to freely choose their own and their children's first name and record them in official documents. As indicated also in the fourth Country Report, in exercising their rights attached to the use of communal names, nationalities have the right to use historically established locality names, street names and other geographical designations intended for the community (Nationalities Act, Section 18). Rights depending on population census data, mainly those pertaining to language use, include *inter alia* that the inscriptions of signs displaying locality and street names should, in addition to Hungarian wording and writing, also display the traditional nationality names in the mother tongue of the nationality, or in the absence thereof, the names thereof shall also be displayed in the mother tongue of the nationality with the same contents and in the same form as the Hungarian names.

In localities where the ratio, as registered in the census, of a nationality reaches ten percent, the local municipality shall ensure that its decrees and announcements be promulgated and published also in the mother tongue of the nationality the forms used in public administration proceedings and the inscriptions of signs displaying the names of public offices and agencies providing public services shall also be displayed in the mother tongue of the nationality and, moreover, if the local municipality provides media service, it shall give ground for programs/articles in the language of the nationality. In localities where the ratio of a nationality reaches twenty percent, in addition to the above, at the request of the local nationality self-government concerned, the minutes and decisions of the board of representatives shall also be kept and worded in the language of the given nationality, in addition to Hungarian and, moreover, in filling the positions of public sector employees, a

person familiar with the mother tongue of the given nationality shall be employed, subject to the observance of the general professional requirements.

As mentioned above, the Government has approved all requests for putting up geographical signs in the language of a nationality.

Article 12

1 The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.

2. In this context the Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.

3. The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.

(1) In Chapter II of the Country Report, a separate title is dedicated to the issues concerning nationality education, legislative changes prohibiting segregation and discrimination in education and the measures promoting the social integration of the Roma. Below we will describe in more detail the changes and results in the reporting period relating to the subject matter based on information received from the various educational policy fields.

The Fundamental Law of Hungary declares the right of nationalities to education in their own native languages. Consequently, the Nationalities Act and the Public Education Act provide for the organisation of nationality education and teaching and their preservation in the framework of native language or bilingual kindergarten education or nationality education provided in native languages or in a bilingual form as well as through language teaching and auxiliary nationality educational programs. The framework of nationality training and education is an organic part of the Hungarian public education system, in which higher education makes a contribution primarily by providing the personnel conditions of training and education as part of teacher training.

(2) The main measures in *public education* promoting inclusive education adopted until 2018, implementing the medium-term strategy against school leaving without qualifications (Government Decision 1603/2014 (4 November) included the following.

In order to *strengthen success at school*, mandatory kindergarten attendance was introduced for children from the age of 3 in September 2015. The participation ratio of 3-year-olds increased from 80.3% in the 2014/2015 school-year to 84.4% in 2017/2018. The participation ratio of 4-year-olds increased from 94.7% in the 2014/2015 school-year to 95.1% in the 2017/2018 school-year. The participation ratio of 5-year-olds increased from 95.1% in the 2014/2015 school-year to 95.8% in the 2017/2018 school-year. In Hungary, 91% of Roma children attend kindergarten. This figure is very close to the participation ratio of non-Roma children and is the highest in the region (EU-MIDIS II; European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2016).

An early warning and pedagogy support system *to prevent dropouts* was introduced in November 2016 [Government Decree 229/2012 (28 August)]. The decree intends to focus on situations/areas in need of development that would assist in the avoidance of dropouts both at the level of students and teachers and at the level of institution development and control. The

warning system collects data about the possible factors underlying the risk of dropping out from education, including social disadvantages, absence, repetition of school-years, etc. as well as on the applied interventions. During the two school years of the operation of the system, data supply was 100% (2,789 institutions). The most frequently applied assistance to students included the identification of the reasons of dropping out, individual development, subject tutoring, differentiated pedagogy methods, and social disadvantage compensation.

As a result of the amendment of the Act on Public Education from 1 January 2017, the school-maintaining *educational district centres* exercise the right of consent in the designation of the school district borders. This amendment to the legislation allows for prevention whenever there is a risk of segregation as on the basis of up-to-date information, and data available for the educational districts on the distribution of students and the conditions of education organisation, the disadvantaged students, may be distributed more evenly. In the 2016/2017 school-year, 32 maintainers of the 59 educational district centres made proposals for the amendment of the general school district borders. Eight of them specifically requested modifications at the competent government offices in order to improve the balance of distribution of students with special educational needs and multiply disadvantaged students among the schools. In the 2017/2018 school-year, a further 3 educational districts indicated district border amendments specifically for the more balanced distribution of disadvantaged and multiply disadvantaged students among schools.

The educational authority implemented HRDOP-3.1.5-16-2016-00001 *Support to institutions exposed to the risk of student dropouts* with support from the EU, to prevent student dropouts. Those schools take part in the complex institutional development process which require improvement in terms of the ratio of students exposed to the risk of dropping out, in the efficiency of education and in inclusive education (300 educational sites of 243 schools). The development includes the preparation of a status analysis of local educational organisation, and a complex action plan. The project also developed a complex and differentiated institution development framework system to prevent school dropout, focusing mainly on the introduction of equitable and inclusive education organisation. Project implementation will end in 2020.

The requirement and recognition of competences supporting inclusive education were integrated into the *teacher rating* procedures. They include the requirement and recognition of adequate methodology skills required for the successful education and training of socially disadvantaged children and students together with other children and students. The additional pedagogical performance required for the successful education of disadvantaged students was recognised with differentiated wage incentives. Those teachers are eligible for the supplement from January 2018 who implement skills development, integration preparation and kindergarten development programs assisting the successful progress of disadvantaged children and students and their co-education with other students, if the ratio of such children or students is at least 5 percent or higher at the educational site. This extension affects approximately 220 educational sites.

There are complex support programs assisting the progress of individuals with advanced pedagogical methods to support the secondary school performance of disadvantaged, including Roma, students (*Arany János Programs*). A quantitative analysis of the efficiency of the programs prepared in 2014 concluded that, without them, approximately 25 percent of students would have continued their studies at a lower educational level or probably not at all (Anikó Fehérvári: Arany János Program, Hungarian Institute for Educational Research and

Development 2015). Approximately 30% of students taking part in the programs are Roma students.

Hungary's participation in the IN-SCHOOL of the Council of Europe was decided in October 2017. The project launched in 2018 assists the participating schools in adopting an inclusive educational approach that supports the success of students at school.

(3) In relation to applications for bachelor and master programs as well as single-cycle programs in *higher education*, the higher education institutions decide on the admission of applicants based on their performance, the maximum student capacity of the particular program allocated to the particular institution and the order of applications provided by the applicants, within the framework of a uniform ranking system applicable across the country, with the exception of master programs. The minister responsible for education defines the number of scholarships available in the training programs operated by the higher education institutions and the minimum score required for admission. It is a special feature of the admission procedure in this area that students who passed the matriculation exam in their nationality language in a nationality secondary school in Hungary are eligible for 20 extra points providing that they apply for a nationality teacher training program in the same language in which they passed their matriculation exam.

Contrary to the regulation of other training activities, the Higher Education Act regulates the tasks of the state in higher education concerning nationality teacher training programs. Higher education institutions may run *nationality teacher training programs* according to their memorandum of association. If there are applicants satisfying the admission requirements, the training program must be organised. Belonging to a nationality is certified with a matriculation exam taken in the nationality language. In nationality teacher training programs, the language of the nationality must be taught during the whole training period. In terms of financing, nationality teacher training programs are classified as training programs for small numbers of students [Section 103 (5)–(8)]. The nationality teacher training base predominantly consists of traditional higher education institutions with a long history of nationality teacher training programs. In relation to legislative changes, the legislator specifically concentrated on making sure that the values of nationality training and education developed in close co-operation with the nationality communities are preserved.

Higher education institutions may decide on the announcement of training programs in the course of the admission procedure, and continued education is available in terms of the number of participants. Unfortunately, there is no Armenian or Rusyn teacher training for primary school grades 5–8. There is no teacher training for grades 1–4 in Armenian, Rusyn, Bulgarian, Greek, Slovene, Ukrainian or Polish. There is no kindergarten teacher training in Rusyn, Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Armenian and Ukrainian. However, in teacher, kindergarten teacher and school teacher training, nationality training positions are kept in Gypsy, Roma, Croatian, Slovenian, German, Romanian, Slovak and Serb training.

The requirements of admission to higher education have increased. With regard to the general admission procedure of 2015, the minimum score of state scholarship single-cycle teacher training was defined at 305 points, while the minimum score defined as the basic condition of admission to bachelor programs, including kindergarten teacher and teacher training, was increased to 280 points. Besides knowledge measured in the matriculation exam, the applicants must also take part in aptitude tests.

In multi-cycle training, divided programs were launched in *Romani Studies*, followed by Romani Studies teacher training programs and, in 2013, single-cycle programs were introduced in foreign languages for Romani Studies teachers (Romani language and culture, Boyash language and culture specialisations), for teaching the Boyash language and ethnography or Romani language and ethnography, with preparations for the pedagogical tasks at schools. The University of Pécs has launched bachelor and master programs in Romani Studies and single-cycle Romani Studies teacher programs. In basic training, B2 language exams may be obtained in Boyash after the program. In master programs, a successful final exam certifies the fulfilment of high-level complex language exam requirement (C1) in the selected Romani or Boyash language. Admission to Romani Studies teacher programs, which is part of the culture of foreign languages (Romani language and culture or Boyash language and culture teacher) is subject to the availability of at least intermediate (B2) complex state-recognised or equivalent language certificate in Romani or Boyash language

In order to supply high-quality teachers to the public education system and support the higher education studies of students, the Government has established the *Klebelsberg Training Scholarship*. The first scholarships were granted in the 2013/14 school-year. In 2018, a total of 2,100 students were awarded scholarships, including 19 students studying to become teachers of German and nationality German language and culture, 1 student studying to become Slovak and nationality Slovak language teacher, and 1 student studying to become Serbian and nationality Serbian language and culture teacher.

In providing the conditions of the training, higher education institutions face a lot of challenges which include putting in place the conditions of high-quality training, providing teachers with adequate scientific degrees, the background staff of departments at the institutions and continuous employment of teachers even if the program cannot be launched due to lack of applications. Supporting the launch and continuation of programs for small groups continues to be an extraordinary task of the minister responsible for education. The support of state and non-state-owned higher education institutions during the reporting period is summarised in the table below.

Table 4:
Support of state-owned and non-state-owned higher education institutions

Year	Nationality training (HUF)	Small majors (HUF)
2014	160,940,000	269,551,000
2015	169,400,000	283,700,000
2016	169,400,000	283,700,000
2017	169,400,000	276,500,000

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities

In 2017, in total HUF 169,400,000 was allocated to fund nationality training programs. In 2018, funding had two components: fixed funding provided for years (HUF 182.8 million) and supplementary funding for nationality training introduced as a new component involving in total a further HUF 350.74 million additional support.

(4) On the basis of information received from the authorities responsible for **adult training**, during the reporting period among the nationalities (including other disadvantaged social groups) in the Hungarian vocational training and adult training policies, most attention was devoted to the Roma as the most vulnerable social group exposed to risks also in terms of the employment policy. The *National Co-ordinator of the European Agenda of Adult Learning Erasmus+ project* (hereinafter: Erasmus+ project) aimed at the implementation in Hungary the *Council Recommendation on Competence Development Upskilling Pathways - New Learning Opportunities for Adults* (hereinafter: Recommendation) approved in December 2016, executed under the co-ordination of National Office of Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning, was a measure improving the employment opportunities of the Roma in the reporting period. Within the framework of the project, the coherent policy framework and implementation plan required for the implementation of the recommendation in Hungary were developed. To identify the missing instruments and services, a multi-level inter-ministerial co-ordination mechanism was introduced, combining the relevant stakeholders of adult learning, employees involved in policy decision making, adult training Hungarian and EU project staff, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations, key social partners and practising experts. In addition, with the help of various dedicated instruments, the mindset development and awareness increasing of the stakeholders, promotion of mutual learning, advantages and opportunities of adult learning and the need for and instruments of the recommendation on upskilling pathways have an important role in the Erasmus+ project.

The Government set the goal of reforming the methodology of public education in order to compensate for disadvantages and reduce early school leaving. The goals also include early childhood education, competence-based training, improvement of the efficiency of the public education system and the improvement of its quality and structure. The key target group of the 6.2.3 Call for Proposals under the Economic Development and Innovation Operational Program (hereinafter: EDIOP) and 8.6.3 Call for Proposals of the CCHOP include students exposed to the risk of dropping out and Roma students. The support framework in the two calls totals HUF 22.76 billion. The main objective of these schemes is to reduce the number of students leaving school without qualifications, strengthening the competence development capacities of vocational training institutions, developing the tools suitable for training basic skills, making vocational training more effective and improving school performance in order to enable students for life-long learning in compliance with the medium-term strategy on the prevention of school leaving without qualifications and the 2016 country-specific recommendations on education. The vocational training projects funded under the *EDIOP-6.2.3-17, Call for Proposals and CCHOP-8.6.3-16 Call for Proposals "Complex development of vocational training institutions"*, which were being implemented during the preparation of this report, focused on vocational training centres and other vocational training institutions operated by the Ministry of Agriculture with the following interventions:

- Development of personalised and individual-centred training practices, managing individual development in a systematic way and operation of a professional support system promoting its maintenance.
- Focus on career building with the help of career advice and career orientation tools.
- Development of a competence-based program; efficient and effective development of basic skills and relevant key competences.

- Development of a modular syllabus with a lot of optional components, introduction of a flexible training system that supports individual learning paths and talent management, organised on practical, off-classroom, epochal, project basis.
- Holistic and continuous development of the beneficiary institutions to establish and develop their retention abilities with the involvement of institutions, teachers and managers based on a carefully established, accurate status analysis, relying on partner-centeredness and an inclusive approach.
- Organisation of high-quality and effective team work in order to establish equal opportunities among disadvantaged and lagging-behind students, based on the assessment of the differences in their knowledge and the wide borders of their expressive skills, and to develop them on the basis of the “Every student is talented” principle.
- Development of inter-sectoral co-operation (e.g., social, health, youth, economic, public education, non-profit, etc.) and partnership in order to provide equal opportunities for disadvantaged students.
- During implementation, the interventions must be in line with the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Establishment of a European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (2009/C155/01).
- Introduction of the pedagogical methodology of the digital community creative workshop in the beneficiary institutions in order to enhance the efficiency of early career orientation, career correction, talent identification and talent management, to ensure competitive professional knowledge and develop business competences, and to reduce the school dropout rates and the number of students leaving schools without qualification.

The calls for proposals of the schemes referred to the activities supporting Roma students, specifically Roma girls, and preventing early school-leaving, the Roma mentor activities (mentor selection, training and supply, involvement in the Roma mentor network) among the optional activities. In institutions where the number of Roma students among the students exposed to the risk of dropping out is high, services provided for Roma students, including Roma mentoring activities, are mandatory. The development to prevent early school-leaving without qualification is supported with HUF 22.76 billion in the vocational training institutions until the end of 2020.

(5) During the reporting period, documentation and research centres continued to be funded by a number of nationality self-governments and in fact the number of such institutions even increased. The National Ethnic Bulgarian Self-Government founded the *Bulgarian Research Institute* on 1 July 2015. The main responsibility of the institution is to research the history and social presence of the ethnic Bulgarian community in Hungary. The mission of the institute includes the collection, scientific processing and publication and promotion of data concerning the history and cultural history, arts, literature, language, ethnography, religious life, ethnology, traditions, identity, social and legal position and conditions of the Bulgarian community, the assistance in and organisation of these activities and the analysis of social processes relating to the position of the Bulgarian community in Hungary, representing Bulgarian nationality interests and providing professional assistance to public education, higher education, media, culture and community education.

In 2015, the name of the Museum of Archives of Poles in Hungary, operated by the National Polish Self-Government, was changed to *Polish Research Institute and Museum*, and these

days its scope of operation also includes the research of the history and presence, cultural specificities of Poles living in Hungary and the history of Polish-Hungarian relations.

In 2015, the National Rusyn Self-Government allocated HUF 5 million from budget support to editorial work on the *Hungarian-Rusyn Dictionary and Spelling Dictionary*.

The publication of the *Croatian-Hungarian colloquial dictionary* in 2016 following more than ten years of editing was one of the successes of the Croatian community during the reporting period. The dictionary was edited and published by Croatica Kulturális, Információs és Kiadó Nonprofit Kft., with the involvement of well-known experts of the Croatian community in Hungary.

Article 13

1 Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognise that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.

2. The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.

(1) As reported in the previous country report and referred to in this report, the Act on the Rights of Nationalities and the Act on Public Education allow nationality self-governments to take over the administration of nationality public educational institutions established by other sustaining entities, and also to establish and operate public educational institutions themselves. Consequently, the transfer to nationality self-governments of the maintenance of public education institutions also continued during the reporting period. We also believe it is important to state that the law grants widespread rights to the nationality self-governments concerned to review and protect nationality education and teaching carried out in nationality public educational institutions run by local governments and the state-owned institution operating entity. The most important decisions regarding nationality education and teaching (foundation, termination, reorganisation, deciding its name, planning and modifying its budget, as well as commissioning its leader and cancelling his/her assignment) should be made in agreement with the nationality self-governments. At the end of the reporting period 82 public education institutions were operated by local and country-level nationality self-governments in the 2017/2018 school-year.

Article 14

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.

2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.

3. Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.

(1) The issues concerning the Article of the Framework Convention assessed here have already been covered above. The Nationalities Act declares that children belonging to a nationality can participate, based on their parents' (guardians') decision, in nationality kindergarten education and in nationality school education and teaching. It also stipulates that in case there is a need from the parents (guardians) of at least eight children and students who

belong to the same nationality, nationality education must be organised, and if their number is below that, supplemental nationality education should be organised. The above regulations permit all 13 nationalities to organise nationality education as part of the public education system.

During the ratification of the Charter for Languages, Hungary accepted its obligations concerning education, and at the same time it tries to meet the conditions of teaching in the native language of all nationalities living in our country regarding the eight languages listed in the assertion document (German, Slovak, Slovenian, Croatian, Serb, Romanian, Romani and Boyash).

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

(1) The direct central budget transfers for the Hungarian nationalities are included in the Budget Act. Funding provided during the reporting period is included in the Ministry of Human Capacities chapter of the Budget Act. Between 2 January 2013 and 31 December 2016, the budget transfers to nationalities were regulated in Government Decree 428/2012 (29 December) on the Conditions and Settlement of Support Provided from Nationality Appropriations. The provisions were transferred into Annex 9 of the currently effective Budget Act from 1 January 2017. The support for nationalities managed by nationality bodies relates to the following main areas:

(2) The *support of operation and media of nationality self-governments* has gradually increased during the reporting period. Of the tasks performed by the nationality self-governments stated in the Nationalities Act, it should be stressed that, if there is no local nationality self-government in a settlement, the interest representation and protection tasks related to the particular nationality community at the settlement are performed by the country-level nationality self-government. Similarly, in relation to the self-government tasks of the county self-governments, the national self-government performs interest representation and interest protection activities and represents and protects the interests of the nationality represented by them at national level. In order to develop nationality cultural autonomy, the nationality self-government operates a nationality institutional network.

Table 5:
Operation and media support of country-level nationality self-governments

National nationality self-government	2014 (HUF M)	2015 (HUF M)	2016 (HUF M)	2017 (HUF M)	2018 (HUF M)
Bulgarian national self-government and media	43.7	55.2	55.2	70.2	70.2
National Roma self-government and media	267.2	361.2	361.2	361.2	361.2
National self-government and media of ethnic Greeks in Hungary	44.9	62.9	62.9	70.9	70.9
National Croatian self-government and media	144.5	178.0	178.0	181.6	181.6

National Polish self-government and media	47.0	54.0	72.0	84.5	84.5
National self-government and media of ethnic Germans in Hungary	214.1	256.9	256.9	294.0	294.0
National Armenian self-government and media	42.5	52.5	52.5	57.7	57.7
National self-government and media of ethnic Romanians in Hungary	89.6	107.5	107.5	137.5	137.5
National Rusyn self-government and media	36.1	59.6	59.6	67.3	67.3
Serbian national self-government and media	78.7	100.7	100.7	119.8	119.8
National Slovak self-government and media	128.0	151.0	151.0	166.0	166.0
National Slovenian self-government and media	64.0	80.0	80.0	88.0	88.0
National Ukrainian self-government and media	36.2	62.2	62.2	77.4	77.4
Total:	1 236.5	1 581.7	1 599.7	1776.1	1776.1

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities (at the time of the compilation of the report: Prime Minister's Office)

In relation to media support, it should be stressed that nationalities have a right to freely access and transfer information in their own native language through mass communication devices; to obtain and provide information in their native language; to have media services and to access and distribute press products in their own native languages. The country-level nationality self-governments receive operational support to perform their mandatory and voluntarily accepted responsibilities, to operate their offices and to perform their activities related to the nationality media. The budget transfers to nationalities are always stated in the currently effective Budget Act.

(3) The *support of institutions operated by country-level nationality self-governments* has doubled in the reporting period. In order to create the cultural autonomy of their nationality, the country-level nationality self-governments may establish and take over institutions. For years, the Budget Act has contained transfer appropriations for the support of operation and development of nationality cultural and educational institutions exclusively or partially operated by country-level nationality self-governments and the transfer of nationality institutions operating across the country and/or regionally from other institution operators. The annual Budget Acts render the funding of operation of the institutions operated by country-level nationality self-governments directly to the institution operators. The following statement summarises the changes in the support to institutions operated by country-level nationality self-governments by self-government during the period of 2014–2018.

Table 6:
Support to institutions of the country-level nationality self-governments

Country-level nationality self-government acting as operator of the institutions	2014 (HUF M)	2015 (HUF M)	2016 (HUF M)	2017 (HUF M)	2018 (HUF M)
Bulgarian national self-government	30.8	50.8	50.8	72.8	72.8
National Roma self-government	78.6	165.9	165.9	165.9	165.9
National self-government of ethnic Greeks in Hungary	15.0	19.5	19.5	35.5	35.5
National Croatian self-government	65.5	104.4	104.4	145.9	145.9
National Polish self-government	25.8	30.8	30.8	53.0	53.0
National self-government of ethnic Germans in Hungary	125.6	178.0	178.0	211.0	238.7
National Armenian self-government	7.0	27.0	27.0	33.4	33.4
National self-government of ethnic Romanians in Hungary	27.5	40.8	40.8	48.0	48.0
National Rusyn self-government	7.8	13.5	13.5	35.3	35.3
Serbian national self-government	54.7	69.2	69.2	114.0	114.0
National Slovak self-government	118.8	159.5	159.5	197.9	197.9
National Slovenian self-government	46.4	58.4	58.4	58.4	58.4
National Ukrainian self-government	8.0	14.5	14.5	21.4	21.4
Total:	611.5	932.3	932.3	1192.5	1220.2

Source: Ministry of Human Capacities (at the time of the compilation of the report: Prime Minister's Office)

(4) *Nationality Supports* and *Support of Nationality Institutions for Investments, Reconstruction, Own Contribution to Tenders* are chapter-managed appropriations, with support granted through tenders and based on individual application. The chapter-managed appropriation under the title of Nationality Supports defined in the currently effective Budget Act is a major source of support that allows people belonging to nationalities to exercise their individual and community rights granted by law and to express their nationality interests. Thus it contributes in particular to the preservation of the self-identity of nationalities, the nurturing of their native language, historical traditions and intellectual and physical memories as well as the organisation of major cultural autonomy or language and cultural identity

related events of national or regional significance. It promotes the development of the institutional system that implements the cultural autonomy of nationalities and the implementation of the recommendations of JCMs operating on the basis of agreements with neighbouring countries. The chapter-managed appropriation under the title of *Support of Nationality Institutions for Investments, Reconstruction, Own Contribution to Tenders* was introduced in 2015 as a new appropriation to finance the development support objectives of the individual nationality institutions.

In order to achieve the above objective, the *Nationality Supports* appropriation may be used to support the operation of nationality non-governmental organisations, as a supplement to the operation and development of nationality institutions, the support of nationality culture, the presentation of the Award for Nationalities, the intervention support of nationality organisations and assistance of self-governments and nationality institutions facing difficulties through no fault of their own. This appropriation also funds the *Scholarship for Nationalities*: the scholarship supports nationality language and bilingual nationality education and, based on the recommendation of secondary schools providing education, secondary school students of outstanding abilities belonging to any nationality listed in the annex of the Nationalities Act, assisting them to prepare for studies in higher education institutions. When support granted from the appropriation is awarded, the obligations undertaken by the Hungarian party in the protocols of JCMs have an outstanding priority.

The ‘Support of Nationality Institutions for Investments, Reconstruction, Own Contribution to Tenders’ chapter-managed appropriation provides funding for the development needs of cultural and public education institutions operated by country-level and local nationality self-governments. The amounts are granted on the basis of the summary of applications and the priority order of the operators of institutions. The obligations undertaken by the Hungarian party in the protocols of JCMs also have key priority in awarding support from the appropriation.

(5) In terms of the *support of local and regional nationality self-governments* (operation and task-based funding), the provisions for the first half of the reporting period, i.e., for 2014–2016, were included in Government Decree 428/2012 (29 December) on the conditions and settlement of support provided from nationality appropriations. Since 1 January 2017, the applicable rules have been included in Annex 9 of the effective Budget Act.

The local and regional nationality self-governments registered by the Hungarian State Treasury are automatically entitled to operating support. Operating support is granted from the available budget which is directly related to the performance of nationality public duties. From 2014, the budget support for operation has been granted on the basis of the 2011 census data. The task-based support amount is established according to an assessment, on the basis of the resolutions on the tasks included in the submitted protocols, applying the criteria laid down by law. Task-based support funds the performance of certain nationality public duties, which include nationality cultural autonomy initiatives and other tasks and programs related to the nationality culture and education. The other categories of task-based support include cultural initiatives (organisation and support of nationality events, other tasks related to the lives of nationalities such as non-governmental relations and religious life in their native language), tasks related to equal opportunities and nationality interest representation, initiatives associated with self-government tasks, initiatives dedicated to the use of language and small regional co-operation.

(6) Below we present a few good practices on the basis of reports of country-level nationality self-governments and nationality spokesmen in cultural, social and business life.

The *Kühár Memorial House (Slovenian Traditional House)* owned by the National Slovene Self-Government organises various workshops and other activities as well as tradition-keeping camps where participants learn how bread was baked in the oven, or flowers were made from paper, or casual bags from corn husk, and can also learn to cook traditional meals from the Rába region. The institution intends to preserve the religious history, ethnography and other special cultural values of the Slovenian community in Hungary with its exhibitions and operation, and to present them to all interested parties, thus contributing to the strengthening of language and cultural identity and relations with the home country.

In business, *Szlovén Vidék Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft.* contributes to the cultural tourism and economic development of the Rába area inhabited by the Slovenian nationality, supports the businesses founded by local Slovenian nationality residents as well as the investment projects of existing businesses through the identification of sources of funding from Slovenia, Hungary and the EU, and the preparation and implementation of proposals.

The *Slovenian Model Farm*, situated among the three borders, was ceremonially opened in Felsőszölnök on 22 July 2015. The exhibition farm is engaged in animal farming, land cultivation, fruit production and processing. The restaurant has capacity for 45 people and offers gastronomic delicacies to guests on Saturdays and Sundays between 12:00 and 22:00 and also accepts groups on the other days of the week. Surrounded by nature, guests can relax in two four-person apartments and one en-suite double room.

In 2016, the Ukrainian National Self-Government also joined the *Children for Peace* international movement following a number of famous Ukrainian scientific and public actors. More than 300 Ukrainian children took part in the series of actions that lasted for 5 months. The main goal of the initiative was to let the voice of the young Ukrainian generation be heard and to convey their love to the major cities of Europe. The organisers wished to emphasise that by nature all Ukrainian children were friendly, adventurous and hoped to be able to live in a safe Ukraine. The children prepared flags of 35 countries and decorated them with paper doves, expressing their peaceful intentions. The movement reached a number of large European towns, the Council of Europe and the Vatican. In 2017, the Ukrainian National Self-Government contributed to the publication of the *Book of Good Deeds*, which contains stories about the positive world conception of Ukrainian children. The book has reached a number of well-known international libraries, such as Alexandria Library or the British Royal Library and in the summer of 2018 the children personally took one copy to the Pope in the Vatican.

Article 16

The Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms following from the principles enshrined in the present Framework Convention.

Pursuant to the Nationalities Act (Section 9), Hungary forbids all policies and practices which

- are aimed at or result in the assimilation of minorities into the majority nation or the exclusion and segregation of minorities from the majority nation,
- are aimed at the alteration of the national or ethnic conditions of areas inhabited by minorities,

- persecute or intimidate a minority or individuals forming part of a minority due to their affiliation, make their living conditions more cumbersome or prevent them from exercising their rights, or
- are aimed at the forced deportation or relocation of a minority.

Hungary takes firm action in its international relations against all political endeavours that may lead to the consequences listed above. Hungary shall also attempt to provide protection against such policies by relying on the means afforded by international law and by virtue of international conventions.

Article 17

1. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.

2. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.

(1) The Nationalities Act declares that persons belonging to nationalities have a right to maintain contacts with the state and community institutions of their respective mother countries and language nations as well as with national minorities living in other countries. In the following we will summarise the answers of the country-level nationality self-governments and advocates which/who reported about their contact networks in their mother countries regarding the reporting period.

The National *Slovak* Self-Government conducts regular and close co-operation mainly with the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, the Slovak Ministry of Education and the representative bodies in Hungary (embassy, the Main Consulate in Békéscsaba), and with the Slovak Institute in Budapest. The National Slovak Self-Government, together with other Slovak organisations in Hungary, is also a member of the World Association of Slovaks Living Abroad and in 2014 the chairman of the country-level self-government was elected executive secretary of the organisation. In addition, the National Slovak Self-Government also actively takes part in the work of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN). Recently, it took part in the Cluj-Napoca congress of FUEN with a delegation in spring 2017.

Since 2006, the *day of Polish–Hungarian friendship* has been celebrated at the highest state level. The main event is held in Hungary in even years and in Poland in uneven years. The Polish nationality in Hungary took an outstanding role in the organisation of the Hungarian events of the celebration series in the reporting period, too, and they believe that the Polish-Hungarian friendship has become an example and also indicative for other nations of Europe. To maintain relations with their parent country, the Polish community reported a number of guest performances of Polish actors and theatre groups in Hungary during the reporting period. The National Polish Self-government also organised Polish-Hungarian cultural and sports days attended by Polish and Hungarian young people in order to mobilise the youth. The Polish-Hungarian Twin Town Conference organised by the country-level self-government in 2015 and 2016 became an important venue for maintaining contact with the parent country for a number of Polish and Hungarian local self-governments that attended the event.

Upon the initiative of the Bulgarian nationality spokesman Szimeon Varga, in 2016 the Hungarian and Bulgarian Parliaments approved 19 October as the ***day of Hungarian–Bulgarian friendship*** with a unanimous vote. 19 October relates to one of the saints of the Orthodox Church, the patron of Bulgaria, Saint Ivan of Rila, whose relics were transported to Esztergom by the Hungarian King Béla III following the occupation of Sofia. According to the legend, the archbishop of Esztergom publicly denied the saint on a number of occasions, for which he became dumb and regained speech only after showing repentance and touching the saint relic. Having seen that miracle, Béla III returned the relic to Bulgaria. The photo exhibition dedicated to the centenary of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Hungary in the aula of the Office Building of Parliament was opened on the occasion of the day of Hungarian-Bulgarian friendship, on 18 October 2016. On 19 October 2016, the Bulgarian community in Hungary unveiled a memorial plaque containing the picture of Saint Ivan of Rila and a text in Hungarian and Bulgarian in the Cathedral of Esztergom.

The representatives of the National ***Croatian*** Self-Government are members of the advisory board attached to the Government of the Republic of Croatia and also maintain daily contact with the *Office for Croats Living Abroad*. They tried to build direct relations with the ministries and offices of their mother country and the foreign representation agencies in Hungary. With the establishment of the Hungarian Institute in Zagreb, the Croatian community in Hungary was given another opportunity to present their cultural heritage in their mother country with the help of *Balassi Institute*. In 2017, the National Croatian Self-Government signed a co-operation agreement with the representatives of the Croatian community in Serbia and Slovenia in order to strengthen their interest enforcement abilities and to maintain cultural, scientific, educational and sports relations as well as implement joint projects. The infrastructure of *Cultural, Training and Leisure Centre of the Croats in Hungary* on the island of Pag, made available for use by the Republic of Croatia, had been reconstructed with HUF 35 million Hungarian support by December 2016. This Centre hosts students and native language camps of the Croatian community as well as Croatian teachers, tutors and training courses of Hungarian public education institutions. Following the development, the site now satisfies the requirements of the 21st century and has become ideal for educational and training activities.

The Croatian nationality spokesman reported being an active member of the advisory board of Croats over the borders attached to the Croatian Government for three years, representing the Croatian community in Hungary. It has strengthened the international relations that the theatre group of the Croatian Primary School and Grammar School of Budapest (HOŠIG) performed a Hungarian–Croatian play presenting the joint Hungarian–Croatian history under the title of *‘Time Travel’* at Komedijska Theatre in Zagreb in May 2015 and then also in Split, Dubrovnik and Eszék (Osijek) in 2016. The play was written and directed by the director Anna Gojtán. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade provided direct financial support to the Croatian school in Budapest for their performances in 2016.

The institutions of the National ***Serbian*** Self-Government have been organising children’s summer camps for decades (*Vuk Karadzic* Serbian native language camp, Battonya Serbian folklore dance camp, mother country sports camp), a Serbian folk art and folk tradition camp in Lórév and a folk music camp in Deszk. These camps are international camps because they are attended by Serbian children from Serbia, Romania, and Croatia. In addition to the children’s camps, another international event was the *‘Serbia and Serbs – Mother Country and Region’* three-day international conference organised by Serbian Parliament Spokesmen Alexov Lyubomir and the National Serbian Self-Government in Budapest in June 2015, to

which leaders of Serbian organisations were invited from Hungary as well as seven other countries: Macedonia, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Albania and Montenegro. At the beginning of 2017, the National Serbian Self-Government and the Hungarian National Council in Serbia signed a co-operation agreement in Subotica. The Serbian community in Hungary and the Hungarian community in Serbia identified joint long-term professional relations built with cultural, educational and public education institutions and organisations as their main objective.

The National *German* Self-Government in Hungary also maintained close relations with German-language countries and regions, European German minority organisations and other native language minorities of German-language countries during the reporting period. The official representation of the German nationality in Hungary is also a member of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (Föderalistische Union Europäischer Nationalitäten – FUEN), the German national groups' working group within the organisation and has regularly attended their congresses. The 20th regular, biannual, meeting of the Standing Subcommittee of the Hungarian–German Cultural Joint Committee was held in Nuremberg on 6–7 October 2015. The primary task of the Standing Subcommittee is to co-ordinate programs dedicated to the development of teaching German as a foreign language and German nationality language education in Hungary, cultural and other co-operation activities, to assess the projects and to set the future objectives of co-operation. The main Hungarian partners of these relations are the National German Self-Government in Hungary and its institutions.

In January 2016, a Larnaca school teaching children with special needs established contact with the *Greek* Nationality Advocate Cabinet with the intermediation of the Cypriot Embassy. The Cabinet not only showed Budapest to the children and their companions, but also contributed to the organisation of a meeting with a Hungarian school also teaching children with special needs. That is how the two dozens of Cypriot children visited Makó. The Advocate Cabinet and the Larnaca school continued their relationship. On 27 March 2017, the Nikos Beloyannis Memorial Museum was opened in Amaliada. The President of the Greek Parliament also invited the Greek advocate in Hungary to the opening ceremony because in the museum a number of newspaper articles, photos, dedicated to the memory of Nikos Beloyannis, published in Hungary, also form part of the permanent exhibition with the help of the Greek Nationality Advocate Cabinet. (Hungary provided shelter and a home to Greek families escaping from the 1946–49 civil war.)

The Hungarian *Rusyn* community managed to join the *Without Borders* program, within the framework of which 4 camps were organised for the first time during the reporting period. The '*Bábchiná spivánká*' children group from Transcarpathia also attended the Sajópálfalvai camp. In Budapest, the National Rusyn Self-Government invited Greek Catholic Rusyn children from Ungvár (Uzhgorod) and showed them the sights of Budapest, including their head office, the Greek Catholic church and the Hodinka Antal Memorial Plaque. A full-day program was organised for the children of the camp arriving in Budapest with a boat trip, lunch and a visit to Parliament. Another camp was organised in Antalóc, Transcarpathia, for the students of Múcsony studying Rusyn. The children visited the sights of Transcarpathia and placed a wreath on the statue of Alexander Duchnovich. In the Slovak camp, the Rusyn children's group visited the local settlements of the Rusyn nationality (Svidník, Prešov, Medzilaborce, Košice).

The *Szentgotthárd Initiative* meeting was organised by the *Slovenian* community and was held first in Szentgotthárd in spring 2015. It is a project-generating workshop for bilateral

relations, with special emphasis on the cross-border issues of the two minorities constituting this small region and on digitisation. The program was a great success and was permanently named as the *Szentgotthárd Forum* in 2016. The issue of bilingualism in education and in the labour market is an important element of the program. The other objectives include the exploitation of the opportunities through digitisation, focus on the special strength of minority communities and overcoming their difficulties.

Further information on the international relations of the nationalities living in Hungary is presented in relation to Article 18.

Article 18

1. The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States, in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.

2. Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier cooperation.

Information related *inter alia* to this Article is provided in the note to Article 2 of the Framework Convention. In the following, further events related to the present Article are covered.

(1) Similarly to the previous years, during the reporting period the important objectives included strengthening the nationality languages and related cultures as well as the relations between the nationalities living in our country and their mother countries as well as nurturing, preserving and enhancing their linguistic and cultural identity awareness and historic traditions. The basic institutions of bilateral co-operation affecting the connections of nationalities living in Hungary with their mother country have since 1992 been the *joint committees on minorities (JCM)*. The inter-governmental JCMs were created by Hungary and the neighbouring countries (Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine) to mutually ensure and protect the rights of national minorities; their duties are to analyse and evaluate the status of nationalities and national minorities; to specify recommendations for relevant inter-state co-operation, and to follow-up on their implementation.

The bodies, the members of which include representatives of the respective nationalities from both sides, have major national policy roles in both directions; they regularly review all the issues that are important for the communities and accept recommendations for their governments. The recommendations that are stated in the minutes of their meetings must be approved in the form of government decisions. The performance of the recommendations of the JCMs is an important nationality policy and diplomatic task, which may be of strategic importance in terms of the relationship between the individual nationalities and their mother countries and for the Hungarian community living in the respective mother country.

As in previous years, there are still six joint international committees. They are the Croatian, Romanian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene and Ukrainian JCMs. During the reporting period starting in 2014, the following minority joint committee meetings were held:

- 18 November 2015: Hungarian–Slovenian Joint Committee on Minorities – 15th meeting (approved recommendations: Government Decision 1266/2016 (7 June));
- 4 April 2016 Hungarian–Serbian Joint Committee on Minorities – 5th meeting (approved recommendations: Government Decision 1881/2016 (28 December));

- 3 November 2016: Hungarian–Slovak Joint Committee on Minorities – 13th meeting (approved recommendations: Government Decision 1155/2017 (20 March));
- 16 November 2016: Hungarian–Slovenian Joint Committee on Minorities – 16th meeting (approved recommendations: Government Decision 1075/2017 (13 February));
- 23 February 2017: Hungarian–Croatian Joint Committee on Minorities – 13th meeting (approved recommendations: Government Decision 1246/2017 (28 April));
- 21 November 2017: Hungarian–Slovenian Joint Committee on Minorities – 17th meeting (approved recommendations: Government Decision 1150/2018 (26 March))

(2) For historic reasons (the Germans relate to a number of states and the traditions of the principle of regionalism are strong in the organisation of the German state as well as in the German national identity) the international co-operation assisting the German nationality takes different forms, although such relations exist in certain fields (education, culture). In addition, co-operation is also successful at regional level: cultural agreements and action plans between a number of German provinces and Hungary contain a lot of programs serving the interests of the Germans living in Hungary. Educational and cultural joint committees have been established in the latter relations. The committees have regular meetings.

In addition to the joint committee on minorities, the agreements between the nationality self-governments and the governments of their mother countries also strengthen bilateral relations. All in all, it may be concluded that the majority of nationalities living in Hungary maintain close relations with their mother countries (home countries), their institutions and governmental and non-government organisations performing cultural or educational activities in their mother countries.

In addition, the cultural and educational co-operation and the annual or multiannual work plans regularly revised on the basis of that co-operation contain a lot of opportunities that serve the interests of the nationalities living on the two sides of the borders. There are also numerous examples of agreements, action plans and twinning projects between regions, counties, settlements, institutions and organisations. In addition, the Hungarian Government supports performances of Hungarian nationality theatres in their mother countries and in the countries where their languages are spoken as well as guest performances coming from those countries through applications.

(3) Besides the joint committee on minorities and mother country relations, Hungary pays careful attention to multilateral relations and more specifically international organisations. Over the past few decades, Hungary made a number of commitments and ratified a number of agreements that aim at ensuring the rights of nationalities and the preservation of their culture. The relations also specified in the Nationalities Act determine Hungarian nationality policy: besides the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the work performed within the framework of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Copenhagen Document, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of the United Nations and the European Union. The State Secretariat for Church, Ethnic Minority and Civil Society Relations, which was responsible for the issues of nationalities living in Hungary, maintained contact with the mother countries of the nationalities living in Hungary and, besides maintaining a dialogue, also co-operated with EU, the Council of Europe, UN and OSCE

institutions and bodies related to minorities, nationalities, Roma issues, language rights and anti-racism and human rights.

Article 19

The Parties undertake to respect and implement the principles enshrined in the present Framework Convention making, where necessary, only those limitations, restrictions or derogations which are provided for in international legal instruments, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in so far as they are relevant to the rights and freedoms flowing from the said principles.

Hungary did not apply restrictions and limitations in connection with the content of the Framework Convention in the reporting period

Articles 20 – 23:

We have no relevant remarks regarding the above articles of the Framework Convention in relation to the reporting period.

Article 30

- 1. Any State may at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories for whose international relations it is responsible to which this Framework Convention shall apply.**
- 2. Any State may at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Framework Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the Framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.**
- 3. Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.**

Hungary did not declare limitations on the territorial scope of the Framework Convention in the reporting period.

IV. ANSWERS TO THE SPECIAL QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PECULIAR NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Advisory Committee did not raise any questions specifically about Hungary or the conditions of nationalities living in Hungary in the reporting period; therefore, no issues arising as a result of circumstances in Hungary are addressed in this Report.

ANNEX

1. Nationality programs of the public media on TV and radio

Program	Channel	Editor	
Bulgarian	Nationality Radio	external editor: Kjoszeva Szvetla	
		receiving editor: Agárdi Elektra	
Greek		external editor: Nagyné Szabó Antigóné	
		receiving editor: Agárdi Elektra	
Polish		external editor: Bozena Bogdanska-Szadai	
		receiving editor: Agárdi Elektra	
Armenian		external editor: Avanesian Alex	
		receiving editor: Agárdi Elektra	
Rusyn		external editor: Hattinger Gábor (until 2016), Fábián Anna (2016–2018)	
		receiving editor: Agárdi Elektra	
Slovene		external editor: Mukics Ferenc	
		receiving editor: Agárdi Elektra	
Ukrainian		external editor: Shypajlo Igor	
		receiving editor: Agárdi Elektra	
Gyöngyszemek (Pearls)	external editor: Avanesian Alex		
	receiving editor: Agárdi Elektra		
Egy hazában (In one home country)	Kossuth Radio (Saturday)	responsible editor: Lang János	
Music of our nationalities on weekdays	Nationality Radio	responsible editor: Agárdi Elektra	
Croatian		Pavlekovics András	
Serbian		Mándity Predrág	
Romanian		Kaupert Júlia	
Slovak		Makai Ildikó	
German		Arnold Krisztina	
Music of our nationalities on weekends		responsible editor: Agárdi Elektra	
small nationalities (Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Armenian, Rusyn, Slovene)		editor (Saturday): Avanesian Alex	
Roma		editor (Sunday): Godányi Judit (until 2016), Kvala Gábor (2016–2018)	
Holidays of our nationalities		external editor: Avanesian Alex	
		receiving editor: Agárdi Elektra	
Jelenlét (Presence)		Kossuth Radio	responsible editor: Éva Horváth

(Roma public life magazine)	(Saturday)	
Jelenlét (Presence) (Roma cultural magazine)	Kossuth Radió (Sunday)	responsible editor: Éva Horváth
Három szólamra (Three parts) – Gypsy magazine	Nationality Radio	responsible editor: Éva Horváth
Hrvatska Kronika (Croatian)	Duna Television (repeats the same day on Duna World)	responsible editor: Renáta Balatinácz
Unser Bildschirm (German)		responsible editor: Krisztina Arnold editor: Éva Gerner
Srpski Ekran (Serbian)		responsible editor: Snezana Milivojevic
Domovina (Slovak)		responsible editor: Zsuzsanna Antala
Ecranul Nostru (Romanian)		responsible editor: Tibor Boka
Slovenski Utrinki (Slovene)		responsible editor: Ibolya Doncsecz
Roma magazine		responsible editor: Éva Horváth
Pamende (Roma)		responsible editor: Éva Horváth
Életkerék (Wheel of Life) (Roma)		creative producer: Éva Horváth
Rondó (Bulgarian, Greek, Polish, Armenian, Rusyn)		responsible editor: Elektra Agárdi

Source: MTVA

In addition to the above, Duna Media Services Ltd. and MTVA consider it an important objective to provide content to the public media, television and radio stations of countries outside the countries of the European Broadcasting Union, within the framework of the exchange of picture programs and thematic days, as specified in the bilateral and multilateral agreements of the public media. Duna Media Services Ltd. has such agreements with the following partners: Romanian Radio, Slovenian Radio and Television, Slovak Radio and Television, Kosovo Radio and Television, V4 public media, Polish Television and Croatian Television.

2. Nationality support available under the Child and Youth Basic Program

Tender id.	Name of organisation	Project title	Support granted (HUF)
IFJ-GY-14-B-15708	Zombai Romákért Egyesület	Pünkösdlő Orosházán 2014.	282,182
IFJ-GY-14-B-16352	Snétberger Zenei Tehetség Kiemelten Közhasznú Alapítvány	DÖNTŐSÖK: szabadság és szabadidő hátrányos helyzetű roma fiatalok részére	315,000
IFJ-GY-14-B-17479	„ERŐ-FORRÁS” Északkelet-Magyarországi Foglalkoztatási és Humán Erőforrás Fejlesztési Egyesület	Roma Tehetség Tábor	309,960
IFJ-GY-14-D-18591	Czinka Panna Roma Kulturális Egyesület	A Czinka Panna Roma Kulturális Egyesület szervezetfejlesztése	417,260
IFJ-GY-14-E-19212	Roma Szeretetszolgálat	Együtt–Egymásért, Egyenlő Eséllyel – Egyenlő Tudással Felzárkóztató – Felvilágosító Előadásorozat	650,000
IFJ-GY-18-A-0106	Együtt Szebb Jövőért Roma–Magyar Egyesület	Összefogással a családokért!	940,000
		Total:	2,914,402

Source: Human Capacities Grant Management Office